



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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COUNCIL SETS ITS BUDGET

Last night the Council adopted its 2009-2010 Business Plan and the Budget required to fund it. The process for the Council began back in February when we set revenue and expenditure targets to guide the Administration in drafting a balanced budget that would fund our priorities for the coming year. Draft documents were produced and made available for public consultation. This was done more extensively than in previous years and we were rewarded with over 50 submissions and 12 people choosing to make verbal presentations to Council on 28 May. As a result, a number of changes were made to the documents and I believe that Council has now adopted a positive Business Plan & Budget which delivers on our major responsibilities in a prudent and responsive way.

Council has again not increased its rate in the dollar so any increase in rates will be due to increased property value, this year 4.9% which with new growth of 1.7% results in estimated rate income of \$69.7m. The Budget includes total expenditure of \$180.1m with funding of \$107.6m from sources other than rates. The additional 1% of rates has again been included to fund the Council's ongoing **Climate Change Action Plan**. However, Council has cut back the Residential Owner/Occupier Rate Rebate by \$25 to \$150 per property.

Major projects which will be advanced in the coming year include:

- Complete the design for Regeneration of **Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga** and engage Partners
It is Council's hope that we will be able to commence work on a first stage of the project by July 2010.
- Commence construction of Stages 1 and 2 of **Victoria Park/Bakkabakkandi**
We also plan to accelerate restoration of the heritage grandstand and we still hope for Federal support for the wetlands project. Representations will be made to Local Member Kate Ellis and to Senator Wong.
- Provision has been made to commence **Stage 3 of the North Terrace project (subject to State support)**
- At least **\$4.6m renewal work to roads and footpaths** with improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Complete the Primary on-road **bicycle network** and set up a 5th CBD Node for the Free City Bike Scheme.
- \$1m for completion of **Grote St** to Morphett St and an extra \$450K for **Rundle Mall environs** upgrades.
- \$50K has been provided for a Masterplan to guide the development of the **Hindley St/West End Precinct**
- An extra \$500K to provide for a rejuvenation of **Rundle Street** with a new footpath on the southern side.
- Extra funding of \$220K to provide for maintenance of the new development of **Victoria Pk/Bakkabakkandi**.
- Over \$1m in sponsorship of events such as Fringe, Womadelaide, Tour Down Under, and Australia Day.
- **Reduced fees** for some business licences and removal of licensing and fees for **complying A-Frames**.
- **Heritage conservation** is supported by funding of \$1.25m for grants, promotion and advisory services.
Council has also agreed to waive all of its fees for approval of all conservation work and solar installations.
- \$300K has been allocated to complete connections to the **Glenelg Adelaide Recycled Water Pipeline**, including carrying out baseline salinity and nutrient assessments and ongoing monitoring of water quality.
- Funds have been provided to allow for the provision of a **second Connector bus** equal in size to Tindo.
- \$50K has been set aside for soil testing and to set up a **community garden** at the rear of Veale Gardens.
- \$15K was provided to support the publication of Pat Summerling's book "History of the Park Lands"

A large part of the Council's non-rate revenue comes from its business operations, the most profitable of which is U-Park. **In 2009-2010 it is targeted to make almost \$3m profit.** I presume that the original purpose of setting up a parking operation was to ensure an adequate supply of convenient and affordable parking in the CBD.

Melbourne City Council has only a small parking business, preferring to leave it to private enterprise. In Melbourne parking charges are much higher and in shorter supply than in Adelaide, Oh and by the way, they have an excellent, well-patronised public transport system!

Whilst Council has made some minor changes to parking charges in recent times the fact remains that parking in Adelaide, especially for the all-day parker who should be on public transport, is just too cheap, too plentiful and too convenient. You can even get 10 hour early-bird parking in the Park Lands. Any right-thinking person knows that if we are serious about reducing CO₂ emissions we have to reduce the use of private motor vehicles and find ways to reward people who use their vehicles more efficiently. **The State Government** is certainly committed to improving **public transport** so perhaps it is now up to the Council to re-think its parking policies. It is a tad hypocritical to be using ratepayers funds to become a 'carbon neutral corporation' by 2020 whilst areas of policy change affecting building design, transport and access to deliver a carbon neutral city are languishing.



I have heard it said that Council's role as a policy maker in the parking v public transport debate is seriously compromised by its substantial involvement in the provision of parking services at a profit.

VICTORIA PARK A FLOP!

So screamed a recent Messenger headline but nothing could be further from the truth! Council has already earmarked \$3m for the first 2 stages of the Park's development and storm water requirements will almost certainly deliver basic wetlands in the southern end of the Park. SAJC insurance monies will hopefully be applied to accelerate the restoration of the heritage grandstand and the **blight that was SAJC is now almost gone**. As an added bonus, **after 76 long, slow days since the last race**, the intrusive **Clipsal** occupation has gone.

Some recent meeting decisions (full details are available on the Council's website 5 days after the meeting)

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL Meeting held on 1 June 2009 (next meeting will be 22 June 2009)

- The Panel **GRANTED** Development Plan Consent to a varied proposal for demolition of an existing building, renovation of a heritage place and the construction of 4 3-level attached dwellings at **2-20 New St and 236-238 Melbourne Street**, North Adelaide (main variation, addition of roof top gardens) (DA/150/2004/A)
- **Consent** was given to construct a rear addition to an existing dwelling including a garage and part demolition of an outbuilding at **218 Jeffcott Street North Adelaide**. (DA/995/2008)
- A variation of an earlier approval was **GRANTED** consent to allow construction of 2 residential flat dwellings at **157-160 Strangways Terrace North Adelaide**. The variation involved the deletion of basement carparking and conversion of rumpus rooms to a garage. (DA/838/2007/B)

The Panel then went into a **confidential session** to consider a matter which involved legal advice.

BRIEFINGS were held as follows:

- 26 May - Victoria Park/Bakkabakkandi Masterplan Packages 1 and 2 update (open)
- 2 June - 2009-2010 Business Plan and Budget (confidential)
 - Sturt Street Housing Project (confidential)
 - SA Water site at Thebarton; Urban Park Lands Forest Concept. (open)
- 9 June - Grants Recommendations and Sponsorship Recommendations (open)
 - Adelaide Aquatic Centre Strategic Directions and Roof replacement project (open)

COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES

Meetings held on Monday 15 June 2009. (next meeting Monday 29 June 2009 at 5.30pm)

Motions on Notice were moved by me calling for immediate steps to demolish **Council buildings** in Victoria Park and by Cr Cullen calling for a change to the composition of the Central Market Committee. **A Motion without Notice** was moved by Cr Henningsen re replacement of the PAC Boatshed and by me allowing the Lithuanian Community to fly flags in Grote Street to commemorate 1000 years of their Nationhood.

■ **In spite of opposition by Cllrs Moran and Hayward, Council adopted the 2009-2010 Business Plan and Budget which forecasts total expenditure of \$180.76m and allocates \$56.658m for capital works and an Operating Surplus of \$7.669m. Rates were declared at the same level as 2008-2009, namely 0.11615 (residential) and 0.13433 (non-residential) This will raise \$69.697m**

■ **A differential separate rate for Rundle Mall Environs** was set at 0.0264c in the \$, the same as this year.

■ **Council adopted the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (APLMS)** which had been prepared by the Adelaide Park Lands Authority and endorsed the concept of a whole of Park Lands Management Plan.

The next step will be for the Authority to present the Strategy to the **Minister** and for Council and the Minister to confer on the proposed strategy. This will complete the basic task required of APLA by the Park Lands Act 2005.

■ Council approved the use of Elder Park by the **MG Car Club of SA** for a car display on Saturday 3 April 2010.

■ Council also approved use of Elder Park for the **Ferrari Club Australia** National Rally on 14 November 2010.

■ **The Thinkers in Residence** program was supported by Council agreeing to endorse the **Fred Hansen** residency taking place from October 2009 to October 2010 at a cost of \$20K. Fred Hansen is highly regarded as both a thinker and a practical administrator in environmental management. He is General Manager of TriMet, the state-based instrumentality which delivers a leading multi-mode public transportation system in Portland Oregon.

City Strategy Committee

■ **Council** endorsed the **Statement of Intent** for the **Sustainability Development Plan Amendment** which now has to go to the Minister for approval. The DPA seeks to • optimise green building standards • encourage environmentally sustainable development • update noise policies • review parking provisions and • extend pedestrian and bicycle networks and provision of amenities. The full process is expected to take until Nov 2010.

■ The Council endorsed project briefs for a **Youth Policy** and for a **City Arts and Living Culture Policy**.

■ An evaluation of the trial of the **Hindley Street** temporary closure was received and it was agreed to request a police presence consistent with the level during the trial and to refer the report to the Capital City Committee.

■ It was agreed to endorse a site at the rear of Veale Gardens for the establishment of a **community garden**.

■ The committee endorsed the **Urban Forest** concept for the SA Water Depot at Thebarton which has been released for return to the western Park Lands. Council has agreed to seek Government approval to retain certain buildings on the site and to increase the Government's contribution to the estimated **\$3.2m cost of the project**.

■ Council will appoint a consultant to advise on measures to improve pedestrian safety in Whitmore Square.

■ An item dealing with the potential sale of **Portion of 33-37 Wright St** was discussed in confidence.

City Services and facilities Committee

■ City Services Fee Based services and Corporate Property reports for April were received; The Aquatic Centre and U-Park are favourable but the Golf Links and town hall hiring were unfavourable on a year-to-date basis.

■ **it** was agreed to extend the **Central Market** Wednesday trading trial on a voluntary basis until November 2009.

■ **Council** agreed to a sublease of part of **TennisSA** area at Adelaide Oval to **Rugby SA**, a move that I opposed

The views expressed herein are those of Cr Plumridge and do not purport to be those of the Adelaide City Council.