

7.4.2 REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO HEAR BUDGET SUBMISSIONS - 2024/25 BUDGET

Responsible Manager:	Amanda Sapolu, Manager Corporate Governance & Legal
Responsible Director:	Jarrold Doake, Director City Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves:

1. To establish a Committee pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2020* for the purpose of hearing submissions from the public relating to the development of the 2024/25 Budget, at 6pm on 5 December 2023 at the Monash Civic Centre, 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley.
2. That the Committee only be authorised to hear the submissions and make a recommendation to Council having regard to the submissions received.
3. That the Committee be chaired by the Mayor and be constituted by all Councillors of the Council.

INTRODUCTION

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provides that Council may establish various types of committees that can be delegated powers or functions. Under the Act, a delegated committee can be (a) a delegated committee under section 63, (b) a joint delegated committee or (c) a committee exercising any power of a Council under this Act.

A committee constituted under subsection (c) will allow Council the ability to hear submissions from the community relating to the development of the 2024-2025 budget.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Council's Community Engagement Policy requires Council to undertake participatory engagement when undertaking its budget process.

BACKGROUND

Each year Council must prepare an annual budget that considers funding services to the community, as well as investment in works like roads, footpaths, and other infrastructure. To ensure the annual budget responds to our community, Council is committed to seeking feedback early in the budgeting process.

To ensure community feedback, Council is undertaking targeted community engagement between 1 October and 19 November 2023. This engagement includes:

- A dedicated Shape Platform providing information, timeframes and touch points for engagement.
- Pop-up listening posts throughout the region.
- Online project nomination process.
- Opportunity to present to Council.

As part of this engagement, Council offers the community members who make project nomination the opportunity to formally present their submissions to Council. It is proposed that this occurs at a delegated committee meeting on Tuesday, 5 December 2023 at 6pm.

Council will not be making any determinations about these project ideas at this meeting, but rather listen to the submissions and ask any clarifying questions, in advance of its budget deliberations in early 2024.

DISCUSSION

Standing up a Committee under the Act will provide a formal mechanism to constitute Council, to provide all community members with an opportunity to participate in the budget process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Standing up a Committee complies with Council's *Community Engagement Policy* and its *Annual Planning Process 2024-2025 Annual Budget Community Engagement Plan*.

CONSULTATION

This report is informed by consultation with Council's Corporate Performance Department.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This option forms part of a broader community consultation approach. Community members will have the opportunity to present their project nominations in a variety of ways ensuring that all community members have an equitable opportunity.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The *right to take part in public life* is actively supported by this decision. There are no human rights that are being limited or interfered with.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A GIA (Gender Impact Assessment) was not completed because this agenda item is not a 'policy', 'program' or 'service'.

CONCLUSION

Council should consider establishing a Committee that is authorised to receive submissions to allow the community to formally provide their project nominations to Council in accordance with the community engagement plan.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil