



**Shire of Busselton**  
*Geographe Bay*

***RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS  
TAKEN ON NOTICE***

**Meeting of Electors  
Dunsborough  
*2 February 2009***

ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS FORMATS ON REQUEST

SHIRE OF BUSSELTON

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE  
AT THE DUNSBOROUGH MEETING OF ELECTORS  
HELD ON MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2009

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**2.1.21 CHRIS GILES:**

In the documentation about the relocation of the Shire Offices, it spoke of a four green star rating and said that the cost of a higher green star rating would not be justified. In the paper last week it talks about a five star building and makes no comment about costs. Is it right that you have moved from four to five stars and what increase in cost is there to achieve the \$77,000 saving it refers to?

**Response - Presiding Member:**

*The response to the second part of your question is that it is not a "one off" saving - it is an annual saving - ie \$77,000 each year.*

*In the resolution of the Council from the Special Meeting, it was indicated clearly that it was a high priority of the Council to increase the green star rating to five or possibly six if it was economically achievable. In the last couple of weeks, because the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River is also developing a similar Civic Precinct project, they invited the project designers of the CH2 building in Melbourne to look at the issues with representatives of both the Busselton and Augusta-Margaret River Shires. There was agreement from those who attended these discussions that we should share costs in this regard. Specifics of costings will be identified in the subsequent report to the Council. At the moment Expressions of Interest are being sought from Architectural firms and part of the briefing to respondents will reflect the Council's desire for a high green star rating. The advice being received is that in the longer term, a four green star rating is already "old hat" and the minimum requirement for any government building will be five or even six stars.*

**Response - Councillor Bernie Masters:**

*I fully agree with the question and the basis on which you are asking it. Most of the green star issues are based in the Eastern States where they have water issues. If you look at this in the Busselton area, we do not have these water problems. There is plenty of water. I share your concerns. If you look at the papers, the cost of energy is set to double over the next three years and there would be a strong argument for any savings that can be made in terms of energy consumption.*

**2.1.22 CHRIS GILES:**

I would suggest that to put in a figure of \$77,000 seems potentially misleading.

**Response - Presiding Member:**

*In related documents the costs of savings are paralleled and in the papers brought before the Council this was identified. I can take your question on notice.*

**Written Response – Economic Development Manager**

*In regard to the Civic Precinct project and the proposed sites, the figure of \$77,000 was relative to the proposal on the CBD site at a 4 green star rating and is therefore now obsolete.*

*The Council has resolved to develop a facility to 5 star green star rating on the land comprising the existing site and Rotary Park. Details on the operational savings associated with this building will be known once the actual size, type, and location of any proposed new facility is known.*

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**2.1.24 COLIN PRATT:**

With the upgrade of the actual oval, the surface will be stripped and there will be no Oval. There is nothing proposed for the groups using it from March to October and what will happen to us? Where will we go? We have had nothing back on this. We would not want to lose the junior groups. We should have a second oval in place to move to. This would be the least disruptive option.

***Response - Presiding Member:***

*This was partially addressed in the responses to Mrs Nixon's question (2.1.7) - i.e. "Shire staff have met with the users of the Dunsborough Playing Fields to discuss the impacts of the re-surfacing project, seeking their support when considering fixture development, once the resurfacing project receives future budget approval. This would warrant keeping the number of games to a minimum during the project period and the relocation of essential games to other Shire facilities whilst the Dunsborough Playing Fields are off line."*

*However I believe your question requires a fuller answer and it will be taken on notice.*

***Written Response - Director Community Infrastructure***

*As you may now be aware the Dunsborough oval project is split into two parts.*

*The first being the construction of a new oval next to the existing sports field. On completion of this work sporting fixtures will be relocated to this oval (construction in order for play to commence is expected in March 2010).*

*The second part of the project (on the assumption that the Council adopts the works in the 09/10 budget) will be to reconstruct the existing oval/sports field.*

*Therefore there will be a facility available to be used during the construction of either oval.*

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**2.1.29 DANIELLE BECKWITH:**

What is happening with the nets on the Highway? They were damaged a fortnight ago by the kids playing on them. Are they going to be fixed before this weekend?

**Response - Presiding Member:**

*Your question will be taken on notice.*

**Written Response - Director Community Infrastructure**

*In response to your question, at the electors' meeting held on 02 February 2009, regarding the nets at the Dunsborough Oval, the nets are erected at the time of the winter ground marking program. The nets will only be of a temporary nature (as they have been previously).*

*The pending redevelopment of the oval will change the 'footprint' of the ground usage. This will potentially require a permanent fence to be incorporated into the redevelopment plans extending the full length of the Caves Road boundary.*

**2.1.31 DAVID HUNT:**

I have been assured that our infrastructure funds etc., have been invested very wisely. Can you confirm where they are invested?

**Response - Presiding Member:**

*I do not carry that information in my head, but as recently as mid-January I was assured that the Shire was in a very good position. Your question will be taken on notice and detailed information can be provided.*

**Written Response – Principal Finance Officer**

*In regard to your question at the electors meeting regarding Shire investments. All investment decisions made by the Shire of Busselton are in full compliance with the Council's adopted Investment Policy. Established in 1999, and regularly reviewed/ amended as required since inception (with the assistance of the Shire's Investment advisory firm) the policy was last reviewed by the Council during 2008, at which time it was amended to allow a higher level of funds to be channelled to direct investments (e.g. term deposits). This recommendation to the Council was clearly based on the continued uncertainty in global financial markets, and the need to further diversify the Shire's investment portfolio.*

*As at 31 January 2009, the Shires 'invested' funds totalled approximately \$33M and were spread between managed funds and out-performance funds (administered by the Shire's Investment Advisory firm) and also 15 term deposits (of varying amounts) held with 8 Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions. A listing of invested funds as at 31 January 2009 is provided as follows:*

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount \$M</b>
<b>11am Bank cash accounts</b>	
ANZ Bank	\$2.7
Counterpoint Grove Research & Advisory	\$0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.4</b>

<b>Short Term Fixed Rate Deposits***</b>	
ANZ	\$1.0
Bankwest	\$1.4
Bendigo Bank	\$1.0
Bankwest	\$1.5
Elders Bank	\$1.0
Members Equity Bank	\$1.0
National Australia Bank	\$1.0
Bank of QLD (formerly HBS)	\$0.5
ANZ	\$1.0
Bank of QLD (formerly HBS)	\$1.5
Westpac	\$1.0
ANZ	\$1.0
ANZ	\$1.0
Bankwest	\$0.9
Bank of QLD	\$1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15.8</b>
<b>Managed Funds</b>	
QIC Cash Enhanced Fund	\$3.1
Perennial Cash Enhanced Fund	\$2.9
BlackRock Diversified Fund	\$1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7.1</b>
<b>Guaranteed Out- Performance Funds</b>	
NSW LGFS Fixed Out-performance Fund	\$6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6.5</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32.8</b>

\*\*\* The first \$1M with each institution (not individual deposit) is fully guaranteed under the Federal Governments Deposit Guarantee Scheme

### 2.1.33 DAVID HUNT:

There are very few beaches on the western boundary of the Shire that allow dogs. Yallingup is one and that is restricted in summer. All the other beaches have been taken over by CALM and dogs are not allowed there. Smith's Beach was going to be but we have circumvented this and people can still exercise dogs there. There is now discussion about restriction of dog access to Smith's Beach. Do you know when this will be going to the Council?

**Response - Presiding Member:**

Your question will be taken on notice.

**Written Response – Director Lifestyle Development**

*In response to your question at the electors meeting in respect to dogs, The Shire review of dog exercise areas is almost complete and is scheduled to be presented to the Council in May for endorsement for public consultation. The revised approach to Dog exercise areas will use a combination of prohibition, seasonal and time based closures as suitable to particular areas.*

*The current approach to Smith's beach is that all dogs are not permitted on the beach left from the beach access steps from the car park on the bend of Smith's Beach Road, all dogs are to be kept on a leash for 100m to the north of the steps and thereafter for 1km along the beach to the north dogs can be let off the leash under effective control. This approach will stay in place until the new exercise and prohibited areas are gazetted with the draft plans providing for a Dog exercise area at Smiths Beach.*

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**2.1.39 COUNCILLOR ANNE RYAN:**

I want to ask a question.

**Response - Presiding Member:**

*As a Councillor or a Ratepayer?*

**Councillor Anne Ryan:**

Either one. I want to know why this room was chosen for tonight's meeting. It would make a great function room but it is a terrible meeting room.

**Response - Presiding Member:**

Your comments are noted.

**Councillor Anne Ryan:**

I want it taken on notice.

**Written Response – Governance Manager**

*An appropriate venue for an electors' meeting in Dunsborough has been sought for a number of years. It has been a long standing practice for a special meeting of electors to be held in Dunsborough, within the week prior to the general meeting of electors held in Busselton. Over the years, the meetings have been held at various locations, all for one reason or another not being ideal.*

*The last meeting was held at the Naturaliste Community Centre, however, other activities at the centre provided significant background noise. This was also the case when the meetings have been held at the Dunsborough and Districts Country Club. The Sportsman's Club near the NCC has also been used but was considered to be too small a venue for a potentially large number of people attending.*

*On that basis, officers were requested to again seek an alternative venue for the Dunsborough meeting this year, and the arrangement was made for the room at the Dunsborough Tavern. I am not aware what the specific issues with the room were, however, I understand there were concerns about both background noise and lack of ventilation or cooling.*

*There have been issues raised about every location at which the electors meeting in Dunsborough has been held for at least the past 6 years. This was why the Dunsborough Tavern was trialled as a location this year and the problems that arose were not foreseen. Please note that the venue decided not to charge the Shire for the room hire.*

*As the Council has now resolved that all future electors' meetings shall be held in Shire facilities, any issues with any of the Shire-owned facilities will need to be resolved prior to the meeting being conducted.*

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**2.1.46 LINDA NIXON OAM:**

If density is increased, what happens to the funding that has already been provided? Do they have to provide additional funding?

***Response - Presiding Member:***

*Your question will be taken on notice.*

***Written Response – Director Lifestyle Development***

*In response to your question at the electors meeting on 02 February 2009, regarding developer contributions towards active open space facilities at Dunsborough Lakes, and in respect to proposals to increase permissible residential densities in some parts of Dunsborough Lakes.*

*There is currently no developer contributions plan for Dunsborough Lakes and the contributions plan requirement relates only to the area that was recently rezoned (i.e. 'Lot 4' as identified in the question);*

- Consequently, the Shire is not currently holding any funds associated with a contributions plan for Dunsborough Lakes;*
- The increases in permissible residential density referred to are also outside the area subject of the contributions plan requirement;*
- Should the permissible residential density in an area subject of the contributions plan requirement be increased, that would, however, need to be reflected in the contributions plan and in the total size of the contributions required.*
- Where the residential density is increased outside the area of lot 4 and results in the development of group dwellings there will be additional contributions made to the provisions of facilities in the area under the community facilities contributions policy.*

