

2.56.002

MEDIA RELEASE

Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2019-20 goes out for public consultation

21 May 2019

Alexandrina Council has released its draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2019-20 for public consultation, which takes place from Tuesday 21 May to Monday 17 June 2019.

“The draft plan sets out our budget for the 2019-20 financial year and reflects Council’s commitment to maintaining our enviable lifestyle and promoting sustainable growth within our region” said Alexandrina Council Mayor Keith Parkes.

“Alexandrina Council welcomes feedback from our community and encourages ratepayers to visit our website or one of Council’s offices to view the draft plan and provide comment”,

Council is proposing an average 3.3 per cent rate increase in 2019-20, including 0.7 per cent for the extraordinary item of China Sword (a much publicised issue pertaining to the signification cost increase of community recycling programmes across Australia).

“In this plan, we have increased service levels for rural roadside tree trimming, an area that our community has expressed they would like to see improved” said Mayor Parkes.

Alexandrina Chief Executive Officer, Glenn Rappenberg said Council is committed to maximising ratepayer return through the delivery of cost effective and responsive services.

“Every endeavour has been taken to minimise the rate increase, whilst taking action on previously identified areas of need,” he said.

“I am pleased to report that Council administration has worked diligently in identifying efficiency savings of 0.6%. Efficiencies over the last two financial years equate to a reduction of 1.4% or \$455,000 in operating expenses, helping to keep rate increases to a minimum.

“We have heard your vision to stimulate and innovate our regional economy; to improve the quality of life and wellbeing for all; to increase cultural vitality; and activate vibrant communities. Council shares this vision and through our plans, will embrace the challenges of ensuring a more sustainable future for all generations,” said Mr. Rappenberg.

Some of the key initiatives proposed for this year include:

- Increased expenditure on the rural Roadside Tree Trimming Program.
- Completion of the new Mount Compass Recreation Park.
- Proposed upgrades to Strathalbyn’s Senior Citizens Building.
- An increased focus on economic development.

Council welcomes feedback from our community and invites residents and ratepayers to view the draft

Annual Business Plan and Budget 2019-20, which is on display at Council offices and libraries; and can also be viewed on Council's website at www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au

Feedback is encouraged through Council's My Say site <http://mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/ABP2019-20>