

## **ITEM 9.3**

**SHIRE OF QUAIRADING**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2013**  
**COMMENCING AT 5.02PM**

### **ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Cr D C Richards	Shire President
Cr R C Hawksley	
Cr B K Caporn	
Cr C M Cousins	
Cr W D Davies	
Cr T C Andrews	
Mr G A Fardon	Chief Executive Officer
Mr A J Merillo	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr T J Newick	Manager of Works and Services
Mr R M Bleakley	Economic Development Project Officer

#### **Apologies**

The meeting noted the Approved Leave of Absences for Cr G W Anderson & Cr J A Bavin.

### **ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

### **ITEM 3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

### **ITEM 4 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

The Shire President welcomed Councillors and thanked the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Staff for the work undertaken in preparing the 2013 / 2014 Draft Budget.

Cr Richards indicated that several factors need to be considered and would be discussed:

- The impact of the 10 year plan and projections.
- The loss of the Country Local Government Funding for 2013 / 2014 and beyond.
- Council would be better positioned as an RTG for future funding opportunities.
- Maintain a progressive attitude
- Representing the Community
- Councillors to be comfortable with their budgetary decisions

The Chief Executive Officer Mr Graeme Fardon and Economic Development Project Officer Mr Richard Bleakley provided Councillors with detailed projections of the 10 year Long Term Financial Plan based on the Rate Setting Statement showing various Rate Revenue and the overall effect that would have on Council on the longer term Operating Viability of Council.

Council noted that based on the assumptions of the Model, 3.5% Annual Rate Increases was not providing Council with capacity to direct to the Asset Renewal Gap.

The Shire President also commended the work of Council's Consultants Domenic Carbone and in particular Darren Long on the preparation and the earlier Presentation to Council of the Long Term Financial Plan.

The Chief Executive Officer also indicated that Council was eligible for the 2012 / 2013 Country Local Government Funding Submissions to be assessed with the 2013 / 2014 funding being withdrawn for all Councils.

Cr Richards commented that the withdrawal of Country Local Government Funding was being directed to Regionally Significant Projects and Regional Groupings / Amalgamation of Councils and indicated a clear strategy on behalf the State Government.

The Chief Executive Officer commented on the rate increases proposed by neighbouring Shires for the 2013 / 2014 year ranging from 4.0% to 7.4%.

Mr Fardon also indicated that he would concentrate on the Capital area of the budget rather than the Recurring / Operating costs shown in the Schedules unless Councillors wished to comment on any item.

Councillors highlighted various areas in Operating and Capital and sought clarification and justification from Council's Senior Staff on various Budget line items.

Council noted that the Draft Budget represented a shortfall of \$1,869,336, an additional \$234,709 over Gross Rates Levied in the 2012 / 2013 year, representing an increase of 14.36% in Gross Rates Levied.

That Council considered and resolved to support the following variations to the Draft Budget: -

<b>Variance</b>	<b>G/L No</b>	<b>Description</b>
<u>Reductions</u>		
<b>- 11648</b>		<b>Adjustment (Increase) to Opening Balance (Net Current Assets)</b>
- 20,000	9739 (E)	Reduction in Model of Street Sweeper.
- 10,000	9814 (E)	Project Deferred (Cuneata Park)
- 3,800	9536 (E)	Project Deferred (Rear Carport)
- 25,000	0002 (E)	Discount on Early Rates Payment removed
- 50,000	Reserves	Assist in Earthworks ex Town Planning & Development Reserve
- 2,000	2605 (E)	RTG Heritage Service Income
- 55,000	2511 (E)	Engineering Advice Badjaling Project delay
- 55,000	9814 (E)	Hall Car Park project to be staged
<b>-220,800</b>		
<u>Increases</u>		
+ 5,000	2608 (E)	RTG Heritage Services Expenditure
+ 10,000	0342 (E)	Allowance for Salary Continuance
+ 20,000	9708 (E)	Purchase of Additional Plant
+ 5,000	9325 (E)	Upgrade Admin. EDPO Office

+ 50,000	7006 (I)	Sale of Edwards Way Lot
+ 3,000	9543 (E)	Additional allowance for concrete project
+ <u>2,816</u>	9828 (E)	Additional allowance for Signage project
<b>+ 95,816</b>		

The Adopted Variations totalling \$124,984.00 reduced the shortfall from \$234,709 to \$98,077.00 and reducing the Overall Shortfall to \$1,732,700.00, which reflects a 6.0% increase in Gross Rates Levied.

The Councillors provided comment on the rating parameters being considered for the next 12 months and the overall percentage increase they would support.

The meeting determined that the Budget and Rate in the Dollar be developed on a 6.0% increase in Gross Rates Levied.

**SCM1-13/14 MOVED Cr Hawksley seconded Cr Davies that Council adopt a 6.0% increase in the Gross Rates Levied for the 2013 / 2014 Financial Year subject to verification of Calculations, Draft Budget variations, preparation of the Statutory Budget and Rate Modelling.**

**CARRIED 6/0**

Council supported the Principle that Minimum Rates on both Rural and Townsite Rate Assessments be increased by 6.0% and that the 80% UV / 20% GRV Rate Yield be maintained.

**SCM2-13/14 MOVED Cr Caporn seconded Cr Hawksley that Council continue to adopt the 80% UV / 20% GRV Rate Yield for the 2013 / 2014 Financial Year and that the Minimum Rates also be increased by 6.0%.**

**CARRIED 6/0**

The Chairman advised that Executive Staff would proceed to verify the Draft Budget Calculations and Variations and prepare the Statutory Budget and Rate Modelling for Council's Consideration and Adoption at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 commencing at 2.00pm.

The Shire President commended the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Staff for the excellent presentation of the Budget Manual.

The Chief Executive Officer thanked Councillors and all Staff and Committees for their assistance in the Budgetary process.

**ITEM 4 CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, the Shire President thanked Councillors and Executive Staff for their participation in the Special Budget Meeting and declared the meeting closed at 7.02pm.

Confirmed .....29/08/13