

7.7 REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS FOR DRAFT BUDGET 2018/19 (DW:SW)

Responsible Committee: Section 223 Committee of Council

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *receives the report from the S223 Committee of Council (the Committee) on the submissions received for the proposed Budget 2018/19 (the Committee Report); and*
2. *having considered the Committee Report, endorses the recommendations of the Committee:*
 - a. *to not accept the Essential Service Commission rate cap variation of 2.57% and to introduce a separate service charge – “Recycling Levy” of \$22 per rateable property and also make provision for a waiver of \$22 for every eligible pensioner ratepayer; and*
 - b. *no other changes be made to the proposed 2018/19 Annual Budget resulting from the submissions; and*
 - c. *each submitter to the proposed 2018/19 Budget, be thanked for their submission to the Budget development process and be advised of the outcome of the reports to adopt the Budget, in writing.*

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Part 6 Planning and Accountability Reports of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) Council has a statutory requirement to prepare and give public notice of the proposed Budget.

Section 223 of the Act allows written submissions on any proposal contained in the Draft Budget 2018/19. Council’s public notice outlined the requirement that written submissions had to reach the Council by close of business on 28 May 2018.

DISCUSSION

At the Council meeting held on 24 April 2018 Council appointed a Committee of Council, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, comprising all Councillors to consider submissions received on the proposed Budget 2018/19 (the Committee). Council received forty-three (43) written submissions in response to the proposed Budget.

The S223 submission hearing was held on Tuesday 12 June, 2018 was adjourned and then concluded on Wednesday 20 June, 2018.

Three (3) submitters made verbal presentations to the Committee in support of their written submissions. The Committee heard and gave consideration to the matters raised by each submitter.

The Committee received copies of each written submission. In addition, it also received an officer report containing proposed responses to each of the written submissions,

prior to the conduct of the Committee meeting.

The Committee Chair, Mayor Klisaris thanked the presenters for their submissions and attendance at the meeting. As required by the Act, the Committee received and considered all submissions.

The Committee had further discussions on the submissions to which submitters spoke at the Committee meeting as well as the other written submissions.

ESC Decision on the Rate Cap Variation

The committee also discussed the outcome of Council's application to the ESC for a rate cap variation. Council had resolved in February 2018 to firstly, apply for the rate cap variation, then if unsuccessful consider a limited waste charge to only recover the cost of the additional recycling costs.

As the rate cap variation put forward by the ESC will not allow Council to cover its full costs of recycling, Council has decided not to accept the ESC's offer of the additional 0.32% and instead stay within the State Government's imposed rate cap of 2.25%. Further, as advised in February and March this year to the community, Council would consider introduce a limited Recycling Levy in 2018/19 to recover the recycling costs.

The proposed levy (to be considered with the adoption of the 2018/19 Budget) will be a flat charge of \$22 to every rateable property. Eligible pensioners (those ratepayers with a Centrelink or Department of Veterans Affairs card) will not be charged this levy.

The S223 Committee report is attached to this report.

CONSULTATION

Council undertook a 4 week public consultation process to inform the Council Plan and Budget during November 2017. Feedback from this consultation, as well as a review of other consultations, was incorporated into the development of the Budget.

As required, the proposed 2018/19 Budget was available for public inspection between 27 April and 28 May 2018 at various locations and was also advertised in the Council Bulletin and made available on-line.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council receives the S223 Committee report, noting the receipt and consideration of the written and verbal submissions regarding the proposed Budget 2018/19, and endorses the recommendations of the Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 SECTION 223 COMMITTEE REPORT

Report on receipt and consideration of submissions on:
PROPOSED 2018/19 BUDGET

Meeting held 7:30pm, Tuesday 12 June, 2018 Council Chamber, Civic Centre
Adjourned until 7.00pm, Wednesday 20 June, 2018

At the Council meeting held on 24 April 2018, Council appointed a Committee of Council, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, comprising all Councillors to consider submissions received on the proposed 2018/19 Budget.

1. CHAIRPERSON

Mayor Klisaris was elected Chairperson

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 (THE ACT) SECTION 223 SUBMISSIONS

The following people made a verbal presentation to the Committee:

Stewart Matthewson- From Glen Waverley Cricket Club	Brentwood Reserve upgrade
Dave Cawsey & Andrew Green - Glen Waverley Rovers Junior Football Club	Brentwood Reserve upgrade
Alex Dontas	Rate cap variation and recycling
Elaine Hopper Metro East Bicycle User Group Inc	Cycleways Did not attend

3.1 Summary of Verbal Submissions

Brentwood Reserve Upgrade – Stewart Matthewson

Mr Stewart Matthewson, from the Glen Waverley Cricket Club advised how important the Brentwood Reserve upgrade was to the cricket club and that they were happy to see the commitment to design and construction in the 2018/19 capital works budget. They were also reassured by the commitment to complete the project in 2019/20.

Brentwood Reserve Upgrade – Andrew Green

Mr Andrew Green, from the Glen Waverley Rovers Junior Football Club advised how important the Brentwood Reserve upgrade was to the cricket club and that they were happy to see the commitment to design and construction in the 2018/19 capital works budget. They were also reassured by the commitment to complete the project in 2019/20.

Objection to the rate cap variation and recycling issue (Alex Dontas)

Mr Alex Dontas stated that he objected to the rate cap variation by Council to cover the additional cost of the recycling issue. He advised that Council could identify cost savings to absorb the unexpected and unbudgeted expenditure.

Meeting Adjournment: Following hearing of the verbal submissions the Chair, Mayor Klisaris thanked the submitters and adjourned the meeting until Wednesday 20 June, 2018

Meeting resumed on Council Chambers

4. COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 223 SUBMISSIONS

The Committee discussed the 43 written submissions and sought advice on several matters from Council officers. The submission regarding bus shelters in the municipality should be referred for consideration in the 2019/20 budget process.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee, having heard the verbal submissions and considered all 43 written submissions on the proposed 2018/19 Budget, as required under Section 223 of the Act, recommends to Council that:

1. Recommended to not accept the ESC rate cap variation of 2.57% and to introduce a separate service charge – “Recycling Levy” of \$22 per rateable property and also make provision for a waiver of \$22 for every eligible pensioner ratepayer;
2. no other changes be made to the proposed 2018/19 Annual Budget; and
3. each submitter to the proposed 2018/19 Budget, be thanked for their submission to the Budget and Council Plan development process and be advised of the outcome of the reports to adopt the Budget and the Council Plan, in writing.

6. MEETING CLOSED at 7.45pm