



Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Consolidated request for information relevant to the Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy

As part of the Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy, the Committee has resolved to request the following information. This request is made pursuant to section 19 of the *Constitution Act 1975*, and Legislative Council Standing Order 23.19. Further all responses will be treated as evidence, which is protected by parliamentary privilege.

Please return responses to epc@parliament.vic.gov.au by Tuesday 12 July 2016. If you have any questions please contact the Secretariat on 03 8682 2869.

Council Name:	Borough of Queenscliffe
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1. Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

	What is the percentage pay increase provided for in your EBA for the following periods? If the EBA has not been concluded for these periods please advise.	What is the additional estimated cost of bracket creep annually at your council? Note Bracket creep means movements in payments unrelated to the general EBA indexation but related to reclassifications and annual and other increments relating to changes of bands.
2013/14 financial year	3.5% or \$35/week (whichever is greatest)	1.0% for banding increments
2014/15 financial year	3.5% or \$35/week (whichever is greatest)	0.5% for banding increments
2015/16 financial year	EBA expired 15/01/16, currently in negotiation with respect to the next EBA	0.5% for banding increments
2016/17 financial year	EBA expired 15/01/16, currently in negotiation with respect to the next EBA	0.5% for banding increments
2017/18 financial year	EBA expired 15/01/16, currently in negotiation with respect to the next EBA	0.5% for banding increments

2. Local government general election costs 2012 and 2016

General council election	Cost	How delivered (i.e., 'postal' or 'attendance elections')
2012	\$55,257	Postal
2016	\$80,767	Postal

Were there any differences between these two elections which would impact on costs (e.g. number of centres increased or decreased)?

Per letter from VEC 11/12/15, this cost estimate now includes \$6,553 for compulsory voting enforcement and contingency costs for prosecution of non-voters. The balance of \$74,214 is for preparing the municipal voters' roll and conducting the election, which is an increase of \$18,957 (34.3%) on the previous cost of \$55,257 for this service – VEC indicates that there are a number of areas where costs have significantly increased since 2012, including Australia Post, and its costing of postal elections has increased by 33.38%.



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3. Senior officer salaries

As at 30 June 2015 (for the 2014/15 financial year) and 30 June 2016 (for the 2015/16 financial year), please provide the **number** of senior officers for each pay scale. Please note senior officers should be defined as per the *Local Government Act*, and should include remuneration for each position as reported under the Local Government (Planning & Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Salary Band	Number of staff at 30 June 2015 (2014/15 financial year)		Number of staff at 30 June 2016 (2015/16 financial year)		Salary Band	Number of staff at 30 June 2015 (2014/15 financial year)		Number of staff at 30 June 2016 (2015/16 financial year)		Salary Band	Number of staff at 30 June 2015 (2014/15 financial year)		Number of staff at 30 June 2016 (2015/16 financial year)		
	EBA staff	Managers	EBA staff	Managers		EBA staff	Managers	EBA staff	Managers		EBA staff	Managers	EBA staff	Managers	
\$110,000 - \$119,999				1											
\$120,000 - \$129,999					\$250,000 - \$259,999					\$380,000 - \$389,999					
\$130,000 - \$139,999		1			\$260,000 - \$269,999					\$390,000 - \$399,999					
\$140,000 - \$149,999				1	\$270,000 - \$279,999					\$400,000 - \$409,999					
\$150,000 - \$159,999		1		1	\$280,000 - \$289,999					\$410,000 - \$419,999					
\$160,000 - \$169,999					\$290,000 - \$299,999					\$420,000 - \$429,999					
\$170,000 - \$179,999					\$300,000 - \$309,999					\$430,000 - \$439,999					
\$180,000 - \$189,999					\$310,000 - \$319,999					\$440,000 - \$449,999					
\$190,000 - \$199,999					\$320,000 - \$329,999					\$450,000 - \$459,999					
\$200,000 - \$209,999					\$330,000 - \$339,999					\$460,000 - \$469,999					
\$210,000 - \$219,999					\$340,000 - \$349,999					\$470,000 - \$479,999					
\$220,000 - \$229,999					\$350,000 - \$359,999					\$480,000 - \$489,999					
\$230,000 - \$239,999		1			\$360,000 - \$369,999					\$490,000 - \$499,999					
\$240,000 - \$249,999				1	\$370,000 - \$379,999					\$500,000 +					



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4. Planning fees

	What was the cost to your council to issue planning permits?	What revenue was received by your council from planning permits?
2012/13 financial year	\$199,082	\$47,954
2013/14 financial year	\$211,612	\$46,564
2014/15 financial year	\$228,879	\$50,138
2015/16 financial year	\$202,564 (Forecast year-end result, noting year-end accounts not finalised)	\$57,331
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	\$200,500 (Adopted Budget)	\$50,000 (Adopted Budget)

5. If your council applied to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) for a rate cap variation:

What was the total cost to council of preparing the application?	N/A
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6. Roads and bridges

What is the size of the road network (in kms) that you are responsible for?	43 kms
If there is a backlog in road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal, has your council costed this and if so what is the estimated cost?	Council does not own any bridges. A backlog exists but confidence in the quantum is low and is being managed through annual asset renewal programs.

	How much road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal funding did your council receive from the state government?	How much road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal funding did your council receive from the federal government?	How much did your council spend in total on road and/or bridge maintenance and renewal?
2012/13 financial year	\$1,000,000	\$49,076	\$1,546,763
2013/14 financial year	\$1,000,000	Nil	\$1,414,176
2014/15 financial year	\$1,000,000	Nil	\$1,311,884
2015/16 financial year	Nil	Nil	\$501,400 (Forecast, noting year-end not yet finalised)
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	Nil	\$231,300 (Adopted Budget)	\$701,000 (Adopted Budget)

Do you have any other comments about funding for infrastructure (such as roads and bridges)?

Council addressed a significant proportion of its roads backlog by utilising the now defunct Country Roads & Bridges Program. As the rate cap has only been introduced recently, its effect will accumulate over a period of time.



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7. State Emergency Service

	How many State Emergency Service units are based in your municipality?	How many State Emergency Service units do you provide funding to?	How much funding did you provide to the State Emergency Service?	Did you provide any other support/assistance to the State Emergency Service? (such as land, buildings or maintenance)	If you provided other support/assistance to the State Emergency Service, what is the estimated value?
2012/13 financial year	Nil	1 (Bellarine SES)	\$1,000 (Community grant for purchase of chainsaws and E-flares)	No	N/A
2013/14 financial year	Nil	Nil	Nil	No	N/A
2014/15 financial year	Nil	1 (Bellarine SES)	\$2,000 (Community grant for community outreach equipment)	No	N/A
2015/16 financial year	Nil	Nil	Nil	No	N/A
2016/17 financial year (if not known please state this)	Nil	Nil	Nil (noting Bellarine SES has applied for a community grant, however applications will not be decided by Council until August 2016)	No	N/A

8. Containing costs

Are you able to give some examples of how council has reduced spending and/or contained costs in 2015/16 in preparation for the introduction of rate capping? Was any infrastructure deferred or cancelled, if so please specify.

Council has reprioritised some operational project initiatives and identified other operational efficiencies, resulting in savings of \$108,000 in the 2015/16 year and ongoing savings of \$67,000. No capital works projects were deferred or cancelled.

Are you able to give some examples of planned measures to reduce spending and/or contain costs in 2016/17 in following the introduction of rate capping? Was any infrastructure deferred or cancelled, if so please specify.

In addition to ongoing operational efficiencies, Council revised its Rating Strategy, making a commitment to fully recover the costs of waste management through separating the waste management charges from general rates, effective from the 2016/17 financial year. Management has also been mindful in the current negotiation of the 2016 Enterprise Agreement to achieve financial sustainability in the context of the rate capping framework.