

Proposal to Declare and Levy a Special Charge for the Solar Saver Scheme (only applied to new participating households and organisations).

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act) notice is hereby given that the Darebin City Council (Council) at its meeting on 16 March 2020 resolved to give notice of its intention to declare and levy a special charge under Section 163 of the Act. The special charge is for the purposes of defraying the expenses incurred by Council relating to the provision of solar energy systems on properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme (Scheme). The Scheme arises out of Council's function of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.

A copy of the proposed declaration, known as '*Proposed Special Charge Scheme for Solar Saver Program*', is available for inspection at Council's Offices at 274 Gower Street, Preston, during normal office hours until 22 April 2020, insofar as the offices are open. Due to the current public health precautions the offices may be closed, in which case a copy can be sent by email or post on request.

The special charge is to be declared in relation to the properties listed in Appendix A to the report titled 'Intention to Declare a Special Charge - Darebin Solar Saver', considered by Council at its ordinary meeting on 16 March 2020. A copy of the Appendix forms part of the documents available for inspection.

The Scheme has been prepared on the basis that the participating property owners will receive 100% of the benefit. The total cost of the scheme is \$247,387.30 and a special charge will be imposed only on property owners voluntarily participating in the Scheme. The special charge has been calculated according to the particular costs of installation at each property. If you have not signed an agreement this does not apply to you.

Each participating property owner who agrees to the special charge to be levied for their property will receive notice when the first quarterly payment is due (from September 2020). Owners will make quarterly payments, or alternatively may request to pay their full amount in a single lump sum, or by other approved arrangements.

Any person may make a submission under Section 223 of the Act in relation to Council's proposal to declare the special charge under Section 163 of the Act. Any person who has made a written submission may also request that they (or a person acting on their behalf) be heard in support of their written submission. Such persons should indicate in their submission if they wish to be heard by Council. Council will consider and, if requested, hear support for all written submissions received before **5pm on Wednesday 22 April 2020**.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Sally MacAdams
Coordinator Solar Saver Program
Darebin City Council
PO Box 91 PRESTON VIC 3072
sally.macadams@darebin.vic.gov.au

In addition to the right to make a submission, participating property owners have the right to object to the proposed declaration in accordance with section 163B of the Act. Such persons may object in writing to Council by **5pm on Wednesday 22 April 2020** by sending their objection to the above postal or email address. If participating property owners simply wish to withdraw from the program, they can do so by informing Council in writing.

Submissions must clearly state whether the author wishes to be heard by Council, and whether the submission is a submission of support or comment only, or a formal objection to the scheme as proposed.

It is proposed that Council will consider this matter at its Ordinary Meeting of 27 April 2020. Further information on this Scheme may be obtained from **Sally MacAdams**, Coordinator Solar Saver Program on **8470 8208**.

Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer