

## Rating Strategy Workshop 4 Summary

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**Meeting:** City of Palmerston Council Rating Strategy Workshop 4

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**Held on:** 6/12/2018

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**Location:** City of Palmerston Council

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### Introduction

The City of Palmerston Council has committed to prepare a 10 Year Rating Strategy in consultation with the community and Deloitte has been engaged to facilitate a series of workshops to help Council prepare the Strategy.

A Community Reference Group (the Group) has been established to provide ideas, concepts and feedback that will be used in preparing the Rating Strategy. The Group represents a mix of residents, block owners and business/commercial rate payers. Over the course of four workshops, Council will gain feedback from the Group. The outcomes of these workshops will help Council to:

- Determine a fair method of raising revenues from rates
- Ensure that the money raised through rating property owners, in conjunction with other income sources, will guarantee the long term financial sustainability of the Council
- Ensure that Council has sufficient measures in place to support community groups, pensioners and those suffering from hardship

The first workshop, The Basics of Rating, was held on Thursday 20 September 2018 at the Council Chambers. There were nineteen community members in attendance.

The second workshop was discussion-based and held on Thursday 27 September 2018 at the Council Chambers. There were sixteen community members in attendance.

The third workshop was discussion-based and held on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at the Council Chambers. There were thirteen community members in attendance.

The fourth workshop was discussion-based and held on 6 December 2018. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain endorsement for the Outcomes Report, and receive a presentation and discuss community engagement methods. There were twelve community members in attendance and one apology.

### Summary of Discussions:

The Deloitte team summarised Workshops 1, 2 and 3.

The draft Workshop 3 Summary Report was confirmed with one requested edit.

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It was noted that given the CRG did not come to a consensus on a preferred rating model, it has now been recommended that Council consider the matters the CRG raised, including alternative rating methodologies, and also undertake further consultation.

The draft Outcomes Report was confirmed with one requested edit to Annexure A, first dot point – to reframe to read “A view expressed by the CRG was there is currently inequity in how rates are levied.”

A comment was also made in relation to the last dot point on page one of the Annexure: *Sale of land should only occur after ten years of missed payments rather than two years.* CRG members were reminded that the Outcomes Report Appendix contained direct extracts from views expressed during the workshops, and those views had not been analysed for factual accuracy. Council staff advised that the sale of land is governed by the legislation.

Communications company True North then presented to the CRG on community engagement methods and workshopped a series of questions.

During the workshop a number of CRG members indicated they would like to see the three rating options and the economic impacts of those options made available in a paper. A number of the CRG also indicated they would like to come back together. The Mayor then extended an invitation for the CRG members to attend a Council meeting in late January or February when Council will be considering the Outcomes Report and Community Engagement Report from True North.

The CRG members were formally thanked for their contribution to and involvement in the process.

CRG members thanked the Mayor for her attendance at every session. Deloitte, True North and Council staffed were also thanked.

Workshop closed 8.30pm