

## 1. DEPUTATION BY APPOINTMENT

### 1.1 GARREG ROAD – UNDERGROUNDING OF OVERHEAD SERVICES – BOARD FUNDING CONTRIBUTION AND NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr Peter Penlington of 19 Garreg Road, supported by Mr Robert Scott of 33 Garreg Road, addressed the Board on behalf of the residents of Garreg Road asking that the Board endorse the proposed Notice of Motion before the present meeting, in order to enable the undergrounding project to proceed in conjunction with the proposed kerb and channel renewal in Garreg Road.

The Board was asked to exercise its discretion and make a financial contribution towards the residents' share of the project cost.

The residents submitted that three lasting benefits would be achieved by a contribution being made, namely:

1. the enhanced and improved aesthetic appearance of the street
2. enhanced values of the individual properties and the collective value of the street; and
3. enhancing the high level of community spirit already in the street.

Mr Penlington outlined to the Board the efforts undertaken to date by the Residents' Committee to secure contributions of \$172,722 towards a target amount of \$200,000 being the estimated 50% share of the projected costs of undergrounding. The Board was invited to consider utilising its discretionary funding to assist the residents in meeting any shortfall they may face in achieving their 50% share of the costs.

The submitters stated that such support would not, in their opinion, set a precedent as each discretionary expenditure allocation made by the Board resulted from an assessment of all the factors relevant to that decision.

Also, they submitted that there would be no erosion of the Council's policy as the Board had, for a number of years, favoured a higher level of undergrounding being undertaken. Accordingly, the residents considered that the Board's support for discretionary allocation was simply an affirmation of the Board's declared position.

Members asked a number of questions of clarification of the deputation and the Chairman thanked the representatives for their comprehensive submission.

The deputation then retired from the Board table.

The Board **agreed** to receive for discussion the following Notice of Motion, as amended and moved by Mark Kunnen, seconded by Sally Buck:

"That subject to the Council's approval, the Board underwrite, up to a maximum of \$25,000, any funding shortfall above \$175,000 so that the residents can confirm their half share of undergrounding to achieve full reconstruction of Garreg Road."

The Board then undertook a wide ranging discussion on the submissions presented and the contents of the proposed motion.

Members congratulated the residents on the significance of their fundraising efforts to date.

Viewpoints were expressed both for and against the use of the Board's funds in the manner proposed.

Comment was made that the Board should be able to exercise its discretion and allocate its own funding towards what was suggested as being a core Council activity. Some members though were concerned about the precedent factor and the likelihood of similar approaches being received from other local residents whose streets are scheduled to be reconstructed now and in the future, and at a possible breach of the Council's policy on this matter.

Staff elaborated on the timing and associated details of the tender process for undergrounding involving Telecom and Orion.

At the conclusion of the mover's right of reply, the motion was put to the meeting and declared **carried** on division number 1, by 6 votes to 4, the voting being as follows:

**For (6):** Sally Buck, Val Carter, Cheryl Colley, Yiyi Ku, Mark Kunnen, Ron Wright

**Against (4):** George Hampton, Pat Harrow, Barbara Stewart, Mike Wall

**Board**

**Recommendation:** That subject to the Council's approval, the Board underwrite, up to a maximum of \$25,000, any funding shortfall above \$175,000 so that the residents can confirm their half share of undergrounding to achieve full reconstruction of Garreg Road.