

Public Question Time and Submissions

Question from Paul Hickey

Mr Hickey asked to follow up on a question asked at the 21 April Council Meeting during item 14.5 Draft Council Plan 2021-31, Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan, Financial Plan, Revenue & Rating Plan, and Budget 2021-22, Release for public consultation:

Why, given the financial difficulties faced by many rate payers owners during the Pandemic, are Port Philip rates still so much higher than comparable properties in neighbouring municipalities?

Response

In the 2020/21 Financial Year 70% of residential ratepayers in City of Port Phillip paid average rates of <\$1,631.

It is hard to compare Councils due to many issues such as:

- a) mix of property classes and particularly housing stock,
- b) variety of services provided and
- c) legacy financial position eg Debt.

City of Port Phillip has no Swimming Pools or Gyms but manages 13KM of foreshore and assets such as St Kilda Marina, Palais Theatre and St Kilda Botanical Gardens.

Council decides on Revenue Budget to deliver these services. Rates typically comprises in City of Port Phillip 60% of this revenue. The rates contribution is shared across property owners relative to the value of their properties as per annual valuation by the Victorian Valuer General.

City of Port Phillip has a Financial Hardship policy that seeks to support ratepayers undergoing financial stress, the policy was adjusted to reflect additional financial stress resulting from COVID-19.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*