

MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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COUNCIL ADOPTS 2016/17 BUDGET

Council has adopted the 2016/17 Budget and supporting documents at yesterday's Ordinary Council Meeting in line with the Shire's strategic plans. Rate parameters, fees and charges, reserve movements, proposed borrowings and waste rate for the 2016/2017 financial year were also endorsed. The budget covers expenditure to ensure community services and assets such as roads, buildings and public open spaces continue to be maintained at acceptable service levels, as well as meeting the cost of current projects and continuing to reduce the existing asset management gap.

On 28 June Council resolved to a rates increase of 4.5% for both GRV and UV properties. This reduced by 2% the previous long term financial plan proposal of a 6.5% increase. This rate is set by Council and is calculated to ensure the rates charged each year are sufficient to support the Shire's services to the community.

Some of the key expenditure in the 2016-2017 Budget include:

- \$13.74m on rural road construction and maintenance
- \$2.33m on urban road construction and maintenance
- \$779k for Scaddan Townsite post the November 15 Fires
- \$610k Upgrades and Replacement of Eastern Suburbs recycled waste water supply
- \$357k on footpath upgrades
- \$310k Playground equipment replacement
- \$240k Sporting grounds perimeter fencing replacement
- \$260k James St Jetty Decking replacement
- \$243k Lake Monjingup Rebuild post fire
- \$189k on Coastal Reserves Upgrades
- \$185k Community Grants Program
- \$100k Christmas Decorations
- \$55k to progress design of Indoor Sports Stadium
- \$50k to progress concept designs for replacement jetty

Shire President Victoria Brown said "The differential rates will see an average increase of \$59 per household (approximately \$29 per eligible pensioner). This is the lowest rate increase we have adopted in more than 10 years and it is due to the hard work from all of us as a community contributing to the financial health of our Shire. Despite rising costs, we have been able to keep rates at a minimum while continuing to deliver high quality assets and services, key projects and addressing the asset management gap."

Shire residents will continue to have access to a range of domestic waste collection and recycling options to suit individual personal requirements. Residents can determine which size recycling and rubbish bins provide the best solution. All rateable properties will receive domestic waste voucher entitlements. The waste levy remains at \$80 per rateable property. The Emergency Services Levy is collected on behalf of the State Government to fund a

range of emergency services organisations, including local bush fire brigades within the Shire of Esperance.

The Shire offers several payment options which can be arranged by contacting our Rates Department, and ratepayers are urged to do so promptly to avoid the accrual of late payment interest. Pensioner or Senior Rebates are available by contacting the Water Corporation on 1300 659 951 to register your concession card details.

Ends

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