



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN NAMBUR WARIGA MEETING ROOM
CORPORATE HEAD QUARTERS, MORWELL
AT 5.30PM ON
11 JUNE 2013

SM411

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cr Sharon Gibson, Deputy Mayor West Ward
Cr Peter Gibbons West Ward
Cr Dale Harriman East Ward
Cr Graeme Middlemiss Central Ward
Cr Kellie O'Callaghan East Ward
Cr Michael Rossiter East Ward
Cr Christine Sindt Central Ward
Cr Darrell White South Ward

Officers: Paul Buckley Chief Executive Officer
Michael Edgar General Manager Community Liveability
Carol Jeffs General Manager Governance
Allison Jones General Manager Economic Sustainability
Zemeel Saba General Manager Organisational Excellence
Grantley Switzer General Manager Recreation, Culture & Community
Infrastructure
Jacinta Saxton Manager Council Operations & Legal Counsel

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1. OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer Was Read By The Deputy Mayor.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

The Recognition Of Traditional Landholders Was Read By The Deputy Mayor

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Kam

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NIL

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cr White advised the Council of an interest in item 6.1 Fees & Charges due to one of the submitters being a relative

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

GOVERNANCE

5. GOVERNANCE

6.1 2013/2014 FEES AND CHARGES - SUBMISSIONS

General Manager

Governance

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to have Council consider submissions received in relation to the draft 2013/2014 Fees and Charges schedule.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No officer declared an interest under the Local Government Act 1989 in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2012-2016.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives - Governance

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a reputation for conscientious leadership and governance, strengthened by an informed and engaged community, committed to enriching local decision making.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2012 - 2016

Shaping Our Future

Attract, retain, support

Enhancing opportunity, learning and lifestyles

Strategic Direction – Governance

Provide timely, effective and accessible information about Latrobe City Council's activities.

Ensure that Latrobe City Council continues to meet the highest standards of financial probity and is financially sustainable.

Service Provision – Financial Services

Administer financial management, advice and services of Latrobe City Council

Major Initiatives - Governance

Facilitate the development of the Annual Budget and present to Council for consideration.

Legislation –

Local Government Act 1989

BACKGROUND

Annually, as part of the budget process, Council reviews user fees and charges. In order to incorporate any proposed changes to the current fees into the 2013/2014 budget from 1 July 2013, Council will need to adopt the fees and charges prior to the budget.

The draft Fees and Charges were presented to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 6 May 2013 and Council resolved as follows:

That

1. *Council gives public notice of its intention to consider the draft Fees and Charges 2013/2014 and invites submissions in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and Strategy; and*
2. *Council considers submissions in relation to Council's draft Fees and Charges 2013/2014 at a Special Council Meeting to be held on 11 June 2013; and*
3. *Council consider final adoption of the Fees and Charges 2013/2014 at the Ordinary Council Meeting in June.*

Public notices were placed in the Latrobe Valley Express on 9 May 2012 and 16 May 2013. Submissions closed on 5 June 2013.

At the close of the consultation period 4 submissions had been received.

ISSUES

A significant number of Council's fees and charges require notice to be given to users. By adopting the fees and charges it will allow sufficient notice to be given for any changes to fees and charges for implementation from 1 July 2013.

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At the close of the consultation period 4 submissions had been received.
A brief summary of these submissions is shown below:

Name of submitter	Brief summary of submission	Officer Comment
Mr Terry Lawrence Secretary Latrobe Valley Badminton Assoc Inc.	The Latrobe Valley Badminton Assoc are concerned over the changes to court hire costs at the Traralgon Stadium. The changes will result in a doubling of the costs for their members to practice.	Page 34 of the Draft Fees and Charges document proposes a change to the fees for Indoor Sports Stadiums in relation to court hire for training. Fees were previously charged on a "per session" basis, the proposed change is to charge on the basis of "per hour session."
Mr Jeff White	Seeking a review of the changes to the court hire costs associated with Indoor Stadiums.	
Ms Yvette Bentley Secretary Latrobe Valley Badminton Association - Veterans	Seeking a review of the changes to the court hire costs associated with Indoor Stadiums.	
Mr Colin Crane Coach Traralgon Colts Junior Badminton Club	Seeking a review of the changes to the court hire costs associated with Indoor Stadiums.	

During the public consultation period The Department of Justice advised that the 2013/2014 fee and penalty unit values were gazetted on the 18 April 2013 and that the revised penalty and fee unit amounts effective from 1 July 2013 are

Penalty Unit: \$144.36 (previously \$140.84 which equates to a 2.5% increase)

Fee Unit: \$ 12.84 (previously \$12.53 which equates to a 2.5% increase)

An error was also discovered in relation to the current 2012/13 Pre-school 4 yr old program, where the fee was listed as \$175 per term when in fact the fee is \$180 per term.

The Fees and Charges document has been updated to incorporate these changes.

FINANCIAL, RISK AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management Plan 2011-2014.

The proposed fees and charges form the basis of a significant component of Council's revenue budget.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Engagement Method Used:

The proposed fees and charges for 2013/2014 were placed on Council's website, displayed at Council's Service centres, public notices provided in the Latrobe Valley Express and Council officers have consulted with service users in relation to the proposed fees and charges.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

At the conclusion of the public consultation period, 4 submissions had been received.

OPTIONS

After taking the content of the submissions into account, Council has the option to:

1. Note the submissions that have been received in relation to the 2013/2014 Fees and Charges.

CONCLUSION

This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider all submissions received in relation to the proposed Fees and Charges 2013/2014. Any proposed changes to the draft Fees and Charges will be incorporated into the final Fees and Charges 2013/2014 to be considered by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 24 June 2013.

Attachments

1. 2013/2014 Fees & Charges Submissions

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the submissions which have been received, and considers the submissions prior to the adoption of the 2013/2014 Fees and Charges.
2. That the 2013/2014 Fees and Charges be considered for adoption at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 24 June 2013.

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Moved: Cr Rossiter
Seconded: Cr Middlemiss

That the Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.1

2013/2014 Fees and Charges - Submissions

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From: Eclipse [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 May 2013 3:06 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed New Fees for Traralgon Sports Stadium Hire

Mr Matthew Rogers
Latrobe City Council
Commercial Road
Morwell, Vic 3840

Dear Sir,

RE: Proposed New Fees For Traralgon Sports Stadium Hire.

Under instructions from the Latrobe Valley Badminton Association I have been advised to write to you protesting at the new proposed rates fixed for practice time at the above stadium. The fees have been changed from an entry fee to an hourly rate. Due to this decision the cost have increased by more than double.

Normally, practice would be booked for a two hour session. During this period players would be on a court less than one hour in actual playing time.

We feel this is extremely unfair to all especially when players have set up nets and pulled them down and store away all in this practice period.

It is also felt that players will either not participate or come along for one hour periods only. Most likely income will fall considerable when the cost will be just short of \$ 10.00 for one hours play.

We ask that you look at this closely.

After all it is felt sports activity should be councils first priority.

Yours faithfully

Terry Lawrence

Secretary

From: White Family [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2013 12:20 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Cc: Dale Harriman; Sandy Kam
Subject: Latrobe City Draft Fees and Charges 2013/2014 - Leisure Centres

Hi Matthew,

I write to you as a parent and rate payer that wishes to raise some concerns about what I consider to be bias and inadequate pricing for users of some of the Council's Leisure Facilities as highlighted in the Latrobe City Draft Fees and Charges for 2013/2014.

I am disappointed that there seems to be a perceived attempt to garnish further income from those participants that use the indoor sports stadiums, while users of the Council's pools are by far more advantaged by the current and future price structures.

To highlight this, in the "draft", some of the wording has changed from "per session" to "per hour session" for those users entering sports stadiums, while there is no reference to time for users of any of the pools?

The cost of providing and maintaining an indoor heated swimming pool far outweighs the cost of providing and maintaining an indoor sports stadium, and this is clearly highlighted by the fact that the three Centres with pools owned by Council have never to my knowledge returned a profit, whereas the Traralgon Sports Stadium regularly returns an annual profit.

The changing of the wording may mean little to many, and would not affect a majority of the users, but from a Basketball point of view, it would impact on the "elite" athletes and their families, as it is the squad teams and individuals that are committed to training for longer than an hour a session to assist in the development and improvement in representing their local Association from within Latrobe City Council (I am not making any reference to Latrobe Energy as they attract players from all over Gippsland, not just Latrobe).

This change will have an impact on the local Badminton Association at Traralgon, as they train for longer than an hour twice a week, and am sure that their users would be very disappointed about this proposed change.

If the Council is looking to raise/increase its income, then maybe the Traralgon Stadium should look to increase its opening times, along with Council revisiting the introduction of a pool at Traralgon and building it with the Sports Stadium. This would definitely reduce the staffing costs of operating two separate centres in the town, and also provide a greater opportunity for the use of the stadium by the various user groups.

As a parent, I experience first hand the training facilities offered at some of the local Schools in Traralgon with their new stadiums, and Moe has similar options. Increasing the costs will force teams/players to investigate hiring/using these stadiums instead of Council owned facilities as a viable alternative, potentially reducing the income stream for Council.

It seems to me that the majority of users at all Council Leisure Centres, who would be stadium users, are paying a "premium" to use a stadium, whereas the same cost to swim in a pool for an indefinite period for pool users offers a far greater value for money.....??

I am unsure on how Council develops a formula to calculate what fees and charges users should pay, but it is definitely biased against stadium users compared to pool users. I appreciate that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to place a time limit on those using the pool, whereas it is much easier to charge stadium users by the hour as per their competition/training.

The cost to use a pool should be probably 50% dearer than the stadium, but then that would be detrimental in terms of attracting people to use the facilities. I am sure Council tracks the number of users entering its Centres either by counter or by way of the charges collected at the door. I can confirm that there has been a decline in participation of Basketball at Traralgon, and the local Association is investigating how to reverse that, but cannot make such inroads if costs continue to increase, as this is a factor in that it is becoming too expensive to play, people are having to make choices for themselves and their kids.

With so much attention and focus on the state of our society in regards to the size of it by an individual's weight and more and more people being obese/overweight, Council should be investigating ways and means of supporting all local Associations in increasing the

membership/participation of their sports to help keep people fit and healthy where possible, and this includes making access more affordable.

I have been a user of Council Stadiums for nearly forty years and much of the decline in usage is directly related to the increased jobless rate due to the major changes we have seen with local industry, such as the Power Stations being privatised. Has the question ever been asked as to whether Council needs the three pools, and why would it need a fourth? My children have to travel regularly to train in the other stadiums outside of Traralgon because Traralgon Stadium is closed for periods during the day, especially on weekends, so why cannot pool users continue to do the same? It does not seem to impact Traralgon Swimming Club's standing amongst other Country and Metropolitan Clubs? If the muted "new 25 million pool" slated for Traralgon was to go ahead, some of the funding would come from Government Grants, but other would come from Council through rate increases, and further increases for users of the current facilities.

The cost to use a council facility should be relative to the cost of maintaining that facility. If a facility is to be subsidized such as a pool for patronage, then why are not others?

Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback.

Regards

Jeff White



Colin Crane



27 May. 13

Manager, Finance,
Latrobe City
P.O. Box 264
MORWELL 3840

Att: Matthew Rogers

Dear Sir,

Re: 2013/2014 Fees and Charges.

I am pleased that council has once again allowed community input into the proposed fees and charges for the 2013/14 financial year.

I am appalled by a change to the manner in which the Training fee is being applied to the Stadium Rates, Indoor Sports Centres. Previous Fees and Charges documents passed by Council have the wording "Per player per session" NOT "Per Player per hour session" under the Stadium fees.

Badminton Training sessions for Adults have been of two hours duration at the set fee of \$3.80 for the current financial year. The proposed change suggests that players would be required to pay \$7.80 for the same two hour session under the 2013/2014 fee structure, which is more than double the current fee and would, by all accounts, be absolutely LUDICROUS! If the aim of Government is to increase fitness levels and reduce obesity in the community, then surely these increases will only deter people from participating in sporting activities.

It is also of concern that venues with indoor swimming pools have a pool entry fee of \$5.70 for an adult, with unlimited time restrictions. Given that swimming pools are a constant drain on council resources in terms of upkeep, should this not be increased to cover costs?

Is it council's intention that the Indoor Sports Centres are self funding in the future or will council contribute more generously so that these community facilities do not deteriorate to such an extent that they become a liability?

Yours sincerely,

Colin Crane
Coach,
Traralgon Colts Junior Badminton Club

From: Latrobe Valley Vets Badminton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 June 2013 11:00 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: 2013/2014 Fees and Charges

I am pleased that council has once again allowed community input into the proposed fees and charges for the 2013/14 financial year.

I am however, appalled by a change to the manner in which the Training fee is being applied to the Stadium Rates, Indoor Sports Centres. Previous Fees and Charges documents passed by Council have the wording "Per player per session" NOT "Per Player per hour session" under the Stadium fees.

Badminton Training sessions for Adults are of two hours duration at the set fee of \$3.80 for the current financial year. The proposed change suggests that players would be required to pay \$7.80 for the same two hour session under the 2013/2014 fee structure, which is more than double the current fee and would, by all accounts, be absolutely LUDICROUS! If the aim of Government is to increase fitness levels and reduce obesity in the community, then surely these increases will only deter people from participating in sporting activities.

It is also of concern that venues with indoor swimming pools have a pool entry fee of \$5.70 for an adult, with unlimited time restrictions. Given that swimming pools are a constant drain on council resources in terms of upkeep, should this not be increased to cover costs?

One would have to ask if it is council's intention that the Indoor Sports Centres are self funding in the future, or will council contribute more generously so that these community facilities do not deteriorate to such an extent that they become a liability?

Yvette Bentley
Secretary
Latrobe Valley Badminton Association - Veterans

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
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The Meeting closed to the public at 5:36 pm.

I certify that these minutes have been confirmed.

Mayor: _____

Date: _____