



**21 MAY 2001**

**Meeting No 1331**

**MINUTES** of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Sydney held in the Finance Committee Room at the Sydney Town Hall, commencing at 4.52pm on 21 May 2001 pursuant to Notice 9/1331 dated 17 May 2001.

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**PRESENT**

The Right Hon The Lord Mayor Councillor Frank Sartor  
(Chairman)

Councillors - Dixie Coulton, Kathryn Greiner, Robert Ho, Fabian Marsden and Lucy Turnbull.

At the commencement of business at 4.52pm those present were:-

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Coulton, Greiner, Ho, Marsden and Turnbull.

The General Manager, Director Corporate and Legal Services and Director City Projects were also present.

**Apology**

Councillor Nick Farr-Jones extended his apologies for his inability to attend the Extraordinary Meeting of Council as he was overseas on business.

Moved by Councillor Greiner, seconded by Councillor Turnbull -

That the apology from Councillor Farr-Jones be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

Carried.

**ITEM 1. DRAFT BUDGET 2001/2002 - APPROVAL TO PLACE ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION (S0015503)**

Moved by the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Turnbull -

That arising from consideration of a report by the Finance Manager to the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 21 May 2001, on the Draft Budget for 2001/2002, it be resolved that

(A) Council place on public exhibition the following:

- (i) the draft budget for 2001-02, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (ii) the draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2001-02, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;

both based on the following financial assumptions:

- (a) operating income of \$161.867 million; operating expenditure before depreciation and financing of \$119.030 million and a net surplus of \$23.415 million after depreciation, financing and capital contributions;

- (b) capital works expenditure of \$38.136 million plus carry forward of expenditure from the 2000/01 program, as required;
- (c) plant and assets expenditure of \$3.350 million plus a carry forward of expenditure from the 2000/01 budget, as required;
- (d) provisional minimum rates and rate in the dollar for 2001/02 as follows;

	Residential	Business
Minimum rate	\$319.00	\$406.00
<u>Ad Valorem Cents in Dollar:</u>		
General CBD	0.4067	1.2898
Pymont/Ultimo	0.2340	0.5793
East/Southern	0.2650	1.0350
Rocks	0.2857	0.9178

- (B) the Budget 2001-2002 and Schedule of Fees and Charges be submitted to Council, for adoption, following the period of public exhibition, on 25 June 2001.
- (C)
  - (i) Council, as a matter of policy, resolve that each year rate revenues for each of the eight rating sub-categories (i.e. 4 geographical areas each with residential and commercial categories) should be moved generally in line with aggregate valuation movements for each sub-category relative to other sub-categories, so as to adhere to the overall intent of the rating system as legislated, subject to
    - capping maximum rate raised in any one year;
    - allowing for new rating properties that may come on stream;
    - not allowing significant distortion between total rate revenue collected from residential as opposed to commercial assessments;
    - residual variations to be absorbed in the business general category;
  - (ii) in respect of rating year 2001/02, the Finance Manager be requested to adjust the proposed aggregate rate revenue increases for each of the sub-categories to conform to the above policy to within plus or minus 5% based on valuations and rating for the last two years, for final approval by Council after the exhibition period.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands -

Ayes (5) - the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Coulton, Ho, Marsden and Turnbull

Notes (1) - Councillor Greiner.

Motion carried.

**ITEM 2. DRAFT 2001-2004 CORPORATE PLAN - APPROVAL TO PLACE ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION (S015559)**

Moved by the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Coulton -

That arising from consideration of a report by the Senior Project Manager to the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 21 May 2001 on Draft Corporate Plan 2001-2004 - Approval to Place on Public Exhibition, it be resolved that

- (A) the Draft Corporate Plan 2001/2004, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing 23 May 2001 and a further report be submitted to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period;
- (B) the General Manager be requested to brief Councillors by the end of July on
  - (i) progress on Council's information technology strategy;
  - (ii) an assessment of the City's potential role in pursuing IT-related matters for business and residential communities;
  - (iii) the matters raised by Councillor Greiner in her proposed amendment.

Amendment moved by Councillor Greiner, seconded by Councillor Ho -

That the motion be amended by the deletion of the entire motion and the substitution of the following new motion -

That arising from consideration of a discussion of the report by the Senior Project Manager to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 21 May 2001, it be resolved that Council defer consideration of the Draft Corporate Plan 2001-2004 for approval to place on public exhibition, and -

- (A) The Draft Corporate Plan be reconsidered to include strategies determined by the recently appointed General Manager to review the document in more detail;
- (B) Provision for strategic processes be incorporated in the concept of the Global City, with particular reference to information technology, and -
  - (a) the adequacy of the cabling of residential sectors of the city;
  - (b) Strategies be reviewed to ensure that a corporate partnership with the NSW State Government agencies to ensure facilitation of internet access and education strategies to assist low income members of the City of Sydney LGA who might not otherwise have access to the hardware and education strategies

- (c) a thorough analysis of the information technology strategies to provide Global City best practices from within the City of Sydney Council
- (C) The expenditure of the Capital Works Budget on the MCA be reviewed and discussions entered into with the NSW Government to form a partnership for its future management and potential relocation.

The amendment was lost on the following show of hands -

Ayes (2) - Councillors Greiner and Ho

Notes (4) - the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Coulton, Marsden and Turnbull.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands -

Ayes (4) - the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Coulton, Marsden and Turnbull

Notes (2) - Councillors Greiner and Ho.

Motion carried.

**ITEM 3. REPORT OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EIGHT AREAS IN THE INNER CITY AND EASTERN SUBURBS OF SYDNEY BY COMMISSIONER PROFESSOR KEVIN SPROATS**

**MEMORANDUM BY THE GENERAL MANAGER**

To Council:

**PURPOSE**

1. To report to Council the summary of the finding of the Sproats Report' and to provide advice to the Minister for Local Government as he has requested.

**BACKGROUND**

2. In October 2000, Professor Kevin Sproats was appointed as Commissioner to conduct an Inquiry interalia to:
  - Evaluate the structure of local government in the eight inner city councils.
  - On the efficiency and effectiveness of their services and facilities.
  - To recommend what changes, if any, to enhance capacity of Council's of these areas to meet current or future needs.
  - To take into account any relevant matters in regard to s263(3) of the Local Government Act.

3. The Inquiry concluded on 20 April 2001 following 500 written and 89 oral submissions.
4. All Councillors have a copy of the Report which comments extensively on the issues raised. The City of Sydney made a major submission in December 2000 and 2 oral submissions backed by substantial further written material on 19 February 2001 and 1 March 2001.

### **PROPOSAL**

5. The Inquiry has made 8 recommendations to the Minister who has specifically asked Council to respond in terms of Recommendation 4 made on page 48 of the Report. Viz  
  
“That the Structure of Local Government in this region be recast by creation of four new councils as shown on the following maps and described below.”
6. Recommendation 4 is generally consistent with Option 2 of Council’s submission in that it consolidates a residential curtilage around the current Sydney boundary and also incorporates significant landmarks such as Moore park, Centennial Park and the University of Sydney.

### **OPTIONS**

7. In respect to the specific of the Minister’s question Council has the option of:
  - (a) Advising it agrees and supports the recommendation
  - (b) Advising it disagrees with the recommendation
  - (c) Offering any combination of (a) and (b) with any additional elements.
8. It should be noted that the Minister in his letter asked whether Council ‘accepts’ or ‘rejects’ the recommendation.

### **CRITICAL DATES**

9. The Minister has asked for comments by 4 June.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

10. Depending on the Minister’s final decision on this advice, the implications could be significant but are generally consistent with Council’s previous considered submission.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/FUNDING CERTIFICATES**

11. As outlined in Council's previous discussions and considerations if recommendation 4 was extant.

**ECONOMIC/SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

12. As outlined in Council's previous consideration of the Options proposed in Council's submission.

**CONSULTATION**

13. A response to a widely consulted process.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

14. For the Minister to determine.

**CONCLUSION**

15. Recommendation 4 is close to Council's Option 2. Council in its submission indicated that of the 7 options if presented, Option 2 was one that it strongly recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That arising from consideration of a Memorandum by the General Manager to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 21 May 2001, on Report of the Inquiry into the Structure of Local Government in Eight Areas in the Inner City and Eastern Suburbs of Sydney by Commissioner Professor Kevin Sproats, it be resolved that:

- (A) Council receive and note the Sproats Report.
- (B) Council support in principle Recommendation 4 as presented by Commissioner Sproats as a 'good start' and seek further discussion on the exact determination of boundaries.
- (C) Council seek that the relevant legislative and transition matters be quickly expedited.

(SGD) MURRAY DOUGLAS  
General Manager

Moved by the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Turnbull -

That arising from consideration of a Memorandum by the General Manager to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 21 May 2001, on Report of the Inquiry into the Structure of Local Government in Eight Areas in the Inner City and Eastern Suburbs of Sydney by Commissioner Professor Kevin Sproats, it be resolved that Council -

- (A) commend Commissioner Sproats on his report;
- (B) receive and note Commissioner Sproats' report;
- (C) subject to the inclusion of Paddington within the City of Sydney, support in principle Recommendation 4 as presented by Commissioner Sproats as a 'good start' and seek further discussion on the exact determination of boundaries;
- (D) seek that the relevant legislative and transition matters be quickly expedited.

Amendment moved by Councillor Greiner, seconded by Councillor Ho -

That the motion be amended by the deletion of the entire motion and the substitution of the following new motion -

That arising from consideration of a Memorandum by the General Manager to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 21 May 2001, on Report of the Inquiry into the Structure of Local Government in Eight Areas in the Inner City and Eastern Suburbs of Sydney by Commissioner Professor Kevin Sproats, it be resolved that :

- (A) Council receive and note the Sproats Report;
- (B) Council support in principle Recommendations 1-3 and 6-8, and
- (C) Council seek the cooperation and funding commitment from the NSW Government to:
  - (i) Build and extend on the Sproats Report by adequately funding Professor Sproats and his department at the University of Western Sydney to -
    - (a) undertake a study of the structures and technology required to make local government function efficiently in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and
    - (b) to present four alternate models based on the geographic infrastructure of New South Wales, ie Inner Urban, Metropolitan Urban, Regional and Far Western, for community consultation across New South Wales, and
  - (ii) To hold a plebiscite at the State election March 2003 for each community to determine its own model of local government.



The amendment was lost on the following show of hands -

Ayes (2) - Councillors Greiner and Ho

Notes (4) - the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Coulton, Marsden and Turnbull.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands -

Ayes (4) - the Chairman (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Coulton, Marsden and Turnbull

Notes (2) - Councillors Greiner and Ho.

Motion carried.

At 6.00pm the meeting concluded.

Chairman of a meeting of the Council of the City  
of Sydney held on 4 June 2001 at which  
meeting the signature herein was subscribed.