

# Rate Freeze

**ITEM 15.3** 28/05/2019  
**Council**

**Council Member**  
Councillor Khera

2019/00224  
Public

**Receiving Officer:**  
Mark Goldstone, Chief Executive  
Officer

## MOTION ON NOTICE:

**Councillor Khera will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:**

'That Council:

1. Provide a commitment to our ratepayers, by reaffirming Council's commitment to freezing the rate in the dollar within this current budget and by extending this commitment to freeze the rate in the dollar, or lower the rate, for the rest of this Council term,
2. On the basis only that projected rates revenue for any subsequent year does not fall below the budgeted rates revenue of 2019/2020 as a base year.'

## ADMINISTRATION COMMENT:

1. Rate Freeze
  - 1.1. The motion, if adopted, provides notice of Council's intention to consider a further freeze in the rate in the dollar to be included as an option in the financial planning and budget process for 2019-20 and the intention to consider this in future budgets.
  - 1.2. It should be noted that consistent with *Section 153 (5) of the Local Government Act 1999*, Council is not permitted to formally declare a general rate until after it has adopted its annual business plan and budget (Integrated Business Plan) for the relevant year.
  - 1.3. However, Council is permitted to provide the administration with notice of its policy position and intent in advance of adopting the Integrated Business Plan.
  - 1.4. The draft 2019-20 Integrated Business Plan was based on the rate in the dollar being frozen for a fifth consecutive year.
2. Projected Rates Revenue
  - 2.1. The Integrated Business Plan process for 2020-21 will include a range of inputs (including outcomes from Community Engagement) and provide Council with the opportunity to review its forecast rates income and policy position prior to adopting the 2020-21 Integrated Business Plan.
  - 2.2. If projected rates revenue is forecast to be less than 2019-20 (base) then Council will have the opportunity to consider an amended rate in the dollar.

- END OF REPORT -