

STAFF REPORT

TO: Members, Corporate Services Committee
FROM: Tim King
DATE: 9 August 2007
SUBJECT: **Chairperson's Report – August 2007**

Loan Approval Process

Murray has proposed a streamlined loan approval process for those projects included in the annual plan budget. Having discussed this at length I believe that with the up to budgeted level limitation that it makes sense to provide this ability for the Corporate Services Manager to more efficiently manage the process of uplifting loans as they are required.

Staff Appointments

I would like to welcome on behalf of the Committee two new staff members to the Corporate Services team Accounting Manager Russell Holden and Accounting Officer Maria Gregory

Rates Rebates

This scheme has been of significant benefit to a large number of ratepayers and I would like to thank the staff involved in administering it for their time and effort in what was quite a major project. Unlike some Councils, this was all done with existing staff which impacted on other work priorities and meant that the process took a little longer. However it meant the cost of administering the process was less for the ratepayers to pick up.

Standing Orders

For those who return in the next term of Council I believe it would be of benefit for the adoption of standing orders to be a more in-depth process rather than a simple resolution with little accompanying discussion. We have been fortunate, in my view, because of the attitude of councillors over the last nine years to run a relatively informal meeting process, but every so often an issue pops up that needs a more formal approach and in that environment it is important that people understand and can apply standing orders both from the chair and from around

the table. In the end it can lead to better outcomes where the situation gets a bit messy or confused.

Disaster Funds

After the discussion at Engineering Services re access to the disaster funds, I think Council needs to review the role and even existence of these funds, as it seems it may be more of a “feel good” item than the best way to protect the ratepayers from the effects of a disaster. For example, the cost of repairs has escalated massively over the last ten years and the funds would repair a lot less than they did when they were formed. When you look at the cost of the recent events around the country it may be a good time to re-look at the whole issue.

Tim King
Chairperson