

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
Special Meeting
6.30pm start
Monday 14 January 2019
Ros Crichton Pavilion, North Sydney Council

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Co-convenor presiding: IC (CPC Co-Convenor/Lavender Bay)

Precinct Committee Office Bearers Present: (11 CPC Members from 6 Precinct Committees)

BE (Bay), PM (Bay/Co-convenor/Minutes), BC (Bennett), JM (Holtermann), KB (Holtermann), LT (Holtermann), BS (Lavender Bay), IC (Co-convenor/Lavender Bay), JB (Registry), MdS (Registry), LT (Willoughby Bay), RL (Willoughby Bay)

Also present: (27 from general community)

PR, DD, KD, EC, DR, MT, KP, MC, CG, MA, TC, HW, JB, JK, JM, JP, BM, LB, SE, NA, JE, JC, SW, MW, GK, JK.

Apologies: IG (Waverton)

1. Purpose of Meeting

Arising from a unanimous motion resolved at the CPC General Meeting held on 27 November 2018, re proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), item b) that the CPC arrange a “special precinct meeting” for the week of 7 to 11 January 2019, in a venue to be provided by Council, inviting councillors to present the for and against case for the proposed SRV.

Non Attendance by Councillors: None of the North Sydney Councillors, the Mayor nor the General Manger were present, even though they were all invited by the CPC to attend.

At the end of the meeting those present unanimously resolved to express their disappointment that none of the Councillors attended this meeting.

2. Discussion

By way of introduction, IC (CPC Co-convenor/Lavender Bay) advised why the meeting was convened (resolution of CPC) with the intention that the Mayor, Councillors and General Manager and be invited to present their yes/no case and take questions. IC (CPC Co-convenor/Lavender Bay) advised that discussion was held later with both the Mayor and the General Manager who both declined to come, advising that there were various forums for questions to be asked about the proposed rate increase. Cr Ian Mutton also declined. It was noted that four Information Sessions had been held to date and that the closing date for submissions was 16 January 2019, noting also that Council would resolve the matter at their next meeting to be held on Tuesday 29 January 2019.

Subsequently, the attendees at the meeting were invited to ask questions and voice their opinion. Various comments were made:

- A new valuation will happen this year with rates to be based on this
- Unit residents pay the least amount in rates, compared with home owners
- What amount of rates will be collected from all the extra units being built?
- What is the % share of rates collected between commercial and residential
- Rate payers don't have control over valuations
- Concern expressed that services might be degraded
- Some major works assets currently in poor condition
- Not sure whether we are for or against special rate valuations
- Not sure if proposed rate increases are in perpetuity
- Regarding major works, concern expressed over what is needed
- There doesn't seem to be cost benefit studies carried out on some major works
- Concern was expressed at having received Council's Information Sheet "Investing in our Future" during a holiday period and after some forums had taken place
- Could any increase be put off 12 months? Council isn't in debt

Following discussion, IC (CPC Co-convenor/Lavender Bay) advised that we need to focus on the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 29 January 2019. Consequently, it was proposed that a motion adopted at the Willoughby Bay Precinct held on 13 December 2018, concerning the Special Rate Variation (SRV) be adopted.

MOTION:

1. **THAT the CPC is not convinced that Council's funding cannot meet is declared requirements in the medium term without the withdrawal of existing services.**
2. **THAT the CPC does not support the Special Rate Variation (SRV) Scenarios 2 or 3 which will lock in the proposed rate increase in perpetuity.**
3. **THAT the CPC would support a special infrastructure levy to fund a specified list of backlog capital works.**
4. **THAT the CPC would propose the special infrastructure levy be set at 2% above the annual rate peg over a maximum period of 4 years.**

MOVED BY: LT (Willoughby Bay), SECONDED BY: GK (Community Member)

CARRIED*

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
25	6	5

*Note: Voting is representative of the meeting as a whole rather than Precinct Committee Members. Co-convenors not included in vote count.

Meeting concluded at 7.20pm