

**LEGISLATION, COUNCIL PLAN, STRATEGY AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

City of Ballarat Local Law No. 18 Meeting Procedure

**OFFICERS' DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Council Officers affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to the matter of this report.



PO Box 655  
Ballarat Vic 3353  
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 03 5320 5500  
Facsimile: 03 5333 4061

Date: 19 March 2014

Our Ref: NR:ha

Your Ref:

Enquiries: 61 03 5320-5578

Writer's  
Direct Email:

Mr Dennis Bateman



Dear Mr Bateman

#### COUNCIL MEETING QT43/14

I write in response to your questions to Council on 26 February 2014 regarding bins and dog tidy bags.

The Ballarat Open Space Strategy recommends that bins are only provided in parks and reserves where it is likely that high levels of rubbish will be generated to warrant the ongoing servicing costs. Council therefore only places permanent rubbish bins into reserves where there are high volumes of patrons or where park users are likely to spend significant amounts of time, for example at sporting venues, parks and reserves with barbeques, toilets and playground or active recreation facilities.

Dog poo bags are also only placed in locations that are actively promoted for dog walking and where there is good passive surveillance to ensure that the bags are not stolen or removed, resulting in further loose litter within the reserve. Lake Wendouree is currently the only location that satisfies this criteria.

With regards to Lake Gardens, a bin is provided in Central Park near the playground, shops and picnic tables. Council does not believe that additional bins or dog poo bags dispensers are required along walking trails such as the St Johns Wood Reserve as the reserve does not satisfy the above criteria, and are unlikely to generate sufficient volumes of waste to make it cost effective to service and maintain them.

Alternatively Council recognises that dog owners have the responsibility for the safe and legal disposal of dog poo bags in Ballarat's streets and parks and, given that there is already a bin in Central Park, the opportunity is there to safely dispose of dog poo bags or to take the rubbish home.

Thank you for advising Council of your concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Reiter".

Natalie Reiter  
General Manager City Strategy



**Annie DeJong**

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**From:** Annie DeJong  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 February 2014 5:18 PM  
**To:** Barbara  
**Subject:** Response to Question from Council Meeting  
  
**Categories:** Orange Category

Hi Barbara,

Thank you for your email address. It helps with communication regarding any questions taken on notice from a council meeting. Hope it is OK that I send you any responses this way.

Your questions was recorded in the minutes as:-

**QT16/14 Barbara Cytowicz, Golden Point – Is Council prepared to make the audio recordings of the Council Meetings of 25 September and 9 October 2013, that were released to me following my Freedom of Information request, available on Council’s website and if so, what would be the timeframe**

Note – after providing a response to a FOI request to a member of the public, council has no control over what that person does with that information.

Regarding your questions, Council will not place the information on our website unless we have a council resolution asking for it to be done.

Note – Cr Coates put a motion on notice at the 25 September Council Meeting to have council meeting recordings available to the public and this was amended to have an investigation into option completed, of which I have provided updates in the chamber. We are about to start the consultation on this matter.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to give me a call or email me.

Kind Regards

Annie

**Annie DeJong** | Chief Information Officer

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*The City of Ballarat respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people - traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work.*

**Please consider the environment before printing this email.**

City of Ballarat



PO Box 655  
Ballarat Vic 3353  
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 03 5320 5500  
Facsimile: 03 5333 4061

Date: 24 March, 2014

Our Ref: EB:bk

Your Ref: QT53/14

Enquiries: 03 5320 5500

Writer's  
Direct Fax:

Mr Patrick Van Raaphorst

Dear Mr Van Raaphorst

**RE: CONCERNS RAISED AT COUNCIL MEETING**

Further to your question raised at the Council Meeting of 12 March 2014 asking who recommended that this project for the road works at Armstrong Street South and Skipton Street be undertaken and who approved the funding, I offer the following.

As indicated in our previous letters, the works formed part of Council's annual capital works program and are expected to improve both pedestrian safety and traffic flow along this section of Armstrong Street South and Skipton Street.

We acknowledge your statutory declaration and although there would be differing opinions on what was or wasn't stated by our officer, Mr Powell, as previously indicated, the works were not funded under the Federal Black Spot funding program.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 5320 5589.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Braslis".

Eric Braslis  
General Manager City Infrastructure

PO Box 655  
Ballarat Vic 3353  
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 03 5320 5500  
Facsimile: 03 5333 4061



Date: 03 April 2014

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Enquiries: 03 5320-5550

Writer's  
Direct Email: [anniedejong@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:anniedejong@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

Mr Ron Marshall

Dear Mr Marshall

### RESPONSE TO QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

Thank you for your question at Council Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 being:-

*QT58/14 - Ron Marshall, Eureka - I would like to know where the direction emanated from to have me contacted yesterday to ascertain if I wish to still present at this Council Meeting on the matter of the Rodier Street Development given that there is a Recommendation from Council Officers to reject the proposal, is this usual Governance protocol?*

In the past have had people register to speak at Council regarding an item on the agenda and they have not had the opportunity to read the officer recommendation.

Where the recommendation is to refuse we like to confirm that the person requesting to come and speak is aware. Note we have in the past had comments from members of the public regarding being unaware of the refusal recommendation.

As per our conversation after the meeting, the officers will make a recommendation in the agenda report, it is council's decision as to what happens on the night.

As this was not pointed out to all who rang to register to speak on this item, we made the decision to ring those registered to ensure they were informed of the officer recommendation.

At no time were we suggesting that people should reconsider speaking at Council. This was not the intent of the call.

Hope this explains to you our protocols. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Annie De Jong", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Annie De Jong  
Chief Information Officer



**0.0 ATTACHMENT M.A.D.E. FINANCIAL UPDATE**  
**Division:** City Strategy  
**Director:** Natalie Reiter  
**Author/Position:** Natalie Reiter -  
General Manager City Strategy

Confidential report designated under the *Local Government Act 1989* section 77(2)(b).

*Do not delete this line*

### Executive Summary

M.A.D.E. (Museum for Australian Democracy at Eureka) opened in May 2013 and was granted an operating budget of \$750,000 for the 2013/14 financial year. By December, these funds had been fully expended, largely as a result of M.A.D.E.'s low revenue. Council was required to provide a further funds to allow M.A.D.E. to operate out to the end of the financial year.

The linear trend line for M.A.D.E.'s non-Council income is in descent and an analysis of expected future non-Council funds has indicated the centre is unlikely to attract adequate non-Council revenue to continue its current form.

A preliminary evaluation of options for the future of the centre included the following:

1. Continuing to support M.A.D.E. in its current form – est. operating cost \$2m pa;
2. Re-purposing M.A.D.E. into the Ballarat archive centre – est. capital cost \$19m; on-going operating costs \$750,000 pa; and
3. Rescoping M.A.D.E. to extend the range of services to include services already funded eg: history and research services– est. operating cost \$1m pa.

The summary of costs and benefits of these options is as follows:

1. Continuing to support M.A.D.E. in its current form is expected to deliver only a modest benefit to the Ballarat community in the foreseeable future. This type of a facility is more in-line with a facility of State significance however there are no indications State support will be provided to support the operations of the centre. The areas where M.A.D.E. has had greatest success has been in the virtual space and while this is laudable, does not provide direct benefits to Ballarat residents. Admissions income this financial year has averaged just \$2,500 per week; and overall income \$6,200 per week (25% of which is merchandise sales) compared to an operating cost of \$29,000 per week. Throughout this time visitation has averaged 100 people per day (total visitors including paid entry, free of charge, local children and education). To provide a context for these numbers, the central library caters for 800 visitors per day with an operating cost to Council of \$14,650 per week (total operating cost \$23,000 per week, 36% of which is funded through other revenue). Labour costs for M.A.D.E. are \$1.2m pa compared with \$725,000 for the library.
2. Re-purposing M.A.D.E. into the Ballarat archive centre was explored with the Accessing Our Regional Heritage Steering Committee however the capital costs of \$19m to build the storage facility to house the some 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of records and artefacts is beyond the resource constraint of Council. Regional

Development Victoria (RDV) made it extremely clear the State would not be funding M.A.D.E. further within the foreseeable future.

3. Rescoping M.A.D.E. to a history and research centre would fill a much needed void in the management of our historical collections. The purpose of M.A.D.E. in this form would be to provide a new and improved home for the history research users of the City while continuing to provide interpretation of the Eureka story. The rescope M.A.D.E. operating within the required budget parameters may have some of the following implications:
  - Reduced hours eg: closed on Mondays;
  - Free coffee spot rather than commercial café;
  - Limited curation of exhibition;
  - Reduced social media activity;
  - Limited PR and marketing campaigns reducing M.A.D.E.'s profile;
  - Potential pressure to return the Eureka flag to the Art Gallery however this risk is expected to be able to be mitigated through activating volunteers to enhance the interpretation of the flags history; and
  - Harnessing the support of locals interested in history to assist in curation and interpretation of Council's historical collection.

It is expected there will be other service options which will align with the purpose of M.A.D.E. and which may capitalise on opportunities to achieve synergies. The proposed work will explore these opportunities and work with the Board of M.A.D.E. to consider the extent to which these service options are suitable within a service model deliverable within a maximum net cost budget of \$1m per annum.

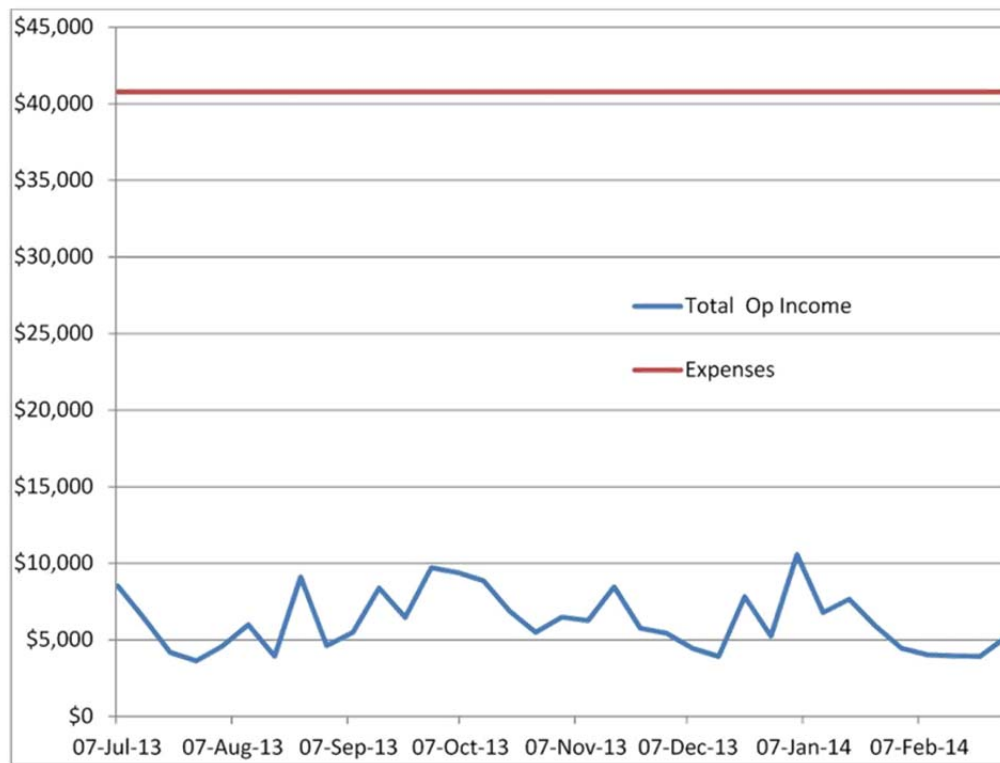
## RATIONALE

The business case supporting the establishment of M.A.D.E. indicated non-Council revenue of \$2.26m pa would be achieved against costs of \$3m, requiring a Council subsidy of some \$700,000 pa. In contrast, non-Council income to M.A.D.E. for the first 6 months of 2013/14 was \$286,420 (annualised \$572,840). The shortfall in income (as depicted in Figure 1), cannot be sustained by Council.

The M.A.D.E. building provides an asset opportunity Council can repurpose to accommodate a demonstrated need in the community of Ballarat. In order to capitalise on this asset, Council must now explore opportunities to accommodate services which align with M.A.D.E. and deliver synergies into the M.A.D.E. facility. A preliminary assessment of options for the future of the centre has been made however there are likely to be additional opportunities which could be explored and the current process will provide the forum for such exploration.

Council is regularly challenged to improve the management of our historical records and archives. Further, we are challenged to improve the interpretation of these assets. It may be possible to meet this challenge through garnering support from the Ballarat community to act in a volunteer capacity to achieve this improvement. The consolidation of records and archives in a History and Research Centre would provide the appropriate venue for this activity.

**Figure 1: Weekly Operating Income versus Expenses**

**ATTACHMENTS**