



Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Consolidated request for information relevant to the Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy

As part of the Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy, the Committee has resolved to request the following information. This request is made pursuant to section 19 of the *Constitution Act 1975*, and Legislative Council Standing Order 23.19. Further all responses will be treated as evidence, which is protected by parliamentary privilege.

Please return responses to epc@parliament.vic.gov.au by Friday 1 July 2016. If you have any questions please contact the Secretariat on 03 8682 2869.

Council Name:	Alpine Shire Council
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1. Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

	What is the percentage pay increase provided for in your EBA for the following periods? If the EBA has not been concluded for these periods please advise.	What is the additional estimated cost of bracket creep annually at your council? Note Bracket creep means movements in payments unrelated to the general EBA indexation but related to reclassifications and annual and other increments relating to changes of bands.
2013/14 financial year	3% or \$30	
2014/15 financial year	3% or \$34	
2015/16 financial year	3% or \$35	
2016/17 financial year	n/a	
2017/18 financial year	n/a	

2. Local government general election costs 2012 and 2016

General council election	Cost	How delivered (i.e., 'postal' or 'attendance elections')
2012	\$93,292	Postal
2016	\$118,810 (exc gst)	Postal

Were there any differences between these two elections which would impact on costs (e.g. number of centres increased or decreased)?

Previously utilised location space within Council Office which significantly reduced the accommodation / rent component and impact from increase of postage charges.



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3. Senior officer salaries

As at 30 June 2015 (for the 2014/15 financial year) and 30 June 2016 (for the 2015/16 financial year), please provide the **number** of senior officers for each pay scale. Please note senior officers should be defined as per the *Local Government Act*, and should include remuneration for each position as reported under the Local Government (Planning & Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Salary Band	Number of staff at 30 June 2015 (2014/15 financial year)		Number of staff at 30 June 2016 (2015/16 financial year)		Salary Band	Number of staff at 30 June 2015 (2014/15 financial year)		Number of staff at 30 June 2016 (2015/16 financial year)		Salary Band	Number of staff at 30 June 2015 (2014/15 financial year)		Number of staff at 30 June 2016 (2015/16 financial year)	
	EBA staff	Managers	EBA staff	Managers		EBA staff	Managers	EBA staff	Managers		EBA staff	Managers	EBA staff	Managers
\$120,000 - \$129,999			1		\$250,000 - \$259,999					\$380,000 - \$389,999				
\$130,000 - \$139,999	2				\$260,000 - \$269,999					\$390,000 - \$399,999				
\$140,000 - \$149,999					\$270,000 - \$279,999					\$400,000 - \$409,999				
\$150,000 - \$159,999					\$280,000 - \$289,999					\$410,000 - \$419,999				
\$160,000 - \$169,999		3		3	\$290,000 - \$299,999					\$420,000 - \$429,999				
\$170,000 - \$179,999					\$300,000 - \$309,999					\$430,000 - \$439,999				
\$180,000 - \$189,999					\$310,000 - \$319,999					\$440,000 - \$449,999				
\$190,000 - \$199,999					\$320,000 - \$329,999					\$450,000 - \$459,999				
\$200,000 - \$209,999					\$330,000 - \$339,999					\$460,000 - \$469,999				
\$210,000 - \$219,999		1		1	\$340,000 - \$349,999					\$470,000 - \$479,999				
\$220,000 - \$229,999					\$350,000 - \$359,999					\$480,000 - \$489,999				
\$230,000 - \$239,999					\$360,000 - \$369,999					\$490,000 - \$499,999				
\$240,000 - \$249,999					\$370,000 - \$379,999					\$500,000 +				



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4. Planning fees

	What was the cost to your council to issue planning permits?	What revenue was received by your council from planning permits?
2012/13 financial year	\$278,093	\$121,069
2013/14 financial year	\$286,804	\$82,962
2014/15 financial year	\$331,728	\$119,138
2015/16 financial year	\$338,739	\$109,031
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	Not known	Not known

5. If your council applied to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) for a rate cap variation:

What was the total cost to council of preparing the application?	Not applicable
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6. Roads and bridges

What is the size of the road network (in kms) that you are responsible for?	791
If there is a backlog in road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal, has your council costed this and if so what is the estimated cost?	Not costed Estimated \$3M behind in bridge maintenance. Estimated \$2M behind in road renewal w/upgrade

	How much road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal funding did your council receive from the state government?	How much road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal funding did your council receive from the federal government?	How much did your council spend in total on road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal?
2012/13 financial year	\$1,454,033	\$1,525,123	\$3,488,136
2013/14 financial year	\$2,199,061	\$1,598,030	\$4,356,323
2014/15 financial year	\$1,909,398	\$1,540,846	\$3,475,141
2015/16 financial year	\$1,175,630	\$1,513,456	\$3,944,595
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	\$1,025,680 (estimated)	\$1,223,022 (estimated)	Not known

Do you have any other comments about funding for infrastructure (such as roads and bridges)?

It is a real challenge to plan the local network for heavier and larger vehicles that require access.



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7. State Emergency Service

	How many State Emergency Service units are based in your municipality?	How many State Emergency Service units do you provide funding to?	How much funding did you provide to the State Emergency Service?	Did you provide any other support/assistance to the State Emergency Service? (such as land, buildings or maintenance)	If you provided other support/assistance to the State Emergency Service, what is the estimated value?
2012/13 financial year	2	2	\$24,460	Currently a thirty year (30) peppercorn lease (\$1 per year) arrangement in place with both Bright SES and Myrtleford SES Units for the use of the land and the building	
2013/14 financial year	2	2	\$25,000		
2014/15 financial year	2	2	\$25,706		
2015/16 financial year	2	2	\$25,706		
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	2	2	\$26,058		

8. Containing costs

Are you able to give some examples of how council has reduced spending and/or contained costs in 2015/16 in preparation for the introduction of rate capping? Was any infrastructure deferred or cancelled, if so please specify.

Organisational restructure, simplification of processes, introduction of technology and automated systems (resulting in a 25% staff reduction, without reducing services).
 Relinquish HACCC Services to the State
 Demand reduction (utilities and materials)
 Review of memberships and subscriptions

Are you able to give some examples of planned measures to reduce spending and/or contain costs in 2016/17 in following the introduction of rate capping? Was any infrastructure deferred or cancelled, if so please specify.

On 28 June Council moved the following motion:

Council is concerned that the significant difference between private enterprise wages and Council wages may mean that our rate payers are not obtaining value in relation to the delivery of some services. As a result Council is concerned that vulnerable members of our community may be burdened with excessive rates and charges. To that end Council directs the CEO to 'in-principle':

1. save \$600,000 on 2016/17 employee costs by 30 June 2019 whilst maintaining service outcomes and negotiate a three year wage freeze to demonstrate staff restraint and acknowledgement of the circumstances; or
2. market test a comprehensive range of functions to achieve a \$2,000,000 saving by outsourcing or restructuring major parts of the organisation.
 - allocate the saving in the Long Term Financial Plan to:
 - ensure Council's future financial sustainability;
 - minimise future rate rises; and
 - build, maintain and enhance community services.

Library Services being brought in house following the dissolution of High Country Library Corporation

Additional Roads to Recovery funding

Further automation of systems and further demand reduction.