

## 7.1 REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS FOR DRAFT BUDGET 2019/20 (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 2019/20 (the Committee Report); and*
2. *having considered the Committee Report, endorses the recommendations of the Committee:*
  - a. *no other changes be made to the proposed 2019/20 Annual Budget resulting from the submissions; and*
  - b. *each submitter to the proposed 2019/20 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 2019/20. Council's public notice outlined the requirement that written submissions had to reach the Council by close of business on 29 May 2019.

### **DISCUSSION**

At the Council meeting held on 30 April 2019 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 2019/20 (the Committee). Council received twenty-nine (29) written submissions in response to the proposed Budget.

The S223 submission hearing was held on Tuesday 11 June with six (6) submitters presenting 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 McCluskey 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.

The S223 Committee report is attached to this report.

***CONSULTATION***

As required, the proposed 2019/20 Budget was available for public inspection between 1 May and 29 May 2019 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 2019/20, and endorses the recommendations of the Committee.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 SECTION 223 COMMITTEE REPORT

Report on receipt and consideration of submissions on:  
PROPOSED 2019/20 BUDGET

Meeting held 7:30pm, Tuesday 11 June, 2019 Council Chamber, Civic Centre

At the Council meeting held on 30 April 2019, Council appointed a Committee of Council, in accordance with Section 223 of the Act, comprising all Councillors to consider submissions received on the proposed 2019/20 Budget.

### 1. CHAIRPERSON

Shane McCluskey was elected Chairperson

### 2. APOLOGIES

Cr Rebecca Paterson

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

The following people made a verbal presentation to the Committee:

Submitter	Submission Issues Summary
Bruce Chugg	Citing long-term poor maintenance/management of median strips in arterial roads, managed by VicRoads.
Vijay Patil	Various: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns over infringements revenue and increase in fees at MARC; and</li> <li>Inadequate parking and transportation facilities.</li> </ul>
Frances Morrissey	Increase funding for biodiversity planning, management, accountability and reporting.
John Keech	Seeking increase funding on drainage upgrades
Michael Plis	Mr Plis raised a number of issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to bike paths, cycling networks and better availability for caged bike lockers;</li> <li>Monash Gallery of Art and parks; and</li> <li>Connectivity to local businesses and technology around municipality.</li> </ul>
John Farmer	Concerns about rate increase.

#### 3.1 Summary of Verbal Submissions

##### **Bruce Chugg - Poor maintenance of median strips in arterial roads**

Mr Bruce Chugg, requested that the maintenance of the median strips on arterial roads within the City of Monash be managed in future by Council in lieu of VicRoads. Mr Chugg was advised that the maintenance of these median strips is outside of Council's control however, Council does actively report defects and where possible assist VicRoads to respond within a timely manner.

**Vijay Patil - High fees at MARC and infringement revenue, inadequate parking and transportation facilities**

Mr Vijay Patil, advised/requested that;

- parking infringements are not a good way to collect revenue from residents. If the infringement is challenged in court, costs are generally borne by the offender. People make simple mistakes and education is a better way to encourage appropriate behaviour;
- Council simplify parking signs;
- Remove parking on Kingsway;
- Increases in population in the municipality has led to carpark pressures and Council should consider offering more shuttle bus services instead of building more carparks;
- Monash Aquatic Centre should be operated as a not for profit centre; and
- Alternate modes of transport to be encouraged.

**Frances Morrissey - Funding required for biodiversity planning, management, accountability and reporting**

Ms Morrissey requested Council include program budgeting for biodiversity planning, management, accountability and reporting; beyond the line item budget for the Sustainability team; to include Planning and other cost centres, and cross-sectoral partnerships with DELWP, Melbourne Water and other land management authorities. To meet the UN IPBES call for action at all levels from local to global to address the worldwide decline in biodiversity, and projected species extinction

**John Keech - Drainage upgrades require more funding**

Mr Keech was asking Council to re-prioritise drainage projects within the capital works program for 2019/20 budget.

**Michael Plis - More access to bike paths and cycling networks, expanding exhibitions at MGA, improve parks, better connectivity to local businesses and technology around municipality–**

- Connect cycle paths across the council and between other councils
- Install caged bike lockers across the municipality
- Install drinking taps along bike paths
- Better night lighting along cycling paths
- Fix the pot holes in Jells Park paths
- Change Monash Art Gallery to include exhibitions of local artists with painting and sculpture pieces.
- Jells Park improvements including sculptures, botanical garden improvements and Gondola experience in the Jells Park Lake. Mr Plis was advised that Council does not manage the Jells Park area. This is managed by Parks Victoria.
- Monash Business Directory on Council's website needs to be modernised

- An increase in business hubs for start-ups. Mr Plis was advised about the Eastern Innovation Business Centre in Mulgrave.
- Free wifi in public areas for tourists
- Council should facilitate a community clean-up day.

**John Farmer - Rate increase is too high**

Mr John Farmer found the proposed rate increase in the 2019/20 draft budget to be unacceptable and that all property taxes were too high.

**4. COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 223 SUBMISSIONS**

The Committee discussed the 29 written submissions and sought advice on several matters from Council officers.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee, having heard the verbal submissions and considered all 29 written submissions on the proposed 2019/20 Budget, as required under Section 223 of the Act, recommends to Council that:

1. no other changes, resulting from the submissions, be made to the proposed 2019/20 Annual Budget; and
2. each submitter to the proposed 2019/20 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.

**5. MEETING CLOSED at 8.35pm**