



CITY OF HOBART

AGENDA

Finance and Governance Committee Meeting

Open Portion

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

**at 4.30 pm
Council Chamber, Town Hall**

THE MISSION

Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

THE VALUES

The Council is:

People	We care about people – our community, our customers and colleagues.
Teamwork	We collaborate both within the organisation and with external stakeholders drawing on skills and expertise for the benefit of our community.
Focus and Direction	We have clear goals and plans to achieve sustainable social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Hobart community.
Creativity and Innovation	We embrace new approaches and continuously improve to achieve better outcomes for our community.
Accountability	We are transparent, work to high ethical and professional standards and are accountable for delivering outcomes for our community.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Business listed on the agenda is to be conducted in the order in which it is set out, unless the committee by simple majority determines otherwise.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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Finance and Governance Committee Meeting (Open Portion) held Wednesday, 27 April 2022 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

This meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee is held in accordance with a Notice issued by the Premier on 3 April 2020 under section 18 of the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020*.

The title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant s.61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alderman M Zucco (Chairman)
Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor H Burnet
Alderman Dr P T Sexton
Alderman D C Thomas
Councillor W Coats

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

Alderman D C Thomas.

NON-MEMBERS

Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds
Alderman J R Briscoe
Councillor W Harvey
Alderman S Behrakis
Councillor M Dutta
Councillor J Fox
Councillor Dr Z Sherlock

1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Open Portion of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on [Tuesday, 22 March 2022](#), are submitted for confirming as an accurate record.

3. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Recommendation

That the Committee resolve to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the Chief Executive Officer.

4. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Members of the Committee are requested to indicate where they may have any pecuniary or conflict of interest in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the Committee has resolved to deal with.

5. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

A Committee may close a part of a meeting to the public where a matter to be discussed falls within 15(2) of the above regulations.

In the event that the Committee transfer an item to the closed portion, the reasons for doing so should be stated.

Are there any items which should be transferred from this agenda to the closed portion of the agenda, or from the closed to the open portion of the agenda?

6. REPORT

6.1 Rate Remissions - Pensioner Discounts **File Ref: F22/31090**

Report of the Manager Rates, Procurement and Finance Operations and the Director City Enablers of 8 April 2022 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: RATE REMISSIONS - PENSIONER DISCOUNTS

REPORT PROVIDED BY: Manager Rates, Procurement and Finance Operations
Director City Enablers

1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the types of rates assistance offered to pensioners by other councils as requested by Council and present a proposal for a review of Council's current pensioner rates discount as part of a broader review of the City's rating and valuation strategy.
- 1.2. The community benefit is consistent with the City of Hobart Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-2029 strategy 8.5.8, being to 'maintain a rating system that supports fairness, capacity to pay and effectiveness'.

2. Report Summary

- 2.1. There are approximately 3000 pensioners in the Hobart municipal area, approximately 12% of all ratepayers, receiving a pensioner rates discount. The State Government provides the pensioner discount scheme with maximum caps indexed annually and in addition Council provides a \$10 discount off rates to eligible pensioners. In total, a pensioner who was an 'average residential ratepayer' receives approximately 15% off their annual rates bill.
- 2.2. In addition to the above, Council provides a range of other support measures for those ratepayers who have least capacity to pay rates, including rates rebates for eligible properties, remissions and financial hardship support, including payment arrangements, deferral of rates and remissions of late payment penalty and interest.
- 2.3. The majority of councils across Australia provide rates discounts to pensioners under a State Government scheme of some description. Fewer councils provide additional monetary discounts specifically for rates but have a range of other financial hardship support measures to assist those ratepayers who experience difficulties in meeting their rate payment obligations.
- 2.4. Of those councils who do provide additional support, the monetary value of that support forms part of the council budget.
- 2.5. It is proposed that the City considers the adequacy of rates support measures for pensioners in the Hobart municipal area as part of a broader review of its rating and valuation strategy to be undertaken in 2022-23 and include broad community and business consultation.
- 2.6. It is noted that any increase in support measures for pensioners would require to be funded from rates, either requiring an increase in rates for

all ratepayers or a reduction in another program or service that the City provides to all ratepayers.

3. Recommendations

That:

- 1. The City review the rates support provided to pensioners who own property in the municipal area in consultation with the community and business sectors as part of the review of the City's rating and valuation strategy.***
- 2. The Council Rates Remission Policy remains unchanged for the 2022-23 rating year, while the review of the City's rating and valuation strategy is undertaken.***

4. Background

- 4.1. At its meeting on 15 February 2022, Council considered the Council Policy Manual Review and resolved that the Council Rates Remission Policy (the Policy) – refer **Attachment A**, be deferred for further consultation. Council requested a report be prepared on the types of rates assistance offered to pensioners by other councils to provide Council with a scope of options they could potentially offer eligible pensioners in Hobart.
- 4.2. This report will outline what pensioners in the Hobart municipal area are currently entitled to, including additional support for those ratepayers experiencing financial hardship, what councils elsewhere in Tasmania provide and what councils interstate provide to support pensioners living in the local government area.

Pensioner Rates Discount Offered by the City of Hobart

- 4.3. Across Tasmania eligible pensioner concession card holders receive a discount off their rates for their principal place of residence under the State Government pensioner rates remission scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme is administered by the State Government who decide who is eligible for the discount and its value pursuant to the *Local Government (Rates and Charges Remissions) Act 1991*.
- 4.4. The State Government pensioner rates remission is available to pensioners who hold one of three types of cards issued by either Centrelink or the DVA:
- 4.4.1. Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.
 - 4.4.2. Centrelink Health Care Card.
 - 4.4.3. Department of Veterans' Affairs 'Gold Card' endorsed with Total or Permanent Injury (TPI) or War Widow/Widower DVA.
- 4.5. There is a limit of one remission per year per pensioner household. A pensioner who owns multiple properties is not entitled to receive more than one remission per year. Pensioners living in a prescribed institution e.g. nursing home, may be entitled to the pensioner rates discount.
- 4.6. The rates discount is:
- 4.6.1. 30% of rates and charges (excluding Fire Service Rate) capped at a maximum amount each year as annually advised by the State Government, plus
 - 4.6.2. 20% of the Fire Service Rate, uncapped (so the higher the property value the higher the discount).

- 4.7. Under the Scheme, ratepayers apply to Council and Council provides the discount to eligible ratepayers and is reimbursed by the State Government. The value of the Scheme discount is indexed and increases each year. In 2021-22, the discount was capped at \$326 for pensioners who are also customers of TasWater, and \$479 for those who are not customers of TasWater. Because the 20% discount off the Fire Service Rate is uncapped, the more the State Government fire levy increases the higher the discount.
- 4.8. In addition to the State Government pensioner remission scheme, Council provides a \$10 discount off rates to eligible pensioners in the Hobart municipal area, which includes certain independent retirees. The background to this decision is as follows:
- 4.8.1. In June 1994 the Association of Independent Retirees approached Council seeking equal treatment for independent retirees in the area of pensioner rates concessions.
- 4.8.2. Council subsequently resolved that on the basis the request was on behalf of all independent retirees that Council was unable to support a rates concession in the absence of State Government support.
- 4.8.3. In November 2014 Council considered a further report and resolved that pensioners with a Commonwealth seniors card or who are members of the Independent Retirees can apply for a Council pensioner discount, noting that its value would be \$10.
- 4.9. The \$10 Council discount has never been indexed, so it has remained at \$10 since 1996.

Other Support Offered to Ratepayers with Least Capacity to Pay Rates

- 4.10. In addition to the pensioner rates discount, the City provides a number of other support measures for those in the community with least capacity to pay rates. These include the following:
- 4.10.1. **Charitable and other rates exemptions** - under section 87 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), certain land is exempt from the General Rate (and Separate Rates and Averaged Area Rates) where they are held or owned for specific purposes outlined in the Act e.g.: charitable purposes, Aboriginal land, certain land owned by the Crown, council owned, etc.
- 4.10.2. **General rate remissions** - Pursuant to section 129 of the Act, a ratepayer may apply to the Council for remission of all or part of any rates paid or payable or any penalty imposed or interest charged under section 128 of the Act. The Act is silent as to the grounds for a remission and remissions are considered on a case by case basis by Council under its Rates and Charges Policy.

- 4.10.3. **Financial hardship assistance** - The City has a Financial Hardship Assistance Policy to provide support meeting rate payment obligations for those ratepayers experiencing financial hardship. The Policy provides a range of support measures including the deferral of rates, payment arrangements and penalty and interest remissions.

Pensioner Rates Discount Offered by other Tasmanian Councils

- 4.11. No other council in Tasmania provides anything other than the State Government pensioner discount to pensioners.

Pensioner Rates Discount Offered by Interstate Councils

- 4.12. In NSW, pensioners receive the following rates discounts, the cost of which is shared between the State Government (55%) and local councils (45%):
- 4.12.1. \$250 off ordinary council rates and charges for domestic waste management services;
 - 4.12.2. \$87.50 on annual water rates and charges (where the service is provided by council); and
 - 4.12.3. \$87.50 on annual sewerage rates and charges (where the services is provided by council).
- 4.13. These discounts are applicable to eligible pensioners but may be granted to ratepayers suffering financial hardship in certain circumstances.
- 4.14. The City of Sydney provides a 100% rebate of rates and annual charges for eligible pensioners within its local government area. This scheme provides an additional rebate on top of the mandatory rebate above for eligible pensioners and in total, the scheme costs the City of Sydney approximately \$4.2M per year.
- 4.15. In Victoria the state government scheme provides 50% off the current years rates up to a maximum of \$247 per year per eligible property. The State Revenue Office grants a \$50 rebate off the Fire Service Levy.
- 4.16. The City of Melbourne in addition to the above, grants an additional 25% off rates up to a maximum of \$123.50 per year. In most instances, the combination of the State Government scheme and the City's discount, means that pensioners receive an annual discount off rates of \$420.50.
- 4.17. In South Australia, up until 30 June 2015 the state government funded councils to provide a rebate on council rates to eligible concession card holders.

- 4.18. As of 1 July 2015 the state government replaced the concession on council rates with the 'Cost of Living Concession' (CLC) provided directly to those entitled, for 2021-22 amount was \$217.20. Self-funded retirees receive \$108.60 and tenants receive \$108.60. In addition the State Government provides a \$46 per year discount off the Emergency Services Levy.
- 4.19. This means that concession cardholders no longer receive a rebate on council rates in South Australia. However, the state government encourages recipients to use the CLC payment to assist in the payment of council rates.
- 4.20. The City of Adelaide doesn't offer any pensioner rates discounts in addition to the State Government CLC outlined above.
- 4.21. In the ACT, eligible pensioners receive a 50% discount off their rates per year, capped at \$750 and a \$98 discount off the Fire and Emergency Services Levy.
- 4.22. In the NT, eligible pensioner receive a 62.5% discount off their annual rates up to a maximum of \$200 per household per year. Also, a discount for the waste management service, which varies according to where you live but ranges between \$25 and \$150 per year. As an example, for ratepayers in Alice Springs, the discount is \$52, for ratepayers in Darwin the discount is \$46.25.
- 4.23. In QLD, under the State Government scheme, eligible pensioners receive a 20% discount up to a maximum of \$200 per year of gross rates and charges levied by a local council. Also, 20% off the emergency management levy with no cap.
- 4.24. In addition to the State Government scheme above, Brisbane City Council provides a rebate of up to 40% off the rates bill up to a maximum of \$276.50 per quarter or \$1,106 per year to people who receive a full pension. For people who are on an allowance/benefit or part pension Brisbane City Council provides a 20% rebate up to \$129.25 per quarter or \$517 per year. Where a pensioner holds a current Centrelink pensioner concession card but does not receive a pension, the PPC cardholder receives the State Government subsidy only.
- 4.25. In WA, under the State Government scheme, eligible pensioners are entitled to a 50% discount off rates capped at \$750 per year. For those with a WA Seniors Card (self-funded retirees) pensioners are entitled to receive a discount of 25% off rates capped at \$100 per year.
- 4.26. The City of Perth doesn't offer any pensioner rates discounts in addition to the State Government scheme above.
- 4.27. As outlined above, in all States and Territories pensioners receive some support meeting rate payment obligations through a State Government

scheme. Some councils provide additional support to pensioners, which is funded by the council as part of their budget.

5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. This report has considered what support the City of Hobart, other Tasmanian councils and councils interstate provide to pensioners to support them to pay rates on the home they own.
- 5.2. The majority of councils across Australia provide rates discounts to pensioners under a State Government scheme of some description. Fewer councils provide additional monetary discounts specifically for rates but have a range of other financial hardship support measures to assist those ratepayers who experience difficulties in meeting their rate payment obligations.
- 5.3. Of those councils who do provide additional support, the monetary value of that support forms part of the council budget and factored into their long-term financial plan.
- 5.4. As outlined in section 7 below, the average residential ratepayer eligible for the pensioner discount received \$402.28 off their annual rates bill of \$2,609.35 (which includes the State Government fire levy) for 2021-22. This represented a 15.4% discount.
- 5.5. Council has previously resolved to write to the State Government about the adequacy of the State Government pensioner scheme. At the time the State Government responded that it had no plans to increase the amount of the pensioner discount noting that the amount is indexed each year and the State Government does provide pensioners with a range of other cost of living support, of which the rates discount is one. More information on support for pensioners is available from the State Government website at: <https://www.concessions.tas.gov.au/> and include concessions for housing, electricity, transport, education, health, licences, vehicles, parks & heritage, water, land tax and other.
- 5.6. It is clear that the \$10 discount Council provides in addition to the State Government pensioner remission scheme is inadequate as a support measure and needs to be reviewed. The discount has remained at \$10 since at least 1996, has lost its value, has not kept pace with cost of living pressures, is rarely applied for and is costly to administer.
- 5.7. The question arises as to whether Council should provide additional support to ratepayers in addition to the State Government pensioner discount scheme.
- 5.8. Cost of living pressures arising from the conflict in Europe and COVID-19 are putting additional pressure on ratepayers to be able to meet their rates payment obligations to Council.
- 5.9. However, should Council consider increasing the Council \$10 rates discount, the quandary is how that should be funded. Should it be

funded from an increase in rates that all ratepayers pay or should it come at the expense of a reduction in services to the community.

- 5.10. Any increase in support measures for pensioners would require to be funded from rates, either requiring an increase in rates for all ratepayers or a reduction in another program or service that the City provides to all ratepayers.
- 5.11. Given this and in order to fully consider the scope of options that could potentially be offered to eligible pensioners in Hobart, it is proposed that the City considers the adequacy of rates support measures for pensioners in the Hobart municipal area as part of a broader review of its rating and valuation strategy to be undertaken in 2022-23 and include broad community and business consultation.
- 5.12. It is also proposed that for 2022-23 the Council Policy – Rate Remissions remains unchanged while the broader review of the City's rating strategy is undertaken.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. This report is consistent with the City of Hobart Rates and Charges Policy and Council Policy – Rates Remissions.
- 6.2. This report is consistent with the City of Hobart Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-2029, strategy 8.5.8:
 - 6.2.1. Maintain a rating system that supports fairness, capacity to pay and effectiveness.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result
 - 7.1.1. There is no impact on the current year operating result arising from this report.
- 7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result
 - 7.2.1. The cost of the Council \$10 rates discount is currently \$30,000.
 - 7.2.2. If the discount is increased, every \$1 increase would result in \$3000 impact on the City's budget.
- 7.3. Asset Related Implications
 - 7.3.1. Not applicable.
- 7.4. The average residential ratepayer eligible for a pensioner discount for 2021-22 received a \$402.28 discount off their rates, comprising the following:
 - 7.4.1. \$326.00 off rates excluding fire service rate; plus

7.4.2. \$66.28 off fire service rate; plus

7.4.3. \$10.00 from Council.

8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

8.1. These are considered elsewhere.

9. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

9.1. Broad community and stakeholder engagement is proposed for the City's review of its rating and valuation strategy, which is proposed to include a review of the adequacy of rates support measures for pensioners in the Hobart municipal area.

10. Delegation

10.1. This matter is delegated to Council for consideration.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Lara MacDonell
**MANAGER RATES, PROCUREMENT
AND FINANCE OPERATIONS**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR CITY ENABLERS

Date: 8 April 2022
File Reference: F22/31090

Attachment A: Council Policy - Rate Remissions ↓ 

City of Hobart

Policy

Title: Rate Remissions

Category: Rates and Charges

Date Last Adopted: 23 September 2019

1. Objectives

To define the application of the remission of rates to eligible pensioners, pursuant to the *Local Government (Rates and Charges Remissions) Act 1991*.

2. Background

Pursuant to the *Local Government (Rates and Charges Remissions) Act 1991*, the State Government provides eligible pensioners a remission from Local Government rates. Eligible pensioners subsequently apply for a remission directly with the Council after which the Council subsequently invoices the State Government for the remission amount granted, as prescribed in the Act.

3. Policy

That pensioners eligible for assistance under the *Local Government (Rates and Charges Remissions) Act 1991*, be granted as a rate remission of:

1. 30% of rates and charges (excluding that part of the rates applicable to the fire service rate) capped at a maximum amount each year as annually advised by the State Government, plus
2. 20% of the fire service rate.
3. The maximum level shall be the annually advised State Government maximum remission, plus \$10.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Local Government (Rates and Charges Remissions) Act 1991



Responsible Officer:	Director City Governance
Policy first adopted by the Council:	26/7/1993
History	9/9/2002
Amended by Council	15/2/2005
Amended by Council	17/12/2007
Amended by Council	7/3/2016
Amended by Council	23/9/2019
Next Review Date:	March 2021
File Reference:	F16/65251

7. COMMITTEE ACTION STATUS REPORT

7.1 Committee Actions - Status Report

A report indicating the status of current decisions is attached for the information of Elected Members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

Delegation: Committee

Attachment A: Committee Actions - Status Report

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - STATUS REPORT
OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING
27 April 2022

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
1	<p>SPECIAL REPORT – CEO NORTH HOBART PETITION, DIGITAL SIGNS AND REINVESTMENT Council, 20/9/2021 Item 16</p> <p>NORTH HOBART PARKING OPERATIONAL POLICY CHANGES Council, 23/11/2020 Item 15</p> <p>NOTICE OF MOTION CONDELL PLACE CAR PARK – REDEVELOPMENT Council, 23/9/2019 Item 17</p> <p>CONDELL PLACE CAR PARK – DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND EOI REQUEST Council, 23/7/2018 Item 17</p>	<p>That the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the preparation of a Precinct Plan for North Hobart to be developed in consultation with key agencies and stakeholders including North Hobart traders, landowners and residents. 2. Facilitate place-making activities across North Hobart that are community driven; and deliver on feedback received during the period of community consultation. 5. Explore and implement enhanced mobility options; to encourage visitors into the precinct using alternate modes of transport; including trialling low-cost micro mobility modes. 6. Authorise the CEO to undertake all necessary actions to pursue opportunities to increase off street car parking stock within the coming months to accommodate future growth and install dynamic signage to alter motorists to available on street and off street parking. 7. Engage with North Hobart Traders to design and implement a marketing campaign; as part of Hello Hobart to promote (NoHo) and encourage visitation. 	CEO	<p>An update to all Your Say North Hobart survey participants, including the provision of the engagement summary report and the key actions arising from the Council's decision (20 September 2021), has been provided.</p> <p>Further:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of a Precinct Plan for North Hobart will be progressed following the development of the draft Central Hobart Precincts Plan in 2022. 2. Place-making activities will be developed once the marketing campaign has been established with the North

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
				<p>Hobart trader community.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>5. Micromobility trial launched December 17 2021 and ongoing.</p> <p>In excess of 180,000 rides to date across the two operators.</p> <p>Throughout the trial, the footpath and road of Elizabeth Street North Hobart have both been off limits to e-scooters, so there has been limited ability for e-scooters to alleviate car use in the precinct.</p> <p>6. Two new off-street locations being prepared for use as car parks in North Hobart, increasing off-street parking stock from 95 to about 140 spaces.</p> <p>Planning associated with</p>

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
				<p>the extension of the Lefroy Street car park extension is underway with the application for a planning permit expected to be lodged by 14 April 2022..</p> <p>Investigations for the public usage of other sites are being progressed.</p> <p>The digital signs have been procured with officers now working through the DA process, power and communications conduits and integrating with the parking system.</p> <p>7. Campaign under development.</p>

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
2	2019-20 FEES AND CHARGES – PARKING OPERATIONS Finance and Governance Committee, 13/08/2019 Item 6.3 Council, 20/05/2019 Item 27	<p>That.</p> <p>2. The Finance and Governance Committee note the following nine topical areas to be reviewed by officers within the City Innovation Division, and report back to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Pensioner voucher parking scheme; (g) Peripheral parking (commuter shuttle service); (h) Commuter parking in inner city areas; and (i) Off-street, off-peak parking demand management solutions to encourage the spread of shopping and trade, including late night trading and night-shift worker safety. 	Director City Life and Director City Futures	<p>No changes were applied to the Pensioner Voucher Parking Scheme (Item 2.b) in 2021-22.</p> <p>Item 2 g), h) and i) are part of a broader access parking policy being undertaken by the Manager City Mobility.</p> <p>Further, these items will be addressed as part of the Central Hobart Precincts Plan.</p>
3	REINVESTMENT OF PARKING REVENUE IN THE CBD Council, 7/12/2020 Item 12	<p>1. A report be prepared that a percentage of CBD parking revenue be reinvested in the CBD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The report be prepared consistent with the Council's decision of 23 November 2020 requesting a report considering North Hobart parking charges being reinvested into amenity upgrades to the area of North Hobart. ii) The Parking Benefit District Policy be developed in line with the General Manager's advice. <p>2. The report also give consideration for all precinct shopping strips and centres within the City.</p>	Director City Life	<p>Officers are actioning the decision and a report will be provided to Committee in 2022.</p>

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
4	PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE Council, 22/02/2021 Item 11	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the work being undertaken under the Hobart City Deal to improve public transport infrastructure within Greater Hobart, and continue to work with the State Government to expedite the implementation of policies to improve public transport services within the City; 2. Note that the choice to work to improve public transport services and road/parking infrastructure are not mutually exclusive solutions to improving the commute of Hobartians, and that a combination of policies are required; 3. Investigates locations within the municipality which could be utilised as full day park and ride facilities. 	Director City Futures	Officers are investigating the matter and a report will be provided to Committee in 2022
5	PARKING METERS IN THE CITY Council, 11/10/2021 Item 10	That: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Hobart City Council re-evaluate on street parking meters in Salamanca & the central business districts as per any impact that the meters may have either in general or the recent parking fee increases on the relevant business areas and a report be forthcoming. 2. The CEO be provided delegated authority to consult with business owners and traders as per the current on street parking requirements and implement their needs as per signage and as part of the re-evaluation in accordance with the Council's engagement/communications policy. 3. The CEO also investigate the possibility of a "Shop and Save" incentive similar to "Victoria Gardens" whereby shoppers swipe their receipt and receive discounts on parking. 4. The CEO also provide a report that evaluates the re-establishment of a "parking fund" similar to previous and prior to changes to the Local Government Act. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This could be that the entire parking or a percentage being used for Parking & Park and Ride purposes rather than consolidated revenue. 	Director City Life	Officers are investigating the matter and will report back to the Council.
6	PETITION – REDUCTION TO ON-STREET PARKING FEES Council, 11/10/2021 Item 6.2	The Chief Executive Officer tabled a petition from Mr Edwin Johnstone of Battery Point calling for the Council to drop the maximum on street parking rate from \$5.00 per hour to \$3.00 per hour and that there are no further increases above CPI until a detailed report on the impacts of parking costs are published and consulted on. There were 3,784 signatories to the petition.	Director Connected City	A report on this matter will be presented to Council as soon as possible.

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
7	LEASE OF SEMAPHORE COTTAGE, PRINCES PARK, BATTERY POINT Council, 28/02/2022 Item 13	That: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Council grant a lease of the Semaphore Cottage, Princes Park, Battery Point, to the Collection of Medical Artefacts (Tasmania) for a period of 5 years at a nominal rent in accordance with the Council's Policy: Leases to Non-Profit Organisations.2. The benefit provided by Council be reported in the Council's Annual Report in accordance with the Council's Policy: Leases to Non-Profit Organisations.3. The Chief Executive Officer be delegated the authority to negotiate and agree to the final lease terms.	CEO	A draft lease has been prepared and will be provided to the tenant.

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
8	UTAS Move to the City Council, 15/03/2022 Item 10	That: 1. A report be provided that addresses the following; (i) The consultation, the steps and decisions and reports that both the UTas and the City Council have taken to date from 2015. (ii) Effect on amenity or otherwise on the residents of Sandy Bay and other inner city suburbs. (iii) Effect on the CBD businesses. (iv) Effect on traffic flow and parking in the CBD and in Sandy Bay and other inner city suburbs. (v) The short and long term ramifications to the budget of the City. (vi) The capital expenditure on infrastructure by the City Council that is required and over what period.	Head of Intergovernmental Relations and Partnerships Director City Futures Acting Council Support Officer	A report is being prepared for Council and is expected to be provided for consideration on 2 May 2022.
		2. Council write to UTAS seeking that the UTAS immediately initiate and undertake a Community engagement process similar to the Councils Community engagement framework and policy regarding the UTAS move into the CBD and the conversion of the current Sandy Bay campus. 3. The recent petition seeking a public meeting is dealt with as a matter of urgency.		Correspondence was forwarded to UTAS on 23 March 2022. COMPLETE A report was provided for consideration at the Council meeting of 11 April 2022, with delegation provided to the CEO to finalise the date and venue for the Public Meeting and subsequent arrangements. COMPLETE

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
9	Applying Variable (Differential) Rates to Encourage Better Housing Options in Hobart Council, 15/03/2022 Item 12	That: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An urgent report be prepared to determine appropriate variable (differential) rates for the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Properties listed as whole house visitor accommodation that currently have rates based on the Assessed Annual Value as a residential property; andb. Vacant land zoned as Residential2. The report also provide advice on rates rebates and possible state government incentives for (new) residential properties approved and built as either the principle place of residence for the applicant, or that are tenanted through long-term rental."	Director City Enablers	Officers are researching this matter.

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
10	Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer Council, 28/02/2022 Item 14	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to section 22 of the Local Government Act 1993, section 6 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and section 124 of the Local Government (Highways) Act 1982, the Council approve the delegations included as Attachment A to item 6.1 of the Finance and Governance Committee agenda of 22 March 2022 to the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Executive Officer, being the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to s61 of the Local Government Act 1993; Pursuant to section 6 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 the Council approve the delegations included as Attachment A item 6.1 of the Finance and Governance Committee agenda of 22 March 2022 report to the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Director City Life Manager Development Appraisal Manager Bushland, Biodiversity and Waterways Senior Statutory Planner Senior Development Engineer Program Leader Stormwater Services Pursuant to section 6 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and section 124 of the Local Government (Highways) Act 1982, the Council approve the delegations included as Attachment A to item 6.1 of the Finance and Governance Committee agenda of 22 March 2022 to the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Director City Futures Manager Urban Futures Pursuant to section 124 of the Local Government (Highways) Act 1982, the Council approve the delegations included as Attachment A to item 6.1 of the Finance and Governance Committee agenda of 22 March 2022 to the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Director City Enablers Manager City Infrastructure Program Leader Road Services 	Director, City Futures	Close.

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
11	New Policy – Competitive Neutrality Council, 28/02/2022 Item 15	That the Council adopt the new policy 'Competitive Neutrality' marked as Attachment A to item 6.2 of the Finance and Governance Committee Agenda of 22 March 2022.	Director, City Enablers	Close.

12

**Financial Report as
at 31 December
2021**

Council, 28/02/2022
Item 16

That the changes to the Council's 2021-22 Estimates as detailed in the following tables be approved.

(i) Operational Budget reallocations and amendments

Budget Increases		Budget Decreases	
Item	Amount	Item	Amount
Labour	\$0.752M	Energy Costs	\$0.117M
Materials and Services	\$0.597M	Finance Costs	\$0.245M
TOTAL	\$1.349M	TOTAL	\$0.362M
NET EXPENDITURE INCREASE		\$0.987M	
Rates and Charges	\$0.02M	Fees and Charges - On Street Parking	\$0.675M
Fines	\$2.149M	Other Fees and Charges	\$0.278M
Fees and Charges - Car Parks	\$1.382M	Rents	\$0.057M
Operating Grants	\$0.122M		
Interest	\$0.140M		
TOTAL	\$3.813M	TOTAL	\$1.010M
NET REVENUE INCREASE		\$2.804M	
CHANGE IN UNDERLYING RESULT		\$1.817M	

(ii) Capital works program re-allocations

Capital Budget Increases		Capital Budget Decreases or Grant Funding	
Item	Amount	Item	Amount
TCA Ground Building Design	\$0.05M	Grant Funding	\$0.05M
Elizabeth St Bus Shelter Renewal	\$0.05M	Grant Funding	\$0.05M
	\$0.197M	Expensed Project - missing Link Mountain Bike Connection	\$0.197M
NEW mountain bike tracks		Grant funds from Murray St UPGRADE to New Town retail precinct	\$0.188M
From Murray St UPGRADE to New Town retail precinct	\$0.188M	Darcy to Denison St storm water	
Investigate storm water and flooding constraints	\$0.05M	UPGRADE to investigate storm water and flooding constraints	\$0.05M
Parliament St storm water extension	\$0.03M	Storm water annual RENEWAL allocation to Parliament St storm water extension	\$0.03M
UPGRADE kerb ramps at Bay Rd and Swanston St	\$0.03M	Annual roads NEW disability access to UPGRADE kerb ramps at Bay Rd and Swanston St	\$0.03M
TOTAL	\$0.595M	TOTAL	\$0.595M
NET EXPENDITURE INCREASE		\$0	

Chief Financial
Officer

Close.

Ref	Title	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
13	Request to waive Requirement to Tender – The Mercury Newspaper Advertising Council, 28/02/2022 Item 24	Item 8 was transferred to the open agenda and take as item 24. That: 1. Council approve the request to waive the requirement to undertake a Public Tender for advertising in the Mercury newspaper in accordance with Regulations 27(i)(iii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015, on the basis that Council's legal requirement to advertise in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area preclude the likelihood of a satisfactory result due to the absence of competitive tenderers.	Director, City Enablers	Close.

8. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Regulation 29(3) *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

The Chief Executive Officer reports:-

"In accordance with the procedures approved in respect to Questions Without Notice, the following responses to questions taken on notice are provided to the Committee for information.

The Committee is reminded that in accordance with Regulation 29(3) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Chairman is not to allow discussion or debate on either the question or the response."

8.1 Public Question Time**File Ref: F22/20114; 13-1-10**

Memorandum of the Manager Legal and Governance of 14 April 2022.

8.2 Princes Park Toilets**File Ref: F22/29892; 13-1-10**

Memorandum of the Director City Enablers of 1 April 2022.

That the information be received and noted.

Delegation: Committee



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ELECTED MEMBERS**

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee

**Meeting date: 22 February
2022**

Raised by: Councillor Dutta

Question:

It was reported at a recent Council meeting that in the final four months of 2021, that a total of 59 questions had been asked during Public Question Time and that two individuals had asked a combined total of 37 of these questions.

Can the Director advise who those two individuals are and how much in monetary terms has it cost the Council to answer those questions?

Response:

Between September and December 2021 there were a total of 70 questions. The two individuals who had asked the highest total number of questions were Louise Elliot (22 questions in total) and Louise Bloomfield (15 questions in total).

Public Question Time may see multiple questions being raised in relation to a single issue by a single person.

For the purpose of this response, these multiple questions have been tallied to individuals despite it not being representative of the number of times they have appeared at a Council meeting for Public Question Time.

It is difficult to quantify both time and costs incurred responding to a public question as these can vary considerably depending on the complexity of the questions asked or issue raised. It is estimated that it would take an average 2 hours per response which includes officer time involved in the administration, preparation and approval of each public question.

Previously an indicative figure of \$40 per hour has been utilised to answer similar questions. Therefore an appropriate cost in responding to these sorts of questions is \$2,960.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Jackson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Paul Jackson
**MANAGER LEGAL AND
GOVERNANCE**

Date: 14 April 2022
File Reference: F22/20114; 13-1-10



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ELECTED MEMBERS**

PRINCES PARK TOILETS

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee Meeting date: 22 March 2022

Raised by: Alderman Sexton

Question:

Can the Director provide an update in relation to the insurance claim for the public toilets located in Princes Park, Battery Point?

Response:

Works have commenced on the public toilets on Monday, 28 March 2022.

The insurer is managing the works. The works are expected to take at least 4 weeks to complete, however this could extend to 6 weeks depending on what damage is found during the works. As a result, mid-May is the expected completion time.

The delay in commencement was due to the loss assessor waiting for the contractor to provide quotes for repairs, followed by more damage than previously presumed being uncovered in the rear room. This has resulted in the entire toilet block needing to be stripped out.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.

Tim Short
DIRECTOR CITY ENABLERS

Date: 1 April 2022
File Reference: F22/29892; 13-1-10

9. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

An Elected Member may ask a question without notice of the Chairman, another Elected Member, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer's representative, in line with the following procedures:

1. The Chairman will refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the Terms of Reference of the Council committee at which it is asked.
2. In putting a question without notice, an Elected Member must not:
 - (i) offer an argument or opinion; or
 - (ii) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.
3. The Chairman must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.
4. The Chairman, Elected Members, Chief Executive Officer or Chief Executive Officer's representative who is asked a question may decline to answer the question, if in the opinion of the respondent it is considered inappropriate due to its being unclear, insulting or improper.
5. The Chairman may require a question to be put in writing.
6. Where a question without notice is asked and answered at a meeting, both the question and the response will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
7. Where a response is not able to be provided at the meeting, the question will be taken on notice and
 - (i) the minutes of the meeting at which the question is asked will record the question and the fact that it has been taken on notice.
 - (ii) a written response will be provided to all Elected Members, at the appropriate time.
 - (iii) upon the answer to the question being circulated to Elected Members, both the question and the answer will be listed on the agenda for the next available ordinary meeting of the committee at which it was asked, where it will be listed for noting purposes only.

10. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee resolve by majority that the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to regulation 15(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* because the items included on the closed agenda contain the following matters:

- Information of a personal nature
- Closed Questions Without Notice

The following items are listed for discussion:-

Item No. 1	Minutes of the last meeting of the Closed Portion of the Committee Meeting
Item No. 2	Consideration of supplementary items to the agenda
Item No. 3	Indications of pecuniary and conflicts of interest
Item No. 4	Reports
Item No. 4.1	Outstanding Sundry Debts as at 28 February 2022 LG(MP)R 15(2)(g)
Item No. 4.2	Remissions of Rates and Charges Granted LG(MP)R 15(2)(g)
Item No. 5	Responses to Questions Without Notice
Item No. 5.1	Organisation Restructure LG(MP)R 15(2)(a)
Item No. 6	Committee Action Status Report
Item No. 6.1	Committee Actions - Status Report - Closed LG(MP)R 15(2)(b), (c)(i), (f) and (g)
Item No. 7	Questions Without Notice