



H a w k e s b u r y C i t y C o u n c i l

ordinary
meeting
business
paper
supplementary

date of meeting: 11 August 1998

location: Council Chambers

time: 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING

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ITEM: 23 Possible Impact of Goods & Services Tax on Local Government**FILE NUMBER:** GC070/004 Pt40/GMA/ORH11LAX.G23**REPORT:**

There has been strong media speculation that Local Government rates and charges will be included in the Goods and Services Tax that is being proposed as part of the Federal Coalition's Tax Reform Package.

There appear to be three alternative scenarios which could affect Local Government in the event of a broad based tax on goods and services being introduced.

1. Local Government could be zero rated. This means the tax would be refunded on Council inputs (eg: computers, cars, consulting services, roadworks) and the tax would not be added to rates and charges. This is obviously the preferred position of Local Government
2. Local Government could be exempt. This means the tax would be paid on inputs but no additional tax would be added to rates and charges. Rates and charges would have to increase to take account of the additional costs to Local Government inputs.
3. Local Government could be positively rated. This means the tax would be paid on inputs and would be levied on rates and charges. This is the option which media reports indicate has been adopted by the Coalition and which Local Government would strongly oppose.

The imposition of a goods and services tax on Local Government would certainly impact on Councils and local citizens. Based on the Australian Local Government Associations' calculations, a goods and services tax set at 10% would cost the average ratepayer around \$100 a year. The total additional cost to NSW Local Government would be around \$350 million per year and the impact of a 10% goods and services tax on Local Government would be nearly \$1 billion Australia wide.

Obviously, the whole tax reform package needs to be considered as a whole, however it would appear that the timing of its release and that of a possible Federal Election will have limited consultation period.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council express its concern to the Federal Member for Macquarie on the possible impact of a goods and services tax on Local Government and the citizens it represents and the need in any major tax reform for there to be a proper period of consultation for the community as a whole.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 23 Oooo



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ORDINARY MEETING

Reports of Committees

Hawkesbury Access Forum - 4 August 1998

Meeting opened - 9.45am

1. ATTENDANCE.

Alan Hastie, John Newton, Joanne Griffin, Linda Ferguson, Mike Clear, Trish Richardson, Ken Ferris, Alan Aldrich, Joseph Litwin, Jenni Bousfield.

Apologies - Councillor Les Sheather.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 2nd June, 1998 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting. Moved Mike Clear, Seconded Alana Aldrich.

3. BUSINESS ARISING.

- 3.1 *(Draft) WSROC Manual of Best Practice.* In response to a question from Alan Aldrich, Alan Hastie advised Committee that the draft document would probably not change much as it had incorporated the comments received through submission process. Alan Aldrich noted that it was a good report and had requested that Council should consider implementing the manual as standard Council procedure. Alan Hastie indicated that this would not be possible until such time as the report was finalised.
- 3.2 *Richmond Marketplace.* It was noted that the a number of the perimeter buildings on the Marketplace site were not wheelchair accessible. John Newton reported to the committee that discussions had been held with the Marketplace in relation to this matter and that Council was still awaiting a response. The initial advice from the Marketplace was that issues of accessibility could only be addressed once the buildings were let.
- 3.3 *Library Access.* Following some discussion in relation to this matter, Alan Hastie suggested that John Munns should address the committee to speak directly to the issues raised. John Munns attended the meeting. He advised that the fitting of electric doors to rectify access problems could prove to be prohibitively expensive. The possibility of using doors with graduated closing mechanisms and a temporary buzzer arrangement were considered. John agreed to provide further advice in relation to the instalment of electric doors and agreed to follow up the possibility of using graduated closing mechanisms. It was also recommended that Joseph Litwin should discuss the fitting of a temporary buzzer arrangement with Library staff.

THE COMMITTEE RESOLVED TO REQUEST THAT THE FIXING OF ELECTRIC DOORS TO THE LIBRARY TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, OLDER PEOPLE, CHILDREN AND PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN STROLLERS SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO COUNCIL'S 1999/2000 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AS A HIGH PRIORITY.

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4. CORRESPONDENCE.

John Newton spoke in relation to a (Draft) Australian Building Codes Board document which had been received at Council. The document outlined relevant building standards including disability access standards. Alan Hastie to provide copies to Community Services Branch, Alan Aldrich and Trish Richardson and also advised that the building standards could be accessed on the Standards Australia website.

5. REVIEW OF AIM OF FORUM.

Joseph Litwin spoke to the paper which had been circulated with the agenda. There was considerable discussion in relation to the matters raised in the paper. The strengths and weaknesses of the current structure and operation of the Access Forum Committee were considered. The need to incorporate broad equity considerations and appropriate processes for informing Council policy and procedures was stressed. The Committee resolved to request that Community Services prepare a Paper canvassing possible options for a revised structure, format and Terms of Reference to facilitate further discussion on a revised role for the committee. A draft to be circulated, and comments incorporated prior to the forwarding of a final draft to committee members before the October committee meeting.

6. REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE.

As per agenda item 5 above.

7. REVIEW OF NEED TO INCLUDE EQUITY POLICY WITH ACCESS POLICY

As per agenda item 5 above. The committee agreed that Joseph Litwin should consult with the Ethnic Consultative Forum in relation to the proposal to combine Access and Equity policies and to include their views in the Paper to be prepared by Community Services Branch.

8. REVIEW OF FUTURE DIRECTIONS.

Alan Hastie reported that Councillor Sheather had advised that the Committee should develop a proposal for resourcing the production of a Mobility Map and that a recommendation should be forwarded to Council seeking funding or in kind contributions for the production of a Mobility Map. It was noted that the Access Policy which had been endorsed by Council contained specific provision for the production of a Mobility Map.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT A WORKING PARTY BE ESTABLISHED TO DEVELOP COSTINGS AND A PLAN FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A MOBILITY MAP. THE WORKING PARTY TO INCLUDE JENNIFER BOUSFIELD, ALAN ALDRICH, KEN FERRIS, AND LINDA FERGUSON. MEETING OF WORKING PARTY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST, 10.00AM TO 11.30 AM AT COUNCIL.

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Jennifer Bousfield advised the committee of progress in preparing an Access Register. Letters had been sent to 60+ doctors and pharmacist seeking information on accessibility of their premises. This information being collated by Mabel Pye (Executive Secretary). Alan Aldrich indicated that the information would be checked to ensure its accuracy. Information would then be included in health directory being prepared by Councillor Ravi Sahasrabuddhe and also put onto Council's home page.

Trish Richardson enquired as to whether information on accessibility could be included in Council's WHO WHAT WHERE Service Directory. Joseph Litwin to follow up.

9. REVIEW PRIORITIES FOR FORUM.

This item to be considered following the preparation of Options Paper.

10. REVIEW ACCESS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP -

As per 9 above.

11. REVIEW OF MEETING PROCEDURES.

Joseph Litwin advised that Community Services would assume responsibility for Chair and Minutes. Alan Hastie indicated that his future involvement on the committee would be to provide technical advice as required and to follow up on issues raised by the committee. On behalf of the Committee, Mike Clear extended his appreciation and gratitude to Alan Hastie for his past chairing and minute taking. Alan Hastie accepted these sentiments and advised that he had profited from his involvement on the committee.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 12.1 Ken Ferris raised the matter of renovations to Windsor Court House and reported that he had approached the Attorney General's Department in relation to this matter but with little success. Alan Hastie advised that he had written to the Department some two years ago regarding the Court House but had not received a reply. He undertook to prepare further correspondence in relation to the provision of measures to improve access for people with disabilities.
- 12.2 Alan Aldrich noted that a ramp had been installed at Howe Park but requested that signs be erected in front of ramp to restrict motor vehicles from parking and restricting access. Alan Hastie to follow up.
- 12.3 Alan Aldrich indicated that he had held discussion with Commonwealth Bank in relation to provision of disabled parking spaces but without success. It was suggested that additional spaces be allocated in the public car-park behind the bank. Alan Hastie to follow up.

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- 12.4 Alan Aldrich enquired as to whether it would be possible to incorporate the installation of lipless gutter ramps as a condition for development consent. The need to provide colour differentiation on such ramps was also raised. Alan Hastie provided advice as to the process regulating the building of roads and associated infrastructure and agreed that he would follow up this matter and provide advice to the committee.

13. NEXT MEETING

October 13th, 9.30am to 12 noon Council Committee Room.

Meeting closed 12.20 pm.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo



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