

Newsletter 13 April 2019 – Stop the Press



OF PORT PHILLIP

Empowering ratepayers with a voice

RoPP Members Urgent action required

Port Phillip Council is seeking submissions from Ratepayers on the Draft Council Plan and Budget for 2019/20. <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/april-2019-meetingagendas.htm>

The Council is not seeking submissions because they are looking for your engagement, they are required to do this by Law.

RoPP Inc. MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ AND SUBMIT with a view to holding Port Phillip Council to account over gouging Ratepayers. This Council is influenced by a number of community groups that have no regard for Ratepayers. It is time RoPP Inc. is heard loudly and clearly.

This is a Council with minimum creativity that relies on a guaranteed source of revenue ie **RATE TAX**

Submissions to the Council in writing are must be lodged by close of business MAY 21st. Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

- Online at <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/>
- Email helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.au
- Mail addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Port Phillip City Council, Private Bag No. 3 St Kilda VIC 3182

We draw your attention to the detail in the Budget and ask you to look at the Link below. <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/14.1%20Council%20Plan%20and%20Budget.pdf>

Total Rates:	\$129,269,000
Other Revenue:	\$96,739,000
Total Income	\$226,008,000

Tax Rates in 2019/20 Financial Year will **increase \$4,074,000**

Current population of Port Phillip was approx. 110,000 in 2017 and is set to grow to 136,000 in 2027 as a result of planned high-rise developments in Fisherman's Bend and some other urban pocks eg Montague and St Kilda Rd Precinct. The draft Budget does allow NOT allow for \$ income for new dwellings containing NEW RATEPAYERS.

CoPP have not even tried to achieve their part of the deal to maintain costs by seeking alternative sources of non-rates Revenue. For example, renting Assets are market prices.

Total Expenses: \$224,466,000 for 2018-19
Employee Costs \$95,866,000 up \$2,532,000 from 2018/19

Of the TAX RATE increase 62% will go to pay Salaries

TOTAL EMPLOYEE: Cost \$95,866,00
TOTAL EMPLOYEES: 879
Average Cost/employee: \$109,000

We refer your attention to the detail in the Budget Documents to

\$23 million for Customer Experience Program (provide better and more Customer Service delivering more efficient enterprise)

\$43 million to implement Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy

\$34 million to implement Transport Strategy (Move Connect Live**)**

\$21 million, Don't Waste it Strategy (2019-2022) includes \$17.5 million for a Sustainability Hub

\$14 million, Creative and Prosperous City Strategy (Art and Soul)

URGENT... attention to detail, Council runs away from its role in Local Government to focus on Issues outside its capability.

What else can you do to help?

We encourage you to help motivate Councillors to reduce spending by writing emails/ letters to their ward's councillors or showing up to council meetings and speaking on wasteful spending in this draft budget. Please let us know if you have made a submission on the draft budget and contact us at mail@ropp.org.au if you are available to speak at Council meetings. Stay tuned for an upcoming RoPP community meeting.

