

24 June 2010

Councillor
(as addressed)

A Special Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood on Monday 28 June 2010, commencing at 7.30pm and your presence is requested.

Yours faithfully



Frank Dixon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NOTE: Dinner will precede the Council Meeting at 6.00pm



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Service Centres: Croydon: Civic Square **Ringwood:** Level 2, Shop G104, Eastland

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Officers' Reports

Director Corporate Services

1. Adoption of Council Plan 2010-2014 and Proposed Budget and Declaration of Rates 2010/11

MARIANNE DI GIALLONARDO
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

FRANK DIXON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

ALEX MAKIN
MAYOR
(Mullum)

HELEN CROXFORD
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY &
LEISURE SERVICES

TREVOR WELSH
DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS &
INFRASTRUCTURE

PHILL TURNER
DIRECTOR CITY
DEVELOPMENT

STEPHEN ONANS
TEAM LEADER GOVERNANCE
(MINUTE SECRETARY)

LES WILLMOTT
COUNCILLOR
(Wyreena)

TONY DIB
COUNCILLOR
(Arrabri)

NATALIE THOMAS
COUNCILLOR
(Arrabri)

ANN FRASER
COUNCILLOR
(Mullum)

ROB STEANE
COUNCILLOR
(Wyreena)

NORA LAMONT
COUNCILLOR
(Mullum)

PAUL MACDONALD
COUNCILLOR
(Arrabri)

MICHAEL MACDONALD
COUNCILLOR
(Wyreena)

**ADOPTION OF COUNCIL PLAN 2010-2014 AND
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PURPOSE

To enable Council to formally adopt the Draft Council Plan 2010 – 2014 and the Proposed Budget 2010/11 and to declare the rates and charges in respect of the year ended 30 June 2011.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan together with the Annual Budget and Report, are Council's high-level strategic documents, which draw together the community's aspirations, objectives and strategies for the coming period. This Council Plan reflects directions articulated in the Maroondah 2025 strategy.

Councillors will be aware the reporting against the Council Plan and Budget is undertaken annually through the Annual Reporting process. These three high level documents – Council Plan, Annual Budget and Annual Report, with associated processes, comprise part of Maroondah Council's highest level Strategic Planning and Performance Framework.

The Act requires the Council Plan to include the strategic objectives of the Council, strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next four years, strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives and a Strategic Resource Plan describing financial and non-financial resources. At minimum, plans are to be completed once every four years or within the period of six months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later. At Maroondah the Plan is updated annually in order to reflect current community needs and aspirations.

BUDGET

Similarly, the Proposed Budget for 2010/11 is one of Council's three high level strategic documents. The community's vision for Maroondah's directions and development over future years is set down in its document titled Maroondah 2025 and this forms the foundations from which Council shapes its medium term plans for the municipality. The 2010/11 Proposed Budget then addresses the provision of financial resources for the next 12 months as well as articulating how those resources are to be spent in delivering services to the community.

Amendments to the Act have mandated improved transparency and accountability for the performance of municipalities. The Annual Budget together with the Council Plan and the Annual Report are the major municipal planning and reporting documents that are now used to achieve that aim. In this regard the most significant accountability tool utilised is the financial 'Standard Statements' so that the community may more readily follow strategic financial planning (in the Council Plan) through to operational financial planning (in the Annual Budget) and then be able to measure actual performance against those plans (in the Annual Report).

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BACKGROUND

COUNCIL PLAN

As is usual practice at Maroondah, the draft Council Plan 2010/2014 has its basis in Maroondah 2025, a strategy that was developed in 2001, in consultation with the community. Maroondah 2025 sets out strategic directions under seven key themes: Community, Leisure and Culture, Urban Design and Development, Natural Environment, Economic Development and Employment, Infrastructure and Transport. These key themes, together with Governance and Corporate Support, provide the structure for the Council Plan.

Key actions for the coming 12-month period are then listed many of which require specific planning and further development. For example in the theme area of Community a key action is "Plan and provide a diverse range of services, programs and events that ensure accessibility and promote healthy lifestyles for our community".

BUDGET

In addition to sound governance, management and fiscal responsibility, Section 127 of the Act requires Council to prepare a budget for each financial year commencing 1 July, Section 129 of the Act provides that Council follows a public consultation process prior to formal adoption and the Valuer General is required to agree to the municipalities valuation data. Section 130 of the Act provides that Council must adopt its budget by 31 August each year.

This document provides the resourcing to achieve the Council Plan directions and as such outlines the continuance of \$91m worth of exceptional service delivery to meet community needs and expectations of which 26% relates to each of the areas of Environment and Leisure and Culture, 21% Transport and Access, 18% Community Support and 9% City Development. Also included are on the ground community enhancements, capital expenditure, rates, garbage and municipal charges, external financial pressures, budget influences, the activities and community enhancements provided by service areas relevant to the strategic objectives, strategies relating to infrastructure and other assets, rating and borrowing, long term financial strategy and budgeted standard statements similar to those outlined in the Council Plan document, and the various statutory disclosures.

The cost of services delivered to the community in 201/11 is expected to be \$91m, which is an increase of \$6.2m from the 2009/10 Budget. The Budget is based on a proposed general rate and charges increase of 9.8%. This increase is made up from:

- CPI (taken form the December 2009 quarter) 3.0%
- Infrastructure Levy 2.5%
- New initiatives 2.5%
- Regional Aquatic & Leisure Centre in Ringwood 1.1%
- State Government imposed increase in Landfill Levy 0.7%

It is important that Council looks to the future to ensure we meet the expectations and needs of the community. A part of the Proposed Budget is the cost of design works for a proposed new Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre, the largest and most exciting

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capital works project in Maroondah's history. Indicatively the planning and consultation phase, are anticipated during 2010/11, closure of the current facility in May/June 2011, demolition through the June/September 2011 and construction during December 2011 – December 2013 with potential opening of the new facility in December 2013. In the 2008/09 financial year, Council recognised the declining trend in patronage with associated increase in net cost of operation and commenced a review of all the Major Leisure Facilities in 2009/10. This review, undertaken by expert Leisure Facilities consultants, included significant consultation which comprised. A 300 person telephone survey, 212 user surveys for Ringwood Aquatic, key stakeholder interviews and focus group interviews. It also examined successful key regional recreational facilities in other locations in order to recommend facility elements. It recognised that this is a generational enhancement of this facility to ensure current and future generations can enjoy and benefit from these health and well being opportunities. It is proposed to fund this \$48m project with borrowings of \$38.116m, Council contribution \$2.384m and State and Federal Government grants conservatively at \$7.5m.

Council will be actively seeking additional opportunities for external funding of this facility which, if successful will reduce the level of borrowing and/or Council contribution. If substantial State or Federal funding is not forthcoming the project will be scaled back to exclude the diving pool component to a municipal facility.

Statutory

A requirement under the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) is for the Council Plan to be subject to a Section 223, public consultation process. Council at its meeting held on 12 May 2010, appointed a committee of the Council comprising Councillors Makin, Lamont and Steane to hear submissions for both the Draft Council Plan and the Proposed Budget.

In terms of the Proposed Budget a number of sections of the Act are relevant and these are:

- Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires Council to prepare a budget for each financial year commencing 1 July. The 2010/11 Proposed Budget was presented to the meeting of Council held on 12 May 2010.
- Section 158 of the Act requires Council to declare, for each financial year, the amount which the Council intends to raise by general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges.
- Section 129 of the Act provides that Council must also follow a public consultation process prior to formal adoption of the Budget. This process commenced with a public notice by Council of the preparation of the Proposed Budget (incorporating its intention to declare the rates and charges embodied in that budget) in The Age newspaper on 15 May 2010 (with a courtesy notice in the Maroondah Journal and Maroondah Leader on 18 May 2010), and included the consideration of submissions on the Proposed Budget under Sections 129 and 223 of the Act.

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- Section 130 of the Act provides that Council must adopt its budget by 31 August each year whilst Section 158 provides that rates and charges must also be declared by the same date.

Submissions

The receipt of submissions from the public and the consideration of those submissions by Council form an integral part of the public consultation process.

At the expiration of the consultation period Council had received 52 submissions from individuals/groups and 1516 signatures to Petitions on the Proposed Budget and/or the Council Plan. Ten authors of the submissions/petitions have exercised their right to speak in support of their submissions/petition. A Committee of Council heard and considered submissions received at a meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2010.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Prior to the community submission process, the Council Plan and Proposed Budget underwent an internal review by both Councillors and staff. Council resolved on 12 May 2010 to place the proposed Council Plan and Budget on public exhibition. Council commenced a public consultation process on 17 May 2010. In accordance with State legislation and Council's previous resolution the Committee of Council was convened to consider the submissions in respect of the Proposed Budget. After consideration of submissions, the Committee (by majority) subsequently opted to recommend to Council to formally adopt the Council Plan 2010-14 and the Proposed Budget 2010/11 at a special meeting to be held on Monday 28 June 2010.

A summary of submissions and petitions received is contained on the attached table. All submissions and petitions have been circulated to Councillors. The key issues raised by submissions are also included on the table. Each submitter will receive an individual formal response to their submission.

Responses to the content raised in submissions are as follows:

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SUBMISSIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL/GROUPS

SUBMISSION ISSUE	OFFICER RESPONSE
<p>Item No. 1 & 10 <i>Objects to the proposed 9.8% increase in rates.</i> <i>Objects to the inclusion of any provision of expenditure for works or services and/or loan for the replacement of Ringwood Aquatic Centre.</i></p> <p><i>Objects to the provision of \$'s for the promotion of tourism.</i></p> <p><i>Objects to the budget only providing \$100k for construction of footpaths.</i></p>	<p>The Maroondah Leisure Facilities Review strategic Management Plan recommended a replacement of Ringwood Aquatic Centre (RAC) as either a district or regional sized facility as a high priority. Based on the information supplied by the consultants the regional facility was a better financial option than the district facility. Maroondah does not have sufficient cash resources to fund the building of the regional facility so Maroondah will borrow the remainder (up to \$38.116m) after taking into consideration likely grant funding (\$7.5m) Council has only had minor borrowings over the past years. Our debt to equity ratio will not be compromised. The increase in rates for 2010/11 budget in relation to the funding of the RAC amounts to 1.1% and with a similar increase in the 2011/12 budget (allowance of 1.1%) would cover the future interest payments and principal repayments and not require any further rate rises linked to the building of the regional facility.</p> <p>This is a standard budget item as Council sees it is important that we are promoting the area for our local business.</p> <p>The proposed budget of \$100,000 is allocated for the construction of footpaths on Council's Principal Pedestrian Network.</p> <p>(i) The Maroondah Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) identifies that approximately 120 km's of footpath need to be constructed to meet community access needs. In the past two years it is estimated that approximately 15 km's of footpath identified on the PPN have been constructed utilising the Council footpath construction budget allocation and other external funding</p>

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	<p>sources.</p> <p>(ii) The cost of footpath construction is influenced by many factors that can be specific to a location, however, it is estimated that the proposed budget of \$100,000 will allow for up to 8 km's of footpath to be constructed in the 2010/11 year.</p>
<p>Item No. 2 <i>Complete redevelopment of the Ringwood Aquatic Centre at a cost of \$40m is unwarranted.</i></p> <p><i>Suggests the adoption of the maximum permissible Municipal Charge (20%).</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p> <p>The municipal rating system that is adopted by Council each year is established under State Government legislation, in particular, the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> (LGA). One of the facilitative objectives under the LGA is for Council, when levying rates, “to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges”. Council is more than satisfied that it achieves this objective each rating year.</p> <p>This Council places a heavy emphasis on the notion of ad valorem rating. (ie Rate in the dollar by the valuation).</p> <p>The singular reason for Council to move away slightly from the sole use of ad valorem rating and introduce a municipal charge some six (6) years ago, was to provide ratepayers with transparency regarding a cost to Council, over which it has no control, the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFESB) levy.</p> <p>Any extension to the current use of the Municipal Charge has a two fold effect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The original purpose upon which the Municipal Charge was established would be lost. 2. An additional compromise to the purity of the advalorem rating system the current Maroondah Rating strategy is built upon.

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	There are currently no foreseen circumstances that would warrant Council to extend the use of the Municipal Charge.
Item No. 3 <i>The sum of borrowings to build a new aquatic centre in Ringwood is well over the top and not prudent.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 4 <i>The proposal to borrow \$48m to build an aquatic centre during a time of great financial hardship is outrageous and irresponsible.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 5 <i>Supports the proposed budget and specifically in support of the development of the new Regional Aquatic and Leisure Facility in Ringwood.</i>	As proposed by Council.
Item No. 6 <i>Objects to the proposal to spend \$48m on a new Ringwood Aquatic Centre on the grounds of lack of transparency, need and justification and expenditure priority.</i>	A wide range of market research and consultation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 300 person telephone survey • User surveys just for Ringwood Aquatic was 212. • Key stakeholder interviews • Focus group interviews • Comprehensive analysis of the Aquatic and Leisure Centre industry <p>Confirmed the consultant advice to construct a regional facility.</p>
Item No. 7 <i>Objects to the appalling high Council rates.</i> <i>Objects to the appalling demolition of the recently and expensively renovated Ringwood Aquatic Centre (RAC).</i>	The rate rise allows for the current CPI estimate of 3% then includes the infrastructure levy of 2.5%, landfill levy of 0.7% and new initiatives 2.5% and the regional RAC 1.1%. Refer to response in Item No. 1 above. Capital expenditure has not amounted to \$5-10m over the past 2 years. The actual spend over the past 7 years amounts to \$1.824m

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<p><i>Objects to the unfair dismissal of the RAC employees.</i></p>	<p>which has primarily ensured the facility is safe for public use.</p> <p>Twelve months' notice of the proposed closure has been informally provided to affected employees. Council always considers and deals with employee matters with the utmost integrity and has not taken this matter lightly. Council will honour its industrial obligations and accordingly provide every support to staff through this process.</p>
<p>Item No. 8 <i>Requests consideration by Council for a reduction (25%) to the rates charged to residents of their retirement village, as they are not provided with many of Council's services.</i></p>	<p>The municipal rating system that is adopted by Council each year is established under State Government legislation, in particular, the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> (LGA). One of the facilitative objectives under the LGA is for Council, when levying rates, "to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges". Council is more than satisfied that it achieves this objective each rating year.</p> <p>The following observations are made to demonstrate this conclusion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under the LGA, all land within the municipality is rateable with very limited exceptions. The land in question does not fall into one of those categories. 2. Council has a reasonable expectation that where individuals purchase land/properties within an Owners Corporation development, they are well informed of the rights, roles and responsibilities that naturally follow with the purchase of such property. 3. The market valuation is the factor that determines an individual ratepayer's rate contribution towards the running of the municipality. In arriving at valuations for the Retirement Village properties, Council's valuers consider sales of properties that are either located on private roads or share common property as part of larger subdivisions. Any adverse effect on

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	<p>the value due to Retirement Village residents being financially responsible for the upkeep of the private property is therefore reflected in their valuations, which directly impacts the rates payable on each of these properties. This approach is consistent with all properties that have an element of Owners Corporation/Private Land (ie common property).</p> <p>4. All properties by way of their individual CIV's contribute to the provision of all Council services, whether they use them or not, with the exception of waste management services, which is covered by separate charges on the rate notice. In this instance Mingarra does not receive a rate notice with a waste charge from Council as it undertakes its own waste disposal arrangements.</p>
<p>Item No. 9 <i>Objects to the amount proposed spending on the swimming centre in Ryrie Rd.</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p>
<p>Item No. 11 <i>Objects to the budget for the Ringwood Aquatic Centre at a cost of \$48m</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p>
<p>Item No. 12 <i>Objects to a major multi million dollar aquatic facility without first seeking proper community comment and the high rate of 9.8%.</i></p> <p><i>Objects to Council competing with private businesses (gymnasiums and health clubs).</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p> <p>Council is obligated to meet all its statutory obligations one of which is compliance to National Competition Policy. Through the Annual Report process Council ensures these obligations have been met and reported to the community.</p>
<p>Item No. 13 <i>Objects to the budget are not in favour of the new aquatic centre and are opposed to Council borrowing \$38m.</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p>

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<i>Objects to the 9.8% increase in rates.</i>	
Item No. 14 <i>Is concerned regarding the expenditure of the proposed new Aquatic Centre and the cost to ratepayers.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 15 <i>Objects to the proposed 9.8% increase in property rates. Council should not proceed with the proposed new pool.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 16 <i>Request Council to postpone the decision to commit to the borrowings for the pool until such time as all rate paying households have had the opportunity to vote for or against the project and the proposed borrowings.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 & 6 above.
Item No. 17 <i>Objects to borrowing \$38.5m for the building of a new aquatic centre.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 18 <i>Objects to an increase in rates of 9.8% with much of the money going towards the regional Aquatic Centre.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 19 <i>Objects to the proposed 9.8%, which is outrageous when, compared to CPI</i> <i>Objects to the proposed borrowing of \$38.5m to build a 'Regional' Aquatic Centre</i>	The rate rise allows for the current CPI estimate of 3% then includes the infrastructure levy of 2.5%, landfill levy of 0.7% and new initiatives 2.5% and the regional RAC 1.1%. Council cannot operate its services solely using CPI as a measure as it is a service business not a consumer business. Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 20 <i>Why should my rates be increased to fund a new pool? Let the public who use the facilities fund it.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 21 <i>Does not think the replacement of the Ringwood Pool is at all necessary and strongly recommends that it be reconsidered.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 22 <i>Raises seven questions regarding the upgrade to Jubilee Park aquatic centre at a cost of \$48m.</i>	

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>On what basis has the decision to build this structure been made?</i> 2. <i>How did you arrive at the cost without full documentation?</i> 3. <i>Is the cost fixed?</i> 4. <i>Who is funding the project?</i> 5. <i>If there are multiple parties funding the project, what is the % from each source?</i> 6. <i>Who will be using the centre other than rate payers?</i> 7. <i>Has the appropriate action been taken to reemploy the 90 staff of the existing centre?</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The basis for the decision was a review of the Major Facilities that has been undertaken and part of the recommendations was to replace the aging Ringwood Aquatic Centre. The report can be viewed on the Maroondah website. 2. The cost is estimated by quantity surveyors as part of the review. 3. The cost is not fixed and requires further community consultation to determine specific detail, which then can be specifically costed. 4. The Maroondah City Council with grants from Federal and State Governments. 5. Maroondah to fund approximately 79% and grants fund the remaining 21%. If grants are not forthcoming from State and Federal government; this project will be scaled back. 6. Anybody can use the facilities. 7. Yes.
<p>Item No. 23 <i>Objects to the proposed rate rise of 9.8% to fund the redevelopment of the Ringwood Aquatic Centre.</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p>
<p>Item No. 24 <i>Not happy about increase in rates by 9.8% and spending so much money on a new pool in Ringwood.</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p>
<p>Item No. 25 <i>Strongly opposed to include a new \$48m pool and gymnasium at Ringwood.</i></p> <p><i>Urges Council to vote for allowing residents to have an opportunity of telling council what they would like on the issue of Aquatic</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 & 6 above.</p>

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<i>facilities (and other types of Leisure Facilities) in Maroondah.</i>	
Item No. 26 <i>Objects to the new Aquatic Centre at Ringwood. There are enough existing pools and gyms in Maroondah.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above. This is not supported by Leisure experts; with 105,000 people and a growing population especially in relation to the Ringwood Central Activity District, Maroondah's future leisure needs will not be met.
Item No. 27 <i>Objects to the exorbitant amount council intends spending on a new swimming pool.</i> <i>Would prefer to additional funding for footpaths.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above. The proposed budget of \$100,000 is allocated for the construction of footpaths on Council's Principal Pedestrian Network. (i) The Maroondah Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) identifies that approximately 120 km's of footpath need to be constructed to meet community access needs. In the past two years it is estimated that approximately 15 km's of footpath identified on the PPN have been constructed utilising the Council footpath construction budget allocation and other external funding sources. (ii) The cost of footpath construction is influenced by many factors that can be specific to a location, however, it is estimated that the proposed budget of \$100,000 will allow for up to 8 km's of footpath to be constructed in the 2010/11 year.
Item No. 28 <i>Objects to the plan to close and demolish the pool and rebuild from scratch. Objects to council spending so much money on this plan.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 29 <i>Objects to the 9.8% rate rise and find the need for a total replacement of the pool not necessary; it could be done in stages.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 30 <i>Council is out of touch with the community's ability to absorb rate rises. Do we need to</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.

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<i>spend \$48m on the aquatic centre?</i>	
<p>Item No. 31 <i>Objects to the proposed rates rise along with the intended borrowing of \$38.5m to fund new aquatic centre.</i></p> <p><i>Council has not consulted with the community about this major project.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 & 6 above.
<p>Item No. 32 <i>It does not make sense that Council wants to borrow money and then push rates up to repay.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
<p>Item No. 33 <i>Does not support the proposal to borrow \$38.5m for the building of the aquatic centre.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
<p>Item No. 34 <i>Objects to the planning of a new Aquatic Centre and cannot justify the money to be borrowed or spent.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
<p>Item No. 35 <i>Objects to the proposal to spend \$48m to build a new Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Ringwood. Objects to the 9.8% rate increase as far too large.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
<p>Item No. 36 <i>Questions the % of Maroondah residents who use the Ringwood Pool as against the total population of the City. Not happy about the amount planning to be spent and the ensuing high increase in rates for the small % of users for such a facility.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
<p>Item No. 37 <i>Re Ringwood Regional Aquatic Centre - Appalled at the extravagant, grandiose, 'Jewel in the Crown' attitude of the majority of Maroondah's Councillors.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
<p>Item No. 38 <i>Questions the proposed borrowings to build the new aquatic centre and the rate increase. States most pensioners will never use the facility.</i> <i>Wants the three Arrabri Ward Councillors to be advised that there never seems to be any mention of Kilsyth South in Council publications or proposed works in the area.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above. Councillors have been advised.
Item No. 39	

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<i>Objects to the proposed expenditure on the swimming complex in the strongest possible manner.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 40 <i>Objects to the 9.8% rate rise to cover the expenses for the \$48m Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.
Item No. 41 <i>Objects to the extremely expensive proposal to build a new Ringwood Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre at a cost of \$48m. Project should be deferred until better economic times. Rate increase of 9.8% is too large.</i> <i>Wants Council to object to increase in Landfill levy.</i>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above. Council has actively advocated to the State Government in relation to the imposition of the landfill levy.
Item No. 42 <i>Requests Council to get the graffiti removed and the appearance of site improved (re building situated about 50mtres southwest of the Wantirna Rd rail bridge)..</i>	This is not a council property. Council has a policy dealing with graffiti in private property where owners are assisted with paint vouchers. This will be followed up.
Item No. 43 <i>Requests Council to campaign for the relocation of the "big red shoe store" in Croydon Main Street so building can be demolished and a new town square created.</i>	The adopted Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan identifies a key development opportunity for a "town square" this project would be dependant on Government funding and hence is not a current priority but may be a consideration in the long term.
Item No. 44 <i>Requests Council consider a change of name as part of the key actions in the Council Plan to the City of Cinderella. Which may shame State and Federal governments into increased funding for public transport and council related projects and services.</i>	Noted. Council constantly advocates on behalf of Maroondah residents to State and Federal Government members of parliament and bureaucrats through face-to-face meetings, letter writing, or through the peak State and Federal Government bodies – Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).
Item No. 45 <i>Requests Council make a new law (include in Budget and Council Plan) that dog owners must take active and speedy steps to keep their large, aggressive dogs away from other people.</i>	Aggressive dog behaviour is already covered under the Domestic Animal Act. Concerns about dogs off lead are being addressed through the adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). The default will

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	be for dogs to be on lead with designated off lead areas, (see Council Report 21/06/10).
<p>Item No. 46 <i>Requests a revision of the Council Plan to include either the relocation or improvement of the appearance of the electrical substation in Croydon (near railway station).</i></p> <p><i>Opposed to the expenditure in the budget on the new aquatic centre, as there are more urgent projects to be carried out.</i></p>	<p>The electrical substation adjacent to the Croydon Railway Station is a significant and important piece of infrastructure. As it is located in and adjacent to the car park it is visually prominent, however it is also an issue that is appropriately addressed through the implementation of the Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan. This submission is consistent with the objectives of the Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan, which include improving the appearance and urban design of the Croydon Town Centre. The implementation of the Croydon Town Centre Structure Plan is identified in the Urban Design theme of the draft Council plan.</p> <p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p>
<p>Item No. 47 <i>Requests the Council Plan include a public statement expressing strong opposition to the extremely cruel practice in which Japanese whalers kill whales. Request Council lobby the Municipal Association of Victoria to issue a similar statement.</i></p>	<p>The issue of commercial whaling or whaling in any form is one of many environmental and biodiversity issues facing communities and individuals across Australia today. The draft Council plan does not seek to identify or list all of these issues, nor should it attempt to do so, but rather it sets out a strategic objective for the Environment that includes the following statement:</p> <p>Maroondah will provide and advocate for a sustainable environment that enriches the community's quality of life by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserving, managing and enhancing our natural environment; • innovative approaches to environmental management, education and the challenges of climate change; and • strategic management of Council's resources. <p>One of the ways that Maroondah seeks to achieve the stated aims for the environment</p>

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	<p>is set out in the following strategic objective which states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a leadership role in promoting and implementing environmental sustainability initiatives. <p>This draft framework allows Council to consider, advocate and comment on environmental and biodiversity issues as they arise without the need to specifically list each and every issue that may arise. On this basis it is not considered necessary to specifically list an opposition to whaling in the Council Plan in order for Council to form a position or take action on this matter.</p>
<p>Item No. 48 <i>Objects to the size of the levy (rate) increase and the proposed new swimming centre.</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.</p>
<p>Item No. 49 <i>Requests Council allocate funds in the Budget 2010/11 for sustainable transport options Specifically they are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Bike parking facilities</i> ○ <i>Regulatory and directional signage on bike paths</i> ○ <i>Promotion of bike education in schools</i> ○ <i>Provision of a Travelsmart map for Maroondah</i> ○ <i>Development of a Women's Cycling group</i> 	<p>Maroondah Council has an adopted Bicycle Strategy and an aim of increasing cycling across the community. The draft Council plan contains the following Strategic Objective relevant to cycling; "Maroondah will Promote, advocate and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to private vehicles".</p> <p>Key actions of the draft Council Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement the Maroondah Bicycle Strategy, including advocating for Principal Bicycle Network improvements. • Continue to implement the Maroondah Integrated Transport Strategy. • Develop and implement Active Travel Plans for Maroondah Municipal Offices. • Incorporate 'walkability' and 'shared space' principles into the Municipal Strategic Statement and local policy section of the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement recommendations from the Mobility and Way-Finding Signage Strategy, particularly with regard to directional signage. <p>This years' draft budget contains the following proposed capital expenditure, which is either linked specifically to cycling improvements and promotion or will contain an element, which contributes to the improvement of cycling facilities in Maroondah.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Bike path overlay/reseal</td> <td>\$80,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commercial Centre Upgrades</td> <td>\$100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bicycle Path upgrade to AusRoads</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainable Maroondah Fund</td> <td>\$50,000</td> </tr> </table>	Bike path overlay/reseal	\$80,000	Commercial Centre Upgrades	\$100,000	Bicycle Path upgrade to AusRoads	\$50,000	Sustainable Maroondah Fund	\$50,000
Bike path overlay/reseal	\$80,000								
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<p>Item No. 50 <i>Does not agree with the plan to develop the Ringwood Pool as it is not that old and will not add anything different. Put the money into a state of the art outdoor and indoor all ages learning developmental kids play area.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.								
<p>Item No. 51 <i>Objects to the 9.8% rate increase and huge borrowings for upgrading the Ringwood Aquatic Centre.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.								
<p>Item No. 52 <i>In support of the proposed budget for 2010/11 and specifically in support of the development of the new Regional Aquatic and Leisure Facility in Ringwood.</i></p>	As proposed by Council.								

SUBMISSIONS BY PETITION

PETITION ISSUE	OFFICER RESPONSE
<p>Item No. 1, 3, 7,13, 24 & 41 <i>Objects to the proposed 9.8% increase in rates, objects to the inadequate process of community consultation undertaken for the new Aquatic Centre at Ringwood and the proposed borrowings.</i></p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 & 6 above.
<p>Item No. 2, 4-6, 8-12,14-18, 20-23, 25-40 &</p>	Refer to response in Item No. 1 above.

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<p>42-45 <i>Objects to the proposed 9.8% increase in rates, objects to Council borrowing towards a new 'Regional Aquatic Centre'</i></p>	
<p>Item No. 19 <i>Request that the cost and extent of Ringwood Aquatic Centre be reviewed to find less expensive solution, that the increase in rates be close to CPI but not greater than 5%, that a pensioner rate rebate (over and above the State Govt. rebate) be introduced.</i></p>	<p>Refer to response in Item No. 1 above. Pensioner rate rebates are a State Government responsibility for which Council has advocated an increase on numerous occasions to the State Government. On 21/06/10, Council once again resolved to advocate to the MAV and State Government.</p>

The Committee of Council considered and discussed issues raised in each of the budget submissions. The Committee's recommendation is that no change be made to the proposed budget in this instance.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

These are contained within the Council Plan and articulate the Council's current directions.

The adoption of the 2010/11 Proposed Budget not only contributes to compliance with the financial planning and reporting requirements of the Act, but also provides management with an important tool to monitor and control the detailed financial performance and directions of Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

These are contained within the Council Plan and articulate the Council's current directions.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

These are contained within the Council Plan and articulate the Council's current directions.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council approved the Draft Council Plan 2010 – 2014 for public exhibition on 12 May 2010. Public submissions were solicited, to be received until 5pm on Tuesday 15 June 2010.

Copies of the Draft were placed on display at the Customer Service Centres and at Ringwood and Croydon Libraries and Council's homepage. The public was advised through articles in the local papers as well as in advertisements in the Maroondah Journal, Maroondah Leader and The Age newspapers.

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Further in accordance with Section 129 of the Act, Council gave public notice of its Proposed Budget and advised the public of its right under the Section 223 of the Act to make submissions on any proposal contained in the Proposed Budget. The required public notice was published in The Age on Saturday 15 May 2010 and a courtesy public notice was also published in the Maroondah Journal and Maroondah Leader on 18 May 2010.

The Proposed Budget was made available for public inspection and comment from 8.30 am on Monday 17 May 2010 at Council's City Offices and Service Centres, the Ringwood and Croydon Libraries, and on Council's website. Provision was also made for interested parties to receive the Proposed Budget and/or to obtain further information about it by appointment with Council officers. Submissions were received up to 5pm on Tuesday 15 June 2010.

CONCLUSION

The Council Plan not only meets the community's longer term needs and aspirations it also articulates the business and organisational needs of Maroondah City Council as well as fulfilling the requirements stipulated in Section 125 of the Act. Accordingly, it is appropriate for Council to endorse the proposed Council Plan 2010 – 2014 and forward a copy to the Minister for Local Government by 30 June 2010.

Having duly considered the Council Plan 2010 – 2014 and the 2010/11 Proposed Budget as tabled and having followed the requirements of the Act in respect of public consultation processes including consideration of the submissions, Council should proceed with the formal adoption of the Council Plan 2010 – 2014 and the 2010/11 Proposed Budget and the declaration of rates and charges for the year ended 30 June 2011.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

COUNCIL PLAN

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1. ADOPTS THE COUNCIL PLAN 2010 – 2014.**
- 2. FORWARDS A COPY OF THE COUNCIL PLAN TO THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989.**
- 3. AUTHORISES OFFICERS TO ARRANGE FOR THE SUITABLE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNCIL PLAN TO COMMUNITY GROUPS AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.**

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BUDGET

THAT COUNCIL DETERMINES:

1. Budget

- 1.1 The submissions on the Budget be noted and no modifications be made as a consequence.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to write to each submitter in accordance with section 223 (1)(e) of the *Local Government Act 1989* advising of the purport of this Recommendation and the reasons for it.
- 1.3 The Budget annexed to this Recommendation and initialled by the Mayor for identification ("the Budget") be adopted by Council.
- 1.4 The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give public notice of this decision to adopt the Budget, in accordance with section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

2. Amount Intended To Be Raised

An amount of \$58,298,877 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised as a consequence of this Resolution) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates, the municipal charge and the annual service charge (described later in this Resolution), which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates	\$48,744,347
Municipal Charge	\$905,880
Annual Service Charge	\$8,648,650

3. General Rates

- 3.1. A general rate be declared in respect of the 2010/2011 Financial Year.
- 3.2. It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.
- 3.3. A differential rate be respectively declared for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:

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3.3.1. Vacant Land

Any land on which there is no building which is occupied or adapted for occupation.

3.3.2. Other Land

Any land which does not have the characteristics of Vacant Land.

3.4. Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3 of this Resolution) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:

Category	Rate in the Dollar
Vacant Land	0.3638 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Other Land	0.2425 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value

3.5. It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions, and that

3.5.1. the respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

3.5.2. the respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

3.5.3. the respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

3.5.4. the relevant

(a) uses of;

(b) geographical locations of;

(c) planning scheme zonings of; and

(d) types of buildings on the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this Resolution; and

3.6. It be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.

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3.7. In accordance with Section 4 (4) of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, the amounts in lieu of rates payable in respect of each rateable land to which that Act applies be the amounts respectively set out below:

Land	\$
Ringwood Uniting Church Tennis Club	1,544.45
Heathmont Club	3,640.55
Bayswater North Tennis Club	1,032.25
Eastwood Golf Club	14,097.30

4. Municipal Charge

- 4.1. A municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2010/2011 Financial Year.
- 4.2. The municipal charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council, and more particularly the administrative costs which arise out of the contribution paid to the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.
- 4.3. The municipal charge be in the sum of \$19.90 per annum for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which a municipal charge may be declared.

5. Annual Service Charge

- 5.1. An annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2010/2011 Financial Year.
- 5.2. The annual service charge be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse.
- 5.3. The annual service charge be in the sum of, and be based on, the criteria specified below:
 - 5.3.1. any land within Council's municipal district which is used primarily for residential purposes:
 - \$172.00 per service for each land, where the service is for an 80-litre bin.
 - \$204.00 per service for each land, where the service is for a 120-litre bin.
 - \$216.00 for each second and subsequent bin supplied in respect of the land.

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- 5.3.2. any land within Council's municipal district which is used primarily for commercial purposes:

\$392.00 (including GST) per service for each land, where the service is requested by the owner of the land (or the agent of the owner) and is for collection and disposal of the contents of a 240 litre bin at the frequency of once per week.

\$820.00 (including GST) per service for each land, where the service is requested by the owner of the land (or the agent of the owner) and is for collection and disposal of the contents of a 240 litre bin at the frequency of three times per week.

- 5.3.3. any land within Council's municipal district which is used primarily for industrial purposes:

\$190.00 (including GST) per service for each land, where the service is requested by the owner of the land (or the agent of that owner) and is for collection and disposal of the contents of an 80 litre bin.

\$225.00 (including GST) per service for each land, where the service is requested by the owner of the land (or the agent of that owner) and is for collection and disposal of the contents of a 120 litre bin.

- 5.3.4. any land within Council's municipal district which is used primarily for other than residential purposes and has an existing commercial service or is a not for profit organisation:

\$82.00 (including GST) per each 240 litre recycling bin, where the service is requested by the owner of the land (or the agent of the owner) and is for collection and recycling of the bin at the frequency of once per fortnight.

6. Incentives

No incentive be declared for early payment of the general rates, municipal charge and annual service charge previously declared.

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7. Extra Instalment Options

In accordance with Section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, payment of rates and charges can be made in one (1) annual payment (due 15 February 2011), four (4) instalment payments (due 30 September 2010, 30 November 2010, 28 February 2011 and 31 May 2011), or by nine (9) monthly (direct debit only) instalments (due 30 September 2010, 31 October 2010, 30 November 2010, 31 December 2010, 31 January 2011, 28 February 2011, 31 March 2011, 30 April 2011 and 31 May 2011). Where the payment due date falls on a weekend or public holiday, the payment date will be the next business day.

8. Consequential

8.1. It be recorded that Council requires any person to pay interest on any amount of rates and charges which:

8.1.1. that person is liable to pay; and

8.1.2. have not been paid by the date specified for their payment.

8.2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to levy and recover the general rates, municipal charge and annual service charge in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

8.3. In accordance with Section 172(3) of the Local Government Act 1989, any person who, by operation of that Act and this declaration of rates, becomes liable to pay interest, is exempted from paying that part of the interest referable to the period 28 June 2010 to 1 July 2010.