

MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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2018/2019 Budget Adopted

Council have adopted the 2018-2019 Shire of Esperance Budget at yesterday's Ordinary Council Meeting. Rate parameters, fees and charges, reserve movements, proposed borrowings and waste rates for the 2018-2019 financial year were also adopted.

The budget outlines operational expenditure and capital projects being undertaken over the next twelve months and how these will be funded.

On 23 May 2018 Council endorsed the differential rates of 4.45% for town and rural properties. The rates are reviewed by Council every year and are set to ensure the rates charged are sufficient to support the facilities and services the Shire provides.

Some notable expenditure items in the 2018-2019 budget include:

- Construction of the Indoor Sports Stadium, a \$7.8m project with \$3.7 million as a local contribution to add to \$4.1 million from State Funding, this includes \$600,000 funding Noel White for reroofing and installing club rooms
- \$50,000 towards a polystyrene baler so that the Shire can recycle polystyrene products – this is a great way for us to continue to reduce our reliance on waste to landfill
- \$218,000 to upgrades to the playground at Adventureland Park, these include a flying fox, giant swing and some upgrades to existing equipment
- \$15,000 has been allocated to a site selection study for the best locations for a mountain bike track in Esperance
- \$30,000 for portable staging for the Civic Centre, this will improve venue opportunities and allow for more flexibility for performers both local and visiting
- \$1.2 million towards replacing the mainline for the Eastern Suburbs Water Scheme Project
- \$11.8 million to roads – this is an increase of \$500,000 from last year and equates to approximately 2.5% of the rates increase. One road of interest is the widening of Orleans Bay Road – improving access for locals and tourists to Wharton Beach.
- Increased funding going towards tourism projects and services at the visitor centre, including new banners to be displayed around town, interpretive signage for tourist locations and new signage for the Museum, as well as, funding towards a study into turning Pink Lake pink again.

- \$212,565.06 committed to over 20 community groups during Community Grants Program

Shire President Victoria Brown said, "Setting the budget is a huge responsibility. We have to ensure we can continue to provide the services we already offer whilst considering new and exciting projects.

"We are excited to see the Indoor Stadium move forward as this is something we have been working towards for some time. Over the past year our community has been passionate about Esperance's Waste Revolution and we'll now be able to assist this further by being able to offer recycling for polystyrene."

Shire residents are reminded that the domestic waste service can be altered to suit individual needs. Residents can determine which size recycling and rubbish bins provide the best solution for their household with bins ranging from 140ltr to 360ltr. All rateable properties will receive domestic waste voucher entitlements. The waste rate remains at \$80 per rateable property.

Ends

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