

## STAFF REPORT

**To:** Corporate Services Committee

**From:** Cr Tim King (Chair)

**Reference:**

**Date:** 14 March 2005

**Subject:** **Chair's Report – March 2005**

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Having attended both the Engineering and Environment and Planning budget meetings, it is clear that balancing the effect of new legal requirements and community expectations of service improvements with an acceptable level of rates and charges increases is going to be harder than usual. I am sure those new Councillors have found how difficult it is to choose between worthwhile projects and programmes when looking to reduce budgets.

Where Council is suggesting increases in recoveries for services it is extremely important that the level of service provided is maintained or improved.

On a wider note it is sometimes hard to believe that with all the cost increases one sees, both in Council and in day to day costs, that the level of inflation is below the magic 3%??

On a less vital note - Council lunches. I would like to see a trial period where Councilors organise their own lunches and claim the equivalent of the current cost. The current system is not only wasteful, but requires staff time to both arrange and clean up. There are heaps of choices in town and I don't believe there will be any issues with people wobbling in late and going to sleep because of too much to eat or drink. If it doesn't work, it can always be changed back.

Tim King  
Chair