

**HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

Where People Make the Difference!

SUPPLEMENTARY SPECIAL BUSINESS PAPER

DATE OF MEETING: 10 July 1995

LOCATION: Council Chambers

TIME: 7:30pm

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SPECIAL

Section 5 **Reports for Information**

ITEM: 3 **SPECIAL RATE - BUSH FIRE EQUIPMENT**

FILE NUMBER: GF010/044 PT05/GMA

REPORT:

When considering the Bush Fire Budget in March this year, the Council resolved to seek an additional allocation from the State Government to bring forward the Plant Replacement Program. The Council, to fund its share of the additional cost, proposed to raise a special rate of 1%.

Correspondence was forwarded to the two Ministers involved (Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Local Government) advising of the Council's proposal and seeking from the Minister for Emergency Services an indication that the funds would become available so that a special rate application could be made to the Minister for Local Government. The matter has been followed up and to date there is still no indications (as was the same position last year) that the additional funds would be forthcoming. In fact until most recently, indications were there would be no additional funds. With the recent issue over road worthiness of bush fire vehicles it may be that the State will see the need to provide additional funding. This unfortunately is not likely to occur until at least mid-September.

Should the additional funding be provided by the State Government at that time, the Council could only fund its share by providing for a deficit budget and seeking either a special rate in 1996/97 or providing the funds from some other area. It may not be possible to have a special rate in a year that seeks to fund retrospective works or acquisitions.

The Department of Local Government have indicated they will process an application for a Special Rate quite quickly and, in the absence of a commitment from the State Government, to fund its share of the proposal.

If the Council proceeds then it should be made quite clear that the additional rates are required for bringing forward the Bush Fire Plant Replacement Program as proposed and for no other purpose.

Should it wish to proceed then the additional resolution would be :

Special Rate

That a special rate for the purposes of Bush Fire Plant Replacement Program be introduced (subject to the Minister's approval) amounting to 1% and being 0.0064 cents in the dollar.

The Council would then have to further resolve in this particular regard when the Minister's approval is received.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

FN:OR710&CX.G03

****** END OF ITEM 3 ******

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