



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 12 July 2016. If you have any questions please contact the Secretariat on 03 8682 2869.

Council Name:	Brimbank City 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	3.0%	1%
2014/15 financial year	3.5%	1%
2015/16 financial year	3.3%	1%
2016/17 financial year	3.3%	1%
2017/18 financial year	2.4%	1%

2. Local government general election costs 2012 and 2016

General council election	Cost	How delivered (i.e., 'postal' or 'attendance elections')
2012	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A

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

N/A



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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					\$250,000 - \$259,999					\$380,000 - \$389,999		1		
\$130,000 - \$139,999		1		1	\$260,000 - \$269,999					\$390,000 - \$399,999				
\$140,000 - \$149,999		10		5	\$270,000 - \$279,999					\$400,000 - \$409,999				
\$150,000 - \$159,999		5		8	\$280,000 - \$289,999					\$410,000 - \$419,999				
\$160,000 - \$169,999		2		2	\$290,000 - \$299,999					\$420,000 - \$429,999				
\$170,000 - \$179,999				2	\$300,000 - \$309,999					\$430,000 - \$439,999				
\$180,000 - \$189,999		1			\$310,000 - \$319,999					\$440,000 - \$449,999				
\$190,000 - \$199,999				1	\$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		2			\$350,000 - \$359,999				1	\$480,000 - \$489,999				
\$230,000 - \$239,999		1		2	\$360,000 - \$369,999					\$490,000 - \$499,999				
\$240,000 - \$249,999		1		2	\$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	\$2,024,792	\$1,258,000
2013/14 financial year	\$2,119,494	\$1,353,174
2014/15 financial year	\$2,338,862	\$1,266,000
2015/16 financial year	\$2,424,918	\$1,200,000
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	\$2,311,340 (Budget)	\$1,000,000 (Budget)

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?	N/A
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6. Roads and bridges

What is the size of the road network (in kms) that you are responsible for?	894km
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?	\$15.4m under funding over next 3 years

	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	\$1,492,000	\$769,838	\$18,808,000
2013/14 financial year	\$1,587,000	\$769,845	\$15,656,000
2014/15 financial year	\$1,630,000	\$794,974	\$15,396,000
2015/16 financial year	\$1,603,000	\$2,274,742	\$18,055,000
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	\$1,599,705 (Budget)	\$769,838 (Budget)	\$22,152,000

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

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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	\$25,992	Land, Buildings	\$300,000
2013/14 financial year	2	2	\$23,749	Land, Buildings	\$300,000
2014/15 financial year	2	2	\$23,457	Land, Buildings	\$300,000
2015/16 financial year	2	2	\$22,187	Land, Buildings	\$300,000
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	2	2	\$25,500 (budget)	Land, Buildings	\$300,000

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.

It is inevitable that rate capping resulted in expenditure reductions.

Rates capped at 2.5% indicated that \$24 million would need to be saved from the budget over the next four years. This was significant in the context of the Council's 2015/2016 budget of \$178.5 million.

Therefore to manage some of the future impact, for the 2015/16 financial year, Council made a conscious decision to identify additional savings in the budget. These savings amounted to \$1.9 million and include materials, environmental efficiencies and other items.

In addition, Council also identified cost reductions for the proposed 2015 /16 draft budget. These reductions strike a balance between maintaining current levels of service, reducing operational costs, and reviewing the way that some events are provided. For example some extra plants and mulch for garden beds and some additional main road tree planting that had been proposed did not go ahead, and some community events and programs were scaled back. Purchases for general materials have reduced and staffing levels have been maintained with no operational growth. These measures are not without consequence and were very difficult decisions to make.

No Infrastructure projects were cancelled or deferred.

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.

Council will continue to focus on the identification of cost reductions with the aim of minimising impact to services as much as possible. We will also continue to explore new approaches for providing services to our community in a tighter fiscal environment. This will include looking at opportunities for shared services with other municipalities and other agencies.

No Infrastructure projects were cancelled or deferred.