



MINUTES

Finance Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre
Committee Room
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Monday 13 May 2019

at 4:30 pm

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Present	3
2. Apologies	3
3. Confirmation of Minutes.....	3
4. Declaration of Interest	3
5. Staff Reports	4
5.1. Councillor Expenses & Facilities	4
5.2. Power Station Rates	4
5.3. May Council Meeting - Review of Finance & Assets Reports	4
5.4. April Performance Reporting to OLG	5
5.5. Audit Action List	5
5.6. Investment Report April 2019.....	5
6. General Business	6
7. Meeting Close	6

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 04:27 pm.

1. Present

Present: Cr Thompson, Cr Ring, Cr Lesslie (non-voting)

Officers: Graeme Faulkner, Ross Gurney, Trinity Newton (minutes)

2. Apologies

An apology was received from and leave of absence granted to Councillor W McAndrew who is unable to attend due to work commitments / personal business.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Previous Finance Meeting were adopted by Council 29 April 2019.

4. Declaration of Interest

There were Nil Declarations of interest.

The committee discussed the announcement by IPART regarding the Special Rate Variation (SRV) for Lithgow City Council being partially approved (9% rates increase from 2019/20)

The 2019/20 Operational Plan will be amended with \$343K of rates income removed. The SRV works program will also be amended to remove \$343K in additional maintenance works, mainly for transport and buildings. There will be no change to the proposed SRV asset renewal program. The reduction in the SRV maintenance program will not impact Council's normal service standards for roads and building maintenance.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note the verbal advice of the SRV advice with a report being prepared for the 27 May council meeting.

MOVED: Cr Ring

SECONDED: G Faulkner

CARRIED: Unanimously

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

The Committee moved that the decisions be resolved as a whole at the end of the meeting.

MOVED: Cr Ring

SECONDED: G Faulkner

CARRIED:

5. Staff Reports

5.1. Councillor Expenses & Facilities

The Committee was given advice regarding possible grants which may be offered by the State Government.

The Committee reviewed the report Councillor Expenses and Facilities report, specifically the pooling of training funds.

It was discussed that a separate fund for the Mayor and deputy mayor to attend key events and meetings could be budgeted separately from the Councillor training budget.

The Council report recommendations will be amended to include the following:

1. Determine whether the 2019/20 Councillor professional development / travel expenses budgets be set as a pool amount for all Councillors (i.e. \$18,000 / \$4,500 in total) or as an amount for each Councillor (i.e. \$2,000 / \$500 each).
2. Determine whether the general travel expenses budget should be supplemented by \$4,500 for 2019/20 to cover Councillor travel to meetings and travel to ALGWA events (funded by reducing the Governance advertising budget).

Mayor, GM and CFIO to meet and discuss the Councillor expenses budget constraints and the best way forward.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillor Expenses & Facilities report be approved to go to the May Council meeting.

5.2. Power Station Rates

The committee discussed the report.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the rating structure be reviewed for power stations in the new financial year.

5.3. May Council Meeting - Review of Finance & Assets Reports

All reports listed were approved to go to the May Council meeting.

- FIN - 27/05/19 - Finance Committee TOR V 2
- FIN - 27/05/19 - Rates Charges Write Off
- FIN - 27/05/19 - Finance Committee Terms of Reference
- FIN - 27/05/19 - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Determination
- FIN - 27/05/19 - Unreasonable Complainants
- FIN - 27/05/19 - Rates Balances not Recoverable 24 April 19
- FIN - 27/05/19 - 2019 Annual Determination - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal April 2019

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee note the recommendations included in the May Council Meeting Finance and Assets reports as listed above which will be considered by Council at the 27 May 2019 meeting.

A summary of the Quarter Three Budget Review report was provided by the CFIO with the full report going to the Council Meeting of 27 May.

CFIO brought to the attention of the Committee :

- The 2018/19 carryovers and increases in employment costs have been covered by budget savings, particularly in materials and contracts.
- The Capital Program expenditure is only around 50% of the revised budget at 31/3/19, however, there has been a considerable amount of work commenced in the past month.
- Restricted Funds / Reserves need to be reviewed at year-end, with a potential deficit in internally restricted funds noted.

Cr Ring queried the Golf Club grant. The grant is revenue neutral with income matching expenditure.

The report will go to Council meeting 27 May.

5.4. April Performance Reporting to OLG

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the April performance reporting to the OLG be noted by the Committee.

5.5. Audit Action List

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT completion of all 2018/19 audit actions be noted by the Committee.

5.6. Investment Report April 2019

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Investments of \$28,235,000 and cash of \$138,498.56 for the period ending 30 April 2019 be noted.
 2. The enclosed certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.
-

6. General Business

The committee discussed the fees and charges proposed for 2019/20 with specific mention of the proposed Aquatic Centre charges.

ACTION / RECOMMENDATION

THAT the recommendations for the agenda items discussed within the finance committee meeting be resolved to be adopted at the Council meeting 27 May 2019.

MOVED: Councillor S Ring	SECONDED: Graeme Faulkner
CARRIED: Unanimously	

7. Meeting Close

Next Meeting: Monday 10 June 2019 at 4:30 pm in the Committee Room.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:30pm.