



CITY OF HOBART

# **AGENDA**

## **Special Finance and Governance Committee Meeting**

### **Open Portion**

**Wednesday, 31 March 2021**

**at 4:45 pm  
Council Chamber, Town Hall**

## **REPORT UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 4. REPORT ..... 2**
  - 4.1 REVIEW OF CITY OF HOBART FINANCIAL HARDSHIP  
ASSISTANCE POLICY ..... 2**

## **4. REPORT**

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### **4.1 Review of City of Hobart Financial Hardship Assistance Policy File Ref: F21/26943**

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Memorandum of the Manager Rates, Procurement and Finance  
Operations and the Deputy General Manager of 29 March 2021.

Delegation: Council



City of **HOBART**

## MEMORANDUM: FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

### Review of City of Hobart Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

At its meeting held on Tuesday, 16 March 2021, the Finance and Governance Committee considered a report titled 'Review of City of Hobart Financial Hardship Assistance Policy' on the Closed agenda at item 4.2, and resolved the following for consideration by the Council at its 22 March 2021 meeting:

- That:*
- 1. The Council adopt the amended City of Hobart Financial Hardship Assistance Policy marked as Attachment A to item 4.3 of the Closed Finance and Governance Committee agenda of 16 March 2021.*
  - 2. The General Manager's delegation pursuant to section 22 of the Local Government Act 1993, delegating the power to approve rates remissions up to a limit of \$4,000 per property per application, with remissions above that limit being approved by absolute majority of the Council, be amended to \$2,000.*
    - (i) The change to the General Manager's delegation limit to approve rate remissions be reflected in the City of Hobart Rates and Charges Policy.*
  - 3. The support by way of rates remissions in respect to COVID-19 financial hardship applications cease as at 31 March 2021. Applications received from 1 April 2021 that are related to financial hardship due to COVID-19 are offered negotiated payment plans, waiving of penalties and interest and formal postponement, in accordance with the City's revised Financial Hardship Assistance Policy.*
  - 4. A media release and media alerts be released as soon as practicable to advise of the cessation of the COVID-19 financial hardship rates remissions and financial support to be offered after 1 April 2021.*

The matter was deferred at the 22 March 2021 Council meeting for further consideration of financial modelling of the Officer recommendations at the budget workshop scheduled for Tuesday, 23 March 2021.

The financial modelling was presented at the 23 March budget workshop. The item is therefore resubmitted for the consideration of the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATIONS*****That:***

- 1. The Council adopt the amended City of Hobart Financial Hardship Assistance Policy marked as Attachment A to item 4.2 of the Closed Finance and Governance Committee agenda of 16 March 2021.***
- 2. The General Manager's delegation pursuant to section 22 of the Local Government Act 1993, delegating the power to approve rates remissions up to a limit of \$4,000 per property per application, with remissions above that limit being approved by absolute majority of the Council, be amended to \$3,000.***
  - (i) The change to the General Manager's delegation limit to approve rate remissions be reflected in the City of Hobart Rates and Charges Policy.***
- 3. The support by way of rates remissions cease as at 30 June 2021. Applications received from 1 July 2021 that are related to financial hardship due to COVID-19 are offered negotiated payment plans, waiving of penalties and interest and formal postponement, in accordance with the City's revised Financial Hardship Assistance Policy.***
- 4. A media release and media alerts be released as soon as practicable to advise of the cessation of the COVID-19 financial hardship rates remissions and financial support to be offered after 1 July 2021.***

*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  
**DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER**

Date: 29 March 2021  
File Reference: F21/26943