

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
29 JUNE 2009**

<b>1</b>	<b>ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2013 (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN) AND 2009/2010 BUDGET</b>
<b>LOCATION/ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>CHRIS PIKE, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ORGANISATION SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT</b> <b>DAVID FILMALTER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>ROWENA MCLEAN, SENIOR CORPORATE PLANNING CONSULTANT &amp; JENNIFER BLUNT, COORDINATOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	<b>16/02/86</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>1. COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2013</b> <b>2. STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2009/2010-2012/2013 (TO BE DISTRIBUTED SEPERATELY)</b> <b>3. 2009/2010 BUDGET (TO BE DISTRIBUTED SEPERATELY)</b> <b>4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSES TO PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS</b> <b>5. ADVERTISEMENT - ADOPTION OF 2009/2010 BUDGET</b>

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. Having advertised the draft Council Plan 2009/2013 and draft 2009/2010 Budget on 11 May 2009, council received and heard submissions on these documents at a Special Council Meeting on 11 June 2009.
- 1.2. Council has made a number of amendments to both the Council Plan 2009-2013 and 2009/2010 Budget which are summarised in this report.
- 1.3. Council needs to progress the finalisation of the Council Plan 2009-2013 and 2009/2010 Budget which will include their formal adoption and a written response to those who have made submissions.
- 1.4. Council received twenty one written and verbal submissions on the draft
- 1.5. Council Plan 2009-2013 and draft 2009/2010 Budget. The submissions were generally detailed, well structured and contained a significant amount of insight that has added value to the finalisation of the Council Plan and Budget.

- 1.6. The 2009/2010 Budget does not specify all of the projects, initiatives and programs done by council.
- 1.7. Council recognises that there is a need to improve the alignment between the Council Plan and Budget and that this will be addressed when the 2010/2011 Budget is prepared and the Council Plan 2009-2013 is reviewed.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves to:

- 2.1 Receive the report regarding the Council Plan 2009-2013 (including the Strategic Resource Plan) and having considered all the submissions received, adopt the Council Plan 2009-2013 as attached to this report.
- 2.2 Receive the report regarding the 2009/2010 Budget and having considered all the submissions received, adopt the 2009/2010 Budget as attached to this report.
- 2.2 Authorise the increase of the council sponsored pensioner rate rebate for 2009/2010, from \$97.00 to \$100.00
- 2.4 Authorise the placement of a public notice regarding the adoption of the 2009/2010 Budget.
- 2.5 Respond in writing to those that have made written submissions and advise them of the outcome of the council decision as required by Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
- 2.6 Forward a copy of the Council Plan 2009-2013 (including the Strategic Resource Plan) and the 2009/2010 Budget to the Minister for Local Government.
- 2.7 Thank submitters for their detailed and thoughtful contributions to the development of the Council Plan and Budget.

## **3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1. Council must prepare and approve a four-year Council Plan, which includes a Strategic Resource Plan, by 30 June pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989. Pursuant to Section 125 (2) of the Act, the Council Plan must include:
  - 3.1.1. The strategic objectives of the council (i.e. what council wants to achieve).
  - 3.1.2. Strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next four years (i.e. how council will achieve its objectives).
  - 3.1.3. Strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives (i.e. how council will track progress).
  - 3.1.4. A Strategic Resource Plan (i.e. how council will fund its strategic intent), as specified in Section 126.

- 3.2. Council must also prepare and approve a Budget for each financial year pursuant to Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989. The Budget must include:
  - 3.2.1. The standard statements (financial statements).
  - 3.2.2. A description of the activities and initiatives to be funded in the budget.
  - 3.2.3. A statement as to how the activities and initiatives will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan.
  - 3.2.4. Separately identified Key Strategic Activities to be undertaken during the financial year and performance targets and measures in relation to each Key Strategic Activity.
- 3.3. At the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2009, council adopted the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 and a draft 2009/2010 Budget and agreed to advertise it and call for submissions from the public.

#### **4. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 4.1. Council commenced the development of the draft Council Plan in January 2009. In the interest of effective community engagement council elected to exceed the minimum statutory consultation requirement by holding an initial consultation process from 21 February to 7 March 2009. This included conversations with the community on council's proposed strategic directions. The feedback received from this initial consultation informed council in the preparation of the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including the Strategic Resource Plan).
- 4.2. Pursuant to Section 223 of the Act, council held a 28-day statutory consultation on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including the Strategic Resource Plan) and the draft 2009/2010 Budget from Wednesday 13 May 2009 to Tuesday 9 June 2009. The process has included the following:
  - 4.2.1. Notice of the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including Strategic Resource Plan) and draft 2009/2010 Budget and invitation for public submissions published in *The Age* (13 May 2009), *Emerald Hill Weekly* (20 May 2009) and *Port Phillip Leader* (19 May 2009).
  - 4.2.2. Copies of the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including Strategic Resource Plan) and draft 2009/2010 Budget being made available at council offices and libraries.
  - 4.2.3. A summary brochure on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including Strategic Resource Plan) and the draft 2009/2010 Budget. This has also been made available in large print English, Russian, Polish, Cantonese and Greek.
  - 4.2.4. Two public information and feedback sessions held on Wednesday 27 May 2009 (1pm – 7 pm) and Sunday 31 May 2009 (11 am – 4 pm). Details of these sessions were promoted by:

- General advertisements in the *Emerald Hill Weekly* and *Port Phillip Leader*.
- Port Phillip Community e-newsletter.
- Letters and emails providing information and inviting submissions to key interest and community groups and those individuals who participated in council's consultation process in February/March 2009.
- Information and the opportunity to provide feedback being made available online at the City of Port Phillip website and a pilot Twitter site.

4.3. At the Council meeting held on Thursday 11 June 2009, council received and heard twenty one submissions (including feedback from the two public information sessions) on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 and draft 2009/2010 Budget.

4.4. A summary of those submissions and council's responses is attached. (Refer Attachment 4).

## **5. DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 OPTIONS**

5.1.1 Council may adopt the Council Plan 2009-2013 (including Strategic Resource Plan) and the 2009/2010 Budget as per the draft form advertised, or make amendments it considers necessary as a result of the public submission process.

### **5.2 AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2013**

5.2.1 As a result of the public submission process, council made the following amendments to the Council Plan 2009-2013:

Finalisation of 15 indicators of achievement to measure council's progress in delivering on its strategic directions.

Revision and addition of strategies and actions (changes are underlined):

<b>STRATEGY</b>		<b>REVISED/NEW ACTIONS</b>
1.2.5	Communicate clearly, on at least an annual basis, council's directions <u>and budget</u> for the coming period	Clearly communicate council's directions on the occasion of adoption of the annual Council Plan <u>and Budget</u> . <u>Improve the readability of the Council Plan and Budget</u>
2.4.1	Maximise partnerships and resource sharing in mitigating the impacts of climate change on the community	<u>Build strategic alliances and</u> actively participate in relevant forums to mitigate the impacts of climate change

2.4.2	Maximise partnerships and resource sharing in response to the impacts of climate change on the community	<u>Work with the community to develop a new advocacy structure on climate change</u>
4.4.1	Strive to ensure that major projects enhance liveability	<u>Continue to advocate against the Grand Prix being staged in Albert Park Reserve.</u> <u>Continue to advocate for the return of rail freight services to Webb Dock</u>

5.2.2 The 'Taking Action on Climate Change' strategic direction received the most comment. Submissions on the topic were of a high quality and demonstrated the expertise present within the Port Phillip community. In recognition of this council officers are working with submitters and other interested parties to form a group to advise council on climate change policy development, application and practice.

### **5.3 AMENDMENTS TO THE 2009/2010 BUDGET**

5.3.1 The following amendments have been made to the final council budget as a result of the submissions received and additional information that has been received in the period following the release of the draft Budget on 11 May 2009:

5.3.1.1 An allocation of \$50,000 has been made for the purpose of enabling Gasworks Arts Park to develop a long term strategic plan.

5.3.1.2 An allocation of \$20,000 has been made for the purpose of enabling Gasworks Arts Park to install a semi permanent truss rigging system to reduce the need to rig temporary lighting for performances. It can also be confirmed that council will fund the cost of purchasing a new elevated work platform from the 2008/2009 budget.

5.3.1.3 An increase in the council contribution towards meals subsidies of \$9,200 as a result of the meals subsidy being increased from \$3.15 to \$3.40 per meal in line with movements in the cost of food per ABS data from June 2006 to date.

5.3.1.4 Council's Sport and Recreation strategy 2008 has a strategic focus on increasing participation of women and juniors. South Melbourne District Sports Club's proposal is to provide facilities that are fit for use by women and juniors and this is not currently the case in the existing facility. It is noted that although this facility is not council owned or operated, some 90 percent of the club's membership is derived from within the municipality. On this basis council is in a position to contribute \$100,000 towards making the facility fit for use and improving the experience of women and juniors. This funding will be contingent on the South Melbourne District Sports Club entering into a service agreement with the City of Port Phillip that will require them to demonstrate that the funding has been

applied towards the construction of improved change room facilities and to provide council with ongoing information on movement in membership among junior and women members.

#### **5.4 ALIGNMENT OF THE COUNCIL PLAN AND BUDGET**

- 5.4.1 The Council Plan and the Budget have been developed at the same time. This has included the facilitated joint public information and feedback sessions on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 and draft 2009/2010 Budget that were held in May 2009.
- 5.4.2 The 2009/2010 Budget includes, as required by legislation, details of the activities and initiatives funded in the budget and key strategic activities including performance targets and measures.
- 5.4.3 The 2009/2010 Budget also allocates operating and capital works expenditure on a best fit basis to the strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2009-2013.
- 5.4.4 The 2009/2010 Budget does not specify all of the projects, initiatives and programs done by council.
- 5.4.5 Council will further improve the alignment and readability of the documents during 2009/2010. A 2009/2010 Budget at a Glance will also be issued in conjunction with the public launch of the Council Plan.

#### **5.5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS PLAN**

- 5.5.1 The Council Plan sets council's strategic direction for the next four years. This document will inform the development of council policy.

#### **5.6 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.6.1 A proposed increase of 6.26% in the council's rates revenue will raise an estimated \$78.293 million in rates and charges. This will result in a rate in the dollar of 3.7135 cents on the Net Annual Value which represents an effective 2.9% increase on the average rates bill in 2009/2010.

#### **5.7 LEGAL & RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.7.1 Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 requires that a council must prepare and approve a Council Plan, including a Strategic Resource Plan, within the period of 6 months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.
- 5.7.2 Section 130 of the Local Government Act 1989 requires that by 31 August each year a council must declare what it intends to raise by general rates, municipal charge, service rates and service charges.
- 5.7.3 Once council adopts the Council Plan 2009-2013 (including the Strategic Resource Plan) and the 2009/2010 Budget, it will be in a position to comply with the legislation.

**6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**6.1 TIMELINE**

6.1.1. The remaining implementation timelines in regards to the Council Plan 2009-2013 and 2009/2010 Budget are as follows:

29 June 2009	Adopt the Council Plan 2009-2013 (including the Strategic Resource Plan) Adopt the 2009/2010 Budget Strike the rate
30 June 2009	Provide a copy of the Council Plan 2009-2013, Strategic Resource Plan 2009/2010-2012/2013 and 2009/2010 Budget to the Minister for Local Government
6 July 2009 & 7 July 2009	Public notice of the adoption of the 2009/2010 Budget
July 2009	Advise people who made submissions of council's final decisions
July 2009	Issue of rate notices
July/August 2009	Publicly launch the Council Plan

**6.2 COMMUNICATION**

The following communication to the public will take place:

- 6.2.1 The public notice (see Attachment 5) will be advertised in local newspapers advising the community the council has prepared and adopted the 2009/2010 Budget
- 6.2.2 The Council Plan 2009-2013 and 2009/2010 Budget will be available in hard copy at the St Kilda Town Hall, South Melbourne Town Hall and Port Melbourne Town Hall and hard copies will be made available to the public upon request.
- 6.2.3 The Council Plan 2009-2013 and 2009/2010 Budget will be available on council's website to view, download and print.
- 6.2.4 Letters will be prepared and sent to those people who made written submissions on the draft Council Plan and draft Budget advising of council's final decision, as outlined in attachment 4 to this report.
- 6.2.5 The Council Plan 2009-2013 will be formally launched in July/August.