



## 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](mailto:epc@parliament.vic.gov.au) by Tuesday 12 July 2016. If you have any questions please contact the Secretariat on 03 8682 2869.

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Council Name:</b> | Benalla Rural City Council |
|----------------------|----------------------------|

#### 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 | 3.8 per cent   | 3 per cent   |
| 2014/15 financial year | 3.8 per cent   | 3 per cent   |
| 2015/16 financial year | 2 per cent   | 3 per cent   |
| 2016/17 financial year | 2 per cent   | 3 per cent   |
| 2017/18 financial year | 2 per cent   | 3 per cent   |

#### 2. Local government general election costs 2012 and 2016

| General council election | Cost                      | How delivered (i.e., 'postal' or 'attendance elections') |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 2012                     | \$83,218 (GST exclusive)  | Postal   |
| 2016                     | \$131,380 (GST exclusive) | Postal   |

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

Estimated election office rental has increased from \$8,600 in 2012 to \$32,600 in 2016.



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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 **total remuneration** for each position.

| 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 |  | 2        |  | 2        | \$250,000 - \$259,999 |  |          |  |          | \$380,000 - \$389,999 |  |          |  |          |
| \$130,000 - \$139,999 |  |          |  |          | \$260,000 - \$269,999 |  |          |  |          | \$390,000 - \$399,999 |  |          |  |          |
| \$140,000 - \$149,999 |  | 1        |  | 1        | \$270,000 - \$279,999 |  |          |  |          | \$400,000 - \$409,999 |  |          |  |          |
| \$150,000 - \$159,999 |  |          |  |          | \$280,000 - \$289,999 |  |          |  |          | \$410,000 - \$419,999 |  |          |  |          |
| \$160,000 - \$169,999 |  | 1        |  | 1        | \$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 |  |          |  |          | \$340,000 - \$349,999 |  |          |  |          | \$470,000 - \$479,999 |  |          |  |          |
| \$220,000 - \$229,999 |  | 1        |  | 1        | \$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                                  | \$363,296  | \$81,127   |
| 2013/14 financial year                                  | \$462,642  | \$120,918  |
| 2014/15 financial year                                  | \$429,488  | \$114,027  |
| 2015/16 financial year                                  | \$395,805  | \$106,675  |
| 2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this) | \$403,721  | \$108,808  |

### 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 |
|--|----------------|

### 6. Roads and bridges

|   |  |
|---|--|
| What is the size of the road network (in kms) that you are responsible for?   | 1,312 kilometres   |
| 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? | Yes. No.<br>Renewal gap (all assets) in 2016/17 is forecast to be \$926,000, |

|   | 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 million   | \$614,000   | \$3.231 million   |
| 2013/14 financial year  | \$1 million   | \$1.376 million   | \$2.124 million (works carried forward to 2014/15)                                      |
| 2014/15 financial year  | \$1 million   | \$826,000   | \$2.311 million   |
| 2015/16 financial year  | \$0   | \$1.958 million   | \$2.223 million   |
| 2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)<br><b>Budgeted.</b> | \$0   | \$2.577 million   | \$3.239 million   |

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

Important to ratepayers. BRCC always rates poorly in regard to roads, particularly unsealed roads, in the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction survey.



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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                                  | 1  | 1   | 12,359   | Land   | \$35,000  |
| 2013/14 financial year                                  | 1  | 1   | 12,853   | Land   | \$35,000  |
| 2014/15 financial year                                  | 1  | 1   | 13,253   | Land   | \$35,000  |
| 2015/16 financial year                                  | 1  | 1   | 13,253   | Land   | \$35,000  |
| 2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this) | 1  | 1   | 13,253   | Land   | \$35,000  |

### 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.

Undertook organisation review to achieve a \$500,000 annual reduction in operating expenditure. Nine positions made redundant. New EA negotiated at 2 per cent annual pay increase.

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.

Organisational review savings to start from 2016/17. Service delivery efficiency improvement will continue to be investigated and implemented where possible. No infrastructure deferred or cancelled.