

MINUTES of the **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COLAC-OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** held in the COPACC Meeting Room, Rae Street, Colac on Tuesday, 15 July 2008 at 9.00 am.

1. PRAYER

2. PRESENT

Cr Chris Smith, Mayor
Cr Tony Graham
Cr Fran Lehmann
Cr Peter Mercer
Cr Warren Riches
Cr Carol Wilmink

Tracey Slatter, Chief Executive Officer
Colin Hayman, General Manager, Corporate & Community Services
Scott Cavanagh, Acting General Manager, Infrastructure & Services
Doug McNeill, Acting General Manager, Sustainable Planning & Development
Brett Exelby, Manager, Finance & Customer Service

Althea Wright, Executive Officer
Suzanne White, Executive Assistant

3. APOLOGIES

Cr Joe Di Cecco

4. MAYORAL STATEMENT

Colac Otway Shire encourages active community input and participation in Council decisions. Council meetings provide one of these opportunities as members of the community may ask questions relating to matters being considered by Council at the current meeting. Questions not related to current agenda items can be made in writing and will be addressed if received within two days of the Council meeting. Council meetings also enable Councillors to debate matters prior to decisions being taken.

I ask that we all respect each other during this process by:

- being courteous and respectful in the way in which you speak;
- not speaking unless you have been permitted to by me as chairperson;
- respecting the local laws which govern meeting procedure (copies of these are here for your information); and
- understanding that I have a responsibility to ensure proper meeting procedure and the upholding of the local law.

5. QUESTION TIME

Nil

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

7. VERBAL SUBMISSIONS

John Callahan

Mr Callahan outlined his concerns regarding Council rates especially in relation to the rural rating system.

Mr Callahan also advised in response to a query from Cr Mercer, that the municipal charge should not be abolished and that the waste management charge should be for cost recovery.

Tracey Slatter, Chief Executive Officer advised that Council rates are set by State Government legislation and that Colac Otway Shire's rates are similar to other municipalities in Victoria .

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Corporate and Community Services

SC081507-1 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2008/09 BUDGET

