

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
11 JUNE 2009

1	PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2013 (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN) AND DRAFT 2009/2010 BUDGET
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	N/A
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/S:	SALLY CALDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORGANISATION SYSTEM AND SUPPORT DAVID FILMALTER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AUTHOR/S:	CHRIS PIKE, MANAGER, CORPORATE PLANNING & PERFORMANCE ROWENA MCLEAN, SENIOR CORPORATE PLANNING CONSULTANT JENNIFER BLUNT, COORDINATOR, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
FILE NO.:	16/01/285
ATTACHMENTS:	ATTACHMENT 1: SUBMISSIONS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Council to receive and hear public submissions on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including the Strategic Resource Plan) and the draft 2009/2010 Budget.
- 1.2. Council to note that a further report on the Council Plan 2009-2013 and the 2009/2010 Budget will be presented at a Special Meeting of Council on Monday 29 June 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. That Council resolve to:

- 2.1.1 Receive the report regarding public submissions on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 and draft 2009/2010 Budget.
- 2.1.2 Note that a further report on the Council Plan 2009-2013 and 2009/2010 Budget will be presented at a Special Meeting of Council on Monday 29 June 2009.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. Background

3.1.1 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:

- *The strategic objectives of the council (i.e. what council wants to achieve)*
- *Strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next four years (i.e. how council will achieve its objectives)*
- *Strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives (i.e. how council will track progress)*
- *A Strategic Resource Plan (i.e. how council will fund its strategic intent) (as specified in section 126).*

3.1.2 *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 and 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).*

3.1.3 Council must also prepare and approve a draft Budget for 2009/2010.

3.1.4 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.

The draft Council Plan 2009-2013 detailed four strategic directions:

- Engaging and Governing the City
- Taking Action on Climate Change
- Strengthening Our Diverse and Inclusive Community
- Enhancing Liveability.

To deliver on these objectives council proposed 56 strategies spread across 14 themes and 175 actions for the first two years of the plan (2009-2011). Possible strategic success indicators were identified for the 14 themes.

In adopting the draft 2009/2010 Budget, council also endorsed an increase in the council sponsored pensioner rate rebate scheme for 2009/2010 from \$97.00 to \$100.00.

- 3.1.5 It was agreed that the call for public submissions would close on Tuesday 9 June 2009 and that a Special Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 11 June 2009 to consider public submissions.

3.2. Consultation

- 3.2.1 Pursuant to Section 223 of the Act, council has 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:

- 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)
- Copies of the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including Strategic Resource Plan) and draft 2009/2010 Budget made available at council offices and libraries
- A summary brochure on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 (including Strategic Resource Plan) and the draft 2009/2010 Budget. Also made available in large print English, Russian, Polish, Cantonese and Greek
- Two public information and feedback sessions held on Wednesday 27 May 2009 (1 – 7 pm) and Sunday 31 May 2009 (11 am – 4 pm). Details of these sessions 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 feedback made available online at the City of Port Phillip website and a pilot Twitter site.

4. SUBMISSIONS – DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2013

By close of business on Tuesday 9 June 2009, council had received eight written submissions on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013. Below is a summary of the submissions received. Attachment 1 provides copies of submissions in full.

4.1. Susan Humphries:

- 4.1.1. Sustainability – council to assign top priority, advocate and lead in the pursuit of Sustainability.
- 4.1.2. Planning – For council to advocate and lead on planning issues with state government and educate the community.
- 4.1.3. Alcohol – identify revenue raised by alcohol, reduce drunkenness, examine local cultural factors, ensure consistency in related policy and promote active, positive lifestyles of health and wellbeing.
- 4.1.4. Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) – retain this institution in the ‘community hub’ development in South Melbourne.
- 4.1.5. St Kilda Botanic Gardens – review the management of the gardens and consider overseeing by a reference panel.
- 4.1.6. Eco Centre – seek relocation of groups to more appropriate building or renovate building as showcase with dedicated renewables officer to provide advisory service. Install Friends of St Kilda Botanic Gardens and assist with tea rooms and merchandising.
- 4.1.7. Grand Prix – council to advocate strongly against the continuation of this event.
- 4.1.8. Street prostitution – establish a reference group with community members to work with/on state government to implement the community’s welfare and justice approach.
- 4.1.9. Special Activity Levy – council to review for appropriateness and effectiveness of this levy (i.e. Clarendon St, South Melbourne)
- 4.1.10. Graffiti – collect information and seek solutions to address window etching vandalism in Clarendon St.
- 4.1.11. Speed hump in Dorcas Street – Evaluate need for speed hump crossing between Clarendon and Moray Streets.

4.2. Adrian Jackson:

- 4.2.1. Requested that his submission “not be sanitised in a generic report and for it to be attached as it is”. The full submission is in Attachment 1.
- 4.2.2. Engaging and Governing the City – Mr Jackson stated that he will continue to ask questions and suggest solutions on this strategic objective particularly where he believes there is waste of ratepayers funds.

- 4.2.3. Strengthening Our Diverse and Inclusive Community – Mr Jackson provides comments relating to immigrants and citizenship.
- 4.2.4. Taking Action on Climate Change – Mr Jackson states that he is a sceptic of climate change; however, supports the pursuit of alternative energy production, including nuclear power.
- 4.2.5. Enhancing Liveability – Get the drunks, druggies and hoons off our streets. Remove homeless people from our parks and provide state government accommodation with detox and counseling support.

4.3. Mr Don Gazzard:

- 4.3.1. Disappointment with council's 'Our Governance Statement' that was adopted by council on 23 March 2009. Two specific issues include:
 - no mention of protecting the rights of citizens to appeal against decisions of council
 - the language used for the sixteen points is repetitive and bureaucratic in prose.
 - The section of the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 relating to open space includes a clause stating that the total area of all existing parks and public open space in the City of Port Phillip shall not be reduced
 - A section of the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 relating to financial management include a clause that provides for a plain English budget made available for public scrutiny at least three months before the budget is adopted.

4.4. Association "Shalom" representing 1200 members from former Soviet Union:

- 4.4.1. Community space for members – funding needed for community space where members can meet and discuss their activities and keep their documentation. They are happy to share this space with other community organisations.
- 4.4.2. Interpretative services – funding needed for interpreting services for people who live in Nursing Homes and Montefiore.
- 4.4.3. Safety on streets – that safety at night on the streets has worsened. The submission notes the success in the Soviet Union of dual patrolling of streets by police and volunteers.

4.5. The Port Phillip Environmental Working Group (includes equal representation from the Community Alliance of Port Phillip, Unchain St Kilda, the Greens and LIVE):

- 4.5.1. Submission noted problems in understanding the processes in preparing the Community Plan, the Strategic Plan and the Budget and how the actions in the Council Plan relate to the activities, projects and capital works in the budget.

- 4.5.2. Council's current position and future capacity being limited unless change is made to a number of areas. Submission proposes the following
- A clear vision on environmental issues and proposed action in the Council Plan 2009-2013
 - New 2013 targets which would be more in line with those of peer councils
 - Regular reporting within the period to identify achievements and failures along the way
 - New structures for collaboration and community engagement. (including alliances with other councils, advisory structures and improved community engagement and developing independent structures from council to manage environmental initiatives, i.e. Moreland Energy Foundation
 - Improved capacity to be both strategic and 'opportunistic' in grasping initiatives as they present rather than waiting for everything to be in place
 - Responsibility and action on environmental issues should take place at all levels of the council's operations
 - Greenhouse gas emissions – key recommendations are provided in relation to greenhouse gas emissions, including the proposed targets, strategic actions and the establishment of an Environment Advisory Committee.
 - Transport – suggested corporate and community targets and actions to achieve these targets
 - Water – submission notes support for the proposals being developed by council in relation to water management. Provide additional actions relating to the review of streetscapes and parklands for climate change adaptation, a focus on children's play areas impacted by water restrictions; diversifying water supply and management of extreme weather events
 - Water Sensitive Urban Design – supporting major proposals on compliance of WSUD to be incorporated into the City of Port Phillip planning scheme. For council to continue to advocate for mandatory environmental schemes
 - Support for council's proposal for a community education information campaign
 - Elsternwick Park – propose council initiates discussions with the City of Bayside to ensure joint use and best practice for the project relating to the potential treatment and storage of stormwater on Elsternwick Park and that budget be allocated to ensure this project can proceed.

4.6. Les Rosenblatt:

- 4.6.1. Port Phillip Leadership – the unique character of Port Phillip’s high and medium density housing (including multi-dwellings) requires Port Phillip to be a leader of Australian cities in confronting the challenges and initiating best models of policy and practice for these households in meeting the climate change challenge.
- 4.6.2. Alliance with City of Melbourne and liaison with the City of Sydney – an urgency for Port Phillip to build strong alliances and partnerships with these two cities in advocacy, policy and programs to provide for environmental sustainability outcomes for multi-unit dwellings.
- 4.6.3. Specific key recommendations include:
 - the establishment of a working group to advise council
 - City of Port Phillip to establish an effective working partnership with the City of Melbourne and liaison with the City of Sydney
 - City of Port Phillip to ensure its budget and resourcing allocations to address sustainability for multi-unit buildings to meet performance targets.

4.7. Mr Paul Stewart on the behalf of the Travel Well Committee of School Council, Port Melbourne Primary School:

- 4.7.1. Section 4.2 recognised as Australia’s leading city in walking and cycling and Section 2.2 Changing Transport priorities – submission notes the success and support of the school to take action on climate change, however, the reluctance of many parents to allow children to walk or cycle due to concerns for safety with car traffic.
- 4.7.2. Submission requests a review of Clark St and Poolman St intersection, Port Melbourne and prioritising alterations to improve safety. For council to also review Clark and Graham Street due to concerns about cars entering Clark Street at speed.

4.8. Ann Birrell, on the behalf of Port Phillip Greens:

- 4.8.1. Support for the overall direction of the draft Council Plan 2009-2013.
- 4.8.2. Would like more detail regarding strategies, key performance indicators, targets and deadlines.
- 4.8.3. Like to see more ambitious green energy targets, effective action on the Towards Zero Strategy and improved funding for environmental programs.
- 4.8.4. Key priority actions include: the Flood Zone and Storm Water Strategy; the transitions town project employment action for ATSI; the establishment of a Youth Council; governance issues; 100% green energy; intergenerational equity and long term planning; effective action on climate change; and working with other councils on these issues.

- 4.8.5. The need for council to maintain community notification of, and the right of community to object to, planning schemes.
- 4.8.6. For council to endorse the Container Deposit Bill.
- 4.8.7. Support and endorsement for the submission provided by the Port Phillip Environment Working Group and Les Rosenblatt's submission.
- 4.8.8. The submission provides specific comments and amendments to the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 for actions under each of the four strategic directions.
- 4.8.9. Part 2 of the submission provides the following general comments
 - the need for the relationship between the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 and the Strategic Resource Plan to be clear and a recommendation for uniformity of documents
 - that the draft Council Plan 2009-2013 has too much policy, is too vague, uses inappropriate language and could be improved by using plain English.
- 4.8.10. Part 3 of the Plan provides endnotes and more comprehensive comments on the draft Council Plan and references to further information.

5. SUBMISSIONS – DRAFT 2009/2010 BUDGET

By close of business on Tuesday 9 June 2009, council also received nine written submissions on the draft 2009/2010 Budget (One being the same submission provided on the Draft Council Plan). Below is a summary of the submissions received. Attachment 1 provides copies of the submissions in full.

- 5.1. Mr Eddie Micallef on behalf of the Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association:
 - 5.1.1. Sandridge Beach East Toilet – Noting that \$50,000 has been allocated in each of the next 5 years for public toilets, it is expected that the installation of this facility will take place in 2009/2010.
 - 5.1.2. Waterfront Place Toilet – In recognition of the fact that council's Public Toilet Strategy lists Waterfront place as a high priority area for a toilet facility works should commence on this facility in 2009.
 - 5.1.3. Shower facilities at Port Melbourne beach. Showers have been provided to a number of beach areas to the east of Port Melbourne beach and this work needs to be done to make effective use of this beach as well.
 - 5.1.4. Sandridge Beach Master Plan. Acknowledging the good work on the foreshore at Sandridge beach and the decision to stage the final plan of plantings and tree removal, request a commitment from council that unexpended funds will be accrued at 30 June 2009 for future use.
 - 5.1.5. Landscape planning concepts. No reference has been made to this in the budget.

- 5.1.6. Landscape Care – Noting that the City has done a good job in repairing damage to Beacon Cove Landscaping, there appears to be an inadequate plan to ensure that the total area is kept up to an acceptable standard once the initial watering and care of new work is concluded. There is also no reference to a Beacon Cove planned maintenance regime.
- 5.1.7. Park lighting in Beacon Cove. Where Council is responsible for maintenance there continues to be a slow response to repairs.
- 5.1.8. Promenade Area and First Point beach. Issues of litter, corroded light fittings and root damage to the pathway are still not properly addressed.
- 5.1.9. Water for Parks and Street Landscapes. A request for the budget to include a provision for alternative water usage in the small parks at Beacon Cove, Waterfront Place and the light rail reserves.
- 5.1.10. Beacon Cove to be a model site for efficient water use. A request for council to develop a water conservation plan in consultation with Beacon Cove residents.
- 5.1.11. Matrix of previous Mirvac areas under control of various authorities. A request for the Budget to provide for the appropriate maintenance of physical assets handed over to council.
- 5.1.12. Beach Street Pedestrian Crossing. A request for Council to ensure that these works are funded in 2009/2010.
- 5.1.13. Waterfront Place Planning. A request that the City of Port Phillip undertake the role of land manager for this public space.
- 5.1.14. Hole in sea wall. Council to lobby Mirvac/MPV to repair the hole in the sea wall at the end of Beacon Vista.
- 5.1.15. Eastern boundary of TT cargo terminal. Council to clarify the obligations of the responsible authority to enforce lease conditions and to lobby the relevant authority to ensure requirements are met.
- 5.1.16. CoPP to facilitate participation by residents in landscaping initiatives. A request for council to facilitate arrangements with relevant contractors to allow residents to participate in landscaping initiatives.
- 5.1.17. Damage to bicycle path outside towers. Council to lobby Mirvac/Major Projects to repair the bicycle path.
- 5.1.18. Princes Street storm water outlet. Council to lobby Melbourne Water to address the unacceptable discharge of Water and various other items that remain on the beach for extended periods.

5.2. Chris Spillane:

- 5.2.1. Council is expending too many funds on areas that are outside the traditional domain of local government. Examples include monies expended on an affordable housing strategy, social justice charter, multicultural projects and climate change action.
- 5.2.2. While recognising that energy should be used efficiently, the expenditure of \$1.8 million on climate change action has been queried on the basis that it has a minimal cost benefit and that the City of Port Phillip's share of global CO2 emissions is negligible. These funds should rather be directed towards street and beach cleaning, local law enforcement and eyesore removal.

5.3. Mr Crusader Hillis on behalf of Gasworks Arts Inc:

- 5.3.1. A request for funding of \$60,000 to enable Gasworks Arts Park to develop a long term strategic plan, including a community benefits analysis for the proposed Gasworks Arts Park Performing Arts Facilities redevelopment.

5.4. Don Gazzard on behalf of unChain St Kilda:

- 5.4.1. The need for Council to carry out a thorough and objective review of all of its operations, staffing and expenditure with the objective of making economies either to fund a rate reduction or to fund the expansion of council services and activities. In raising this matter, Mr Gazzard acknowledged that this process had now commenced and would help inform the next budget.
- 5.4.2. Concerns about the presentation of the budget document which is based on the sector Model Budget standard. Suggested that in future council issue a preliminary Plain English budget that focuses less on statutory justification and provides more detail on critical areas including the five year capital works program.

5.5. Liz McArthur on behalf of herself, Margot Dickie, Danielle Conroy and Compton Harry:

- 5.5.1. A request for the Rouse Street public works (between Bay and Princess Street) that have been included in the 2011/2012 capital works budget \$580,000 to be brought forward and for additional funding to be provided. This request is justified by the works being long overdue (promised 12 years ago) and the fact that there has been a large investment in private realm changes to the area including increased building mass and height while there have been no changes to the public realm in the area.

5.6. Pauline O'Maley on behalf of her husband Norman and herself, Ron and Anne Arrowsmith, and Diane and Geoff Fray:

5.6.1. Given the significant intensification of Webb Dock with the expected increase in heavy duty trucking traffic, is the council taking any action to address this through the creation of an effective landscaping and acoustic buffer with the Port at Todd Road. No mention of this has been made in the draft capital works program or the five year capital program.

5.7. The Port Phillip Environment Working Group:

5.7.1. Overall Impressions. While the draft Budget has much to commend it, there are a number of specific weaknesses that would improve its presentation. These include improving the alignment to the draft Council Plan, inconsistencies in format within the budget, the need for more detail on some areas of ongoing/routine expenditure, additional detail for larger capital works projects and listing of capital works under each strategic objective.

5.7.2. Relationship to draft Council Plan 2009-2013. Would like to see the budget written in a way that is very closely aligned to the four year strategic plan (Council Plan 2009-2013). Recognise that this cannot be done this year but would like this to be considered for 2010/2011.

5.7.3. Comments on specific items

5.7.3.1. Summary – It would be appropriate to include a section entitled “Headline Figures” which highlights key figures such as the substantial budget deficit.

5.7.3.2. Strategic objective 1 page 19 – The income figures on this table are perplexing (e.g. how does the CFO earn \$3,088, rate income only \$121,000).

5.7.3.3. Strategic objective 2 page 22 – Waste management operations – No mention is made of recycling and resource recovery. This item also appears to be duplicated by the activity Waste management contract on page 26.

5.7.3.4. Initiative 10 – SOC'S & Blocks community based program – Regards this initiative as particularly important and would like to see a substantially larger allocation in this year's budget.

5.7.3.5. Initiative 15 – Managing O'Donnell Gardens to cope with drought and use. Believe this is out of place and should be included on p 26 worth other open space management items.

5.7.3.6. Initiatives general – Text about or cross reference to the major capital works items related to the strategy would be appropriate.

5.7.3.7. Initiatives proposed

- Prepare a new Greenhouse Gas Management Plan 2010-2020.

- Prepare and publish a revised set of detailed energy targets both council operations and the Port Phillip community.
 - Introduction of recycling bins adjacent to all rubbish bins in all streets and public places.
 - Initiative for environmental efficiency in local businesses.
 - Water conservation, collection and reuse initiatives.
 - Appoint a dedicated Community Sustainability Action Officer.
 - Review and publish council's fleet management policy, in relation to use of efficient gas, hybrid and solar vehicles.
 - Undertake an effectiveness audit on the performance of the Eco Centre.
- 5.7.3.8. Performance measures and targets (p 23), 4% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The relationship between this target and longer term targets needs to be explained.
- 5.7.3.9. Strategic activity Changing transport priorities – Addressing only bicycle use is well short of what is required here. Comprehensive and integrated targets covering vehicle use, public transport use, bicycle use and walking are all needed. We also understand that council operates an Energy Revolving Fund and that in previous year's \$30,000 was placed into this fund. No reference is made to this fund in the draft Budget.
- 5.7.3.10. Service category p 27 – Renewal projects manager. This item is poorly expressed and further explanation and detail is needed.
- 5.7.3.11. Initiative 32 p 28 – Planning Amendment C62. Support the concept of a mandatory 5% open space contribution and would also like to see a related policy that all funds coming as open space contributions are directed to the purchase of new open space areas rather than to open space management.
- 5.7.3.12. Other initiatives proposed
- Investigation of storm water collection options for further water provision for open space areas especially the St Kilda Botanical Gardens.
 - Implementation of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens Future Directions Plan.
 - Support for the Open Space Signage initiative.
 - Peanut Farm reserve renovation of degraded areas.

- Acland Street landscaping renovation – evaluation and design study.
- 5.7.3.13. Query if council makes a contribution to the management of Elsternwick Park which is within and managed by the City of Bayside.
- 5.7.3.14. Capital Budget Items.
- Roads (\$8.605 million) – Query as to the whether these monies are being expended in a strategically effective fashion on works that are essential to sustaining the City’s assets.
 - Gasworks Park remediation (\$2.3 million). This is possibly the largest single item in the budget and the same amount is allocated per year for the following four years (total \$9.2 million). No explanation of what remediation work is involved, why the cost is so large and why council has committed to this expensive project.
 - Urban Studies Center (\$1.1 million). Explanation for this project and the need for it is required.
- 5.7.3.15. Divisional information. The information provided on Divisional structures is valuable and it would be better if all set out in the same way using the Community Development and Planning Division as a model.
- 5.8. **The Fitzroy Street Traders’ Association Inc** raised concerns in their budget submission about the apparent absence of any meaningful funding for projects within the St Kilda precinct and more particularly within the Fitzroy Street and Acland Street areas. The budget submission suggests that resources allocated to the entertainment management strategy (\$50,000) be redirected to an environmental development project(s) in one of the precincts.
- 5.9. **Mr. Paul Stewart on behalf of the Travel Well Committee at Port Melbourne Primary School** also provided a budget submission raising the same issues as presented in the submission on the draft Council Plan 2009-2013.
- 5.10. **Late Submission received 10 June 2009 –**
- Mr Richard Webb** made a request for Council budgets to include an addendum that shows revenue raised and expenditure incurred by ward.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The remaining timetable for the Council Plan 2009-2013 and Budget 2009/2010 process is:

11 June 2009	Meeting to receive and hear public submissions
29 June 2009	Meeting to adopt the final Council Plan 2009-2013 and 2009/2010 Budget (including the striking of the rate)
30 June 2009	Provide copy of Council Plan 2009-2013 to the Minister for Local Government
6 July & 7 July 2009	Public notice of the adoption of the Budget
July 2009	Issue of rate notices