

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Vincent held at the Administration and Civic Centre, 244 Vincent Street, Leederville, on Tuesday 8 July 2003, commencing at 5.34pm.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member, Mayor Nick Catania, JP declared the Meeting open at 5.34pm.

2. APOLOGIES/MEMBERS ON APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

(a) Apologies:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rick Lotznicher | Executive Manager, Technical Services |
| Cr Maddelena Torre | South Ward |

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Mr Lotznicher was unwell and unable to attend the meeting and that Cr Torre would be arriving late to the meeting.

(b) Present:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mayor Nick Catania, JP | Presiding Member |
| Cr Simon Chester | North Ward |
| Cr Caroline Cohen | South Ward |
| Cr Helen Doran-Wu | North Ward |
| Cr Steed Farrell | North Ward |
| Cr Basil Franchina | North Ward |
| Cr Ian Ker (Deputy Mayor) | South Ward |
| Cr Sally Lake | South Ward |
| John Giorgi, JP | Chief Executive Officer |
| Rob Boardman | Executive Manager, Environmental & Development Services |
| Mike Rootsey | Executive Manager, Corporate Services |
| Debbie Winfield | Minutes Secretary |
| Peta Rule | Journalist - The West Australian |
| Ryan Sturman | Journalist – Guardian Express |

3 Members of the Public

(c) Members on Leave of Absence:

Nil.

3. (a) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME & RECEIVING OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

1. Dudley Maier of 51 Chatsworth Road, Highgate. Stated that he was disappointed in the loss of information in the new format of the budget as he believed further detail would be useful later in the year for performance appraisal. Also stated that there was more information on depreciation than was necessary.

(b) RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

5.1 Taping of Council Meeting

Mayor Catania advised that this meeting is being recorded and that it is subject to the requirements of the freedom of information act and state records act.

6. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil.

7.1 Adoption of 2003/2004 Annual Budget

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| Ward: | Both | Date: | 3 July 2003 |
| Precinct: | All | File Ref: | FIN0025 |
| Reporting Officer(s): | Mike Rootsey | | |
| Checked/Endorsed by: | John Giorgi | | |
| Amended by: | | | |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council APPROVES BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY:

- (i) *the adoption of the Annual Budget for the year ending 30 June 2004 as distributed with this Agenda and "Laid on the Table";*
- (ii) *the surplus to be transferred to the Capital Reserve to fund future capital works;*
- (iii) *a general rate of 8.01 cents to be applied to all rateable property in the Town of Vincent for the year ending 30 June 2004;*
- (iv) *a minimum rate of \$451 for the year ending 30 June 2004, 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 15th September 2003;*
 - (b) *second instalment 17th November 2003;*
 - (c) *third instalment 16th January 2004; and*
 - (d) *fourth instalment 16th March 2004.*
- (vi) *a charge of \$4.00 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 \$157,034,934 to be recorded in the Rate Book for use in the 2003/04 financial year;*
- (xi) *Statutory Budget and Schedules Notes as shown in Section 4 (pages 4.1 to 4.31) of the Annual Budget;*
- (xii) *the capital works budget as shown in Section 5 (pages 5.1 to 5.9);*

- (xiii) the detailed Operating Budgets as shown in Section 6 (pages 6.1 to 6.85) of the Annual Budget;*
 - (xiv) the Reserve Fund Budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2004 as set out on page 4.24 of the Annual Budget;*
 - (xv) the adoption of a rubbish charge of \$206 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 8.17) of the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 30 June, 2004.*
-

Moved Cr Lake, Seconded Cr Ker

That the recommendation be adopted.

The Mayor advised that he would give his 2003-4 Budget Message.

MAYOR'S 2003-04 BUDGET MESSAGE

I am very pleased to present to you the Town of Vincent's Annual Budget for 2003-04.

I believe that the Town is at the beginning of a very exciting era, with a number of major projects coming to fruition. Last year in this message I stated that the Town was about to start on a number of major projects. This year I am pleased to advise that a number of these will be finalized in this financial year, these include the refurbishment and upgrade of Leederville Oval and the construction of a Multi-Purpose Rectangular Stadium, both of these projects are being completed in partnership with the State Government as part of their States Sporting Facility Plan. In addition the construction of an Office Building for the Department of Sports and Recreation is expected to be completed during this year.

As well as these new projects the budget will see the continuation of funding of the well established work programmes, these include the Right of Ways, Footpath, Road Resurfacing and Playground Upgrade programmes.

This year's budget sees a number of projects commence in relation to the Car Parking Strategy that was adopted by Council, these include the installation of ticket machines in Richmond Street, Stuart Street and the Oxford Street car park. The resurfacing of the Flinder Street and Oxford Street car parks are also included as well as funds allocated for specialized signage recommended for implementation as part of the Car Parking Strategy.

Funds have been allocated in this budget to upgrade designated commercial precincts in particular Fitzgerald Street between Angove to Raglan, Scarborough Beach Road, Federation to Killarney Street and Brisbane to Newcastle Street.

Further streetscape improvements will be completed around the Perth Oval area with bricked paved footpath in Pier and Brewer Streets and the additional funds for the improvement to the forecourt of Perth Oval.

In the Community Development area due to popular request we have increased the number of Concert in the Park concerts, with further continued support for both the Hyde Park Rotary Fair and the Oxford Street Festival.

Particular focus this year has been given to Hyde Park in the area of Parks Development with a variety of work planned for that park such as installation of a concrete services entrances, lighting for the Hyde Street path, water playground refurbishment, the installation of an accessible playground and the construction of boardwalks over tree roots.

The Towns total operating budget amounts to \$23.9 million with a further \$20.2 million of new capital expenditure. An amount of \$12.7 million will be directly from rates and the Town's revenue will be further supplemented by incomes from grants and income from fees and charges. This year this will require a 3.57% increase in the rate in the dollar to provide the necessary rates revenue, this is approximately in line with expected inflation increases.

This year ratepayers will see on their rate notice a new levy the Emergency Services Levy (ESL). This is not a Local Government charge, the Local Government is collecting this levy on behalf of the State Government. This levy has been brought in to make more equitable the funding of the Emergency Services, which was previously done through home insurance.

Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) now provide a rate in the dollar to all the Local Governments and this is charged using the Gross Rental Value (GRV) of your property. For residential properties there is a minimum of \$30 and a maximum \$175, for commercial properties the minimum is \$30 and the maximum is \$100,000.

I mentioned last year and I repeat again this year the Town is beginning a new exciting era. Following the recent Local Government elections the Town has three new Elected Members, and a council committed to work harmoniously for the benefit of the community.

This budget provides a comprehensive programme of capital projects covering every aspect of the Town, whilst at the same time ensuring that the current level of services is maintained and improved.

This year we expanded our community involvement in the budget process with a budget workshop for the community to gain information on the budget process and preparation, and a vehicle to have input into the budget. This was followed by an information briefing for Councillors, in particular the newly elected ones to bring them up to date on planning projects. The Town continued with the practice started last year of having the debate on the draft budget at a Special Council meeting thus allowing the community access to decision making process in the budget. The community then had an opportunity to comment on the draft budget document before it is adopted.

The Town's budget is available for inspection during office hours at the Town's Administration and Civic Centre and Vincent Library. It can also be found on the Town's web site at www.vincent.wa.gov.au

I am always available to discuss any aspects of the Town's policies, programmes and plans.

Moved Cr Lake, **Seconder** _ _ _ _ _

That on page 5.5 of the budget under Commercial Precincts Upgrade, the Business Precincts Upgrade - Mt Hawthorn, be amended to Business Precincts Upgrade.

Chief Executive Officer advised that a recision motion would be required to effect the change, and he would provide details of the previous Council Decision from the relevant Minutes later in the meeting.

Moved Cr Chester, **Seconded** Cr Farrell

That clause (xvi) be amended as follows;

"(xvi) the Hire Fees and Charges as set out in Section 8 (pages 8.1 to 8.17) of the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 30 June, 2004 subject to the fee for determination of a development application applied for in accordance with Clause 34 of the Town of Vincent Town Planning Scheme No.1, page 8.8 being amended to read;

the fee required for a development application be four times (4 x) that for a similar development in the Fees and Charges 2002/2003 at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer."

Debate ensued.

CARRIED (8-0)

(Cr Torre was absent from the Chamber and did not vote.)

Discussion and debate ensued.

The Chief Executive Officer read out to the meeting, the Council Decision for Item 10.2.1 of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 March 2003.

At 5.36pm, Cr Lake withdrew the amendment.

Cr Torre entered the Chamber at 6.00pm.

Debate ensued.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY (9-0)

COUNCIL DECISION ITEM 7.1

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- (ii) the surplus to be transferred to the Capital Reserve to fund future capital works;*
- (iii) a general rate of 8.01 cents to be applied to all rateable property in the Town of Vincent for the year ending 30 June 2004;*
- (iv) a minimum rate of \$451 for the year ending 30 June 2004, 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 15th September 2003;*
 - (b) *second instalment 17th November 2003;*
 - (c) *third instalment 16th January 2004; and*
 - (d) *fourth instalment 16th March 2004.*
- (vi) *a charge of \$4.00 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 \$157,034,934 to be recorded in the Rate Book for use in the 2003/04 financial year;*
- (xi) *Statutory Budget and Schedules Notes as shown in Section 4 (pages 4.1 to 4.31) of the Annual Budget;*
- (xii) *the capital works budget as shown in Section 5 (pages 5.1 to 5.9);*
- (xiii) *the detailed Operating Budgets as shown in Section 6 (pages 6.1 to 6.85) of the Annual Budget;*
- (xiv) *the Reserve Fund Budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2004 as set out on page 4.24 of the Annual Budget;*
- (xv) *the adoption of a rubbish charge of \$206 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 8.17) of the Annual Budget for the financial year ending 30 June, 2004 subject to the fee for determination of a development application applied for in accordance with Clause 34 of the Town of Vincent Town Planning Scheme No.1, page 8.8 being amended to read;*
- the fee required for a development application be four times (4 x) that for a similar development in the Fees and Charges 2002/2003 at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.*

BACKGROUND:

The Town's administration in liaison with Elected Members of Council has been preparing the Budget for 2003/2004.

As part of this process, a community workshop was held to provide information of the budget process and procedures as well as having input into the budget. This event was held on the 23rd April 2003 and was attended by twelve (12) members of the community.

An information session on the Draft Budget was held on the 10th May 2003 for Elected Members.

The Draft Budget was approved for public comment at the Special Council meeting of Council on the 28th May 2003. The Town continued with the format commenced last year of having the debate on the Draft Budget in the Council Chamber with members of the community able to listen to the debate.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

The Draft budget was advertised for public comment. At the close of the advertising period on the 24th June, no submissions were received.

DETAILS:

Budget Overview

The 2003/2004 Budget for the Town of Vincent provides a comprehensive Capital Works Programme, whilst at the same time ensuring that the Town retains and improves its existing services. This budget attempts to do this without unduly increasing the burden on its ratepayers.

This year will see a number of major capital projects that have been planned for a number of years come to fruition.

The Budget outlines the Councils' expenditure programmes for the next twelve months and identifies the revenue sources to fund the programmes.

1. Key Financial Summary

The key financial features of this Budget for 2003/04 are:

- Increase in rate in the dollar of 3.57%
- Increase in budget income yield from previous year 5.37%;
- Rate in the dollar 8.01 cents with a minimum rate of \$451;
- Rate revenue required \$13.12 million;
- Operating revenue from other sources \$9.88 million;
- Depreciation charges \$4,897,723
- New Capital Works Programme \$20,258,096
- A loan of \$4.469 million – funding for the Multi-Purpose Rectangular Sports Stadium at Perth Oval. Repayments funded by annual payments for naming, catering and management rights;
- Loan funding of \$6.5 million to fund construction of an Office Building for the Department of Sports and Recreation at the entrance to Leederville Oval on Vincent Street – repayments funded by lease payments from Department of Sport and Recreation;
- Reserve funding programme - \$3,137,970
- New Operating Costs - \$903,750

2. Capital Works

The significant items in the Capital Works Programme greater than \$100,000 include:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Multi-Purpose Rectangular Sports Stadium at Perth Oval (also carried forward funds) | \$9,098,000 |
| Office Building – Department of Sport & Recreation | \$6,500,000 |
| Brisbane to Newcastle Street upgrade | \$305,000 |
| Fitzgerald Street – Angove to Raglan Road upgrade (stage 1 of 2) | \$190,000 |
| Scarborough Beach Rd – Federation to Killarney Street upgrade | \$175,000 |
| Angove Street – Charles St to Daphe Street – rehabilitation | \$160,000 |
| Walcott Street – Venn St to Hill Street – rehabilitation | \$150,000 |
| Green Street – Dunedin St to Eton Street – rehabilitation | \$120,000 |
| Hyde Park – installation of Accessible Playground | \$120,000 |
| Beatty Park Leisure Centre – pool blankets | \$103,000 |

In addition the Town of Vincent continues to provide its ongoing funding for its established Capital Works Programmes.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Slab Footpath programme | \$350,000 |
| Right of Way Programme | \$300,000 |
| Road Resurfacing Programme | \$260,000 |
| Playground Upgrade Programme | \$118,350 |

Other Major Capital Works will include the commencement of works associated with the implementation of Car Parking Strategy such as:

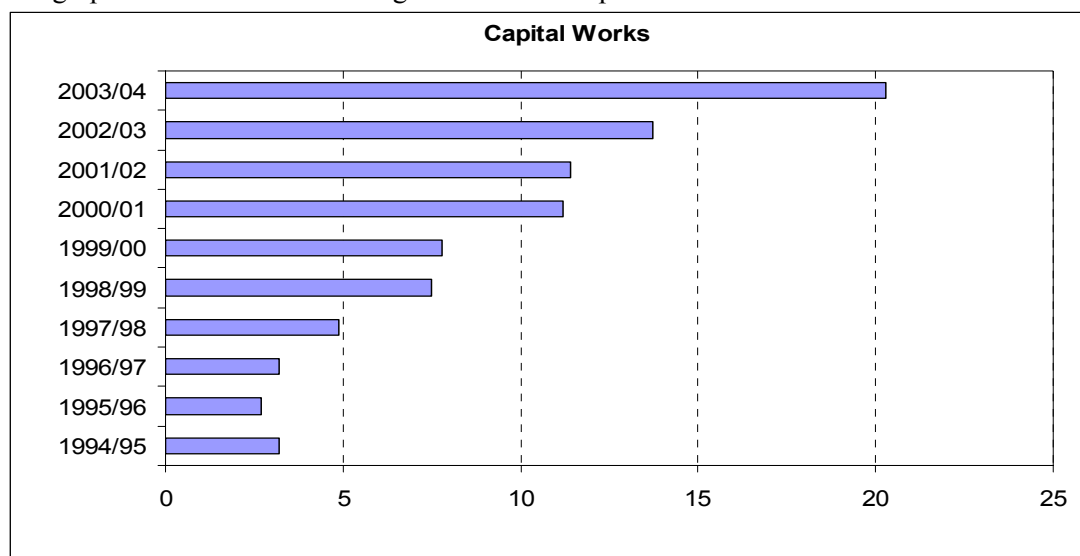
- Ticket machines in Richmond Street and Stuart Street;
- The resurfacing of Oxford Street and Flinders Street car parks;
- The installation of specialised signage associated with parking matters.

Streetscape Improvements

These will include the second stage of the Oxford Street brick paving.

In addition significant work will be undertaken around the Perth Oval including the brick paving to Pier and Brewer Streets and additional funds to complete the forecourt at Perth Oval.

The graph below outlines the budgeted value of Capital Works:



3. Rates

The Budget as presented requires an increase in the yield from rates income of 3.57%.

The Town will adopt a single general rate of 8.01 cents in the dollar for the 2003/04 period. A minimum rate of \$451 will apply for 2003/04.

The rates notes are expected to be distributed by the 11 August 2003.

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 8.01 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:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| First Instalment | 15 September 2003 |
| Second Instalment | 17 November 2003 |
| Third Instalment | 16 January 2004 |
| Fourth Instalment | 16 March 2004 |

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

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Instalment Administration Charge | \$4.00 |
| (to apply to second, third and fourth instalment) | |
| Instalment Interest Rate | 5.5% per annum |
| Late Payment Penalty Interest | 11% per annum. |

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

Rates Incentive Prize

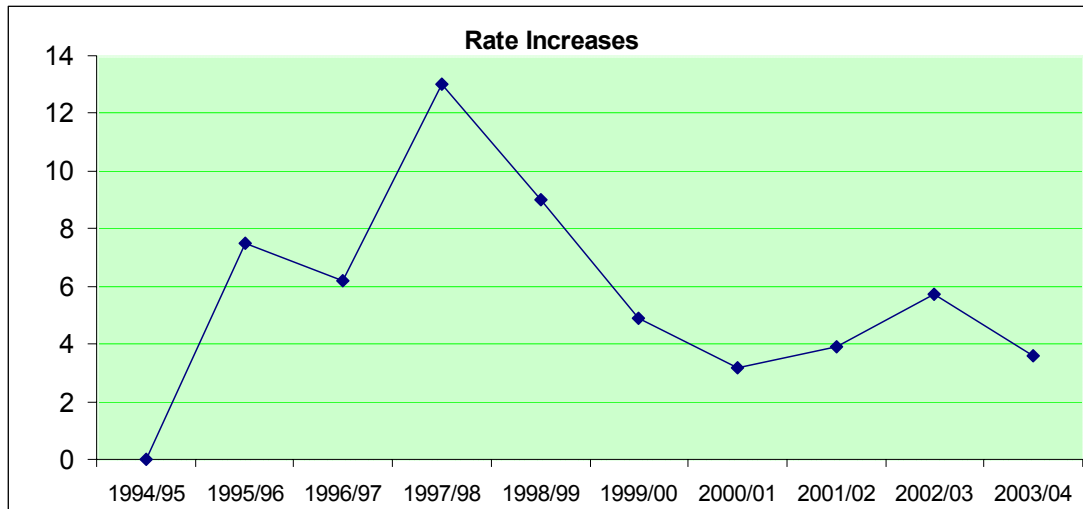
The Town will again provide a service of rates incentive prizes to encourage payment of rates in full in the 35 day period.

- A Commonwealth Bank cash prize to the value of \$1,000.
- Novotel Langley, one night's accommodation for 2 people in a Regular Room plus buffet breakfast for 2 in the Gazebo Restaurant.
- Hotel Northbridge, one night's accommodation for 2 people in a Superior Queen Spa room.
- Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, one night Breakaway Package for 2 people plus breakfast for 2 in the Atrium Garden Restaurant
- Hotel Grand Chancellor, one night's accommodation for 2 people in a Superior room plus buffet breakfast for 2 in the Seasons on Wellington Restaurant.
- Saville Park Suites, Perth, one night's accommodation for 2 people in a One Bedroom Suite plus full buffet breakfast for 2 in Bensons Restaurant.
- InShape Health Club, a one month membership at the Loftus Recreation Centre.
- Beatty Park Leisure Centre, a three month membership.
- Sienna's Pizzeria-Ristorante-Caffe, fifteen \$20.00 vouchers to be redeemed.
- Kailis Bros, Oxford Street, Leederville, one \$50 seafood voucher.

Interest on General Debtors

In 2003/04 the Town of Vincent will impose late payment interest of 11% per annum on overdue accounts.

The graph below shows the percentage rate increases in the Town since its inception.



Emergency Services Levy (ESL)

This levy will appear on the rate notices for the first time this year.

The State Government through the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) is changing the funding of the Emergency Services provided in the State.

The new levy will apply to all properties in the State and will be based on the Gross Rental Value (GRV). A separate rate in the dollar of 0.88 cents per GRV will apply.

All properties in the Town of Vincent fall under ESL category 1. There is a minimum payment of \$30 and a maximum of \$175 for Residential, Farming and Vacant Land and a minimum of \$30 with a maximum of \$100,000 for Commercial, Industrial and Miscellaneous properties.

It is estimated that FESA will invoice the Town of Vincent for 14,129 properties and will raise approximately \$1,397,236 for ESL. The funds collected will be forwarded to FESA for the funding of emergency services across the state.

The Local Government will collect the levy on behalf of the State Government (FESA). An allocation on the budget has therefore been made for the receipt of the levy in the General Purpose Funding Programme and the payment of the levy to FESA under the Law and Order Programme has been included.

The Town will not have to contribute funds to the provision of the Emergency Services that was previously in the region of \$200,000pa.

The Town has to pay the ESL on its own properties but will however receive an administration fee for costs of administering the levy.

Rates Comparison

The following table list similar or nearby municipalities and compares residential rates adopted by the Town of Vincent in 2002/03 with rates adopted by other Councils in that year.

RATES COMPARISON 2002/2003

| Municipality | Residential Rate (Cents) | General Minimum | Residential Rubbish | Total Account on GRV \$9464 | Variation |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Perth</i> | 4.9999 | 330 | 120 | 593 | -18.4% |
| <i>Mosman Park</i> | 6.7670 | 565 | 0 | 640 | -11.9% |
| <i>Claremont</i> | 6.9616 | 636 | 0 | 659 | -9.4% |
| <i>Cambridge</i> | 7.0200 | 514 | 0 | 664 | -8.6% |
| <i>East Fremantle</i> | 7.0668 | 498 | 0 | 669 | -8.0% |
| <i>Fremantle</i> | 7.1199 | 529 | 0 | 674 | -7.3% |
| <i>Melville</i> | 5.5590 | 403 | 163 | 689 | -5.2% |
| <i>Canning</i> | 5.8000 | 375 | 151 | 700 | -3.7% |
| <i>Cockburn</i> | 6.0525 | 425 | 150 | 723 | -0.6% |
| Vincent | 7.6800 | 435 | 0 | 727 | 0.0% |
| <i>Stirling</i> | 6.1870 | 467 | 142 | 728 | 0.1% |
| <i>Joondalup</i> | 6.4600 | 450 | 122 | 733 | 0.9% |
| <i>Victoria Park</i> | 7.8700 | 484 | 0 | 745 | 2.5% |
| <i>Wanneroo</i> | 6.9303 | 448 | 119 | 775 | 6.6% |
| <i>Peppermint Grove</i> | 6.4977 | 600 | 175 | 790 | 8.7% |
| <i>Nedlands</i> | 6.5800 | 734 | 170 | 793 | 9.1% |
| <i>Rockingham</i> | 6.9801 | 455 | 145 | 806 | 10.8% |
| <i>Subiaco</i> | 6.8139 | 395 | 172.5 | 817 | 12.5% |
| <i>Kalamunda</i> | 7.0100 | 404 | 169 | 832 | 14.5% |
| <i>South Perth</i> | 7.2300 | 535 | 150 | 834 | 14.8% |
| <i>Gosnells</i> | 7.5050 | 447 | 129 | 839 | 15.5% |
| <i>Kwinana</i> | 8.3538 | 441 | 114 | 905 | 24.5% |
| <i>Bassendean</i> | 9.8760 | 580 | 0 | 935 | 28.6% |
| <i>Swan</i> | 8.5000 | 465 | 135 | 939 | 29.3% |
| <i>Belmont</i> | 8.2657 | 515 | 165 | 947 | 30.3% |
| <i>Bayswater</i> | 8.3393 | 444 | 169 | 958 | 31.8% |
| <i>Mundaring</i> | 9.2672 | 495 | 146 | 1023 | 40.8% |
| <i>Armadale</i> | 9.5550 | 495 | 140 | 1044 | 43.7% |

4. New Operating Items

In addition to the comprehensive Capital Works, approximately \$900,000 of new operating items have been included in this years budget, details include the following:

\$105,000 has been allocated to fund recommendations from the recently completed Independent Organisational Review.

An allocation of \$10,000 has been set aside for the commencement of an internal audit program for the organisation.

Funds have been allocated for a number of strategically significant Town Planning projects. In particular the second year of the Town Planning Scheme Review, the commencement of the Mt Hawthorn Centre Strategy, year 1 of 5 year implementation for both the Car Parking Strategy and the Oxford Centre Study.

Money has also been set aside for some new Information Technology items, including the implementation of additional modules on the Corporate System and continued development of the GIS System.

The Specified Maintenance Programme has been allocated funds to the value of \$278,450.

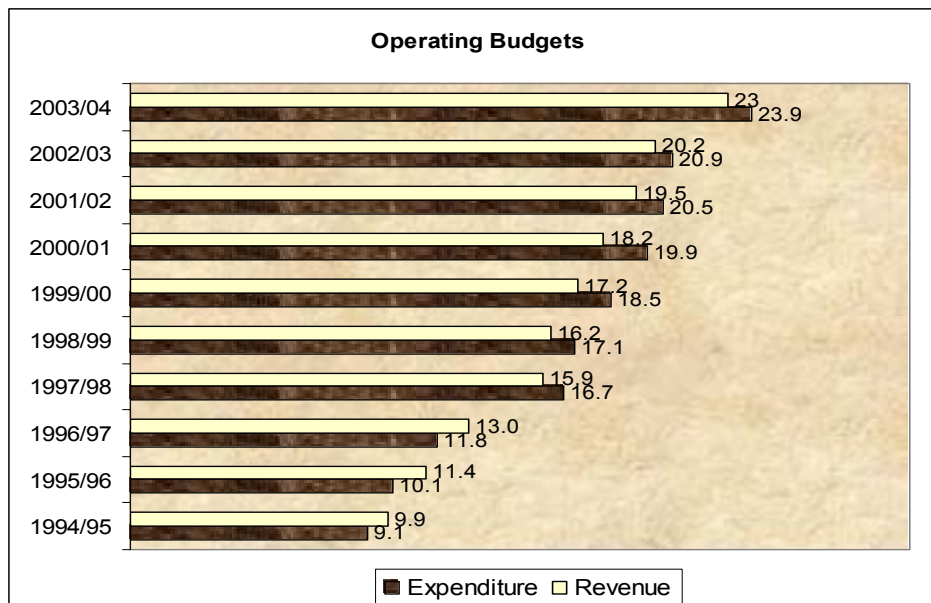
5. Operating Budget

The increase in the level of recurrent operating expenditure and revenue can be explained by the introduction of the new Emergency Services Levy (ESL) which will be introduced on 1 July 2003.

The significant increase in operating costs in the Transport Programme can be attributed to an increase in the depreciation charges, as a result of the changes in the methodology used to calculate the depreciation for roads, which is now based on historical costs.

The format of the detailed operating budgets has been amended with the implementation of the new corporate financial system. Accommodation, Building and Parks costs have been summarised in one amount, with the detailed costings now held in the Job Costing accounts.

The graph below illustrates the history of operating budgets at the Town:



SUMMARY:

The budget provides for a comprehensive Capital Works Programme, whilst maintaining and improving its existing services and programme. The Annual Budget 2003/04 is presented for adoption.

8. CLOSURE

Presiding Member, Mayor Nick Catania JP, declared the Meeting closed at 6.01pm.

Present:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mayor Nick Catania, JP | Presiding Member |
| Cr Simon Chester | North Ward |
| Cr Caroline Cohen | South Ward |
| Cr Helen Doran-Wu | North Ward |
| Cr Steed Farrell | North Ward |
| Cr Basil Franchina | North Ward |
| Cr Ian Ker (Deputy Mayor) | South Ward |
| Cr Sally Lake | South Ward |
| Cr Maddelena Torre | South Ward |
| John Giorgi, JP | Chief Executive Officer |
| Rob Boardman | Executive Manager, Environmental & Development Services |
| Mike Rootsey | Executive Manager, Corporate Services |
| Debbie Winfield | Minutes Secretary |
| Alia Bath | Journalist - Voice News |
| Peta Rule | Journalist - The West Australian |
| Ryan Sturman | Journalist – Guardian Express |

Approximately 32 Members of the Public

These Minutes were confirmed by the Council as a true and accurate record of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 8 July 2003.

Signed:Presiding Member
Mayor Nick Catania, JP

Dated this day of 2003