



***HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL***

***TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2011, 7 PM
DAYLESFORD SENIOR CITIZENS
VINCENT STREET
DAYLESFORD***

MINUTES

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Hepburn Shire Council Special Meeting



Minutes

TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2011

Daylesford Senior Citizens
Vincent St, Daylesford
Commencing 7 pm

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Conrick".

KAYLENE CONRICK
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
25 FEBRUARY 2011

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS:

We would like to acknowledge we are meeting on Jaara people country, of which members and elders of the Dja Dja Wurrung community and their forebears have been custodians for many centuries.

On this land the Jaara people have performed age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

2. OPENING OF MEETING: The Meeting opened at 7pm

PRESENT: Mayor Councillor Rod May; Deputy Mayor Councillor Sebastian Klein; Birch Ward Councillor Jon Barrell; Cameron Ward Councillor Tim Hayes; Creswick Ward Councillor Janine Booth; Creswick Ward Councillor Don Henderson; Holcombe Ward Councillor Bill McClenaghan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer Kaylene Conrick; General Manager Corporate Services Evan King; Manager Finance Anthea Lyons.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

“WE THE COUNCILLORS OF HEPBURN SHIRE
DECLARE THAT WE WILL UNDERTAKE ON EVERY OCCASION
TO CARRY OUT OUR DUTIES IN THE BEST INTERESTS
OF THE COMMUNITY
AND THAT OUR CONDUCT SHALL MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS
OF THE CODE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE
SO THAT WE MAY FAITHFULLY REPRESENT
AND UPHOLD THE TRUST PLACED IN THIS COUNCIL BY THE
PEOPLE OF HEPBURN SHIRE”

3. APOLOGIES: Nil.

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Nil.

5. OFFICERS REPORTS

5.1 PROPOSED RATING STRATEGY GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

In providing this advice to Council as the Manager of Finance, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The Council's rating strategy is due for revision. The final stage of the community engagement with this review is the advertising for public submissions on the Proposed Rating Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) requires that the rating system provides a "reasonable degree of stability in the level of the rates burden"; therefore it is important that a rating strategy is set and this guides the budget, rather than changes being made on an annual basis.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The initial community engagement process has been outlined in section 8 below.

The Proposed Rating Strategy contains principles on the following rating topics:

- Municipal Charge;
- Differential Rates
 - Farm land;
 - Commercial, industrial & mixed use;

- Vacant Land
- Special Rates & Charges;
 - Waste Management;
 - New project(s)
- Rebates &/or Incentives;
 - Pensioner rate concession;
 - Economic Development;
 - Environmental
- Special charges

COUNCIL PLAN /LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Part 7 of the *Local Government Act 1989* refers to Financial Management and the Proposed Rating Strategy is guided by Part 8 of *the Local Government Act "Rates and Charges on Rateable Land"*.

A revision of the Rating Strategy is also consistent with the Council Plan Commitment of Good Governance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The rating system determines how Council will raise money from properties within the municipality. It does not influence the total amount of money to be raised, only the share of revenue contributed by each property.

Outcomes from the Rating Strategy revision will guide the annual budget setting process.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant risk implications noted with this process.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SOCIAL/ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Social and economic factors have been considered as part of the development of this Proposed Rating Strategy, including review of Hepburn Shire demographics. Issues such as “capacity to pay” have been considered in determining what share of the rate revenue each ratepayer will contribute.

A further environmental aspect has been included in the revised strategy, with the inclusion of an environmental rebate.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In October 2010, two community workshops were held on the principles of equity and fairness and on rating strategy proposals.

Council then decided to prepare a discussion paper that incorporated both the principles used in the workshops and the ideas coming from those workshops, as well as some other proposals flowing from a workshop held with the Councillors in December 2010.

This paper was sent to original October workshop participants who registered their attendance, and the Hepburn Agriculture Advisory Committee and Hepburn Heritage Advisory Committee for comment. All Community Planning Groups across the Shire were invited to individually workshop the discussion paper.

Council officers met with the following groups:

- Trentham Forum Group;
- Newlyn & Dean Community Planning Group;
- Hepburn Sustainability Advisory Committee; and
- Daylesford and Hepburn Springs Business and Tourism association.

The feedback from the discussion paper, as well as feedback from the October workshops has been used to form this Proposed Rating Strategy.

The Proposed Rating Strategy will be publicly advertised in *The Courier* (Ballarat) and *The Advocate*, seeking submissions from interested parties in accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The Proposed Rating Strategy will be available for inspection at the Hepburn Shire offices in Vincent St Daylesford, Duke Street Daylesford, Albert Street Creswick, at Branch Libraries at Creswick, Daylesford and Clunes, Trentham newsagent and on Council's website during the inspection period.

Any person may make a written submission up until 5.00pm, on 1 April 2011, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer. Council intends to meet on Wednesday, 13 April 2011 in order to consider submissions received. Council intends to meet on Tuesday, 19 April 2011 to consider and determine upon the adoption of the Rating Strategy.

CONCLUSION

The Proposed Rating Strategy has been developed and requires Council approval.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

5.1.1 *Approve the Proposed Rating Strategy to be publicly advertised to seek submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.*

MOTION

That Council:

5.1.1 *Seek submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 in respect of Hepburn Shire Council Proposed Rating Strategy document.*

Moved: Councillor Tim Hayes
Seconded: Councillor Janine Booth
Carried.

**ATTACHMENT 1 – ITEM 5.1
HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL
PROPOSED RATING STRATEGY**

6. CLOSE OF MEETING. The Meeting closed at 7.38pm.