



**TOWN OF VINCENT**

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 1 JULY 2009**

### **NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA**

Dear Council Member

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Vincent will be held at the Administration and Civic Centre, 244 Vincent Street (corner Loftus Street), Leederville, on **Wednesday, 1 July 2009** at **6.00pm**. The purpose of the meeting is to consider and approve the Annual Budget 2009/2010.

**JOHN GIORGI, JP  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
25 June 2009**

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*"Enhancing and celebrating our diverse community"*

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*This document is available in the following alternative formats upon request for people with specific needs; large print, Braille, audio cassette and computer disk*

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## **“Enhancing and celebrating our diverse community”**

### **PURPOSE** *(Defines the business we are in)*

“To provide and facilitate services for a safe, healthy and sustainable community.”

### **VISION** *(Describes what we are striving to achieve)*

“A sustainable and caring community built with vibrancy and diversity.”

### **GUIDING VALUES** *(Describes what values are important to us)*

- Excellence and Service
- Honesty and Integrity
- Innovation and Diversity
- Caring and Empathy
- Teamwork and Commitment

### **DISCLAIMER**

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Town of Vincent (Town) for any act, omission, statement or intimation occurring during Council meetings. The Town disclaims any liability for any loss however caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission, statement or intimation occurring during Council meetings. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council meeting does so at their own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning or development application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by an Elected Member or Employee of the Town during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Town. The Town advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Town must obtain and should only rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Council in respect of the application.

### **Copyright**

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## PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

The Town of Vincent Local Law Relating to Standing Orders prescribes the procedure for persons to ask questions or make public statements relating to a matter affecting the Town, either verbally or in writing, at a Council meeting.

Questions or statements made at an Ordinary Council meeting can relate to matters that affect the Town. Questions or statements made at a Special Meeting of the Council must only relate to the purpose for which the meeting has been called.

1. Shortly after the commencement of the meeting, the Presiding Member will ask members of the public to come forward to address the Council and to give their name, address and Agenda Item number (if known).
2. Public speaking time will be strictly limited to three (3) minutes per member of the public.
3. Members of the public are encouraged to keep their questions/statements brief to enable everyone who desires to ask a question or make a statement to have the opportunity to do so.
4. Public speaking time is declared closed when there are no further members of the public who wish to speak.
5. Questions/statements are to be directed to the Presiding Member and are to be made politely in good faith and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or be defamatory on an Elected Member or Town Employee.
6. Where the Presiding Member is of the opinion that a member of the public is making a statement at a Council meeting, that does not affect the Town, he may ask the person speaking to promptly cease.
7. Questions/statements and any responses will be summarised and included in the Minutes of the Council meeting.
8. Where practicable, responses to questions will be provided at the meeting. Where the information is not available or the question cannot be answered, it will be *"taken on notice"* and a written response will be sent by the Chief Executive Officer to the person asking the question. A copy of the reply will be included in the Agenda of the next Ordinary meeting of the Council.
9. It is not intended that public speaking time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the Town's records under Section 5.94 of the Local Government Act 1995 or the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1992. The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act 1992.

## RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- ◆ All Ordinary and Special Council Meetings are electronically recorded (both visual and audio), except when the Council resolves to go behind closed doors;
- ◆ All recordings are retained as part of the Town's records in accordance with the General Disposal Authority for Local Government Records produced by the Public Records Office;
- ◆ A copy of the recorded proceedings and/or a transcript of a particular section or all of a Council meeting is available in accordance with Policy 4.2.3 - Recording of Council Meetings and Access to Recorded Information.

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1. Declaration of Opening**

**2. Apologies/Members on Approved Leave of Absence**

Nil.

**3. Public Question Time and Receiving of Public Statements**

*Please Note: Section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 states that:*

*“Council at a Special Meeting is not required to answer a question that does not relate to the purpose of the meeting. It is requested that only questions that relate to items on the Agenda be asked.”*

**4. Applications for Leave of Absence**

Nil.

**5. Announcements by the Presiding Member (Without Discussion)**

**6. Declaration of Interests**

- 6.1 Financial - Local Government Act 1995, s5.60A
- 6.2 Proximity - Local Government Act 1995, s5.60B
- 6.3 Impartiality - Local Government (Administration) Regulations, Reg 34

**7. Reports**

- 7.1 Adoption of Annual Budget 2009/2010 (FIN0025)

**8. Closure**

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**7.1 Adoption of 2009/2010 Annual Budget**

<b>Ward:</b>	Both	<b>Date:</b>	16 June 2009
<b>Precinct:</b>	All	<b>File Ref:</b>	FIN0025
<b>Attachments:</b>	-		
<b>Reporting Officer(s):</b>	M Rootsey		
<b>Checked/Endorsed by:</b>	John Giorgi	<b>Amended by:</b>	-

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

*That the Council APPROVES BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY;*

- (i) *the adoption of the Annual Budget for the year ending 30 June 2010 as distributed with this Agenda and "Laid on the Table";*
- (ii) *the Budget 2009/2010 surplus to be transferred to the Capital Reserve to fund future capital works;*
- (iii) *a general rate of 7.09 cents to be applied to all rateable property in the Town of Vincent for the year ending 30 June 2010;*
- (iv) *a minimum rate of \$572 for the year ending 30 June 2010, notwithstanding the general rate set out in (iii) above;*
- (v) *the following payment dates for payment of rates by instalments:*
  - (a) *Due Date/first instalment 18 August 2009;*
  - (b) *second instalment 20 October 2009;*
  - (c) *third instalment 5 January 2010; and*
  - (d) *fourth instalment 9 March 2010.*
- (vi) *a charge of \$7.00 per instalment for payment of rates by instalments, to apply to the second, third and fourth instalment in accordance with Section 6.45(4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 67 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996;*
- (vii) *an interest rate of 5.5% to be imposed on instalments, to apply to the second, third and fourth instalment in accordance with Section 6.45(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996;*
- (viii) *an interest rate of 11% to be imposed on overdue rates in accordance with Section 6.51(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996;*
- (ix) *an interest rate of 11% to be imposed on overdue amounts due to the Town in accordance with Section 6.13 of the Local Government Act 1995;*
- (x) *the gross rental valuations as supplied by the Valuer General totalling \$274,248,849 to be recorded in the Rate Book for use in the 2009/10 financial year;*
- (xi) *the Statutory Budget and Schedules Notes as shown in Section 4 (pages 4.1 to 4.39) of the Annual Budget;*

- (xii) *the Capital Works budget as shown in Section 5 (pages 5.1 to 5.17);*
- (xiii) *the detailed Operating Budgets as shown in Section 6 (pages 6.1 to 6.106) of the Annual Budget;*
- (xiv) *the Reserve Fund Budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2010 as set out on page 4.19 of the Annual Budget;*
- (xv) *the adoption of a rubbish charge of \$230 per 240 litre bin per annum for a weekly service for all non rateable property receiving the service; and*
- (xvi) *the Hire Fees and Charges as set out in Section 8 (pages 8.1 to 8.29) of the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2010.*

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To present the Annual Budget 2009/2010 to the Council for consideration and adoption.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Town's Administration, in conjunction with the Council Members, have been preparing the Budget for 2009/2010. This is in keeping with Plan for the Future, the Council's Strategic Plan (2009 – 2014) and adopted Works Programs 2009/2010.

A Briefing Session for Council Members was held with the Town's Senior Officers on the Draft Budget 2009/2010 on Saturday 2 May 2009.

The Draft Budget was presented at a Special Council meeting, held on 5 May 2009. At the Special Council meeting of 5 May 2009 the Draft Budget 2009/2010 was adopted in principle to be advertised for community comment.

#### **DETAILS:**

##### **1. Overview**

The 2009/10 Annual Budget has been prepared during difficult economic conditions as a result of the global financial crisis.

*“The global economy is in a severe recession inflicted by a massive financial crisis and acute loss of confidence.”* (According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook report (WEO) for April 2009).

However, the Town stands in good stead to weather the crisis being somewhat insulated from many of the factors driving conditions in the private sector. Bearing this in mind, the crisis has had an impact on the Town in so far as the revenue streams; in particular investment income, development applications and building licence fees, have been effected by the economic downturn.

During the 2009/10 financial year, the Town will also incur significant increases in utility charges such as electricity and gas) and waste disposal costs.

The Town is also cognisant of the impact that the financial crisis is having on the community and has attempted to keep any rate increase to a minimum, whilst maintaining the levels of services expected by the community.

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Despite this adverse economic environment, the Annual Budget presented provides a varied range of projects and services for the Vincent community.

The Annual Budget 2009/2010 also includes a number of cost saving initiatives which have been identified as part of the Chief Executive Officer's recent Organisational Review to reduce costs, eliminate duplication and waste and provide for better efficiencies.

The Capital Programme prepared includes a number of major building projects. The redevelopment of Beatty Park Leisure Centre is a most exciting project. The Concept Plans and business case have been prepared and the Town has applied for Federal Government funding for this project. It is estimated that this project will be constructed over a thirty (30) month period, with the total project cost estimated to be \$22.3 million.

Monies for Stage 4 of the Britannia Reserve Clubrooms have been included, (the other stages were completed in the past financial year), and will finance the installation of accessible toilets and the upgrade of the showers for the facility.

Funds have also been allocated for an upgrade of facilities to complete the Forrest Park Pavilion Refurbishment.

An allocation of funds for the refurbishment of the two toilets at the Loftus Recreation Centre has also been included.

The Infrastructure Works Programme again contains a wide variety of projects to ensure that community needs are addressed and the Town's infrastructure is well maintained.

There are a significant number of Traffic Management projects included that have originated from residents requests for traffic calming. These include:

- Albert Street and Kadina Street;
- Pennant Street;
- Morriston Street;
- Anzac Road – Oxford to Sasse Streets;
- Brentham Street;
- Fitzgerald Street;
- Bulwer Avenue and Lincoln Street;
- Norfolk Street and Raglan Road;
- Anzac Road and Loftus Street;
- Joel Terrace; and
- Cowle Street

Funds have been allocated for Streetscape Improvements in Wilberforce Street, William Street, Lord Street and Parry Street.

The Town has been allocated grant funds from both the State and Federal Governments as part of Main Road's Black Spot Project and Roads to Recovery Grants.

The value of the grants total \$971,115. This will allow \$1,050,115 worth of road works to be undertaken.

Significant roadwork improvement has been budgeted for in Moir Street.

Now in its eleventh year, the Footpath Replacement Programme continues to be well funded and is now nearing completion with all footpaths in "poor" condition having now been replaced.

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The fourth year of the Playground Upgrade Programme sees improvements to the following playgrounds:

- Brigatti Gardens;
- Auckland Street/Hobart Street Reserve; and
- Hyde Park Playground.

Floodlights are to be installed at Menzies Park as part of the successful CSRFF grant funding application by the Cardinals Junior Football Club.

Other Reserves to receive development funding are:

- Smith Lake Reserve – paths and lighting;
- Forrest Park - improved bitumen drive access;
- Robertson Park – fencing; and
- Weld Square (stage 1).

Continuing this year will be both the Street Litter Bin Replacement Programme and the Park Furniture Facilities Upgrade (Stage 2 - installation of drinking fountains and bins).

The Town proposes to introduce an electric BBQ Replacement Programme (Stage 1) this year.

It is also planned to install new electric BBQs at the following sites:

- Menzies Park;
- Robertson Park; and
- Kyilla Park.

The Town's investment income for this financial year has been estimated to be reduced, following the reduction in interest rates for investments during the previous financial year.

The economic slowdown has impacted on the number of development applications and building licences being submitted and approved. As a result, revenue from those sources is estimated to be reduced by \$175,000 from the levels in 2008/2009.

This year the Town will incur a significant increase in its tipping costs for waste at the new facility at the Mindarie Regional Council. The increase is from \$54 to \$128 per tonne. This will result in an increase in costs of approximately \$950,000 per annum. However, it should be noted that the Town is holding discussion with the Western Metropolitan Regional Council to dispose of its waste at the Brockway Transfer Station. This should have costs savings for the transport of the waste.

The State Government has advised that there will be a significant increase in utility and other charges which will also impact on the Operating Budget.

These factors alone have made the preparation of this Budget more difficult than in previous years.

This Budget has been prepared in conjunction with the objectives outlined in the Town's Plan for the Future (Strategic Plan 2009-2014) and includes a proposed rate increase taking into account the current inflation rates and the Local Government Cost Index, which is a specific industry index.

- An estimated inflation rate of 3% (State Consumer Price Index) together with an estimate of Local Government Index of 3.5% for 2009/10 has been used in the preparation of this Budget.
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- Salary estimates have been calculated in line with current salaries and increases based on performance are in accordance with the Local Government Award Band Level increase and includes a modest amount for a National Wage Increase.
- No allowance has been made in this years' budget for any wage increases across the board for full-time permanent employees, however a provision of not less than \$98,000 has been allocated for pay increases for the Town's employees to be allocated at the Chief Executive Officers discretion.
- No increases in the existing number of permanent employee positions have been included in this Annual Budget.
- Transfer of funds to Reserves to minimise the financial impact of future significant projects and replacement assets will be made.

## 2. Key Financial Summary

The key financial features for this Annual Budget for 2009/10 include:

- Increase in the rate of the dollar of – 4.51%
- Rate Revenue required – \$19,415,100
- Operating Revenue from other sources – \$15,298,571
- Operating Expenditure – \$36,260,705
- Depreciation Charges – \$7,048,715
- New Capital Works Programme – \$17,047,465
- New Operating Costs – \$187,000

## 3. Capital Works

The significant items in the Capital Works Programme include:

<b>Road Works – Improvements</b>	
Moir Street	\$190,000
<b>Road Works – Rehabilitation</b>	
William Street – Bulwer Street to Brisbane Street	\$77,000
Oxford Street – Anzac Road to Bourke Street	\$240,000
Anzac Road – Oxford Street to Sasse Street	\$355,000
Vincent Street – Morriston Street to Charles Street	\$205,000
<b>Roads to Recovery Programme</b>	
Annual Programme to be advised	\$173,115
<b>Black Spot Submissions</b>	
Stirling Street and Parry Street roundabout construction	\$250,000
Hunter Street and Adair Parade - improve safety at intersection	\$30,000
Vincent Street and Norfolk Street extension of median strip through intersection	\$40,000
<b>Streetscape Improvements</b>	
Wilberforce Street	\$10,000
William Street	\$50,000
Lord Street and Parry Street	\$15,000

The Town continues to provide ongoing funding for the established Capital Works Programmes:

Slab Footpath Programme	\$450,000
Right of Way Programme	\$300,000
Road Resurfacing Programme	\$210,000

Other Capital Works

**Playground Upgrade**

Brigatti Gardens	\$50,000
Auckland Street and Hobart Street Reserve	\$65,000
Hyde Park Playground	\$200,000

**Parks Development**

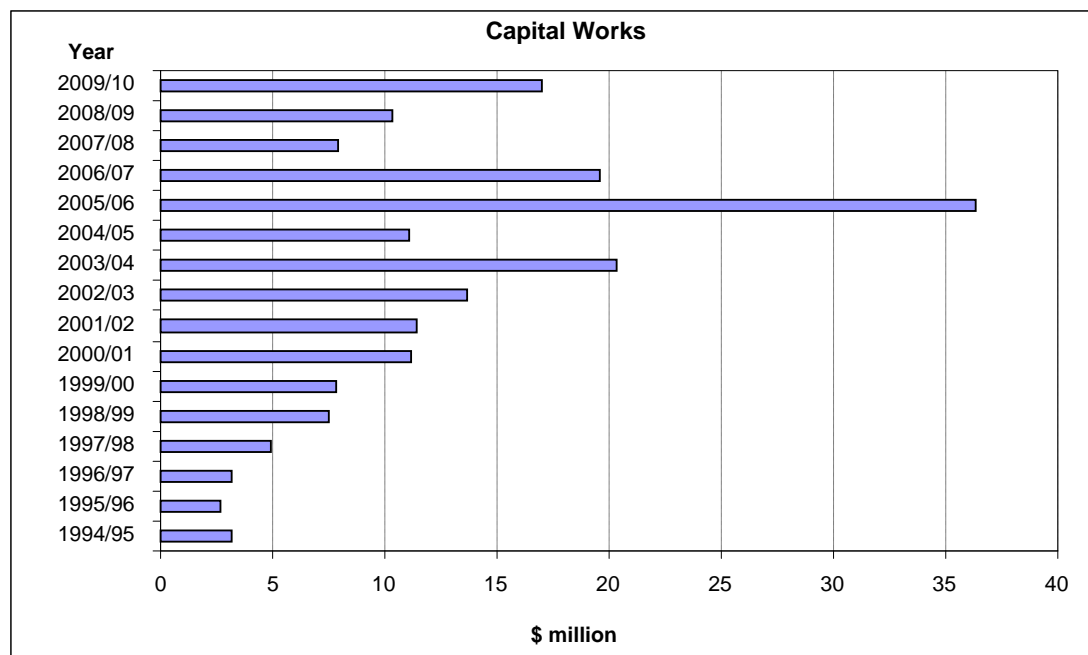
Forrest Park – bitumen drive access	\$45,000
Smiths Lake Reserve – paths and lighting	\$140,000
Menzies Park – flood lights	\$22,800
Robertson Park – fencing	\$9,000
Weld Square – redevelopment Stage 1	\$100,000

**Parks Furniture**

Street Litter Bin Replacement Programme	\$40,000
Parks Furniture Facilities Upgrade	
Stage 2 – Drinking Fountains/Bins	\$48,000
Electric BBQ Replacement Programme	
Stage 1	\$50,000
Menzies Park installation of electric BBQs	\$15,000
Robertson Park installation of electric BBQs	\$15,000
Kyilla Park installation of electric BBQs	\$15,000
Hyde Park replacement of main power supply cubicle	\$25,000

**Car Parking**

Barlee Street – angle parking/beautifications	\$35,000
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**4. Rates**

The Annual Budget as prepared estimates a 4.51% increase in the rate in the dollar to fund the works as presented.

The Annual Budget currently estimates a single general rate of 7.09 cents in the dollar for the 2009/10 period and a minimum rate of \$572 will apply for the 2009/10 financial year.

Rates notices will be scheduled for distribution by 14 July 2009.

The objective of the minimum rate is to ensure that all ratepayers make at least a reasonable contribution towards the cost of services provided to ratepayers and properties within the Town. Without the minimum rate there would be wide range in rate relativities, with some properties with lower gross rental values only paying a fraction of the rates paid on higher valued properties while receiving the same level of services.

The objective of the rate in the dollar of 7.09 cents of gross rental value is to raise the balance of funding necessary to cover the Budget deficit after adjustment for the yield from the minimum rate.

**Payment of Rates**

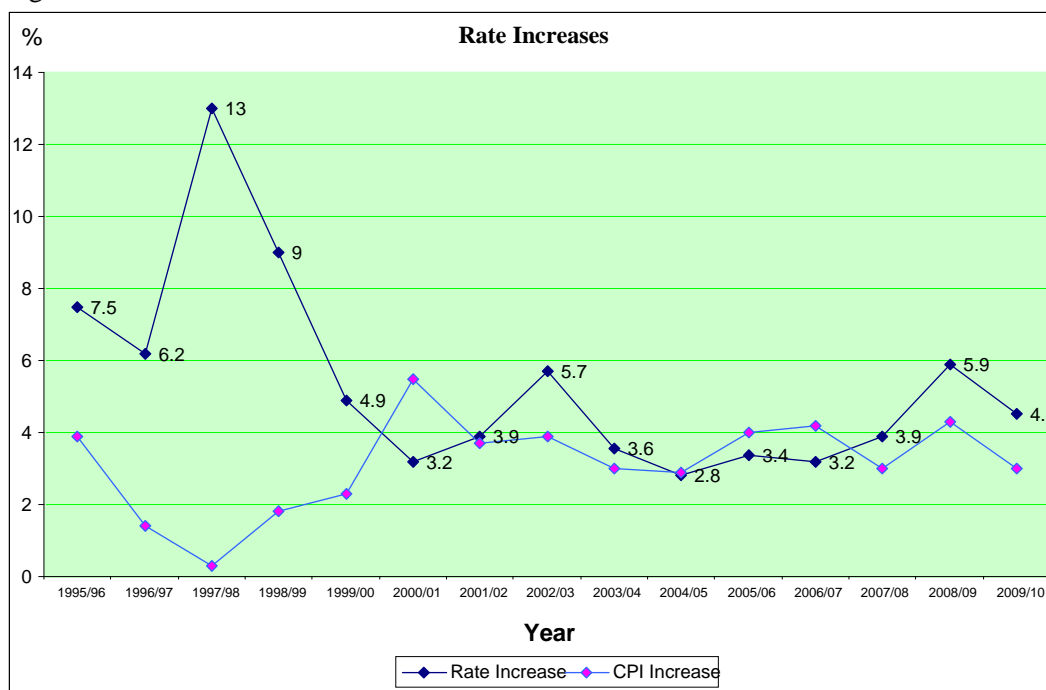
The Local Government Act (1995) provides for ratepayers to pay rates by four instalments. The due dates for each instalment are:

<b>First Instalment</b>	<b>18 August 2009</b>
<b>Second Instalment</b>	<b>20 October 2009</b>
<b>Third Instalment</b>	<b>5 January 2010</b>
<b>Fourth Instalment</b>	<b>9 March 2010</b>

To cover the costs involved in providing the instalment programme, the following charge and interest rates apply:

<b>Instalment Administration Charge</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>
(to apply to second, third and fourth instalment)	
<b>Instalment Interest Rate</b>	<b>5.5% per annum</b>
<b>Late Payment Penalty Interest</b>	<b>11% per annum</b>

Pensioners registered with the Town for rate concessions do not incur the above interest or charge.



**Rates Incentive Prize**

The Town will again provide incentive prizes to encourage the payment of rates in full in the 35 day period:

- 1 x Commonwealth Bank cash prize to the value of \$1,000.
- 1 x Stewarts Pest Control Pest Management service to the value of \$1000.
- 1 x Bendigo Bank North Perth cash prize to the value of \$500.
- 1 x three month Membership package for Loftus Recreation Centre (valued at \$325).
- 1 x one night Breakaway Package at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle plus breakfast in the Atrium Garden Restaurant (valued at \$295).
- 1 x three month Membership package for Beatty Park Leisure Centre (valued at \$230).
- 1 x one night in a standard family cabin at any Aspen Park in WA.
- 1 x \$150 voucher for Divido Restaurant, Mount Hawthorn.
- 1 x \$100 voucher for lunch for two at The Oxford Hotel, Leederville.

**RATES COMPARISON 2008/2009**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Residential Rate (Cents)</b>	<b>General Minimum</b>	<b>Residential Rubbish</b>	<b>Other Charges</b>	<b>Total Account on GRV \$15000</b>	<b>Variation</b>
<i>Perth</i>	4.2170	480	216		849	-16.7%
<i>Peppermint Grove</i>	5.7476	736			862	-15.4%
<i>Claremont</i>	5.9900	850			899	-11.8%
<i>Mosman Park</i>	6.1522	763			923	-9.4%
<i>Canning</i>	4.6200	422	246		939	-7.8%
<i>Nedlands</i>	4.8010	884	260		980	-3.8%
<i>Cambridge</i>	6.7037	690		27.5	1006	-1.3%
<b><i>Vincent</i></b>	<b>6.7900</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1019</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<i>Stirling</i>	5.6200	610	205	21	1069	5.0%
<i>Victoria Park</i>	7.1800	673	0		1077	5.7%
<i>Fremantle</i>	7.1921	785			1079	5.9%
<i>South Perth</i>	6.0000	620	190		1090	7.0%
<i>Wanneroo</i>	7.3300	835			1100	8.0%
<i>Subiaco</i>	5.7882	541	243		1111	9.1%
<i>Rockingham</i>	6.1435	570	204		1126	10.5%
<i>East Fremantle</i>	7.5700	650	0		1136	11.5%
<i>Melville</i>	5.5990	545	265	45	1149	12.8%
<i>Kalamunda</i>	6.1030	516	236		1151	13.1%
<i>Bayswater</i>	6.3810	567	226		1183	16.1%
<i>Gosnells</i>	7.0000	659	178		1228	20.6%
<i>Belmont</i>	6.9190	615	210		1248	22.5%
<i>Swan</i>	7.2000	600	208	100	1288	26.5%
<i>Cockburn</i>	5.6983	534	256	60	1316	29.2%
<i>Bassendean</i>	8.5630	732	0	42	1326	30.2%
<i>Joondalup</i>	7.7666	565	210		1375	35.0%
<i>Mundaring</i>	8.3400	655	160		1411	38.5%
<i>Kwinana</i>	9.0129	650	234		1586	55.7%
<i>Armadale</i>	9.3630	735	186		1590	56.2%

**5. New Operating Items**

The amount of \$187,000 has been allocated in the Annual Budget 2009/10 for new operating items.

Sections that have submitted new operating items are: Town Planning, Technical Services, Library Services, Health Services, Ranger and Community Safety Services and Community Development.

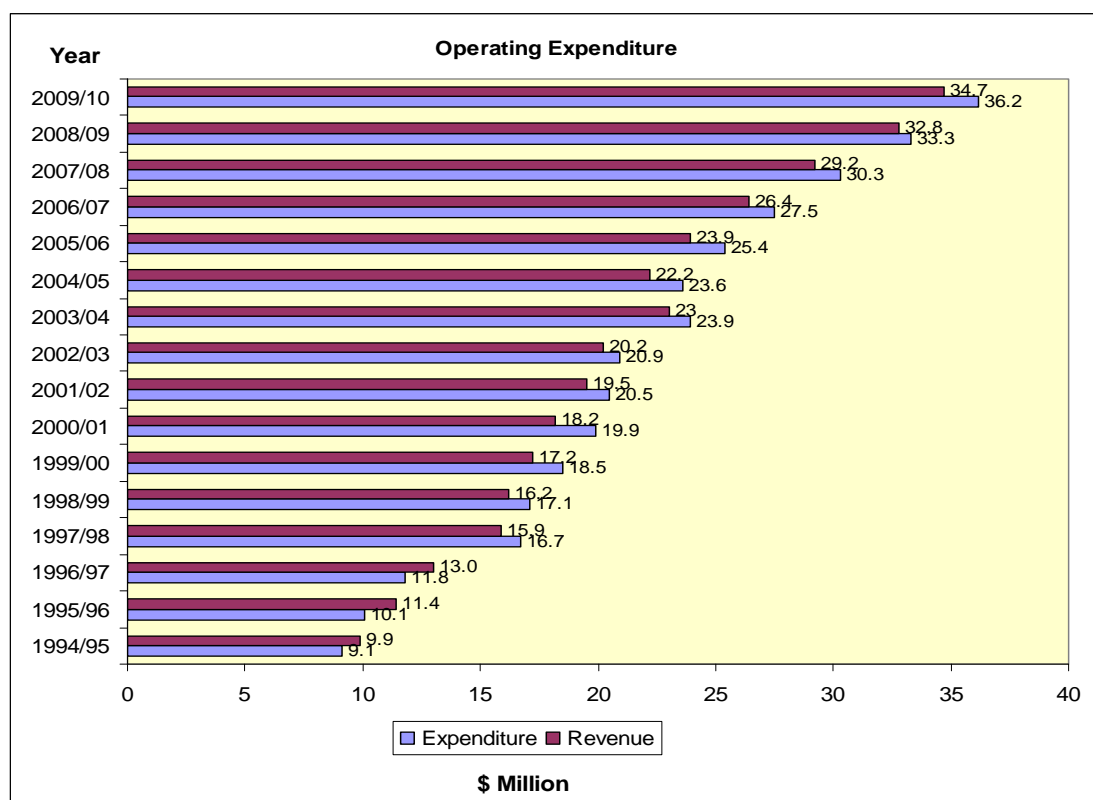
The Planning items include monies for Australian Research Council Linkage Grant for the Northbridge History Project and funds for a Heritage Calendar for 2010, together with the preparation of Housing Style Information Brochures.

Technical Services have included a number of new environmental items in this budget. Health Services have included a budget item for the Vincent Accord.

The Specified Maintenance budget for Town owned properties is \$87,500.

The money is to be spent at the following locations:

- Royal Park Hall;
- Loton Park Tennis Club;
- North Perth Town Hall;
- North Perth Lesser Hall;
- North Perth Bowling Club;
- North Perth Tennis Club;
- Mount Hawthorn Main Hall;
- 291 Vincent Street;
- Vincent Community Centre;
- Kidz Galore Childcare;
- Britannia Road Reserve;
- Shalom Coleman Dental Clinic;
- Les Lilleyman Pavilion;
- Administration and Civic Centre Building;
- 286 Beaufort Street (ASeTTs); and
- Leederville Tennis Club.



## **6. Operating Budget**

The increase in the Operating Expenditure is attributed to:

- Increased tipping costs as a result of opening of new waste management facility at Tamala Park;
- Increase utility costs following State Government increases;
- Depreciation costs have increased as a result of revaluation of the Town's land and buildings.

The Revenue Budget has been impacted by:

- Reduced investment income;
- Reduced development application and building licence fees;
- Increases in parking fees from ticket machines as a result of increased fees and charges and the number of ticket machines installed; and
- Increases in other fees and charges.

## **7. Interest on General Debtors**

The Town of Vincent will impose a late payment penalty interest of 11% per annum on overdue sundry debtor accounts.

## **8. Emergency Services Levy**

Fire and Emergency Services Association (FESA) has advised the rate in the dollar is 0.0123 cents for the 2009/10 financial year for the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) Category. The levy is used to fund the State Fire and Emergency Services. All properties in the Town are included in the ESL Category 1.

### **CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:**

The Draft Budget was advertised for twenty-one (21) days for public comment. At the close of the advertising period on 8 June 2009, eight (8) submissions were received. These are reported below as follows:

#### **1. Dr Nathan Gibson – Resident, North Perth:**

*As a local parent, and fairly regular user of these precinct parks, I am very supportive of the ToV funding proposed in the 09/10 Budget for the Kyilla Park Fitness Course and BBQ. This is a wonderful example of collaboration between the Kyilla Primary School and P&C and the ToV. I believe it to be good "bang for the buck" – it's a very small investment but high visibility.*

*The outcome would be an excellent community resource that would also be available to the school. This is a very clear statement by the ToV that they are serious about participating in addressing the important public health issues of overweight and obesity within the local community, especially with the local children. As well, it has the capacity to draw more local residents into Kyilla Park, as already happens at Woodville Park. Well done the far sighted Councillors and Town Staff – I sincerely hope this measure is supported when the budget is ratified.*

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**2. Elizabeth (Libby) Phan – Resident, North Perth:**

*As a resident of the Town of Vincent with children in the Kyilla Primary School I write to give you my full support of the installation on a Fitness Track/Course and electric BBQs at Kyilla Park.*

*We would very much appreciate these items being installed. Thank you very much.*

**3. Peter KD Phan – Resident, North Perth:**

*I write to give my full support to the funding of new electric BBQs and a fitness course/track in Kyilla Park.*

*We will make great use out of these new amenities as part of the school and wider community.*

*Many thanks.*

**4. Brett Mobsby – Resident, North Perth:**

*I am very pleased to see the proposed allocation of funds to "Kyilla Park - Fitness Course / Track" and "Kyilla Park - installation of electric BBQ" outlined in the 2009/2010 Draft Budget.*

*As a local resident and parent of children attending Kyilla Primary School, I am very excited by the prospect of having such a valuable resource in our community.*

*Keep up the good work.*

Chief Executive Officer's Comments:

It is recommended that this project be supported for inclusion in the Annual Budget 2009/10.

**5. Sondra Ramirez – Resident, Perth:**

*I am writing to request that the \$9 000 allocated for fencing at Robertson Park be retained on the budget. This was initially allocated in response to a petition that was lodged in November 2008.*

*Prior to a fence being constructed, we ask that the Council consult with the park users to identify alternatives and the best use of funds, to meaningfully address the issues that have already been highlighted. This could include landscaping, dog training classes etc.*

*I look forward to hearing of a positive outcome.*

Chief Executive Officer's Comments:

It is recommended that this project be supported for inclusion in the Annual Budget 2009/10.

**6. Anne Goodall – On behalf of the Vincent Reconciliation Group:**

*The Vincent Reconciliation Group (VRG) writes in support of this budget item that aims to deliver stage 1 of the Reconciliation Place Project. This project will be a landmark local reconciliation initiative, made possible through an innovative community and the Town of Vincent partnership.*

*The Reconciliation Place project aims to provide a place-based reconciliation experience in the Town of Vincent (ToV). Community members will be involved in the creation of an outdoor place within the Town, with community artwork as its centrepiece, that invites individuals to reflect on and engage with aspects of community reconciliation and provides a space where groups of people can gather to foster and celebrate reconciliation. A strong emphasis for the project will be that the process of 'place making' is collaborative in both its development and implementation, involving people from the Noongar and wider Indigenous communities as well as the broader Vincent community and relevant organisations. In this way, the process of developing the place is intended to be a community building and reconciliation experience in itself.*

*Anecdotal evidence collected by the VRG from local community members and organisations suggests that individuals are seeking local, active and tangible ways that they can express their support for reconciliation and be part of creating a reconciled future for Australia. The Reconciliation Place project aims to address this need.*

*The VRG develops the project idea in consultation with community stakeholders and there is a strong interest in the project. The group has already contributed \$8,800 of funds towards developing the project. This seed funding was raised through a combination of group fundraising, individual donations, an organisational donation from Ruah Community Services and grant funding from the Uniting Church's Tabitha Trust.*

*The project will help the Town meet its strategic objective of celebrating and acknowledging cultural and social diversity and will also serve to enhance the public open space at Banks Reserve and link in with the planned wetlands heritage trail.*

**Chief Executive Officer's Comments:**

This project was adopted by the Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 May 2009, with funding at \$15,000 listed for consideration in the Budget.

It is recommended that this project be supported for inclusion in the Annual Budget 2009/10.

**7. Cecily Gilbert – Resident, Leederville:**

*The proposed cut in funding for the Local Plants project (draft Budget page 6.82) disappoints me.*

*Council's participation in the Local Plants program is a tangible way to support the State water strategy and encourage residents to landscape with species that can thrive here - without heavy use of fertilisers which contribute to pollution of local waterways and the Swan River catchment.*

*Town of Vincent residents appreciate the chance to buy plants suited to local soil and water conditions. I've been a volunteer at the sales since they began in 2005; each has attracted around 100+ buyers.*

*Resident feedback is that having Vincent horticultural staff at the sales to give advice is a major benefit, which reflects well on the council overall.*

*In 2008-09 the sales earned 60 cents for each dollar invested by Council. There are many other budget items which return far less than this. With judicious management, the expenditure-revenue gap could be reduced even further.*

*For a total allocation of \$7,000 the Council showcases its gardens expertise, makes its horticultural staff accessible to residents in an informal setting, and promotes a sustainable environment. I think it's money well-spent.*

*Given that a motion to retain last year's funding was narrowly defeated on the casting vote of the Mayor - whose statement at the May 5 special Council meeting indicated a mistaken belief of poor resident support for the program - I believe this item should be reconsidered.*

**Chief Executive Officer's Comments:**

The sale of plants is not considered to be the Town's core business. The reduction from two to one plant sale was considered acceptable, in these difficult economic conditions. The matter will be again assessed after this year's event.

**8. John Waddingham – Resident, Leederville:**

*I wish to make the following comments on the draft budget.*

**1. Format of draft budget:**

*I was dismayed and disappointed to find that the substantial part of the draft budget document downloadable from the Town's website was in scanned bitmap format rather than searchable text. Having the whole of the document in searchable text form (as found up to page 3.9) makes it much easier to navigate and find particular items of interest. I strongly recommend next year's draft budget be offered in fully text form.*

**2. Christmas banners:**

*I attended the May 5 special council meeting which considered the draft budget. I was struck by the general tone - agreed by all Councilors - that these were economically difficult times and the budget reflected that. Given this, of all of the matters directly discussed at that meeting, I was least convinced of the case for the expenditure of \$10,000 for Christmas banners. When I read now (page 1.1) that the justification for this expenditure is "to engender Christmas Spirit in the community", I feel sure that this is absolutely unnecessary expenditure in straightened times. The community as a whole is quite capable, along with vast commercial help, of generating its own Christmas spirit. I don't believe Town banners will significantly enhance what's already there. Much better to put this money into one of the many worthy budget items that have been reduced or cut from this year's budget.*

**3. Faraday Street car park:**

*While I can't identify this car park in the budget papers (perhaps it's the one called Oxford Street Car Park on page 6.90), I wish to comment on it in a budget context. This car park is in my immediate neighborhood. I walk through it several times per week - usually in business hours. I rarely see any cars parked in the main area (Faraday end) and wonder whether the existing ticket machine there is justified. If the Town's data confirms my observations, perhaps this machine could be relocated to an area where it is likely to at least generate enough revenue to cover the cost of its existence (and perhaps thereby reduce expected capital expenditure on any planned new ticket machines).*

*Many thanks for the opportunity to make these comments.*

**Chief Executive Officer's Comments:**

- 1) The final Annual Budget 2009/10 document will be loaded in a searchable text format.
- 2) The Christmas banners were included in the Budget to engender the Christmas Spirit within the community. These banners will be used on an annual basis and is consistent with a number of other local governments. In these difficult economic times, the significance of the Christmas spirit is important to the community.
- 3) Evidence suggests that if the ticket machines are removed, the car park would fill up when the car park is free. This also happened in Pier and Brewer Streets, where ticket machines were installed in areas where previous street parking was extensively used with the installation of machines the cars move onto free parking. The Town has currently engaged consultants to prepare a Car Parking Strategy in which these matters will be addressed.

**LEGAL/POLICY:**

The Local Government Act 1995 Section 6.2 requires each local government to prepare and adopt, in the prescribed form and manner, an annual budget prior to 31 August of each year.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

The preparation and adoption of the Annual Budget is in keeping with the Council's Plan for the Future - Strategic Plan 2009-2014 - Key Result Area 4.1 "*Leadership, Governance and Management*";

**4.1.2 – Manage the organisation in a responsible, efficient and accountable manner.**

- “(a) Adopt “best practice” to manage the financial resources and assets of the Town.*
- (h) Develop sustainable financial policies and strategic financial plans to ensure the Town’s long term financial viability.”*

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The Budget 2009/2010 included a number of sustainability initiatives which are linked to the previous strategic documents in this area.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The Annual Budget outlines the funding for works and services in the Town for the financial year ending 30 June 2010.

**COMMENTS:**

The Annual Budget 2009/2010 has been prepared in a very difficult economic climate, however the budget provides a comprehensive programme of work and projects which will allow the Town to continue to maintain the existing operations to the required service levels. Accordingly, it is recommended that Council adopt the Annual Budget 2009/10.

**8. CLOSURE**

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