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Surf Coast Shire Council Special Council Meeting

Tuesday, 30 May 2023 at 6pm

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MAYOR PATTISON: Alrighty. Good evening. I'd like to welcome everyone watching this Special Council Meeting. My name is Councillor Liz Pattison and I'm the Mayor of the Surf Coast Shire. The Surf Coast Shire local government area spans the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people, the Gulidjan and Gadubanud peoples of the Maar Nation. The main Council office is in Torquay on Wadawurrung Country. The Wadawurrung people have nurtured and protected these lands and waterways for thousands of generations. I'm so grateful that we can be here today living and working in such a beautiful part of the world. The Surf Coast Shire Council is committed to walking with traditional owners of these lands on a journey of genuine reconciliation.

Tonight we will be hearing for those who wish to speak to their written submissions regarding the Draft Budget '23-'24. To facilitate public access, this meeting is being livestreamed and the recording will be available on Council's website. If a submitter does not wish to be video-recorded, it's their responsibility to turn off their video function and use only the audio. Live captioning will accompany the livestream.

Councillors are bound by the behaviour and obligations under our Code of Conduct. Please direct any questions or comments through me as the Chair and I will endeavour to ensure that everybody has an opportunity to speak whilst also making sure we stick to time.

The following procedures will apply during the meeting. Speakers will be given five minutes to present their submission. When the timer on the screen reaches 5 minutes, please stop your presentation. The timer will turn orange when you have 1 minute left as a bit of a warning and then red when there's 10 seconds remaining. Councillors will then be invited to ask questions directly related to the submission if needed.

This Special Council Meeting is not a workshop and it should not be necessary for Officers to be asked to make comment on the submissions. However, if there are any questions of Officers, they should be directed through me as the Chair. Councillors will not be making any decisions in relation to what we're hearing tonight and decision making will occur at a future Council meeting once all relevant information has been received and reviewed.

I will now recite the pledge. As Councillors, we carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment.

Are there any apologies for this meeting tonight? No-one has been notified of apologies?
No.

And just in the context of conflicts of interest, if a Councillor or Officer has a conflict of interest, they need to declare it now and then again when the matter is discussed. Does

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anybody have a conflict of interest? No?

Now we'll get on to hearing from our submitter. There were 14 submissions received for our Draft Budget Report and only one submitter has asked to speak, and that's Annette Dwyer. Annette, would you be able to come into the meeting and put on your video and unmute yourself, please. Can we have Annette Dwyer come into the meeting, please? Hi, Annette. If you wanted to turn your video on and unmute yourself, that would be great. Great. We can hear you now. Thanks, Annette.

MS DWYER: I'd just like to thank the Mayor and the other Councillors for the opportunity to make suggestions as a resident of Surf Coast Shire in terms of the 2023/2024 budget. I've been a full-time resident of Anglesea, Surf Coast, for the last 16 years.

My submission comes in under area 6, which is Council Plan: Arts and Creativity. Eleven years ago, the Anglesea Community House Committee of Management wanted to showcase what was unique to Anglesea via an artform that could be produced by residents for visitors that travel through our town via the Great Ocean Road. Six mosaic artforms were designed and templated by a professional mosaic artist. The tiling was completed by residents from school age to seniors. The project took 18 months to complete. Funding was primarily from grants both within the Shire and statewide. Once the sculptures were completed, the brochure produced to allocate and to explain their importance, they were handed over to the Surf Coast Shire. Since then, the artworks have needed minor repairs and this has been financed by the groups responsible for the initial work: the Anglesea Men's Shed and one by the Arts Department of the Surf Coast Shire. Now the Clydesdale horse and wagon are in need of repair from constantly being ridden.

On discussion, I have become aware that there is no official register of artworks in and belonging to the Surf Coast Shire. This shocked me, as there are amazingly talented people in all forms of art in our Shire that should be recognised. Therefore, I am requesting two ideas for consideration into the 2023/2024 budget. One: that a register of all artwork belonging to the Shire be recorded and updated annually; two, that an amount of money be set aside annually to maintain these artworks. Any unused funds would roll over to the following year's budget.

The Anglesea Community House believes that this initiative, where the community work together, is worth preserving and support this proposal. Thank you.

MAYOR PATTISON: Thank you very much, Annette, for presenting to us. Do any Councillors have an question for Annette? Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: Thanks, Annette. That was a good video of your hat, your nice beanie!

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MS DWYER: Oh!

CR HODGE: You've moved the camera now. Thank you. The other Councillors might know that Annette and her husband were Shire People of the Year. So long ago now, Annette. That was a fair --

MS DWYER: Yes, I think it was about 10 years ago.

CR HODGE: Thank you for that. I think we will take it back to our art expert but it is a good idea because I know most of us agree with you that our art is really, really important. So thank you for giving your time and effort for telling us and writing in a submission. Thanks.

MAYOR PATTISON: Thank you. And Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. Thanks, Annette, for your submission. I'd just like to ask if you've discussed that with others and, if so, who around the Shire, both in the Anglesea ward and in other wards?

MS DWYER: Yes, I've spoken with - oh, what's her name? She's in charge of that - she took over from Julie Dwyer. It's really awful I can't think of her name. Harriett?

CR BODSWORTH: Harriett, yes. Discussed it with Harriett?

MS DWYER: Yes, discussed it with her because I thought that was the area that she would be - she's involved with. And I think she was quite convinced that certainly there should be a register of all the artwork because it's amazing when you just look up and see it in the Anglesea shopping centre area, all that beautiful steelwork, which is just amazing, and I think we just don't want them to be not in good shape, and I just think this is one way we can just step ahead. Maybe in the first case only a small amount of money might be needed, say, for ongoing maintenance because we're not sure what that will be, but we can always see at the end of each year how much is needed. It may only be a small amount but if we get on to it early - because particularly in the example of the Clydesdale horse, I don't believe they could ever be replaced because the cost would be enormous. So if we can keep things looking great and minimum repair, that's the way to go.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Annette. Good on you.

MAYOR PATTISON: Councillor Stapleton, did you have a question?

CR STAPLETON: Thanks, Mayor, and thanks, Annette, for your submission and suggestion. I think it's been received very positively, albeit obviously we need to have

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our budget discussions. But my understanding is that the Draft Creative Places Strategy - which I'm not sure if you've had an opportunity to respond to that, but feedback has now closed on that - but I think there is an allocation or a suggestion in there for an audit of all public art. So hopefully that part of your suggestion will be realised through the audit through the Creative Places Strategy that will identify what we have in the Shire, which I agree with you is really important. So thank you for that.

MS DWYER: Thank you.

MAYOR PATTISON: That's great. Well, thank you, Annette. And you're the only submitter that wanted to speak at our hearing tonight, so we'll now move on to finalising the Hearing of Submissions. Do I have a Councillor to move a motion in relation to noting these submissions? Councillor Hodge, is it as per the recommendation? And Councillor Stapleton, do you second that? Thank you. We'll now put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you very much and that is the end of our very short Hearing of Submissions on the '23/'24 Draft Budget.

So there's no further business and I now declare the meeting closed at 6.13pm. Thank you very much. And, Councillors, if you wish, there's the budget debrief on a different Zoom link which will happen after this, so if Councillors can hop across to that, that would be wonderful. And thank you, Annette and anyone else that's listening, for tuning in tonight. See you.