



MINUTES
of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
held on
THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2013
in the
ALEXANDRA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
commencing at
7.02 pm

INDEX

1.	PRAYER.....	2
2.	APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	2
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST.....	2
4.	OPEN FORUM.....	2
5.	COUNCIL BUDGET 2013-2014 SUBMISSIONS	3
5.1	Consideration of Submissions for Council Budget 2013-2014.....	3
6.	COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 SUBMISSIONS	6
6.1	Consideration of submissions for Council Plan 2013-2017 including Strategic Resource Plan	6

1. PRAYER

The meeting was opened with Prayer and reading of the Reconciliation Statement.

2. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cr A Derwent for being unable to attend this meeting.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Kennedy / Cr M Rae

That Cr Derwent's apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

Present:

Crs J Walsh (Chair), C Challen, J Kennedy, B Magner, M Rae, C Ruhr

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Margaret Abbey

General Manager Corporate & Community Services: Rob Cherry

General Manager Infrastructure Services: Tamara Johnson

Manager Customer & Communications: Damien Cocks

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

File No: 12/01/05

No disclosures made.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Chairperson declared Open Forum and invited questions from the Gallery.

Imagen Ellis, of Berry Street, spoke in support of a fenced dog park (off leash) area in Alexandra (item not on the Agenda).

Helen O'Brien, of Alexandra, also spoke in support of a fenced dog park in Alexandra.

Julee Hosking, of Alexandra Dog Obedience Club, spoke in support of a fenced dog park in Alexandra.

Kate Nolan, of Alexandra, spoke in support of a fenced dog park in Alexandra.

The Chairperson closed Open Forum.

5. COUNCIL BUDGET 2013-2014 SUBMISSIONS**5.1 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR COUNCIL BUDGET 2013-2014**

File No: 24/03/1314 A

(Refer Encl 5.1 – Budget submissions)

Addendum report as presented.***Purpose:***

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with a summary of the submission received in relation to the Council Budget 2013-2014.

Recommendation:

That Council considers the submission received in relation to the Council Budget 2013-2014.

Background:

At a Special Meeting of Council on 30 April 2012, the Draft 2013-2014 Budget was endorsed for public consultation in accordance with Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Submissions were sought from the public and the budget documents were made available at Council Offices and on Council's website.

Advertisements were placed in the relevant weekly newspapers in the Shire.

A total of six (6) submissions were received and scanned copies of the submissions have been provided to Councillors under separate cover. Acknowledgement letters were sent to the submitters, confirming receipt of their submissions and informing them of the opportunity to attend the Special Meeting on the 20 June 2013 to speak to their submissions if they wished.

Council Plan/Strategies:

This process is part of the required process for adoption of the 2013-2014 Council Budget.

Legal/Policy Issues:

The process complies with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Financial/Resources/Risk

There are no financial considerations regarding the consideration of submissions.

Consultation:

The Council Budget 2013-2014 was advertised for public consultation and submissions in the following publications:

Newspaper / Other	Publishing Date(s)
<i>Newspaper:</i> Alexandra Standard Yea Chronicle Marysville Triangle North Central Review The Age	22 May 2013 22 May 2013 23 May 2013 21 May 2013 18 May 2013
Website	20 May 2013
Copies at Council offices: Alexandra, Kinglake, Yea and also Eildon Resource Centre and Marysville Visitor Information Centre	20 May 2013
<i>Information sessions:</i> Alexandra Eildon Yea Buxton Kinglake	27 May 2013 29 May 2013 30 May 2013 3 June 2013 13 June 2013

Discussion:

A total of six (6) submissions were received in relation to the Draft 2013-2014 Budget. The submissions have been summarised to their salient points and are provided below.

The summary is also provided at Enclosure 5.1

Following consideration of submissions, the submitters will receive a reply in respect of the matters identified.

Summary of Submissions:**Submitter 1**

- The government has placed Council in a situation that has burdened ratepayers.
- Larger organisations such as DSE, Goulburn Water and Lake Mountain do not pay rates which is distorting the rate base. Small ratepayers are carrying these larger businesses.
- These businesses should be made to pay rates.
- Lake Eildon is a valuable asset and Council should demand that they (users) contribute to rates.
- Ratepayers have given up trying to have input with rate rises as the consultation process is seen to be a sham, with the outcome predetermined.

Submitter 2

- Proposal for development of a multi-purpose community building at the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve.
- Overseen by a DSE Committee of Management
- User Groups include Alexandra Football Club, Alexandra Football Club, P and A Society and Alexandra Poultry Club.
- Buildings are currently maintained by user groups.
- The main building on the reserve is run down and requires replacement
- Proposal is for a new building to be built that will be self sustaining to be available to the wider community for sporting, social educational, agricultural and cultural purposes.
- Preparatory work has been undertaken including a reserve master plan, feasibility study, design/initial building plan, a business plan.
- Council support is sought on an in kind basis i.e. which may include sourcing of grants, project management services.
- A meeting is also sought with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO to progress this initiative.

Submitter 3

- A group of unincorporated business people support the proposal for development of the Alexandra Recreation Reserve facility.
- Key users of the facility include senior/junior football teams and netball.
- The group recognises the need for the existing clubrooms to be replaced.
- The reserve committee has raised a considerable amount of money for purposes of redevelopment of the current facility.
- The group requests Council to consider further in kind support to progress the proposed initiatives

Submitter 4

- Disagrees with the increase in commercial waste rates (increase from \$52.00 pcm to \$84.00 pcm)
- Growing problem of others using or dumping beside businesses bins out of work hours and this is compounded by increase in tip fees.
- Increased prices do not correlate to any increase in tip opening hours.
- Access transfer station for only 7 hours over 3 days over working week is most frustrating.
- The current price rise may jeopardise a local contractor who services removal of building waste.
- With general increases in fees associated with building submissions, the option of using cheaper private Building Surveyor costs may need to be factored into the business.
- Request a review of these fees prior to budget being adopted.

Submitter 5

- As a small family owned and operated business, concerned at the significant increase in fees for disposal of commercial waste.
- The previous large increase saw the loss of many small builders who could no longer afford to have skip bins on site.
- Passing on the current significant increases to major clients makes the hiring of skip bins unfeasible.

Submitter 6

- Overall Budget looks better than predicted but Income and Expenditure is still not healthy and is being assessed by the State Government for assistance.
- Congratulations to Council and staff for a paper surplus of \$39k and Deficit of \$4.81 m against forecast \$7m.
- Overall staff numbers appear not to have been reduced but a rollback of bushfire staffing. Query on Capital works \$10.25 m - where does it come from?
- Operating income is \$31.16 m which is \$100 k more than Budget income.
- Pie graphs - request for more detail of income and expenditure.
- Query re Contractors \$7.48 m - administrative or operational?
- Query on \$4.92 m for buildings - is it for upgrades or capital works?
- No amount in Budget for contribution for Campaign on Vote Yes for Referendum - where does this come from?

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that Council considers the submissions for relevance and its influence on the Draft 2013-2014 Budget prior to adoption.

RESOLUTION:

Cr C Ruhr / Cr C Challen

That Council considers the submission received in relation to the Council Budget 2013-2014.

CARRIED

Cr M Rae queried supporting evidence on the last increase impacting construction businesses and reduction in commercial tipping.

The General Manager Infrastructure Services took the question on notice.

6. COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 SUBMISSIONS**6.1 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 INCLUDING STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN**

File No: 24/03/1314 A

(Refer Enc 6.1)

Addendum report as presented.

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with a summary of the submissions received in relation to the 2013-2017 Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan.

Recommendation:**That this report be noted.*****Background:***

On 15 May 2013, Council endorsed the 2013-2017 Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan for public consultation in accordance with Sections 125 and 126 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Submissions were sought from the public and the documents were made available at Council Offices and on Council's website. Advertisements were placed in the relevant weekly newspapers in the Shire.

Council Plan/Strategies:

This process is part of the required process for adoption of the 2013-2017 Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan.

Legal/Policy Issues:

The process complies with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Financial/Resources/Risk

There are no financial considerations regarding the consideration of submissions.

Consultation:

The 2013-17 Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan were advertised for public consultation and submissions in the following publications:

Newspaper / Other	Publishing Date(s)
<i>Newspaper:</i> Alexandra Standard Yea Chronicle Marysville Triangle North Central Review The Age	22 May 2013 22 May 2013 23 May 2013 21 May 2013 18 May 2013
Website	20 May 2013
Copies at Council offices: Alexandra, Kinglake, Yea and also Eildon Resource Centre and Marysville Visitor Information Centre	20 May 2013
<i>Information sessions:</i> Alexandra Eildon Yea Buxton Kinglake	27 May 2013 29 May 2013 30 May 2013 3 June 2013 13 June 2013

Discussion:

A total of two (2) submissions were received in relation to the Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan and SRP. The submission have been summarised to their salient points and are provided below.

The summary is also provided at Enclosure 6.1

Following consideration of submissions, the submitters will receive a reply in respect of the matters identified.

Summary of Submissions:**Submitter 1**

- Proposal for development of a multi-purpose community building at the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve.
- Overseen by a DSE Committee of Management
- User Groups include Alexandra Football Club, Alexandra Football Club, P and A Society and Alexandra Poultry Club.
- Buildings are currently maintained by user groups.
- The main building on the reserve is run down and requires replacement
- Proposal is for a new building to be built that will be self sustaining to be available to the wider community for sporting, social educational, agricultural and cultural purposes..
- Preparatory work has been undertaken including a reserve master plan, feasibility study, design/initial building plan, a business plan.
- Council support is sought on an in kind basis i.e. which may include sourcing of grants, project management services.
- A meeting is also sought with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO to progress this initiative.

Submitter 2

- A group of unincorporated business people support the proposal for development of the Alexandra Recreation Reserve facility.
- Key users of the facility include senior/junior football teams and netball.
- The group recognises the need for the existing clubrooms to be replaced.
- The reserve committee has raised a considerable amount of money for purposes of redevelopment of the current facility.
- The group requests Council to consider further in kind support to progress the proposed initiatives

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that Council gives consideration to formally adopting the 2013-2017 Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan.

RESOLUTION:

Cr M Rae / Cr J Kennedy

That Council considers the submission received in relation to the Council Plan 2013-2017.

CARRIED

There being no further items of Business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

CONFIRMED THIS

CHAIRPERSON
