



Port Augusta

CITY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Council adopts 2017/18 budget

Following the adoption of the Port Augusta City Council 2017/18 Annual Business Plan and Budget on July 5, 2017 property owners will begin to receive rate notices from today (21/7/2017).

With the first instalment due on September 8, Council staff have worked hard to ensure rate notices are out as early as possible to give ratepayers time to make payments by the first instalment date.

For those who may experience difficulties in making payments Council is encouraging those people to contact Council's rates officer as soon as possible to arrange a payment schedule.

As part of the business plan and budget process, Council sought submissions from the community and also held a community information session to give people an opportunity to ask questions and obtain further information. One written submission was received and nine community members attended the public information session on June 13, 2017.

The adoption of Council's budget saw the lowest rate rise in more than 15 years, with an average 3% rise applied to properties

The budget has a greater emphasis on maintaining the community's assets, with \$2.8m allocated for asset renewal. This includes, stormwater construction including increasing the capacity of the pump station on Flinders Terrace, repairs to Shack Road, levee bank construction, road reseals, and replacement and repairs to footpaths and kerbing. New projects include an upgrade to the foreshore and an upgrade to James Road intersection.

Along with the small rate rise, rate payers will also see a reduction in the Kerbside Waste Collection & Recycling Charge, down \$7 along with a \$20 reduction in the Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) charge.

For the 2017/18 budget a capping of 6% applies for urban and non-urban residential assessments and 15% for all other assessment (some exclusions apply). There will be no change to the basis of rating for 2017/18.

Unfortunately Council is not able to continue its pensioner remission of \$90 due to restrictions in obtaining data from the Department of Community and Social Inclusion. Ratepayers eligible for State Government concessions such as Cost of Living Concession and CWMS concession will now receive them directly into their bank accounts.

ENDS

For more information contact Media & Communications Manager Cherie Gerlach on 0427 413345.

LEE HERON
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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