

WCC rate rise and pushing \$328,000 down a drain



The W'bool City Council paid more than \$300,000 than it needed to for a part of the Simpson St drainage project, according to local developer Graeme Rodger.

Carol Altmann – The Terrier

How to save \$700,000 in seven days, instalment #4:

Today's instalment is not a revelation, but a reminder.

It's a reminder of a story [I ran last November](#) where developer and former councillor Graeme Rodger revealed the Warrnambool City Council could have saved at least \$328,000 on a tender for part of the Simpson St drainage and tunnel project.

That is another \$328,000 that could have been shaved and saved off council's spending in 2018-19.

To recap: Mr Rodger's company, Rodger Constructions, put in two tenders for the multi-million dollar job last August: one "conforming" and one "non-conforming" which basically means one that stuck to the letter of the tender, and one that suggested a cheaper option.

The council went on to award the tender to another company for a higher price than both options put forward by Rodger Constructions.



Warrnambool developer and former councillor Graeme Rodger.

The council said the bid by Rodger Constructions, which was short-listed, had a number of flaws.

Mr Rodger said all of these could have been worked out with a simple, face-to-face meeting that was never offered.

The council said such a meeting was optional and it chose not to take up this option for a number of reasons.

You can revisit the full, blow-by-blow detail [in the story here](#).

The end result, however, is the job will cost ratepayers \$328,000 more than it could have.

If the council had chosen the non-conforming option, it could have saved \$424,630.

So here we are four days into the seven-day search for savings and I think we are close to the \$700,000 mark already by taking a closer look at this tender, the cost of the [two new toilet blocks](#), the [cost of consultants](#) and the spending on [council corporate credit cards](#).

Nip, tuck, shave, save and suddenly there is no need to cut essential services or push rates up above the 2.5% cap.

But we still have three days to go.

I will be back on Monday – we can all catch our breath for a bit – for the first of the final three instalments.

Thanks for hanging in here.

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