



TRIM (C/15/6048) Council Rate Capping - Submission No 4 from Adrian Jackson

Adrian Jackson to: localgovernment@esc.vic.gov.au

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History: This message has been replied to.

ESC,

Port Phillip City Council is considering its budget on Tuesday 05 May 15 but looking at the budget documents on line there are some anomalies concerning council rate capping.

Earlier this year Port Phillip Council conducted a community survey online and by visiting various outdoor locations within the municipality; like Middle Park foreshore (where I attended), markets and shopping strips to gauge community views.

A mere two (2) page summary of the comments of hundreds of ratepayers and residents appears as an attachment to the council's agenda documents online for the council's budget meeting on 05 May 15. Interestingly the top four (4) MOST IMPORTANT matters to ratepayers were;

1. garbage and recycling as it affects parks, beaches and shopping strips;
2. Beach and street cleaning and safety;
3. Planning and design for the city;
4. A wide variety of amenities.

The three (3) matters at the BOTTOM of the list of what is important to ratepayers were:

1. Festivals and events and their funding;
2. Arts, culture and heritage including funding of artists;
3. Funding of support for local businesses (this is mainly St Kilda focused as usual).

Other issues noted in the council summary were:

1. Fisherman's Bend with reservation about rates being spent there before development has started. Why should current ratepayers pay for something they will never see as this development may take 50 years to complete? (Note the much smaller Southbank took 25 years),
2. Sustainable transport (not a council responsibility and the number of cars per household has not changed in the last three (3) ABS censuses) despite all the "get on your bike" hype and promotion funded by council, and
3. The Palais theatre where more than 50% of those surveyed did not want more rates spent on this state-owned building.

However the draft council budget still talks about council commitment to the art and culture and pork barreling vested interest groups whose leaders are mainly based in St Kilda. which is counter to the views of those surveyed.

These vested interest groups, like CAPP, are mainly interested in helping street prostitution, opposing the F1-Grand Prix, and social housing. Port Phillip has no need of social housing when state public housing is still available and there are not many poor people left in the 2nd most affluent municipality in Victoria anyway.

The FI-GP is a state responsibility supported by the Labor and Liberal parties and most vote for these parties policies.

Street prostitution exploits women (mostly) and should not be supported in anyway.

Council needs to focus on what the majority of the people want rather than what the minority with the loud voices want and stop wasting our rate in staff time (wages) and material things that don't matter.

Regards, Adrian Jackson. 404 Richardson St, Middle Park, Vic 3206. Tele: 9534 7615