



MEDIA RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE, 2019

2019-20 Budget and revised Council Plan adopted by Council

Strathbogie Shire Council adopted its 2019-20 Budget and revised Council Plan at a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday 25th June.

Prior to the Special Meeting to adopt the Council Plan and Budget, Council moved to suspend standing orders and hear from concerned residents and ratepayers following the release of the VAGO Audit Report into Fraud and Corruption Controls tabled in Victorian Parliament last Thursday. There will be a separate Council statement in relation to follow.

The budget includes the delivery of a \$14 million Capital Works Program, with a whole host of exciting infrastructure projects on the way.

The Capital Works Program includes \$7 million on the road network, with \$3.3 million to upgrade Mullers, Upton and Longwood-Ruffy Roads, which will be assisted by funding of \$2.18 million from the Victorian Government's Fixing Country Roads Program.

Council was thrilled to receive funding from the Fixing Country Roads Program and looks forward to enhancing the quality of these roads for greater connectivity and safety.

The following capital works projects will also be delivered:

- ✓ Zero to One Roads Program- \$400,000
- ✓ Pedestrian Bridges- \$250,000
- ✓ Drainage- \$907,000
- ✓ Footpaths- \$274,000
- ✓ Aquatic Facilities- \$382,000
- ✓ Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces- \$1.9 million
- ✓ Nagambie Boardwalk Extension- \$702,000 over two years (\$452,000 external funding)

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Amanda McClaren said Council will be implementing a 2.25 percent increase in the average rate for 2019-20.

"This increase is below the State Government cap of 2.5 percent under the 'Fair Go Rates' legislation," Mayor McClaren explained.

"The allows Council to continue to deliver existing service levels, funding of a number of significant new initiatives and the ongoing allocation of sufficient funds to continue the strategic renewal of infrastructure across the shire."

Council will continue to levy a municipal charge, but this will be reduced from \$266 to \$133, which aims to provide greater equity for ratepayers.

Council has also proposed to alter the farm rate differential from 82.5 percent of the residential rate to 80 percent.

Waste charges in the 2019-20 financial year will increase by 4.1 percent, with Council incurring additional costs associated with the current challenges being faced by the recycling industry, primarily associated with China's decision to restrict the import of recyclable materials.

Mayor McClaren said the final budget has been adopted following a 28 day public exhibition period, which gave the community an opportunity to provide feedback and submissions.

"We'd like to thank and congratulate everyone who put the time and effort into making a submission to the budget," Cr McClaren said

"It's great to have this level of involvement from our communities in such an important process."

Council received 18 submissions to the budget during the public exhibition period and the following funding allocations have been made as a result of submissions:

- ✓ Footpath Marie/Glass Street Nagambie- \$7,000
- ✓ Watering system at Violet Town Recreation Reserve (to be matched by either grant or in-kind contribution)- \$40,000
- ✓ Euroa Community Cinema seating (contingent on grant for 50 percent)- \$60,000
- ✓ Violet Town Men's Shed completion- \$18,000
- ✓ Kitchen upgrade at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy - \$30,000
- ✓ Painting external walls at Violet Town Bowls Club- \$6,600

If you'd like to view the budget, a copy will be made available on Council's website www.strathbogje.vic.gov.au/council/plans-policies-strategies-a-reports/corporate, as well as copies available at Council Offices.

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