

Minutes

Special Meeting of Council

Tallangatta Council Office

Wednesday 25 June 2014

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL,
TALLANGATTA OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2014 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM.**

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1 Opening Prayer

"Almighty God, we ask that you be present at this meeting to assist us in our service to the Community through Local Government.

We pray that our decisions will be wise and taken with goodwill and clear conscience.

Amen."

2 Councillor and Officer presence at the meeting

Present: Cr Fraser OAM, Crs Wortmann, Gadd, Joyce and Scales

In Attendance:	Title:
J Phelps	Chief Executive Officer
J Shannon	Director Community and Corporate Services
J Heritage	Director Technical Services

3 Apologies and granting of leave of absence

Nil.

4 Declaration of pecuniary interest and/or conflict

For the purpose of this section, Councillors must disclose the nature of the conflict of interest in accordance with s79(2) of the Local Government Act.

Nil.

5 Organisational improvement

5.1 2013-2017 Council Plan (07/05/0029-DCCS)

Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Ms Jo Shannon, Director Community and Corporate Services.

At the time of preparation and presentation of the report the officer did not have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Background/History:

Section 125 of the Local Government Act requires Council to prepare a Council Plan.

Section 125(1) states that:

A Council must prepare and approve a Council Plan within the period of six months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

The Council Plan must include:

- (a) the strategic objectives of the Council;
- (b) strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next 4 years;
- (c) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;
- (d) a Strategic Resource Plan containing the matters specified in section 126;
- (e) any other matters which are prescribed by the regulations.

Under section 125(7) at least once in each financial year, a Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan. A Council may make any adjustment it considers necessary to the Council Plan. If a Council makes an adjustment to the Council Plan, the Council must within 30 days of making the adjustment advise the Minister of the details of the adjustment to the Council Plan.

An extensive process was undertaken during 2013 to develop the existing 2013-2017 Council Plan. Bimonthly reports on progress against Council Plan initiatives are provided to Council on a regular basis.

A review of the 2013-2017 Council Plan has been conducted in accordance with section 125. This review recommends that no adjustments to the 2013-2017 Council Plan be made at this time.

The Strategic Resource Plan is a resource plan of the resources required to achieve the strategic objectives.

Under section 126 of the Act the Strategic Resource Plan must include in respect of at least the next four (4) financial years:

- (a) the standard statements describing the required financial resources in the form and containing the information required by the regulations; and
- (b) statements describing the required non-financial resources, including human resources.

Council must review the Strategic Resource Plan during the preparation of the Council Plan and adopt it not later than 30 June each year. The Strategic Resource Plan forms part of the Council Plan.

The Strategic Resource Plan has been updated to reflect the proposed budget for 2014-2015. Formal adoption of the Strategic Resource Plan will be subject to the successful adoption of the proposed budget.

Community Consultation:

Given the community consultation undertaken in 2013 and that there are no significant changes proposed to the 2013-2017 Council Plan, there is no further community consultation proposed at this time.

**CR GADD
CR JOYCE**

THAT COUNCIL, HAVING COMPLETED AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE 2013-2017 COUNCIL PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 125 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, ENDORSE THE PLAN AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED

5.2 Proposed Budget 2014-2015 (06/02/0065-DCCS)

Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Ms Jo Shannon, Director Community and Corporate Services.

At the time of preparation of the report the officer did not have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Background/History:

The Towong Shire Council proposed Budget 2014-15 has been prepared for consideration by Council. Copies of the proposed Budget have been provided to Council. The proposed Budget documentation provides an overview, summary and analysis of the proposed budget and current financial position.

In accordance with the legislative requirements below, Council is required to adopt a Budget by 31 August 2014.

Impact on Council Policy:

Council Plan Objectives

Council's 2013-2017 Council Plan has an objective of providing community leadership through the provision of accessible, open and consultative government. Council encourages appropriate community involvement in its governance processes and will aim to produce accurate, concise and easy to read reports and publications for members of our public. Further, Council's objectives include ensuring that Council's plans and budgets are both responsible and sustainable.

Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) and Long Term Financial Plan

The proposed Budget has been prepared within the guidelines provided by Council's Long Term Financial Plan. The updated financial outcomes for the draft SRP period and long term until 2022/23 financial year have been included within the appendices of the Budget.

Community Outcomes

The establishment of the proposed Budget 2014-2015 is a critical component in the financial management of Council's operations to ensure the delivery of appropriate services and programs to residents and ratepayers.

Financial Impact

The proposed Budget 2014-2015 establishes the financial framework of Council including income and expenditure, rating strategy, borrowings and asset management programs necessary for Council operations.

Environmental Impact

The proposed Budget contains financial provision for Council to achieve environmental outcomes for the community.

Organisational Impact

The proposed Budget 2014-2015 establishes the organisational arrangements necessary for Council's operations.

State Government Legislation:

The proposed Budget has been prepared in accordance with the relevant sections and regulations of the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004 No. 30, which are repeated below.

Local Government Act 1989

S 127. Council must prepare a budget

1. A Council must prepare a budget for each financial year.
2. The Council must ensure that the budget contains—
 - (a) the standard statements in the form and containing the matters required by the regulations;
 - (b) a description of the activities and initiatives to be funded in the budget;
 - (c) a statement as to how the activities and initiatives described under paragraph (b) will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan;

- (d) separately identified Key Strategic Activities to be undertaken during the financial year and performance targets and measures in relation to each Key Strategic Activity;
 - (e) any other details required by the regulations.
3. The Council must ensure that the budget also contains:
 - (a) the information the Council is required to declare under section 158(1);
 - (b) if the Council intends to declare a differential rate under section 161, the details listed in section 161 (2)
 - (c) if the Council intends to declare a differential rate under section 161A, the details listed in section 161(2).

S 129. Public notice

1. As soon as practicable after a Council has prepared a budget or revised budget, the Council must give public notice.
2. A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 on any proposal contained in the budget or revised budget.
3. In addition to any other requirements specified by this Act, the notice referred to in sub-section (1) must:
 - (a) contain any details required by the regulations; and
 - (b) advise that copies of the budget or revised budget are available for inspection for at least 14 days after the publication of the notice at:
 - the Council office and any district offices; and
 - any other place required by the regulations.
4. A copy of the budget or revised budget must be displayed at the places specified under sub-section (3)(b).

S 130. Adoption of budget or revised budget

1. A Council may adopt a budget or revised budget if it has complied with all of the relevant requirements of this Act relating to budgets and revised budgets.
2. The Council must give public notice of its decision under sub-section (1).
3. The Council must adopt the budget by August 31 each year.
4. The Council must submit a copy of the budget to the Minister by August 31 each year.
5. The Minister may extend the period within which a Council must comply with sub-section (4).

6. If a Council fails to submit a copy of the budget to the Minister within the time allowed, the Secretary must ensure that details of the failure are published in the annual report of the Department.
7. A Council must give the Minister any details concerning its budget or revised budget that the Minister requests.
8. A Council must comply with sub-section (7):
 - (a) within 14 days of receiving a request in writing for the details from the Minister; or
 - (b) within any longer period specified by the Minister in the request.
9. A copy of the budget or revised budget must be available for inspection by the public at:
 - (a) the Council office and any district offices; and
 - (b) any other place required by the regulations.

Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004 No. 30

R 8. Other matters to be included

For the purposes of sections 127(2)(e) and 128(3) of the Act, the budget and any revised budget must contain the following information for the financial year to which the budget or revised budget relates:

- (a) the total amount proposed to be borrowed, other than borrowings to refinance existing loans;
- (b) the proposed total amount of debt redemption;
- (c) in the case of the proposed budget—
 - the proposed rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied;
 - the estimated amount to be raised by each type of rate to be levied;
 - the estimated total amount to be raised by rates;
 - the proposed percentage change in the rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied compared to that of the previous financial year;
 - the number of assessments for each type of rate to be levied compared with the previous year;
 - the total number of assessments;
 - the basis of valuation to be used;
 - the estimated total value of land in respect of which each type of rate is to be levied compared with the previous year;
 - the proposed municipal charge, if any;
 - the proposed rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under section 162 of the Act;
 - the estimated amount to be raised by each type of charge to be levied compared with the previous year;

- the estimated total amount to be raised by rates and charges;
 - any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised;
- (d) in the case of a revised budget, those matters referred to in paragraph (c) as applicable to any additional rates and charges to be levied.

R 9. Public notice of proposed budget or revised Budget

For the purposes of section 129 of the Act, the following information must be included in the public notice of the preparation of a proposed budget or revised budget—

- (a) the date on which Council will meet to adopt its budget or revised budget;
- (b) the total amount borrowed as at 30 June of the previous financial year;
- (c) the total amount proposed to be borrowed during the financial year or the total amount borrowed immediately before the preparation of the revised budget, other than borrowings to refinance existing loans;
- (d) the total amount projected to be redeemed during the financial year;
- (e) the projected total amount of borrowings as at June 30 of the financial year;
- (f) the projected cost of servicing the borrowings during the financial year;
- (g) the proposed rate in the dollar for each type of rate to be levied;
- (h) the proposed municipal charge, if any;
- (i) the proposed rate or unit amount for each type of service rate or charge to be levied under section 162 of the Act;
- (j) in the case of a revised budget, a summary of reasons for the preparation of the revised budget.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Nil.

Budget Impact:

The budgetary impact is detailed in the proposed Budget 2014-2015.

Risk Assessment:

Nil.

Community Consultation/Responses:

A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 on any proposal contained in the budget.

Submissions on the proposed Budget 2014-2015 will be invited in the local media. Copies of the Proposed Budget Report 2014-2015 will be available for inspection at both the Corryong and Tallangatta Council Offices, during office hours, and on Council's website from Friday 27 June 2014 until Thursday 24 July 2014.

Submissions on any proposal contained in the proposed Budget may be lodged at either the Tallangatta or Corryong Office during that period.

Any submissions received will be tabled at an Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday 5 August 2014 and any person or persons requesting that they wish to appear or be represented will be heard.

Discussion/Officers View:

Nil.

CR GADD
CR SCALES

THAT:

1. COUNCIL ENDORSE THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2014/15 AS PRESENTED.
2. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER BE AUTHORISED TO:
 - a. GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE PREPARATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 129(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989; AND
 - b. MAKE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND REPORTING) REGULATIONS 2014; AND
3. A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 5 AUGUST 2014 AT TALLANGATTA TO:
 - a. CONSIDER ANY SUBMISSIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET;
 - b. HEAR ANY PERSON OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR SUBMISSION; AND
 - c. CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET.

CR SCALES CALLED FOR A DIVISION.

COUNCILLORS IN FAVOUR OF THE ABOVE MOTION: CRS GADD AND JOYCE.

COUNCILLORS OPPOSING THE ABOVE MOTION: CRS FRASER, SCALES AND WORTMANN.

**CR SCALES
CR WORTMANN**

THAT:

- 1. COUNCIL ENDORSE THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2014/15 AS PRESENTED AT APPENDIX 1 WITH AN AMENDED RATE INCREASE OF 5.8%.**
- 2. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER BE AUTHORISED TO:**
 - a. GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE PREPARATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 129(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989; AND**
 - b. MAKE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND REPORTING) REGULATIONS 2014;**
- 3. A MEETING OF COUNCIL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 5 AUGUST 2014 AT TALLANGATTA TO:**
 - a. CONSIDER ANY SUBMISSIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET;**
 - b. HEAR ANY PERSON OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR SUBMISSION; AND**
 - c. CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET.**
- 4. COUNCIL UNDERTAKE EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS (PRIOR TO THE PREPARATION OF THE 2015/16 BUDGET) REGARDING THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND SERVICE LEVELS AND THE EXTREME FINANCIAL CLIMATE WE ARE IN.**

CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.53 am.

Cr Mary Fraser OAM 5 August 2014