



Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into Local Government funding and services

Hearing Date: 8 October 2024

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: M9

Received Date: 29 October 2024

1. **Bev McARTHUR, Page 55**

Question asked:

Bev McARTHUR: Thank you very much. Just a couple of things you might want to take on notice. Can you provide us with examples of rate reductions across your M9 councils?

Celia HADDOCK: I am very happy to do that.

Response: The Valuer-General conducts annual valuations of all properties, which the Council uses to disperse and calculate the rates based on each property's market value (Capital Improved Vale).

For the 2024/25 financial year, across Maribyrnong City Council 16,175 (35%) properties experienced a reduction in rates compared to the previous year. The remaining properties have seen an increase due to the valuation movement's. The Victorian Government's rate cap for 2024/25 is 2.75%.

2. **Bev McARTHUR, Page 55**

Question asked:

Bev McARTHUR: Good. Thank you very much. And could you – you may want to take this on notice too – give us the average salaries of the CEOs of the M9 councils, citing the highest and the lowest?

Celia HADDOCK: Sure. That is all public information. It is all published, so I can provide that for you.

Response: CEO salaries are publicly available via Council annual reports – noting as per requirements the remuneration calculation also includes annual leave and long service leave movements. A copy of each Councils latest Annual Report can be found here:

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|----------------------------|--|
| ▪ City of Darebin | Annual Report City of Darebin |
| ▪ Hobsons Bay City Council | Annual Report Hobsons Bay |
| ▪ Maribyrnong City Council | Annual Report Maribyrnong |
| ▪ City of Melbourne | Annual Report City of Melbourne |
| ▪ Merri-bek City Council | Annual Report Merri-bek |
| ▪ City of Moonee Valley | Annual Report Moonee Valley City Council |
| ▪ City of Port Phillip | Annual Report - City of Port Phillip |
| ▪ City of Stonnington | Annual Report Stonnington |

3. **Bev McARTHUR, Pages 55 & 56**

Question asked:

Bev McARTHUR: Okay. Over your nine councils, how many have declared a climate emergency?

Celia HADDOCK: Some have acknowledged a climate emergency – my council has acknowledged a climate emergency – and some have declared a climate emergency. I believe Darebin and Yarra have declared a climate emergency. I would need to come back to you on the acknowledgement versus the declaration.

Bev McARTHUR: Great. That is fine.

Response: 8 of the M9 councils have declared a climate emergency, 1 council has acknowledged a climate emergency.

4. **Bev McARTHUR, Page 56**

Question asked:

Bev McARTHUR: You might also, while you are doing that, check on how many have done away with Australia Day, while you are on reporting back. That would be good.

Celia HADDOCK: Would you like to know what we do on that day rather than – I mean, you cannot get rid of Australia Day.

Bev McARTHUR: Yes. Well, do you celebrate Australia Day? Do you still provide citizenship ceremonies? Do we, you know, practise Australia Day in your M9 councils?

Celia HADDOCK: I will come back to you on that.

Response: 5 of the M9 councils host citizenship ceremonies on 26 January. All 9 councils are committed to meaningfully engaging with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities within our region.

5. **Bev McARTHUR, Page 56**

Question asked:

Bev McARTHUR: Great. I know also that in the Melbourne City Council, in terms of spending money, they established heat monitors. Is that something that is a good use of ratepayers money?

Celia HADDOCK: I think it is very useful.

Bev McARTHUR: Do you have them in Maribyrnong?

Celia HADDOCK: No. We do not. I do not have the funds for them. But what we do do – we actually lose more people to heat than to the cold, so we open up our libraries, and we have a vulnerable list and we keep an eye on people that

we know have no cooling. But managing heat as an emergency management requirement, with the changes to the temperature and climate change, is something we all need to be aware of.

Bev McARTHUR: Could you come back to us with how that has played out with Melbourne City Council?

Celia HADDOCK: I can certainly ask Melbourne City Council.

Response: The City of Melbourne has appointed Chief Heat Officers funded through the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center City Champions for Heat Action Initiative, at no additional cost to the City. This role was intentionally incorporated into an existing senior position at the City of Melbourne, specifically the role of Directors Climate Change and City Resilience (currently job shared hence two CHOs). This elevates heat as a critical issue for Melbourne.

Extreme heat is Australia's deadliest natural hazard, causing more fatalities than all other natural disasters combined. Urban areas, due to the heat island effect, can be 3 to 8 degrees Celsius warmer than rural areas, placing city residents at higher risk during heat events.