

292ND Meeting

Redfern Town Hall
Redfern
374018

Thursday, 28 February 2002

An Extraordinary Meeting of South Sydney City Council was held at Redfern Town Hall, 71 Pitt Street, Redfern, at 12.28 pm on Thursday, 28 February 2002.

PRESENT

His Worship, The Mayor, Councillor John Fowler (Chairperson)

Councillors - John Bush, Peter Furness, Christine Harcourt, Jill Lay, Shayne Mallard, Tony Pooley, Gregory Shaw.

Councillor Lennon was not present when the meeting commenced, but arrived at 12.33 p.m.

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The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those present requesting that they remain standing for a minute's silence in memory of Sir Roden Cutler, the former Governor General of New South Wales whose State Funeral was being held today.

At this stage the Mayor foreshadowed that the report by the General Manager to the Boundaries Commission be approved, but first gave each Councillor an opportunity to speak on the proposed boundary changes and Council's submission.

Each Councillor spoke on the proposed boundary changes and Council's submission, and the Mayor, referred to Minute by the General Manager dated 25 February 2002,

At this stage all present viewed a short video, which was part of Council's submission to the Boundaries Commission

MINUTE BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

25 February 2002

BOUNDARIES – PROPOSED CHANGES – COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION TO BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (2025300)

Purpose of Report

To gain Council's endorsement and approval of the Submission to the NSW Boundaries Commission to seek open, transparent and democratic reform to deliver improved local service outcomes for the communities of South Sydney.

Minister's Announcement

On 21 November 2001 the Minister for Local Government announced the proposed boundary changes that would affect South Sydney City Council. The Minister referred the proposal to the Boundaries Commission for review and recommendation. The Boundaries Commission advised Council they had 6 days in which to prepare and submit a response to the proposal.

Council Response

Council reacted quickly forming a project team and commencing legal action to seek an extension of time to consult local communities and have sufficient time in which to prepare an appropriate response. Council was successful in the Land and Environment Court and was awarded sufficient time engage expert opinions, consult with key stakeholder groups and their communities, as well as conducting a campaign to increase awareness of the issues and lobby relevant decision makers.

GENERAL MANAGER

Expert Opinions

Council briefed and engaged several consultants regarded as experts in their professional fields to analyse the impact of the proposed boundary changes. The experts engaged were:

Ernst Young – Financial Management
KPMG – Human Resources
Price Waterhouse Coopers – Information Technology
Marsdens Lawyers – Legal
Jackson Wells Morris – Issue Management/Public Relations
South Sydney City Council Community Services Branch – Social Impact

Their analyses are contained in the submission.

Campaign

Council's project team conducted a number of stakeholder and public meetings to raise community awareness of the impacts of the proposed changes. Stakeholders consulted were sporting clubs/associations, business leaders, Ministers of religion, charity groups, developers, media, arts and community action groups. In addition 3 public meetings were held at Kings Cross, Woolloomooloo and Redfern.

A strong media campaign has also been conducted comprising targeted articles and advertising in local papers and the Inner City News, distribution of a factsheet to all households, inserts with all outgoing mail, postcard to all households addressed back to Minister Woods, website with standard letter to MP's and decision makers, displays at all Council Service Outlets, banners on public buildings, bus stop advertising and Council's on hold phone message

Petition

A petition has been used as a means for the community to express their opposition throughout Council's Service Outlets as well as at community events. The petition to date numbers 6000 signatures with that figure expecting to rise to 8-10,000 over the month of March. The petition will be presented to Parliament.

Submission

The submission has been prepared based on the heads of consideration required to be considered by the Boundaries Commission under section 263 of the Local Government Act 1993. The issues raised by the communities of South Sydney and those contained in the expert consultant's reports have been addressed in this format. The submission contains a substantial number of attachments including letters of support, expert opinions, the 2001 resident poll and a DVD/video presentation.

Budget

Council approved a budget of \$400,000 for the project. Expenditure for the project has reached \$439,000 which is 10% over budget which is within reportable budget variations. A large proportion of the expenditure was incurred in employing additional resources to replace the Media Manager who left mid-project. The expenditure is as follows:

Legal	\$97,000
Media/Public relations	\$117 000
Advertising	\$101 000
Consultants	\$91 000
Sundries	\$33 000
Total	\$439 000

Post Submission

The project team will terminate all consultancies as of 28 February 2002 and finalise all correspondence with stakeholders. There may be a need for additional work arising from either the Boundaries Commission recommendation to the Minister for Local Government or the commencement of the Upper House Inquiry. A further report will be forwarded to Council if resources are required for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:-

- (a) approve the South Sydney City Council Submission to the NSW Boundaries Commission report dated 28 February 2002;
- (b) approve the additional budget expenditure of \$39,000 to be funded from savings in the 2001/2002 Operational Budget (Account 16630 IT Contracts refers);
- (c) thank the project team for their sustained and continued efforts in engaging the stakeholders and communities of South Sydney and implementing a successful campaign to raise awareness of how the Government's decision to change local government boundaries will impact upon local services;
- (d) thank the consultants engaged by Council for the extensive amount of work and analysis undertaken in a compressed timeframe to provide Council with expert opinions on the impact of the proposed local government boundary changes;

- (e) thank community representatives and stakeholders by letter from the Mayor and General Manager for time and support given to Council on this important issue and continue to provide updates on the progress of Government's decision on the proposed local government boundary changes.

Michael Whittaker (SGD)
General Manager

Moved by The Mayor, seconded by Councillor Harcourt:-

That the Minute by the General Manager dated 25 February 2002, be approved and adopted.

Carried unanimously.

The Extraordinary Council Meeting terminated at 1.02 p.m.

Confirmed at a meeting of South Sydney City Council
held on2002

CHAIRPERSON

GENERAL MANAGER

GENERAL MANAGER