

9. Reports of the Committees

Items with Recommendations from the Strategic & Corporate Committee Meeting of Monday 17 October 2022 Submitted to the Council for Determination

Item No:	R1 Recommendation to Council
Subject:	PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION APPLICATION, INCLUDING POST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT
Authors:	Sue Meekin, Director Corporate Performance
Approver:	Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager
File No:	22/187983
Purpose of the Report:	To provide Council with the results of the community consultation undertaken in relation to a proposed Special Rate Variation application and to seek Council's approval to apply to the Independent Regulatory & Pricing Tribunal for a Special Rate Variation to be effective from 1 July 2023.
Alignment to Delivery Program:	Strategy 11.2 Secure Council's financial position.
(Shapiro/Zeltzer)	

134/22 Resolved:

THAT Council:

- A. Receive and note the outcomes of the recent community engagement undertaken on Council's proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) Application.
- B. Resolve to proceed with a permanent Special Rate Variation application (under Section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993), to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under Option 2, for the purpose of:
 - (i) maintaining existing services provision levels;
 - (ii) securing Council's long term financial sustainability; and
 - (iii) funding priority projects totalling \$48.9 million over the next 10 years
- C. Notes
 - (i) that this SRV application would increase the ordinary rate income by 13.7% in 2023-24 (including the rate peg of 3.7%) and 7.5% in 2024-25 (including the rate peg), representing a total cumulative increase of 25.28% over the initial three-year period;
 - (ii) that the increases be retained in the rate base permanently; and
 - (iii) that if approved by IPART the SRV will take effect from 1 July 2023.
- D. Authorise the General Manager to advise the IPART by 25 November 2022 of Council's intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation as outlined in Part B of this recommendation.
- E. Authorise the General Manager to prepare and submit to the IPART an application form *Part A Special Variation 2023-34* and IPART application form *Part B Special Variation 2023/24* by the due date of 3 February 2023 for a Special Rate Variation as outlined in Part B of this recommendation.
- F. Receive and note the revised Delivery Program 2022-2026 and revised Long Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32, as included in this report.
- G. Place on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days, the revised Delivery Program 2022 to 2026, and revised Long Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32, if Council resolves in line with Recommendation B) above.

- H. Note that whilst a determination on any SRV application to the IPART may not be known until May 2023, during development of the 2023-24 Delivery Program, Operational Plan and budget, consideration on the implementation of the Special Rate Variation will need to be taken into account.
- I. Note that Council's Financial Hardship Policy is to be updated and reported back to Council before the end of the 2022 calendar year.

Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.

For the Motion

Councillor Cavanagh
Councillor Grieve
Councillor Price
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Shapiro
Councillor Shields
Councillor Silcocks
Councillor Witt
Councillor Wynne
Councillor Zeltzer

Against the Motion

Councillor Carmichael
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Regan
Councillor Swan

10/4

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.06pm.

We certify that the pages numbered 1 to 6 inclusive are the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Woollahra Municipal Council held on 17 October 2022 and confirmed by the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 31 October 2022 as correct.

General Manager

Mayor