

ITEM A NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR FIGLIOMENI - RATE REVIEWS

Councillor Figliomeni has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council in the planning and preparation of the budget for the financial year 2018-2019 request the General Manager to outline possible opportunities at a Briefing how Council can minimise rate increases provided there is no reduction in Council services and the capital works program.
- 2 This Briefing be given on or before 5 March 2018.
- 3 The General Manager continue to explore ways of delivering efficiencies in the organisation to offset any ‘rate peg’ increase.”

Background provided by Councillor Figliomeni:

The financial viability and future operating capability of Council to meet its obligations to ratepayers is critical however this requirement needs to be tempered and considered in light of the impacts on the financial capacity of ratepayers to pay.

During my election campaign a number of ratepayers identified the recent significant rate increases as a cause of concern as they had limited capacity to increase their income potential.

With the above in mind this motion is framed in such a way so that the future financial viability of Wollongong Council is not compromised but rather than just increase rates by the “rate peg” each year, that in the first instance management is required to critically assess its operations and to identify any efficiency gains that may be generated that can be used to offset or minimise the rate increase.

This approach will ensure that efficiency and effectiveness become the “mantra” in the delivery of services by Wollongong Council.

As Councillors we have a dual responsibility first the fiduciary responsibility for the operations and management of Council and secondly to our electors the ratepayers and citizens of Wollongong.

This motion I believe achieves this balance.