

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

**HELD IN THE**

**CONFERENCE ROOM, MELVILLE CIVIC CENTRE**

**AT 6.30PM ON**

**1 DECEMBER 2010**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, MELVILLE CIVIC CENTRE, 10 ALMONDBURY ROAD, BOORAGOON, COMMENCING AT 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2010.**

**1. OFFICIAL OPENING**

The Presiding Member welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 6:30pm. His Worship the Mayor, R Aubrey, read aloud the Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility.

Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility

I make this Affirmation in good faith on behalf of Elected Members and Officers of the City of Melville. We collectively declare that we will duly, faithfully, honestly, and with integrity fulfil the duties of our respective office and positions for all the people in the district according to the best of our judgement and ability. We will observe the City's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders to ensure the efficient, effective and orderly meeting within this forum.

**2. PRESENT**

His Worship the Mayor R Aubrey

**COUNCILLORS**

Cr M Reynolds (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr N Pazolli, Cr P Reidy  
Cr A Ceniviva, Cr A Nicholson  
Cr C Robartson  
Cr B Kinnell, Cr C Halton  
Cr N Foxtan

**WARD**

University  
Applecross/Mount Pleasant  
City  
Bull Creek/Leeming  
Palmyra/Melville/Willagee  
University

**2. IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr S Silcox  
Mr M Tieleman  
Mr S Cope  
Mr P Kellick  
Ms C Young  
Mr L Hitchcock  
Ms K Johnson

Ms L Hartill  
Mr B Dawkins  
Mr T Cahoon  
Ms J Visic

Chief Executive Officer  
Director Corporate Services  
Director Urban Planning  
A/Director Technical Services  
Director Community Development  
Executive Manager Legal Services  
Executive Manager Organisational  
Development  
Manager Neighbourhood Development  
Manager Neighbourhood Amenity  
Manager Health & Lifestyle Services  
A/Manager Community Services

Mr G Ponton	Manager Strategic Urban Planning
Mr L Bosworth	Manager Operations
Mr J Cameron	Executive Engineer
Mr I Davis	Manager Parks & Environment
Mr B Taylor	Manager Information, Technology & Support
Mr M Duncan	IT Coordinator
Mr J Clark	Governance & Compliance Program Manager
Ms D Beilby	Minute Secretary

At the commencement of the meeting there were 15 Electors of the City of Melville and one member of the press in attendance.

### **3. APOLOGIES**

Cr G Wieland – Bicton/Attadale Ward

### **4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr J Barton - Bicton/Attadale Ward  
Cr R Subramaniam - Bull Creek/Leeming Ward

### **5. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

His Worship the Mayor, R Aubrey, introduced individual Elected Members and Senior Staff to the meeting and advised that the City's Management Team were in attendance and would be available to meet electors after the meeting.

## **6. BUSINESS**

### **6.1 NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

The following Notice of Meeting was advertised in the West Australian Newspaper on Saturday, 6 November 2010 and the Melville Times Community Newspaper on Tuesday, 9 November 2010, in addition to being displayed on public notice boards at all the City of Melville libraries and the Civic Centre. The notice read:

### **“Annual General Meeting of Electors**

Electors are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Electors that will be held on **Wednesday 1 December 2010** in the Conference Room of the **Civic Centre, 10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon** commencing at **6.30pm**.

#### **Order of Business**

1. To receive the Community Annual Report 2009-2010 for the year ended 30 June 2010
2. General Business

The Elected Members and staff welcome your questions regarding the City of Melville, the Annual Report or any matter relating to the Notice of Meeting. A question form can be obtained from the City of Melville website [www.melvillecity.com.au](http://www.melvillecity.com.au) or please contact Denise Beilby on 9364 0607 for alternative arrangements.

In order for complex questions to be answered at the meeting, questions must be received by **5.00pm** on **Monday 29 November 2010**.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available for inspection from **Friday 26 November 2010** at the **Melville Civic Centre** and all City of Melville Libraries. A copy will also be available on the City of Melville website.

**Dr Shayne Silcox**  
**Chief Executive Officer”**

His Worship the Mayor read out the Manner of Conduct of the Meeting.

## **6.2 MANNER OF CONDUCT OF THE MEETING**

1. It is a requirement to advise that in the event of an emergency, everyone should take direction from officers who will guide you to the exit points of the building.
2. Toilets are located immediately before the entry to the Council Chambers.
3. All present are required to sign the attendance register at the entry to the Conference Room.
4. Speakers must be Electors of the City of Melville.
5. The proceedings are being taped for the purpose of production of the minutes and speakers are requested to use the microphones each time they speak.

The Minutes will include a summary of any questions asked and a summary of the response provided.

6. No other audio or visual recording is to be undertaken without the permission of the Presiding Member.
7. Speakers are asked to clearly give their name and address each time they speak.
8. Upon a motion being proposed, each speaker is to address the Chair.
9. All addresses are to be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Extension of time is permissible only with the agreement of a simple majority of Members present (9.6 of Standing Orders).
10. No persons are to use offensive or objectionable expressions in reference to any Member, employee of the Council, or any other person (8.3 of Standing Orders).
11. All Elected Members and Directors attend this meeting to observe the proceedings and hear comments from Electors. All questions and comments should be directed to the Mayor who may invite a response from the Chief Executive Officer, Presiding Members of Committees, Directors or Elected Members.
12. The Minutes of this meeting are expected to be available by Friday, 10 December 2010.

His Worship the Mayor asked for an agreement from the Electors for a meeting closing time of 8.30pm. There were no objections.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010 INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010.**

His Worship the Mayor advised that copies of the Community Annual Report 2009-2010 had been circulated and had been available on request from City of Melville, libraries and the City's website.

His Worship the Mayor addressed the meeting.

**Mayor's Address 2010**

The Chief Executive addressed the meeting –

**Chief Executive Officer's Address 2010**

His Worship the Mayor called for any questions on the Community Annual Report 2009-2010. There were no questions received.

His Worship the Mayor called for a mover and seconder to receive the Community Annual Report. 2009-2010.

At 6.51pm Mr Cecil Walkley of Bicton moved, seconded Mr Eigil Nielsen of Booragoon –

**That the Community Annual Report 2009-2010 for the Year Ended 30 June 2010 be received.**

At 6.51pm the Mayor submitted the motion which was declared **CARRIED**

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

His Worship the Mayor invited written questions to be read out for response.

1. Mr Eigil Nielsen, Booragoon

**Q1.1 "Western Power's Proposed Network Expansion"**

*With reference to the Ordinary Meeting of Council (October 19, 2010) item 8.3 subsection 'Reject and Replace' item 2(b) being 'That the Council advises Western Power of the decisions of the meeting as listed below:' can the Electors please receive a progress report from the Council regarding this matter, including any responses from Western Power on the issues Council may have received?"*

**A1.1 Response Director Urban Planning**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 October 2010 the Council resolved to advise Western Power of the motions adopted at the Special Meeting of Electors held 7 October 2010. The City has since advised Western Power in writing of the Council's resolution and no response had been received from Western Power at this stage.

2. Mr Robert Willis, Bull Creek

Responses by A/Director Technical Services

**Bull Creek Management Plan**

**Q2.1** *“Could you please advise when the last management plan for Bull Creek was adopted by council?”*

**A2.1** The current management plan for Bull Creek Wetlands was adopted in September 2004.

**Q2.2** *“Could you please advise what works are outstanding?”*

**A2.2** Approx 75% of the recommendations in the plan have been completed or are ongoing. This includes such items as weed control and path maintenance.

Extensive revegetation works have been undertaken since 2004 and a ‘Friends’ group has recently been established under the coordination of our Environmental Officer with additional support from the South East Regional Centre of Urban Landcare (SERCUL).

City Environmental Maintenance Staff are currently undertaking special project work focusing on weed control and rehabilitation. However some capital projects have not been completed due to competing priorities in other reserves and maintenance resources being diverted to address rehabilitation following fire events.

Some other specific recommendations may not have been completed due to their implementation resting on collaborative actions from other State agencies such as the Department of Water with respect to drainage outlet restoration and/or are part of a broader project, for example sign design review and GIS fire mapping.

**Q2.3** *“When will this management plan be reviewed and what methodology will be used to involve the community?”*

**A2.3** The City is in the final stages of developing a Natural Area Asset Management Strategy (NAAMS) which will guide the review and implementation of all future reserve management plans. Upon adoption of the strategy in early 2011, the review and re-write of individual reserve plans will commence.

The Bull Creek Reserve Management Plan will be presented to the community for information and comment via the ‘Friends’ group. The NAAMS was presented at the Elected Members Information Session on 30 November 2010 and will be presented at a community information session in mid-December 2010. Following this, it will be available to the public, via the City’s website, for comment until mid January 2011.

**Q2.4** *“What funds have been spent in 2010?”*

**A2.4** Approximately \$26,000 has been expended on maintenance (including weed control) since July 2010. There is a budget of approximately \$77,000 for 2010/2011. This program includes a four week maintenance cycle in Bateman Reserve, Richard Lewis Reserve, Bull Creek Park and an eight week cycle in Reg Bourke Reserve.

**Q2.5** *“Finally, I am concerned with the amount of undergrowth, dead trees and shrubs that currently exist. These have the potential for a major bushfire that could result in damage to local resident’s homes and council infrastructure, e.g. bridges and bollards. (A number of years ago three houses were seriously damaged when bushland on Ron Carroll Reserve caught fire.) Could you please assure me that Bull Creek Reserve meets FESA standards?”*

**A2.5** Yes, all reserves have sufficient firebreaks and access required for FESA. Ongoing maintenance occurs on firebreaks to ensure adequate protection and fuel load reduction. Inter agency liaison has ensured FESA have access plans and maps for fire protection for the entire park including infrastructure assets.

At the conclusion of written questions, His Worship the Mayor invited questions from the meeting floor.

3. Mr Cecil Walkley, Bicton

**Q3.1** *“Why do you not fly the State flag as well as the National flag, the Torres Strait Islands flag and the Aboriginal flag? Surely you can afford a fourth flag pole. I wondered the other day, have we got a Melville flag? There may be cause for a fifth flag pole but there is certainly a good cause for a fourth flag namely our State flag.”*

**A3.1** Response Chief Executive Officer

If you will allow me I will take this up with my Protocols Officer in relation to those issues and try and identify why the State flag is not flown.

***Taken on Notice***

At the meeting, Q3.1 was taken on notice and the full response is provided below –

The flags are changed for different protocol requests such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week. The current flags were placed for Reconciliation Week and were inadvertently left up due to the Protocols Officer’s illness. This has been rectified.

The flags that will fly as standard are the Australian National Flag, WA State Flag and the City of Melville Flag.

Other flags will be flown as requested by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

**Q3.2** *“Why do you not advertise this meeting in both local newspapers? Not just one?”*

**A3.2** Response Governance & Compliance Program Manager

The meeting is required to be advertised through a newspaper that covers the district. It has been advertised in the West Australian and also in the Melville Times Newspapers and that is seen to be extensive coverage to capture all residents.

**Q3.3** *“The Gazette covers some areas and the Times covers other areas, the Times doesn’t cover all areas, I don’t think any newspaper does.”*

*A suggestion for the future to increase the numbers would be to advertise in the Gazette.”*

**A3.3** Response Chief Executive Officer

The intent obviously is for those who are interested in being involved in the Annual General Meeting and asking questions and finding out detail of the City’s operations, to be aware of the meeting time and date. The City will review the circulation of both newspapers prior to the next General Meeting of Electors.

**Q3.4** *Mr Walkley commented that he was saddened that there was not a representative from Bicton/Attadale Ward in attendance.*

**A3.4** Response His Worship the Mayor

Cr Barton is on leave and Cr Wieland is on fire fighting duties.

4. Mr James Addvalue, Applecross

**Q4.1** *“My concern is about roads. Three years ago when I was attending meetings as a visitor on a regular basis, I asked for Council to put a footpath on the northern portion of Nisbet Road from Duncraig Road to The Strand. Hundreds of cyclists use that area and people with prams and there is no footpath for them. We should have at least one footpath to the river.*

*Another road scheduled in 2009/2010 has been done but Nisbett Road was not. Could this be put on the urgent list please?”*

**Taken on Notice**

**A4.1 Response Chief Executive Officer**

I will have to get back on the priority ranking in relation to the pathway in that area.

The City has changed its policy so that the kerbing and the path are repaired or installed at the same time as the road is maintained.

I am more than happy though to liaise with you on these issues specifically. I am not aware of the specific details so we will take that on notice and get back to you in relation to trying to identify the exact issue you raised.

***Taken on Notice***

**Q4.2** *Mr Addvalue advised that at the same time he had asked for Council to resurface the playing surface at Jack Howson Reserve in Applecross which in his opinion needed done three years ago. Mr Addvalue requested that go on the urgent list also.*

**A4.2 Response His Worship the Mayor**

We will check the priority list and get back to you. It would be inappropriate to put it on an urgent list, but we will check where it stands at the moment.

***Taken on Notice***

**Q4.3.** *Mr Addvalue advised that he had asked for the removal of redundant driveways where blocks had been subdivided and driveways removed. Mr Addvalue suggested trees could be planted there.*

**A4.3 Response Chief Executive Officer**

The removal of infrastructure is secondary to the repair of infrastructure. When we do a major reconstruction of an area we would probably remove some or most of redundant driveways at that stage, but it is not something that I have the resources to go and remove all the dual driveways.

***Taken on Notice***

**Q4.4** *Mr Addvalue invited the Chief Executive Officer to come for a drive around Applecross with him and he would show him the roads that needed repair.*

**A4.4 Response Chief Executive Officer**

I am more than happy to go for a drive with you. I will bring appropriate officers if required. I am more than happy for residents to bring to my attention any area that is not up to standard.

There are a lot of issues that must be considered in relation to the state of the road, the oxidation of the road, the crocodile cracking, the shifting and all other aspects. If we don't get to a road in a certain period of time which looks okay on the surface, what we have is a weakening of the sub-base and when you have that, the cost of repair is three times the cost of rehabilitation so it is important for us to move in and rehabilitate before the sub structures deteriorate

We use a system called ROMAN. It has been in this organization for over a decade. It is still being used now and ROMAN identifies the road, the asset, the conditions, the traffic volumes, the age, all those types of factors and brings up a priority ranking. That priority ranking is brought forward for the budget process and my officers walk the roads before we let the contracts so they are actually walked before we do the reconstructions. It is not an automatic process. My Officers here have some thirty years experience and more in road rehabilitation and road construction so I acknowledge their professionalism.

***Taken on Notice***

At the meeting Q4.1, Q4.2, Q4.3 and Q4.4 were taken on notice. A full response is provided below -

**A4.1** At the current time there are no plans to install a footpath in Nisbet Road. The path received an average score of between 4 and 11 in our priority rating process which evaluates potential paths in the City of Melville in accordance with the City's policy on the matter. To give you some comparison, the paths on our current forward works program range in priority scoring from 28 to 36.

The path was previously listed in the 2009/2010 program but has been rolled back due to the inclusion of higher priority paths being requested. The forward works program is under regular review with the priority for new footpaths being directed to those paths linking to schools, transport hubs, shopping precincts and places of congregation. As part of this process, this footpath will be reconsidered for addition into the program.

**A4.2** Recreation Services is undertaking a review of the tennis court facilities within the City which is due to be completed in early 2011. The report will prioritise the tennis facilities and thus enable the City to determine where funds will be budgeted to provide upgrades to facilities as required. The resurfacing of the courts at Jack Howson Reserve will be reviewed as part of this process.

**A4.3** As part of conditions of development for new developments the removal of redundant crossovers is an issue that property owners are now required to attend to as part of their new house construction works.

As this has not always been a condition in the past, there may be cases where redundant crossovers remain. As indicated by the CEO the City would seek to remove these in conjunction with the City's road construction works e.g. road resurfacing and kerbing works - when these are being carried out in the street.

**A4.4** The City is committed to excellence in the ongoing management of its road network based on detailed technical knowledge of pavement condition together with the application of modern engineering materials, technology, and maintenance and rehabilitation strategies.

The City currently runs the ROMAN pavement management software, which is used for reporting to the Main Roads WA Romas system and for the storage of road condition data. The City also employs the services of a specialist pavement consultant in conjunction with its own experienced staff to manage the road asset using a Pavement Management software system, Deighton Total Infrastructure Management System (dTIMS)

The last full inspection of the City's entire road network was conducted in 2006. This road data is held in ROMAN and has been further analysed using the dTIMS package by the pavement consultant. The pavement consultant has the technical ability, knowledge and experience to apply dTIMS and to verify its recommendations through further site visual assessment in conjunction with the City's own experienced staff.

Road condition surveys include assessment of the following for every road inspected:

Local surface defects; patches; cracking - type, severity and extent; deformation – severity and extent; rutting - severity and extent; and asphalt condition.

As part of annual and ongoing processes the consultant is required to prepare a report of all "candidate" roads from dTIMS, for initial budget purposes, recommending which roads should be included for the forthcoming budget years. This also includes maintenance and rehabilitation recommendations and cost estimates.

In conjunction with the setting of the City's forthcoming yearly budget this "candidate" road list is jointly inspected by the consultant and City staff to verify the need and the method of rehabilitation required. This process can also entail the regrouping of roads in certain areas to take advantage of economies of scale, rather than works on small sections of road pavement.

The City is confident that these detailed processes form the basis of a reliable and comprehensive analysis which is required to be carried out each year to ensure that the most appropriate roads and rehabilitation techniques are selected for the forthcoming budget year programs.

The next whole of City road asset inspection will be carried out early in 2011. The condition of the asphalt on Armstrong Road, Applecross has been checked and the road is not in need of resurfacing at this time. However a request for crack sealing of the street has been given to the City's Operations Services.

5. Mr Otto Mueller, Murdoch

**Q5.1** *Mr Mueller referred to the Annual Financial Report and asked for clarification of figures that had been stated in a newspaper report he quoted. Mr Mueller asked the Chief Executive Officer to indicate where these figures were recorded in the Annual Financial Report.*

**A5.1 Response Director Corporate Services**

On page 21 under the heading “Available for Sale Financial Assets” and then the next line is appreciation (devaluation) to income statement \$1,448,851 is the appreciation in 2009/2010 and that followed last years depreciation of \$10,830,000. That’s the audited appreciation in respect to investment that are shown on page 1 of 45 and the investment earnings are \$3,418,576.

**Q5.2** *Mr Mueller referred to information on investments from a Slater and Gordon report and advised that nothing had been mentioned in the Denison Report.*

**A5.2 Response Director Corporate Services**

The figures in the Annual Report are based on the valuations that were actual for 30 June 2010. The Authorised Deposit Taking Institution Investments (ADIs) are as valued by Denison and as audited. The Collatorised Debt Obligations (CDOs), we chose, because of the uncertainty that’s still surrounding CDOs, to leave them at the very conservative values shown in the 2008/2009 accounts. The minor change shown is due to interest that was capitalised in 2008/2009 which has been removed in 2009/2010, we did not shift the CDO valuation because we wanted to keep the more conservative position, but the CDOs in the reports from Denison show there has been an improvement in the market value of CDOs as well, but due to the nature of the CDOs and what’s happening there, we chose to leave it the same.

**6. Susanne Taylor-Rees, Bicton**

**Q6.1** *Ms Taylor-Rees asked that with reference to Council Policy 28 PL 003 – Development of Telecommunication Towers and Associated Infrastructure, was the City operating under the Telecommunication Facility - Telco Strategy Plan adopted by Council on 16 July 2002 with a five year term from that date?*

**A6.1 Response Director Urban Planning**

I will research and come back to you on that question.

***Taken on Notice***

**Response Chief Executive Officer**

The policy has been identified as being out of date and the policy is under review. The policy hence will be a guide to Council but Council has the authority at any stage to disregard any policy it has because it is the decision making body. Policies are a guide to Officers how they handle certain issues, but Council can make any decision it wishes to on any item that comes forward despite any policy it has adopted.

At the meeting Q6.1 was taken on notice. A full response is provided below –

**A6.1** City of Melville Telecommunication Facility - Telco Strategy Plan adopted by Council on 16 July 2002 was applicable for a period of 5 years and has now technically expired. Council Policy 28 - 003 Development of Telecommunication Towers and Associated Infrastructure was last considered by Council in 2003 and remains an adopted policy of Council

**Q6.2** *Ms Taylor-Rees commented that if Council is being guided by the policy with relation to locations then if the policy had been reviewed in a timely manner we would not be in this position.*

**A6.2** Response His Worship the Mayor

That makes the assumption that if the Policy was reviewed it wasn't upheld and it is quite likely that if this had been reviewed two years ago particularly in isolation of your particular situation, that the policy would have been renewed as is which would have put you in a worse situation. At the moment we are dealing with an outdated policy which doesn't seem to have an awful lot of influence at the moment.

**Q6.3** *Ms Taylor-Rees commented that Telstra are using this policy and that Council has said it was a preferred site.*

**A6.3** Response His Worship the Mayor

I understand where you are coming from. I think Point Walter is a preferred site because they do prefer it as a site without reference to the policy. I don't think they are using a policy as a guideline for that.

**Q6.4** *Ms Taylor-Rees advised that Aurecon and Telstra have not provided proof or need with the Development Application and asked why was the Development Application not sent back?*

**A6.4** Response Director Urban Planning

There is a procedural aspect to the application. The Development Application has followed the required procedures in terms of signing off etc, but the issue of the demonstrated need for the facility is something that the Council would consider in processing the application. It is appropriate to look at that issue as part of the analysis.

**Q6.5** *"So they don't have to supply a need with the Application?"*

**A6.5** Response Director Urban Planning

They have provided information which is indicating that the coverage that is most appropriate is best served in that location. That may not fully answer the question of need but certainly that site was indicated to be preferred because it provides best mobile phone coverage.

Response Chief Executive Officer

Essentially some information has been provided. Essentially the first aspects of which I know that you are across, was the ability to start the application review which has occurred. The consultation and the arguments will then be brought forward which will form part of the Council report. Obviously we are very interested in the detail of that and we do have some expertise on Council in relation to telecommunication matters and that will form part of the Council report.

The officers will have to look at the arguments and with an unbiased eye put a recommendation to Council. Each Councillor will then make up their mind whether they vote for or against the item, notwithstanding that it can still be appealed. I personally as a Chief Executive Officer, don't necessarily enjoy telecommunication issues but it is one that we have to do.

**Q6.6** *Ms Taylor-Rees asked will Council be demanding photos around all streets as this relates to streets outside of the City of Melville.*

**A6.6** Response Chief Executive Officer

I will defer to the Officer but we also have taken photos ourselves at the first time the Elevating Platform (EPV) was put up. The Officers walked the streets and took photos from all different angles. We are going through another process of having the EPV put up, I believe there has been an agreement to leave it up longer. We will be doing our own assessment through that process as will Telstra and as I am sure the community will also.

**Q6.7** *Ms Taylor-Rees advised that the EPV was in a different position now and it has been increased to 50 metres. Telstra said it was too expensive to leave it up for a week. Council should request on behalf of residents to leave the EPV up for this amount of time.*

**A6.7** Response Chief Executive Officer

We agree and we have and I will let the Officers advise. I believe that Telstra have agreed to extend the period of time that they will leave the EPV on site. That was the advice that I was given but the Director Urban Planning will be heavily involved and I will let the Director Urban Planning give you some detail.

Response Director Urban Planning

You have identified the amenity issues that are referred to in the policy. Regardless of the policy, whether it is out of date or not, the Town Planning Scheme requires Council to consider the amenity issues under Clause 7.8 and that will occur. In relation to the information that may be requested, the City is in the early stages of looking at the application, still analysing it, and happy to receive your suggestions. The consultation as you probably know has been discussed with Telstra. They have indicated that they agree that the consultation should not occur until at least the end of January into early February and in relation to the EPV, that matter is still under discussion and you have heard the Chief Executive Officer's response.

**Q6.8** *When the cherry picker (EPV) goes up will you come and see it with us.*

**A6.8** Response Chief Executive Officer

I have a personal view that citizens should have access to the Chief Executive Officer. It is a bit hard with 100,000 people but the answer is yes. I might add that Telstra wanted to actually do the advertising in December and we said it was inappropriate. Council is already playing hardball on this matter. At any stage Telstra can accuse us of not processing within the statutory time frames, deem it as refusal and take it to SAT.

I can say that Councillors will be made aware of the EPV and can choose to go and see it. We will organise a tour as Officers and Councillors will have the opportunity to inspect the site and for those that can't, there will be photo montages that are taken of the area which will be presented.

We will be taking our own photographs not just relying on Telstra's.

Council has given me firm direction in relation to the expectations in the consultation process on this significant issue. It is expecting me as Chief Executive Officer and my Officers to ensure that an appropriate consultation process is followed. We will be undertaking our own consultation, we will not be relying on the applicant's consultation process. It will be run through the Community Services who have the expertise in community consultation in partnership with the Planning area. I am well aware of Council's expectations of me in relation to this issue. I don't think you will be disappointed in the process and you will be involved in the process.

**7.** Rod Petterson, Leeming

**Q7.1** *"Last year a Councillor asked me a question on the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC). Is there a particular reason that question did not appear in the Minutes?"*

**A7.1** Response Chief Executive Officer

The Minutes are only a summary of the events. The Minutes of this meeting by this Council go through to the next Council meeting. They are not meant to be verbatim minutes, they are just a summary of what went on during the meeting.

**Q7.2** *"Some questions taken on notice were not included in the Minutes. Why were they not in the Minutes?"*

**A7.2** Response Chief Executive Officer

This Council takes a summary and submits it at the next meeting for noting. The resolutions of the meeting are the important things that go through to Council rather than the debate that occurs during the meeting.

Response Governance & Compliance Program Manager

If the questions related to the SMRC we would be asking that you address them with the SMRC because it would not relate to this Council's business.

**Q7.3** *Mr Petterson referred to the ongoing odor problem and the millions of dollars spent on the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) and asked if a Business Case for the City of Canning had been completed.*

**A7.3** Response Director Corporate Services

No, the final business case has not been completed as yet.

**Q7.4** *Mr Petterson referred to a response from the Mayor in August 2010 and asked that the Mayor explain the true cost for the City of Melville to withdraw from the SMRC.*

**A7.4** Response His Worship the Mayor

I think I said to you that I would attempt to provide you with the answer to that question. I did attempt to provide the answer to that question through Mr Tieleman and his response was that it would be inappropriate to work on speculation in that way. I attempted to provide it and it wasn't possible but I have some ideas about what the City of Canning may have to pay to withdraw and that is a concern to me if this City should go down the same avenue and one would anticipate that the cost to us would be greater than that.

Response Chief Executive Officer

The cost of preparing the Business Case is substantial dollars and I refuse to spend substantial dollars on a hypothetical question brought forward by an individual. It costs \$100 extra per ratepayer to use the recycling facility so I am not surprised that it costs less if we were to not go there. We know that this community has decided to be environmentally friendly and recycle the waste and it comes at a cost. I would like the Director Corporate Services, if you will your Worship, to provide more detail for Mr Petterson.

Response Director Corporate Services

On any analysis, comparing landfill to the current system that we use will be cheaper simply because it is a completely different technology. Added to landfill costs of course are the transport costs associated as we know. Priced landfill sites are now as far out as Dardanup so transport costs in relation to landfill are extremely expensive. To identify, as the Chief Executive Officer has said, the real costs of the City of Melville choosing to withdraw from the SMRC which includes the composting facility, the green waste and the materials recovery facility, requires a complete Business Case to be drawn up and that is an exercise which we have been on, in regards to the City of Canning's withdrawal, for well over a year now and we still don't have the final answer. It is not something that is just a book exercise that we could do very quickly and have any certainty around it.

**Q7.5** *Mr Petterson advised that his concern is with the Green Bin waste issue and that at a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and other Officers of the City of Melville, the Chief Executive Officer had asked for a Business Case to be undertaken. Has the Business Case been completed?*

**A7.5** Response Chief Executive Officer

I don't know if you actually appreciate the detail involved in this question. It has taken Deloitte over 12 months with their professional team, in working through this and you think I can throw something together for no cost. The intent was because the City of Canning are withdrawing from the SMRC, there has to be a Business Case, that's in the constitution. The Business Case is being done or was being done at the time of our conversation. I haven't seen the outcomes of that at this stage so I don't know the dollars associated with that. It will all become clear when it is completed and everyone knows how we move forward from here, but it is not a small exercise. It wouldn't take a private organisation over 12 months to do a Business Case if it was simple and wouldn't cost the substantial fees that it has done.

**Q7.6** *Mr Petterson asked if the City of Melville was aware that this year the SMRC is charging \$182 plus GST for recycling the waste.*

**A7.6** Response Director Corporate Services

As the person making the payments, we are very aware what we are paying to the SMRC on that issue. The payments reports are submitted to Council on a monthly basis. We are aware of the costs of waste treatment.

**Q7.7** *Mr Petterson asked how much money has been spent since the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) surveyed the RRRC and advised that the rectification did not work as the odor is still there. How much has the City's debt risen as a result of this.*

**A7.7** Response Director Corporate Services

The debt of the SMRC will have risen partly as a result of the rectification works that were undertaken by the SMRC and yes we are one of the guarantors of the loans taken out by the SMRC. The other factor is that loan funds were also required to be raised due to a request from the City of Canning for the SMRC to remove the weighbridge because the site at which it was originally agreed by the Canning Council, they have now decided that they don't want it there. There were additional loan funds required to be undertaken for that as well.

**Q7.8** *Mr Petterson referred to due diligence and quality financial management and asked if the City of Melville had reviewed the compost levels from the green bin waste (the waste that causes the odor). Mr Petterson was concerned about the 10,000 tonnes of compost produced and the pesticides that sit on top of the ground and leach into the groundwater. Mr Petterson advised that Cr Robartson had indicated that the SMRC were testing these issues.*

**A7.8 Response Chief Executive Officer**

This Council and the region have decided to try and take an environmental initiative rather than use landfill. We are at the front end of innovation trying to determine a way of recycling the State's waste in a way that is environmentally friendly and I acknowledge that that is not going to come without problems. Waste recycling will be better in 30 years than it is today on the basis that organisations like the City of Melville, rightfully or wrongfully, have entered into a process of trying to be environmentally friendly in the way we deal with waste. I might also note that other Regional Councils have done recent study tours and had a look at the issues and have come back to the same type of technology that we are using. They didn't find anything different. If we diverted the region's waste into landfill, I think there are some 330,000 tonnes, I am told there is about less than a decade of landfill space available.

**Q7.9** *Mr Petterson advised that the issue he was talking about was the 80,000 tonnes put into landfill. The Dardanup site is charging \$40 per tonne and has 30 years space available, the Gingin site has 50 years left. Rockingham has 21 years and the Town of Kwinana has been using the Rockingham landfill site. This year the City of Melville is getting charged \$200 per tonne for 87,000 tonnes of waste.*

**A7.9 Response Chief Executive Officer**

I would just add that if we diverted all our waste into landfill, the available landfill space would close significantly sooner. I also dispute the fact that 50% is going to landfill.

Mr Stuart McAll, Chief Executive Officer of the SMRC (attending the meeting as a resident of the City) advised that the quantity of residual waste that will end up in landfill is 46% as about 38% cannot be put into landfill of which they have extracted just under 90% organic material.

At 7.58pm, with the agreement of the Electors, His Worship the Mayor granted Mr Petterson an extension of time to continue with his questions.

**Q7.10** *Mr Petterson commented that he was talking about costs. With 46% going to landfill the City of Melville is paying \$200 per tonne. The City could save \$3 million on current fees over six years and recover its costs.*

**A7.10 Response Director Corporate Services**

The calculation is a simple one. If we chose to go to landfill and landfill is \$100 per tonne and we sent 30,000 tonnes to landfill instead of to an alternative waste treatment, yes there will be a cost saving, but it is a different waste treatment, it is not an alternative waste treatment which this Council has committed to and the project is to continue until 2023. There is no doubt we could save money and repay the loans by going to landfill.

**Q7.11** *Mr Petterson commented that given the fact that the City of Melville would save \$3 million per year and has spent \$20 million or more to keep waste out of landfill, out of 90,000 tonnes, 20,000 tonnes of landfill was produced.*

*Mr Petterson commented that as a globe we put 30 billion metres of carbon into the atmosphere and the City of Melville's contribution to the saving is 20,000 tonnes. If the City maintains what it is doing it will be spending \$60 million of ratepayers money and as the Chief Executive Officer of the SMRC confirmed 46% of waste is going to landfill. The City has spent \$20 million or more to make itself feel good.*

**A7.11** Response Chief Executive Officer

In relation to your comment about the money being diverted into other areas, that is incorrect. The money that is raised on waste disposal in the City's rates can only be used for that purpose. It cannot be used for another purpose. The decision was made obviously in consultation with the community at some stage. Regionally that was the way to go forward. We believe that the latest technology which has not been completed yet is more successful. I am also aware that the numbers that you have quoted about the amount of diversion in carbon units is not correct and I can talk to you about that afterwards. I understand the disagreement and the tension but this Council has made this decision on behalf of its ratepayers to spend an additional \$100 per year in an attempt to identify and reduce its carbon footprint.

**Q7.12** Mr Petterson asked what was the anticipated timeframe for the \$17 million debt to be paid back. It is actually going up not down.

**A7.12** Response Chief Executive Officer

2023.

Response Director Corporate Services

The debt repayment schedule, and this is something we keep a very close eye on, is down to zero at 2023. That is the end of life of the project and that's what we manage in working through the budgets with the SMRC. The long term financial plan of the SMRC shows the reduction of the debt from now through to 2023.

**Q7.13** *"Does the City of Melville have concern about the financial status of the SMRC".*

**A7.13** Response Director Corporate Services

We don't have any particular concerns around the financial status of the SMRC and that issue is managed by our representative on the board, by my fellow Director, the Director Technical Services, who is not here tonight hence I am answering some of these questions. They are scrutinized very carefully by a whole range of Officers from not just this Council, but from other Councils so they get more scrutiny than the financial statements of the City of Melville.

At 8.11pm Mr Petterson's questions concluded.

8. Mr James Addvalue, Booragoon

**Q8.1** *Mr Addvalue commented that he had asked for the provision of a toilet at Canning Bridge Library and nothing has happened. He advised that more children are using library and the demographics show we have an older population in the area also.*

*Mr Addvalue also asked for an update on the Senior Citizens building and whether Council was considering "flogging" it and transferring the Senior Citizens Centre somewhere else.*

**A8.1** Response Chief Executive Officer

Council has to make decisions based on the City, not by Wards. All the assets that the City has are under review. The community has changed and the City has to make sure that what it does meets the changing needs of the community so everything is under review. There is nothing before us in relation to "flogging off" items as you put it.

Response Director Community Development

I am not aware of any immediate plans for a toilet to be installed in the Canning Bridge Library. Certainly those sorts of requests can go through our normal process of budget consideration. In terms of that particular building though, as the Chief Executive Officer has touched on, obviously at some point down the track once the whole range of very detailed studies have been done following the endorsement of the Canning Bridge Vision, we will get a better picture for what can happen in that precinct, but it is certainly our intention to eventually look at community space in that precinct which would obviously be a new and improved facility for the community and it would certainly have toilets in that particular facility.

**Q8.2.** *Mr Addvalue asked that when considering large expenditure does the Council consider demographics for the particular area. Leeming shows it was in the bottom two in demographic, so might the Council spend less money in that area? In an area with a higher population and increased business activity, can we afford to spend more money in that area?*

**A8.2** Response Chief Executive Officer

Yes we use demographic data. It is on the website you can go to the website ID economics and you can take out all this type of information in addition to that the City has also undertaken a Melville 2050 study which is looking at Melville in 2050, what are the issues and the like and that report is weeks away from finalization. We have put it on the website and that is trying to anticipate a number of years ahead to determine what are the types of changes that are occurring in the City so Councillors can use that data in planning their Strategic Plans moving forward.

There are so many variables we are working through on the citizens' behalf to come up with the lowest cost option with the best range of products and services in the marketplace.

9. Mr Otto Mueller, Murdoch

Mr Mueller commented that he was overawed with the Chief Executive Officer's use of the word "product" and that he had a problem with that description for a community.

Mr Mueller commented on a newspaper article about high rise buildings in the Canning Bridge Vision. He commented that he doesn't think 8 storey towers are needed in that area and this would increase the carbon footprint.

10. Mr Rod Petterson, Leeming

**Q10.1** *"What do residents need to do to have the area bounded by South Street, Karel Avenue and Roe Highway Leeming transferred to the City of Canning?"*

**A10.1** Response Chief Executive Officer

Portions of Canning should come across to the City of Melville and this Council has already released some properties to Canning on the basis of sensible boundary review. The comment that I have got back from the Minister and from the Advisory Board is that their first priority is in relation to amalgamations and there are a number of those that they are putting forward. Then they will move through a process of boundary review and have a look at all those and I would imagine there are hundreds of requests across the State in relation to boundary reform.

The reason the rates in the City of Canning may be cheaper would relate to the rate base. The City of Canning has a 50% rate base of commercial/industrial properties. In the City of Melville the residential rate base is 78%.

There have been a number of reforms that have been put through and all will be determined by the Advisory Board.

10. Mr Cecil Walkley, Bicton

Mr Walkley thanked Councillors and Staff for their hard work during the year.

The Chief Executive Officer clarified that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors do not come back to this meeting for confirmation. The minutes are confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council following the Annual General Meeting of Electors.

On behalf of the Elected Members and Staff of the City of Melville, His Worship the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year. His Worship the Mayor invited Electors to enjoy refreshments with Elected Members and Officers.

**9. CLOSURE**

There being no further business, His Worship the Mayor, R Aubrey, declared the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.