

Council's [response](#) to budget submissions stated that:

“Following consideration of the written submissions and the hearings the Committee of Council resolved not to recommend that Council make any changes to the Draft Budget related to the submissions.”



As soon as this was publically announced, the 26th June issue of Waverley Leader, [page 27](#) is indicating the Mayor's is already thinking of breaking the just approved budget plan by intending to consider funding the Waverley Gym Centre's expansion. Waverley Gym Centre is one of the 5 budget submitters.

There is another issue in the media article. Initially in the budget proposal statement, the key cost drivers mentioned were primarily because of carbon tax and state levies. Council officers confirmed that these taxes and levies are not the main cost drivers as they have been factored into waste management and contract and service charges, and mentioned the highest/key cost driver was employee costs.

In this news brief, do we have a situation showing naïve understanding of the budget costs and management accountability, or simply indicating a first step to break/overrun the new budget plan? Regardless this news brief raises questions of transparency and budget accountability in the budget management and communication processes.