

# Minutes

for the Special Meeting of Council held in the Committee Room – 104 Hovell Street, Wodonga on Monday, June 15, 2015

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## Present

Cr R Wangman (Mayor)

Cr M Byatt

Cr L Mahood

Cr A Speedie

Cr J Watson

## In attendance

Mr T Ierino                      Director Business Services

Ms D Mudra                     Director Community Development

Mr L Schultz                    Director Planning and Infrastructure



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PO Box 923, Wodonga, VIC 3689

Phone: (02) 6022 9300 Fax: (02) 6022 9322

info@wodonga.vic.gov.au    wodonga.vic.gov.au

**1. Calling to order**

The meeting was called to order at 9am by the Mayor, Cr Rodney Wangman.

**2. Statement of acknowledgement**

The Mayor read the following:

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.*

**3. Apologies and requests for leave of absence**

Apologies were received from Cr Michael Fraser and Cr Eric Kerr.

**4. Declaration under Acts, Regulations, Codes or Local Laws**

Nil.

**5. Declaration by councillors of any conflict of interest**

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

**6. Officers reports for determination**

6.1 Request to be heard - draft 2015-16 budget

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**7. Confidential business**

Nil.

**8. Close of meeting**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30am.

Minutes confirmed this ..... day of ..... 2015.

.....  
Chairperson

## Request to be heard - draft 2015-16 budget

### Purpose of report

This special council meeting is being held to hear from persons who have requested to be heard in support of a submission under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) on the draft 2015-16 budget. This report explains the process to be followed.

### Background

At its meeting of May 11, 2015 Council resolved to give public notice of the draft budget.

When the period for submissions on the draft budget closed nine submissions had been received. One of the submitters, Deanne Drage, Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare, has asked to be heard in support of the written submission.

Ms Drage has been advised that:

- *All councillors have received a copy of the submission.*
- *You will have up to 15 minutes to speak to the submission. The Chairperson may extend the period if it appears that the time allowed is insufficient where there is complexity in the submission.*
- *The comments, or a summary of them, may be included in a report to a future Council meeting at which a report on the section 223 process will be considered.*
- *Your comments should be in support of the written submission.*
- *Other than to clarify procedural matters through the Chairperson, there will be no opportunity to ask questions of the councillors.*
- *There will be no questions directed at you while you speak to the submission. The Chair or other councillors may ask questions once you have finished speaking to the submission in order to clarify or explore matters raised.*
- *You are requested to observe any directions that the Chairperson may give.*

### Council plan / key strategic activity

Strategic Objective	Strategy
We are innovative, responsive and responsible in the way we conduct business.	Responsible financial management.
We are innovative, responsive and responsible in the way we conduct business.	Practice good governance, act with transparency and integrity in our decision-making.

**Request to be heard - draft 2015-16 budget (cont'd)**
**Council policy / strategy implications**

Council has issued Guidelines on the section 223 process and this special meeting is being conducted in accordance with those Guidelines.

**Risk management implications**

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation action
Section 223 hearing is not held and council is in breach of the Act.	E	4	Significant	Conduct the hearing in accordance with the requirements in the Act.

**Financial implications**

There are no financial implications with holding this hearing, with all costs covered in council's operational budget for 2014-15.

**Environmental implications**

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

**Social/cultural implications**

There are no social / cultural implications associated with this report.

**Legislative implications**

This hearing is part of the legislative process by which council considers submissions received under section 223 of the Act.

**Consultation proposed / undertaken**

This special council meeting is a part of the legislated process involving a public call for submissions, and an opportunity to be heard.

**Options for consideration**

Council is required by legislation to provide for submitters to be heard in support of section 223 submissions. This process complies with the resolution of council of May 11, 2015.

**Request to be heard - draft 2015-16 budget (cont'd)**

**Conclusion**

The request to be heard is a right for any submitter who responds to a section 223 public notice on a proposed action by council. This meeting will provide the opportunity for this to occur.

**Attachments**

A copy of the written submission from Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare is tabled.

**Declaration of conflict of interests**

Under section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Director Business Services - Trevor Ierino

In providing this advice as Director, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Governance Officer - Kevin Scully

In providing this advice as the report author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

**Recommendation**

That the presentation made in support of the section 223 submission from Ms Deanne Drage, Chairperson, Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare be noted, and a summary of the presentation be included in a report on the section 223 process for the draft 2015-2016 budget to the ordinary meeting of Council scheduled for June 22, 2015.

**Request to be heard - draft 2015-16 budget (cont'd)**

*In support of the written submission from Ms Deanne Drage, Chairperson, Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare (AWRFS) the organisation was represented at the meeting by Ms Drage.*

*The following points were made:*

- *AWRFS aims to provide people in need with a shopping trolley worth of food that would mimic a regular weekly shopping trip.*
- *It distributes 1.3million meals per year, but would need to double that amount to meet the need.*
- *Food is collected from 34 suppliers, and there are many other potential suppliers that AWRFS could contact if the resources allowed.*
- *The organisation was started out of work done by Wodonga Council back in2006, through VicHealth funding.*
- *AWRFS is looking at social enterprise opportunities as part of its long term strategic solutions to financial sustainability.*
- *AWRFS recognises that councils are not an ATM, and are not the sole solution, but they are a key part of the solution.*
- *Ms Drage referenced page 11 of the business case provided as part of the section 223 submission, and highlighted the six pillars and the opportunities that exist for council to partner with the organisation.*
- *AWRFS is facing closure in October unless it can gain the support of councils within the region.*

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**Motion**

Crs. Mark Byatt / Anna Speedie

That the recommendation be adopted.

(Carried)