

ALEXANDRINA

Annual Business Plan & Budget
2008/2009





ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Annual Business Plan and Budget 2008-2009

Council must prepare an Annual Business Plan and consult with its community on the plan prior to it being approved by Council's Audit Committee then Council. Once community feedback from the consultation has been considered by Council it can then be amended, or adopted without amendment, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Council believes that this is a responsible budget set in a tightening fiscal environment which provides for new infrastructure in a rapidly growing community, maintaining existing assets in good condition as well as maintaining existing services.

Key financial sustainability performance targets are proposed to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Council covering the maintenance and development of the community's assets as well as providing appropriate services.

Those key targets are:

- a small operating deficit,
- an increase in the net liabilities ratio to 65% (dependent on actual year end borrowings in the 2007/8 year),
- an asset sustainability ratio of 88%.

This budget has been developed in an environment of :

- upward pressure on inflation with the consumer price index rising from last year's 1.8% to a projected 4.5%,
- increased costs of maintaining and replacing Council's assets, and
- upward pressure on wages, contracting and materials.

Capital programmes of some \$14m are expected to generate significant local economic activity with total assets under the ownership of Council increasing in value from \$230m to \$240m.

Total rate income will need to increase by 9% of which at least 2% will come from growth. Rates on existing rateable properties should therefore increase by some 7%.

The same rate in the dollar will be maintained and rate increases will be capped at 11% (subject to usual conditions).

Council will maintain the rural (primary production) rate in the dollar at 86.4% of the urban (residential) rate.



Public Consultation

Public Consultation Information Sessions

Two public consultation information sessions were held to discuss the Annual Business Plan. One session was held on Thursday 5th of June 2008 at the Alexandrina Council Community Chambers, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa, from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. The other session was held on Tuesday 10th June 2008 at the Strathalbyn Branch Office, 1 Colman Tce, Strathalbyn from 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Public Meeting

A formal public meeting to hear submissions on the Annual Business Plan and Budget was held at the Alexandrina Council Community Chambers, 11 Cadell St, Goolwa on Monday 16th June 2008 from 1:30pm.



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Introduction by Mayor Kym McHugh



The Annual Business Plan and budget has been challenging coming at a time when inflation is rising, the economy is still growing strongly and skilled council employees are becoming harder to and retain.

I remain particularly concerned for our business community, whether they be farming, boating, tourism or other, still affected by low water levels and high salinity in our lower lakes.

New housing approvals continue to place us as one of the fastest growing regions in the state and Council is determined to provide adequate services to meet this growth demand but only those services that should be provided by local government and not services more appropriately provided by the private sector, State or Federal governments.

This budget will ensure that the communities' assets are maintained to a high standard whether they are roads, footpaths, stormwater or sewerage systems.

The new Goolwa wastewater treatment plant, biosolids processing and water re-use project is nearing completion and will allow Goolwa to continue to grow in an environmentally sustainable manner. Council also plans to commence construction on a new wastewater treatment plant and water re-use scheme at Strathalbyn.

We are also continuing to plan for the much needed upgrade of the Strathalbyn and district community swimming pool.

Important social programs will continue to be delivered by Council to our communities together with the very essential volunteering support that makes Alexandrina a great place to live.

Council's 2008/2009 budget will also provide for a 50% reduction in the annual fee for jetty licences, river moorings and marina leases in recognition of the impact of low river and lake levels.

I take this opportunity to commend to you the 2008/2009 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Sincerely,



Mayor Kym McHugh

Report by the Chief Executive



Council has spent considerable time in reviewing its proposed income and expenditure for the forthcoming financial year. The Annual Business Plan and budget is in my view a responsible one which ensures that Alexandrina Council continues to be proactive in supporting its communities' needs.

Many new initiatives were considered in preparing this budget but Council took the view that it was essential to contain costs by only prioritizing projects that either maintain existing services, such as upgrading the Strathalbyn swimming centre, or providing essential resources to meet the demands of a growing community, such as extending our sealed roads and stormwater infrastructure.

We will therefore continue to utilise loan borrowings which is an equitable way by which future ratepayers share the cost of new and upgraded assets with today's ratepayers.

In meeting the State Government's financial sustainability targets, Council is expected to deliver a small operating deficit before capital revenue.

General rate income will increase by around 10% with this inclusive of 2.5% growth and 4.5% for CPI.

It is proposed that the same rates in the dollar will be maintained as applied last year with primary producers paying 86.4% of the residential rate.

Valuation movements generally will not fluctuate as significantly this year but Council will continue to apply a safety net by capping rate increases for permanent residents to 11% (subject to conditions).

I believe this Annual Business Plan and budget meets the financial sustainability objectives set down by the State Government in the recent Local Government (Financial Management and Rating) Amendment Act 2005.

Kind Regards,


John Coombe

Elected Members

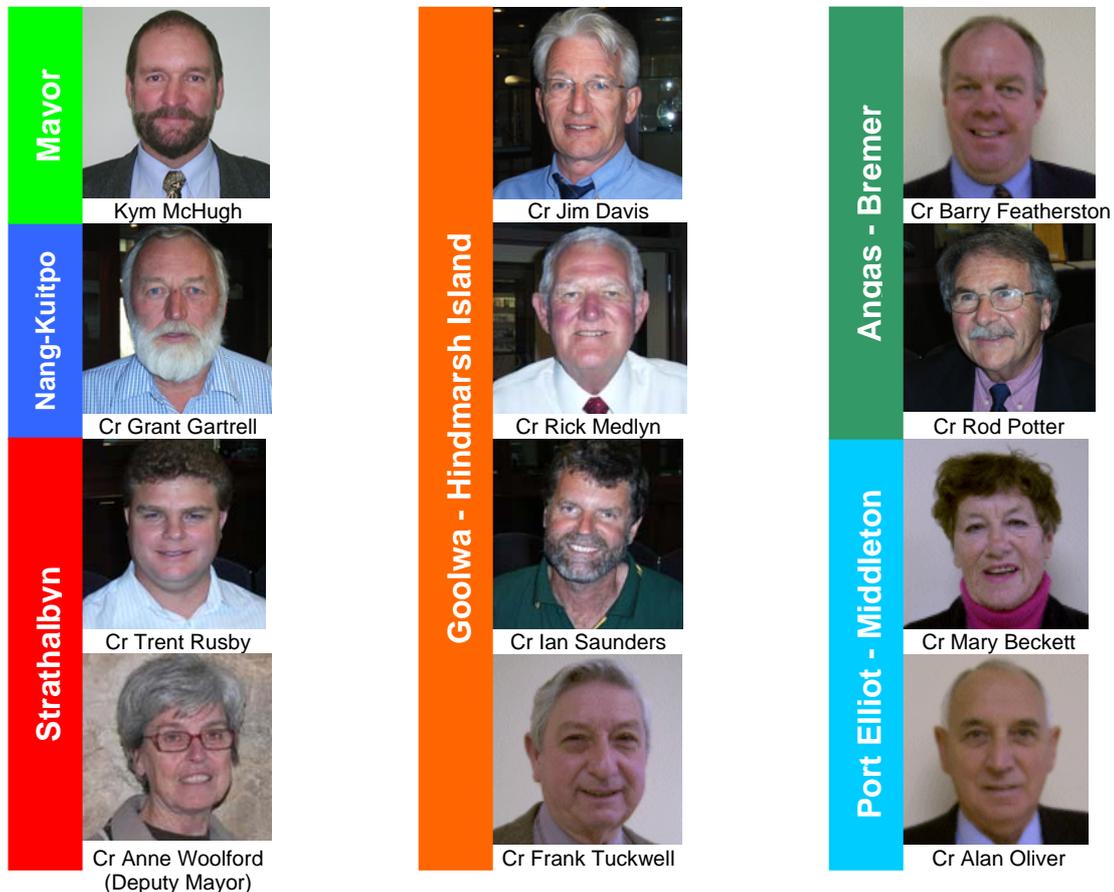
Collectively Elected Members are responsible for policy making and decisions that impact on future plans for the district, and the lives and livelihoods of individuals, organisations and businesses within it.

The role of the Elected Members is to:

- participate in the deliberations and civic activities of the Council
- keep the Council's objectives and policies under review to ensure they are appropriate and effective
- formulate the Council's objectives and policies
- keep Council's resource allocation, expenditure and activities, and the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery, under review
- represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

Alexandrina Council has five wards which are represented by twelve elected members.

The Council is made up of the Mayor (chairperson) and eleven Ward Councillors.



Wards & Townships





Council's Vision

Alexandrina Council is a visionary Council that embraces the needs of the community by protecting and enhancing:

- our natural environment
- lifestyles
- culture and heritage.

Council's Mission is to provide visionary leadership and serve the local and wider community equitably with efficient and effective services in order to achieve our community's present and future needs.

Council's Commitment to Sustainability

Environmental

Council is committed to managing, protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Social

Council is committed to developing its community in a socially just, ethical and ecological manner by encouraging and developing initiatives within its community for improving the quality of life of the community.

Economic

Council is committed to sustainable economic development that ensures a proper balance between economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations.

The Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our Council district.



Alexandrina Council's Strategic Plan 'Future Directions 2004-2009'

Current Progress on Key Strategic Planning Priorities

Governance

Key strategies for this department have been to strengthen its effectiveness in the areas of major developments, risk management and meeting *Good Governance* Objectives.

Action	Status
Economic development review.	New Resource Agreement between Minister for Regional Development, Fleurieu Councils and FRD.
Develop an integrated risk management program.	Commenced with appointment of Risk Management Officer. Emergency management planning and business continuity planning has commenced.
Investigate the cost/benefit/partnership funding possibilities of creating an indoor aquatic centre near the Victor Harbor/Alexandrina Council boundary.	Joint discussions continuing.
Review and update the Alexandrina Library Service Business Plan.	Completed.



Strategy, Finance & Information Services

The key strategy has been to meet the State Government's Financial Sustainability criteria by revising funding procedures and policies, accounting and audit controls, developing a 10 year Long Term Financial Plan and adopting new financial accounting reporting procedures.

Action	Status
Establish an Audit Committee and review internal audit controls.	Completed.
Review organisational strategies.	Re-organisation completed. Review of all services by departments to be completed by 31/12/08.
Review rating policy.	The 08/09 Rating Policy has been updated and is published at the end of this document.
Review Information Communications Technology services.	ICT Strategic Plan completed. ICT department review completed. Disaster Recovery Plan has been formulated. Business Continuity Plan in progress. ICT support contract in place with Kangaroo Island Council.
Develop draft Long Term Financial Plan.	First draft awaiting final Asset and Infrastructure Plan.



Environment & Lifestyle Services

Key Planning Strategies are:

1. to continue to implement the actions arising out of the Strathalbyn Town Plan and
2. to implement an integrated South Coast Spatial Master Plan for future development along the south coast from Hindmarsh Island/Goolwa to Victor Harbor.

Action	Status
Develop the Goolwa Town Plan.	Process commenced with extensive community consultation and a draft plan near completion.
Develop the Goolwa Commercial / Industrial development plan amendment.	Development Plan Amendment process commenced.
Develop the Hindmarsh Island development plan amendment.	Council's process completed. Awaiting approval by the Minister.
Develop the Currency Creek township review and Development Plan Amendment.	Development Plan Amendment process commenced.
Develop the Strathalbyn Commercial / Industrial development plan amendment.	Awaiting Minister's approval to commence the agency and public consultation phase.
Develop the Rural Lands development plan amendment.	Not commenced as yet, awaiting completion of the Rural Lands Strategic Report.
Review Heritage lists for townships.	Commenced.
Introduce the Better Development Plan policies into Council's Development Plan.	Draft Development Plan Amendment is nearing completion.
Create an Alexandrina Council Sport, Recreation & Open Space Committee to review the local Sport, Recreation & Open Space Plan.	Not yet commenced.
Improve Council's social planning methods by integrating community impact analysis into land-use planning.	Not yet commenced.
Review transport planning to ensure residents have reasonable access to public and community transport.	Not yet commenced.
Promote initiatives that enable senior residents and those disabled to live independently.	Ongoing HACC funding successful.
Review the Alexandrina Sustainable Tourism Plan.	Review commenced.



Engineering & Infrastructure Services

The major focus has been to review and develop a suite of Asset Management Plans covering Council's core assets. This will link to Council's Draft Long Term Financial Plan and assist Council in providing sustainable infrastructure into the future.

Action	Status
Develop a Regional Waste Management Strategy in conjunction with Kangaroo Island, Victor Harbor & Yankalilla Councils.	Commenced.
Redevelop the Strathalbyn swimming pool and facilities to current day standards	Design and planning phase completed. Construction planned for March 2009
Expansion of the Goolwa Depot to ensure quality customer services and operational efficiencies.	Design completed. Construction scheduled for 2008/09.
Investigate stormwater and effluent water reuse options.	Working party and preliminary actions established.
Construct new waste water treatment plant, ponds and biosolids processing plant at Goolwa.	Design stage completed, construction to commence in early 2008.
Commence planning for new waste water treatment plant for Strathalbyn.	Negotiation commenced.
Implement the <i>Alexandrina Coastal Park Plan</i> including Surfer's Parade, Middleton and Goolwa Beach carpark re-development.	Goolwa Beach car park completed in 2007/08.
Complete the suite of 5 'core' Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans.	Review of all Plans under way, prior to presentation to Council as Advanced Drafts.

By the end of the 2008/2009 financial year, Alexandrina Council's Strategic Management Plan *Future Directions 2004-2009* will have met most of its objectives.

Strong growth demand in new housing and commercial activity across the South Coast continues thereby making it a priority to commence a full investigation into integrated planning for future growth and sharing more services with the City of Victor Harbor a priority.

Significant Influences and Priorities

A number of significant factors have influenced the preparation of the Council's 2008/09 annual business plan.

These include:

- Most recent CPI annualised (March 2008) at 4.5% in South Australia.
- Labour price index estimated at 4.4% (Access Economics March 2008)
- Requirements to maintain and improve infrastructure assets to acceptable standards including roads, footpaths, lighting, stormwater, street trees and plantings, open space and Council properties
- Service and infrastructure needs for a rapidly growing and ageing population
- Commitments to continuing projects and partnership initiatives over more than one year, such as the Fleurieu Regional Waste Management Strategy and the Adelaide Hills Waste Management Authority's new directions.

The State Valuation Office in its review has found minimal upward movement in residential valuations. Lower valuations on irrigated properties as seen last year have levelled out and valuations on rural land in higher rainfall areas have increased slightly. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the 2008/2009 Rating Policy.

In response to these factors, and to minimise the burden on rate payers, the annual business plan has been prepared with the outcome being:

- a small operating deficit before capital revenues with an overall surplus after sale of assets and other capital revenues of \$1.4m.
- As such the annual business plan will result in the total revenue raised through general rates increasing by around 9% (which includes at least 2% for growth)

In continuing to acknowledge the South Australia Strategic Plan, Council's high level strategic priorities for 2008/09 are

- To continue to develop a comprehensive *Asset & Infrastructure Management Plan*.
- To finalise the *10 Year Long Term Financial Plan*.
- To continue to revise the *Alexandrina Council Development Plan* thereby accommodating the growth pressures on this region.
- To implement the *Sustainable Alexandrina Action Plan* and determine priorities for implementation.
- To commence the review of the *Alexandrina Future Directions Strategic Plan* and develop the *Draft Alexandrina Corporate Plan* beyond 2008/2009.



Council's Services

There is no change in the type of service offered this year that was available last year.

All Councils have mandatory responsibilities under the Local Government Act, the Development Act, the Public and Environmental Health Act, the Natural Resources Management Act and other relevant legislation. These include:

- Regulatory activities such as maintaining the voters roll, property ownership data and supporting the elected Council.
- Setting rates, preparing an annual budget and determining longer-term strategic management plans for the area.
- Management of infrastructure including roads, footpaths, parks, public open space, street lighting and storm-water drainage.
- Street cleaning, rubbish collection and recycling.
- Development planning and control, including building safety assessment.
- Various environmental health issues.
- Protection of natural resources including coastal areas and rivers.

In response to community demands the Council also provides further services and programs including:

- Libraries
- Community Centres
- Aged and their carers support
- Youth development
- Economic development
- Environmental programs
- Community programs

The Council also operates a number of facilities on a fee for service basis. These provide important community benefits while also generating revenue to help deliver a value for money service:

- Waste Management
- Caravan Parks
- Swimming Pool

Further information is provided on each of these services provided by the Council. This includes an indication of the cost of providing the service, with key performance indicators where appropriate and how the service contributes to the achievement of Council's strategic objectives.



GOVERNANCE

Deputy Chief Executive
Mike Shelley

Service		Budget
General Administration	Operating	\$924,870
	ABC Recovery	(\$796,720)
	Capital	\$4,000

Objectives

To administer Council's policy direction in an efficient and effective manner in accordance with Council's strategic direction as defined through its Corporate Plan and general customer services.

Service		Budget
Human Resources	Operating	\$220,800
	ABC Recovery	(\$220,800)

Objectives

Ensure highly qualified and trained staff meet the strategic needs of Council. Minimise staffing disruption & turnover and ensure training support is appropriate to Council's needs.

Targets

All staff to have staff development review each year.
Average of 3 staff development days per employee per annum

Service		Budget
Legal Services	Operating	\$110,960

Objectives

To accurately record and maintain agreements, leases and contracts entered into by Council.

Targets

To have all leases & licences logged electronically and key review dates identified



Service		Budget
Economic Development	Operating	\$85,400

Objectives

To create opportunities across Council for business, trade, employment and training and to promote the area as an investment prospect.

Targets

To ensure a supply of suitable land to attract increased employment opportunities in our region

Service		Budget
Communications	Operating	\$12,000

Objectives

To inform and invite open communications engaging the community in Council's service delivery & strategic direction.

Customer Service & Libraries

Manager Library & Customer Service
Jill Patmore

Service		Budget
Goolwa Library &	Operating	\$819,870
Customer Service	ABC Recovery	(\$374,660)
	Capital	\$94,900

Objectives

To provide a synergy of services via community hubs which enrich our community by providing vibrant and community places for information, education, recreation, inspiration and imagination.

Targets

- To meet industry standard benchmarks for library membership, loans and visits.
- To meet industry standard benchmarks for customer service.



- To build on the "One Stop Shop" concept and investigate best practice models for the total Alexandrian Community.

Service		Budget
Strathalbyn Customer Service	Operating	\$133,940
	ABC Recovery	(\$133,940)

Objectives

To provide a synergy of services via community hubs which enrich our community by providing vibrant and community places for information, education, recreation, inspiration and imagination.

Targets

- To meet industry standard benchmarks for library membership, loans and visits.
- To meet industry standard benchmarks for customer service.
- To build on the "One Stop Shop" concept and investigate best practice models for the total Alexandrian Community.

Service		Budget
Strathalbyn & Districts Library	Operating	\$395,980
	Capital	\$6,000

Objectives

To provide a synergy of services via community hubs which enrich our community by providing vibrant and community places for information, education, recreation, inspiration and imagination.

Targets

- To meet industry standard benchmarks for library membership, loans and visits.
- To meet industry standard benchmarks for customer service.
- To build on the "One Stop Shop" concept and investigate best practice models for the total Alexandrina Community.



ENVIRONMENT & LIFESTYLE SERVICES

Director Environment & Lifestyle Services
Des Commerford

Arts & Lifestyle Services

Team Leader – Arts & Lifestyle Services
Jenn Cole

Service		Budget
Community Services	Operating	\$548,800

Objectives

Providing community based support services in partnership with the Commonwealth Home and Community Care programme such as Strathalbyn Home Assist, Milang Community Centre, Goolwa Telecross and Neighbour Aid.

Targets

Undertake community and other relevant stakeholder consultation as part of the strategic planning process

Service		Budget
Fleurieu Families	Operating	\$86,790

Objectives

Co-ordinating education and support networks for families throughout the Southern Fleurieu region with a focus on supporting our children. This service is provided in conjunction with City of Victor Harbor and is co-funded by the Department of Families & Communities.

Targets

Increased participation Fleurieu Families programs and services



Service		Budget
Tourism	Operating	\$655,630
	Capital	\$482,000

Objectives

To drive economic growth by encouraging more visitors to the area through the provision of promotional information by our staff based at the Signal Point Interpretive Centre and Visitor Information Centres at Goolwa & Strathalbyn.

Targets

Strengthen the role of Signal Point as SA's principal interpretive Centre on the Murray Darling river system

Service		Budget
Centre for Positive Ageing	Operating	\$254,900

Objectives

Providing community based support services in partnership with the Commonwealth Home and Community Care program for community aged care services to the residents of the coastal region of Alexandrina Council.

Targets

To maintain volunteer and membership levels with the aim to increase these numbers once the centre able to be moved to a larger premises

Service		Budget
Youth Services	Operating	\$131,090

Objectives

To promote youth related projects such as the Southern Fleurieu Youth Advisory Committee to develop future community leaders.

Targets

Continue to promote intergenerational projects with local students and older residents such as Goolwa Skill.



Service		Budget
Sport & Recreation	Operating	\$290,350

Objectives

Planning of sport & recreation facilities such as skate parks, boating facilities and ovals as well as providing grants and contributions to sporting clubs.

Targets

Commence implementation of the Alexandrina Sport, Recreation & Open Space Plan.

Service		Budget
Cultural Services	Operating	\$105,860

Objectives

To provide artistic and cultural hubs supported by visiting & local artists that connect and inform on community issues promoting greater thought, expression and awareness.

Targets

Implement actions under the Arts & Cultural Tourism Policy 2006.

Environment & Regulatory Services

Manager Environment & Reg. Services
Kim Vivian

Service		Budget
Environmental Health	Operating	\$846,450

Objectives

To ensure that the legislative responsibilities in food safety, waste management, immunisation, water quality & pest control are met.

Targets

Implement the Public & Environmental Health Management Plan 2007 – 2010.



Service		Budget
Building	Operating	\$220,560

Objectives

To ensure that Council fulfils its statutory responsibilities in regards to building inspections in compliance with the Development Act and relevant Australian standards.

Targets

Ensure building applications are assessed within 28 days as per statutory requirements

Service		Budget
General Inspection	Operating	\$293,400

Objectives

To carry out dog & cat management in line with the Council's *Animal Management Plan 2007*. Ensure that all fire prevention measures are being adhered to as well as being responsible for parking control and abandoned vehicles.

Targets

To maximise the number of homes found for lost animals.
Ensure all vacant blocks are cleared of fire hazards prior to the commencement of fire danger season

Service		Budget
Natural Resources	Operating	\$154,020

Objectives

To implement Council's natural resource environmental policies and to supply professional advice to internal and external customers regarding protection of natural resources.

Targets

To implement of the Sustainable Alexandrina 2007-2010 Policy Direction and Action Plan



Planning & Development

Manager – Planning Services
Sally Roberts

Service	Operating	Budget
Policy Planning & Development Assessment		\$849,010

Objectives

To continually review Council's Development Plan and processes to ensure that the requirements of the Development Act and the community are met. To provide assessment of development applications in accordance with Council's Development Plan and aim to meet provisions of other relevant plans.

Targets

To meet reporting requirements *Stage 1 System Indicators* as defined under the Development Regulations.



ENGINEERING & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Director Engineering & Infrastructure Services
Dennis Zanker

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Manager
Peter Wood

Service		Budget
Asset Planning	Operating	\$450,020

Objectives

To manage the long-term life, standard and quality of Council infrastructure assets in an efficient and sustainable manner that meets the community's needs.

To develop asset management plans for the five asset categories :

- Roads and Footpaths
- Bridges & Stormwater Management
- Buildings
- Water & Wastewater Management
- Recreational Open Space

To undertake preliminary project investigation and planning prior to implementation.

Targets

To fulfill Council's legislative requirements in regards to Asset Management Plans.

To provide input to 10-year financial plans for Council's long-term financial plan.

To provide full detailed plans for construction of assets.



Service		Budget
Asset Data Management (GIS)	Operating	\$236,630

Objectives

To manage and present Council's asset database in a user-friendly GIS format.

Target

To complete all valuation and financial reports in a timely manner.

To maintain current and updated asset registers and condition information.

Service		Budget
Engineering Development	Operating	\$740,100

Objectives

To manage and control the construction of new infrastructure by developers and other parties to current standards.

Target

New assets gifted to Council fulfill the needs of the community over their service life.

Service		Budget
Stormwater Management	Operating	\$536,350
	Capital	\$122,000

Objectives

To ensure that Council's stormwater infrastructure operates efficiently and effectively by protecting our community from flooding and inundation and the environment from pollution. Also, to work towards increased re-use of stormwater.

Targets

To develop stormwater management plans for major townships.



Service		Budget
Traffic Management	Operating	\$936,100

Objectives

To ensure road assets provide safe and efficient transport corridors / routes for the community.

To ensure all road users have safe and equitable access to road infrastructure.

Targets

To implement traffic management projects

Built Asset Management

Built Asset Manager
David Moyle

Service		Budget
Administration Centres	Operating	\$89,010
	ABC Recovery	(\$422,060)
	Capital	\$48,500

Objectives

Ensuring the Goolwa and Strathalbyn administration centres including the Library and Council Chamber are maintained to a standard that maximises its use and enjoyment by visitors and the community.

Service		Budget
Halls	Operating	\$316,650
	Capital	\$5,000

Objectives

Ensuring that Council's halls are maintained to a standard that maximises their enjoyment by the community.



Service		Budget
Public Conveniences	Operating	\$440,350
	Capital	\$50,000

Objectives

Ensuring that the 38 toilet blocks spread across the Council area are kept clean & well maintained. Council is committed to ensuring all public toilets are healthy & hygienic

Service		Budget
Strath Swimming Centre	Operating	\$99,710
	Capital	\$1,200,000

Objectives

To promote health and fitness through a swimming centre that is appropriate to the needs of the community and maintained accordingly.

Targets

To complete the redevelopment of the Strathalbyn Pool by October 2009 and reduce reliance on gas heating.

Service		Budget
Stadiums	Operating	\$40,170

Objectives

To promote health and fitness through sport & rec facilities that are appropriate to the needs of the community and maintained accordingly.

Service		Budget
Caravan Parks	Operating	\$54,720
	Capital	\$38,000

Objectives

Ensuring that Council's four caravan parks are maintained to an acceptable standard to maximise enjoyment by visitors.



Effluent Drainage & Water Supply

CED Manager
Neville Styan

Service		Budget
Water Supply Scheme	Operating	\$74,430

Objectives

To provide water reticulation schemes to the Finnis and Langhorne Creek Townships.

Service		Budget
Effluent Drainage	Operating	(\$268,280)
	Capital	\$3,688,530

Objectives

To provide a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) to the Goolwa, Port Elliot, Strathalbyn, Mount Compass, Milang & Waterport townships.

Targets

To improve the function and reliability of the wastewater collection and treatment systems throughout the Alexandrina Council district.

To provide a wastewater system with sufficient capacity to cater for future residential growth and major developments.

To increase the reuse of treated wastewater for improved environmental social and economic outcomes.

To provide a biosolids treatment depot to cater for septic tank waste from the Goolwa and Port Elliot Townships.



Operations

Operations Manager
Simon Grenfell

Service		Budget
Road Construction & Maintenance	Operating	\$4,012,290
	Capital	\$4,213,890

Objectives

To expand Council's sealed road network through urban streets and high use rural roads as well as maintaining sealed and unsealed roads in line with Council's *Asset Management Plans and 10 year Roads Capital Works Program*.

Targets

All construction projects and maintenance programs completed to the time cost and quality specified. (Refer to "Major Projects" section further on in this document for details of funding of major capital works)

Service		Budget
Footpaths & Cycle Tracks	Operating	\$221,130
	Capital	\$482,540

Objectives

To promote improved access, reduced pollution and improved health by developing, managing and maintaining Council's footpath & cycle track assets in line with the Asset Management Plan.

Targets

To implement footpath & cycle track projects.



Service		Budget
Parks & Gardens	Operating	\$1,040,540
	Capital	\$185,000

Objectives

To assist in the preparation of a Asset Management Recreation and Open Space.

To maintain and develop new parks & reserves in accordance with Council's Parks & Gardens Management Plan and ensure parks & gardens assets are renewed in a timely manner.

Targets

To continue to manage Council's parks & gardens and implement ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) water reduction initiatives.

Service		Budget
Foreshore Protection	Operating	\$118,200
	Capital	\$71,560

Objectives

To maintain the coastal zone area (land between the high water mark and developed land) and the assets within it in a sustainable manner that protects the environment and provides access for the community.

Targets

To continue to implement the *Alexandrina Coastal Plan*

Service		Budget
Alexandrina Riverfront	Operating	\$125,390
	Capital	\$35,000

Objectives

To maintain and manage structures (jetties, boat ramp, Goolwa wharf) along the river and lake front providing safe & fit for purpose access for recreational & commercial users.



Service		Budget
Cemeteries	Operating	(\$660)
		Net of Income

Objectives

To manage and maintain Council's seven cemeteries across the district.

Service		Budget
General Operations	Operating	\$61,800
	Capital	\$1,231,000

Objectives

Ensuring that Council's two works depots at Goolwa and Strathalbyn are run effectively and efficiently and that the machinery and equipment is suitable to Council's needs. Managing signage across the district as well as rectifying vandalism and removing graffiti when it occurs.

To complete the construction of the new Goolwa Depot office prior to February 2009.

Service		Budget
Waste Management	Operating	\$149,600

Objectives

To provide an effective and efficient waste collection and recycling service to the townships of Alexandrina Council through the *3 bin system*.

To implement the Regional Waste Management Strategy in conjunction with neighbouring councils

Targets

To continue to meet the waste diversion targets set by Zero Waste.

Continue to improve the efficiency of services provided to the community.



Service	Budget
Landfill Operations, Recycling & Waste Minimisation	
Operating	\$1,689,570
Capital	\$31,000

Objectives

To manage the closure of Council's Goolwa and Strathalbyn landfill cells. Meeting EPA requirements and reaching waste diversion targets set through Zero Waste.

Targets

- To continue to meet the waste diversion targets set by Zero Waste.
- To ensure the closure plans for landfill cells are implemented and meet EPA requirements.

Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority

The Authority is a local Government Authority Section 43 Subsidiary under the control of Adelaide Hills Council, Alexandrina Council, The District Council of Mt Barker and Rural City of Murray Bridge.

This organisation operates as a regional waste management authority.

Alexandrina Councils joint equity share of operations is \$42,680.



STRATEGY, FINANCE & INFORMATION SERVICES

Director Strategy, Finance & Information Services
Graham Webster

Strategy

Service		Budget
Strategic and Sustainable Financial Management	Operating	\$124,215

Objectives

To ensure that Council's strategic plans align with the SA Strategic Plan and higher order strategies and plans, annual budgets & Council's long term financial plan and regularly review the rating policy that ensures a fair and equitable contribution from all rate payers across the district.

Targets

To commence the review of Council's Strategic and Corporate Plans

Finance

Finance Manager
Robyn Dunstall

Service		Budget
Finance, Payroll, Debtors, Creditors and Rating	Operating ABC Recovery Capital	\$1,125,260 (\$919,410) \$19,000

Objectives

To sustainably manage the finances in accordance with legislative requirements & Australian Accounting Standards. Timely and accurate processing of financial transactions as well as fair and equitable rating policies and processes.

Targets

Targets as per Key Financial Indicators listed on Page 54.



Information Services

Manager Information Technology Systems
Colin Shackleford

Service		Budget
Information Technology	Operating	800,620
	ABC Recovery	(\$744,520)
	Capital	\$371,600

Objectives

To ensure all information & communications technology hardware, software applications and processes meet the strategic needs of a rapidly growing Council with efficiency and security being major priorities. To create and build inter-Council relationships leading to system and process sharing for ICT efficiency and performance improvements.

Targets

- To implement the ICT Strategic Plan and to promote improved broadband services for our communities
- To connect all Alexandrina Council Offices onto a common high speed data and voice system.
- To extend cost-effective ICT support services to neighboring Councils upon request.
- To provide systems availability at 98% during business hours.
- To provide ICT helpdesk and support services at agreed levels – 95% of reported tasks completed each month.
- To provide reliable data storage and recovery systems to mitigate risks and provide for disaster recovery.



Service		Budget
Records Management	Operating	\$300,050
	ABC Recovery	(\$298,450)

Objectives

Ensuring that all Council records are managed effectively in accordance with the State Records Act and Freedom of Information Act.

Targets

- To ensure Council meets the recommendations of the State Records Audit Report June 2006.
- To assist in the implementation of an Electronic Records Management System for Council.
- To provide corporate record-keeping processes and procedures in line with the corporate Records Management Policy.
- To manage and maintain the integrity of Council's Records Management System.

Major Projects

In 2008/2009 Council will undertake major capital works in line with Council's Asset & Infrastructure Plan to ensure the longevity of existing assets as well providing new assets to cope with the demands of a growing Council as follows.

Swimming Pool Redevelopment, Strathalbyn - \$1,200,000

The redevelopment of the 40 year old Strathalbyn community swimming pool falls into two components. The first is the upgrade of the existing pool and surrounds at an estimated cost of \$1.2million. The second component is expanding the facilities to include solar heating, disability access and facility, new plant and equipment, new toddler's pool, shade and seating, new change rooms, plant room, swim club rooms and kiosk. This second component is estimated to cost \$1.8million for which council is currently seeking external funding.

Depot Expansion, Goolwa - \$500,000

For many years the growth of Goolwa has placed increased pressure on councils depot to house staff and equipment. It is planned to build a new 230m² office next to the existing office at the Goolwa Depot and provide for improved environmental protection.

Commodore Reserve/Point Waste Water reuse- \$250,000

Construct pipeline from Port Elliot Waste Water Treatment Plant to Commodore Reserve for the supply of class B treatment effluent to the reserve. Project includes allowance for subsurface irrigation on reserve.

Signal Point Roof Replacement - \$402,000

Replacement of the old Signal Point Roof.

Strathalbyn Storage Dam Racecourse- \$200,000

A 120 Megalitre effluent storage dam is to be built on farm land south west of the Strathalbyn Racing Club to provide an effluent storage facility to cater for the long term growth in the Strathalbyn Township for the next 15-20 years. In approximately 3 years a new 1.5 Megalitre per day wastewater treatment plant will be constructed adjacent to the new lagoon to replace the ailing effluent ponds north of the town on Callington Road. The treated effluent will be used on the Strathalbyn Racecourse, private farmland and may also be used on key parklands and reserves in the township in the near future.

Goolwa North Pumping Main- \$450,000

Consists of a 3.3km 225mm pressure sewer pipe which will pump sewerage from the vacuum pumping station to be constructed to service the 400 allotments in the Goolwa North PAR area. The sewerage will be pumped to the new Goolwa Wastewater Treatment Plant on Kessell Road which is currently under construction.

Minor Projects

As well as the major capital projects outlined above Council plans to undertake a range of smaller projects right across the region.

Storage Area Network - \$125,000

A specialised data storage system that provides data and systems backup and restore management. Is required for our Server virtualisation program and disaster recovery process.

Signal Point Re-development - \$80,000

Re-development of internal fixtures/fittings at Signal Point linked to Council's proposed Regional Arts and Theatre project

Goolwa Beach Toilet & Waste Upgrade - \$50,000

Upgrade to building including connection of toilet and kiosk to CED to address struggling waste system and environmental health issues.

Goolwa Landfill- Transfer Apron Sealing - \$19,000

Sealing of a 60x45m apron at the transfer area. This area is currently unsealed and is an ongoing maintenance issue with potholes and dust due to high traffic and loader movements.

Strathalbyn Microwave System - \$136,600

Microwave radio connection from the Goolwa office to the Strathalbyn Depot, Office and VIC.

Parker Avenue Stormwater Drainage (part developer contribution) -\$77,000

Duplication of diameter nominal (DN) 600 drain per agreement with retirement home at lot 10.

Parks and Gardens new ute - \$35,000

In the 2007-08 financial year Council took responsibility for the maintenance of parks and reserves along the Angus River (Aberdeen Park and others). Maintenance is expected to cost \$35,000 pa.

Kurramin Court- Port Elliot, Dog Off leash & Heritage Area- \$10,000

In conjunction with the local community interest group a strategic management plan will provide protection of both the heritage area and the large open space area suitable for an off-leash dog park.

Merrilli Place Drainage - \$45,000

Underground drain and Inlets from Merrilli Place bend to east of Mason Street. Replace kerb and gutter Merrilli Place.



Chiton Rocks Beach Access joint funded with Dune Care 50% Contribution - \$40,000

Chiton Rocks Beach Access joint funded with Dune Care 50% contribution Easier and safer access to the beach from the car park. Reduce erosion of dunes. Project will be funded 50% by South Coast Dune Care. Funds are also being sought from Tourism SA.

Port Elliot Stormwater Management Catchment Study - \$20,000

Investigation and design for stormwater management in Port Elliot. Stage 1 drainage upgrade for North Terrace, Blackfriars Road and Montpelier Terrace catchment area. Severe under-capacity in kerb-lines in Montpelier Terrace.

HR Communications Officer - \$57,000

Provide administrative support in Human Resources, in particular to develop and maintain human resources module, records, recruitment and selection, training and development and manage communications of Council.

Ward Boundary Review - \$5,000

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 Section 12 a ward boundary review must be conducted to ensure correct elected member representation.

Server Room Air Conditioning Upgrade - \$38,000

The IT Server Room air-conditioning requires an upgrade to provide redundancy and ensure adequate temperature control for the network equipment.

Chemical Toilets Dump Facilities - \$38,000

Provide responsible effluent management and protection of waste infrastructure

Economic Development Initiatives - \$20,000

To provide business and economic development financial support to assist businesses or business groups to conduct events.

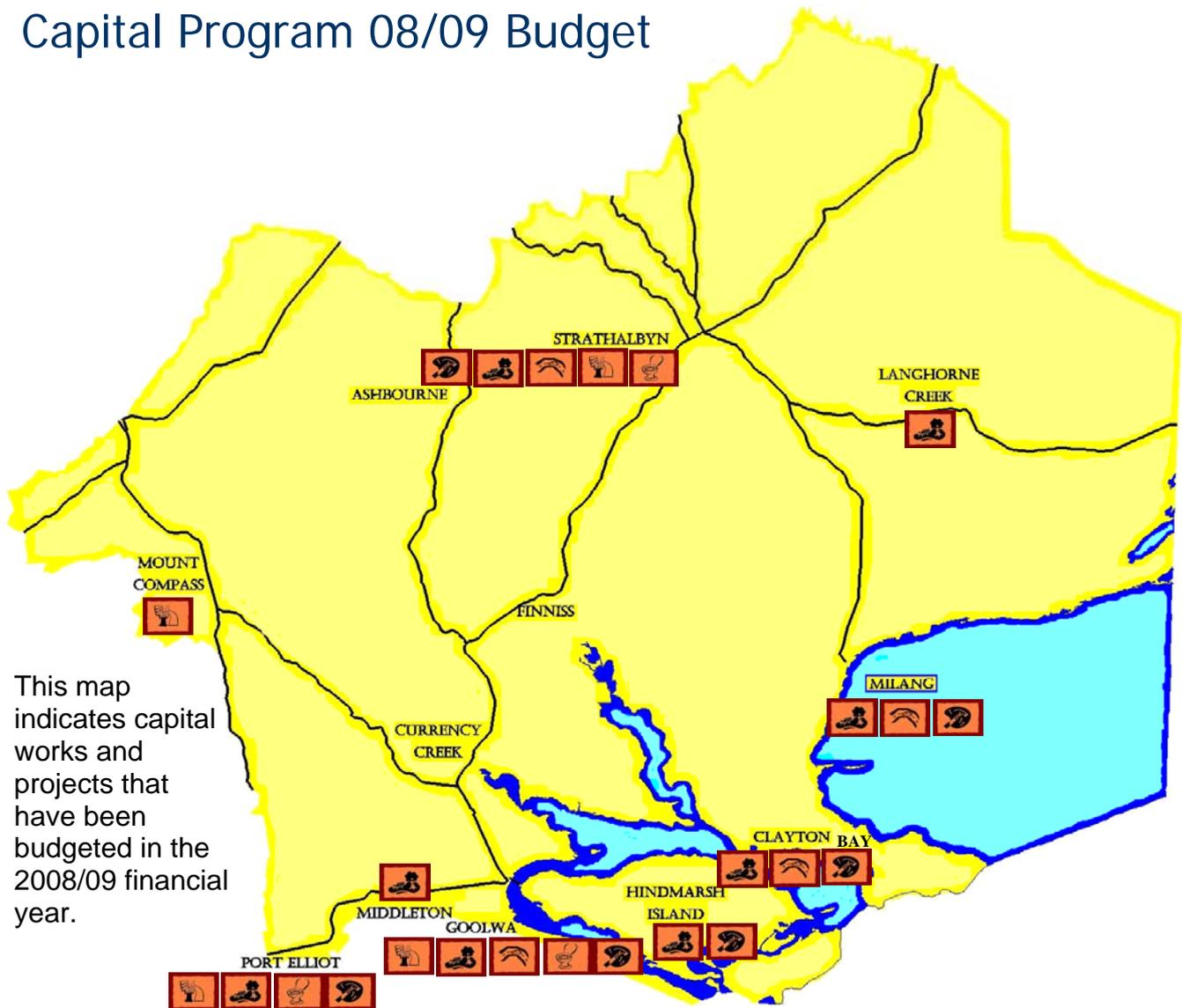
Clayton Boat Ramp (50% grant funded under the Regional Communities Drought Fund)- \$70,000

Extend the Clayton Bay Boat Ramp by up to 12m and to dredging of the entrance channel.

Hindmarsh Island Bike Track (50% grant funded by Bike South SA)- \$104,000

A bike and walkway path from the Hindmarsh Island Bridge to the entrance of the Hindmarsh Island Marina.

Capital Program 08/09 Budget



This map indicates capital works and projects that have been budgeted in the 2008/09 financial year.

LEGEND

-  Sealed Roads
-  Footpaths
-  Parks and Gardens
-  Community Waste Management Systems (CWMS)
-  08/09 Project(s)



Effluent Management- Community Wastewater Management Schemes

Council maintains and manages the wastewater schemes for the townships of Goolwa, Strathalbyn, Port Elliot, Waterport, Mt Compass and Milang. This year a major focus will be on the commissioning of the Goolwa Wastewater Treatment Plant and also the commencement of stage 1 of the Strathalbyn wastewater system upgrade. The area defined by the Goolwa North Plan Amendment Report (PAR) will also see the implementation of a vacuum sewer system to service the newly created residential allotments in this area.

The 2008/2009 budget will see a significant focus on the use of treated effluent on parks and reserves in the Alexandrina Council District. A new subsurface irrigation system will be installed at Commodore Reserve and Continental Park to utilise class B treated effluent from the Port Elliot Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is expected that the use of treated effluent will save approximately 20 Megalitres of mains water currently used for the irrigation of Commodore Reserve.

The following is a summary of the major capital projects to be constructed in the 2008/2009 budget

2008/2009 Budget

Goolwa – Capital

Wastewater Treatment Plant completion and commissioning	\$75,000
Goolwa Biosolids Depot	\$300,000
Centre Pivot Irrigator No 2 completion	\$25,000
Completion of 82 Megalitre lined storage lagoon	\$20,000
Fenchurch St – Chamber Replacement	\$80,000
Pump Station Upgrade	\$68,000
Recycled Watertanker Filling Station	\$15,000
Rising Main Construction	\$60,000
Total	\$643,000

Strathalbyn – Capital

Construction of 120 Megalitre HDPE lined storage lagoon	\$950,000
Booster pumping main Strathalbyn Racecourse	\$225,000
Construction of booster pump station	\$150,000
Pump Station Upgrade	\$70,000
Lauckes Gravity Drain	\$20,000
Total	\$1,415,000

Port Elliot – Capital

Construction of Commodore Reserve reuse irrigation system	\$200,000
Recycled Watertanker Filling Station	\$15,000
Total	\$215,000



Goolwa North – Capital

Pumping Main Expansion	\$450,000
ETSA Connection	\$100,000
Vacuum Sewerage Station	\$620,000
Trunk Mains to Service PAR & Caravan Park	\$275,000
Vacuum Design & Fees	\$100,000
Total	\$1,545,000

Effluent Management Income Estimates

Service Charges

	Number of Connections	Serv Charge Increase %	Service Charge	Total Income
Goolwa Occupied	2069	4.58%	\$365	\$755,185
Goolwa Half-Occupied	57	4.01%	\$363	\$10,345
Goolwa Vacant	183	4.98%	\$274	\$50,142
Milang Occupied	386	3.18%	\$389	\$150,154
Milang Half-Occupied	3	3.98%	\$392	\$588
Milang Half-Connected	1	0.00%	\$185	\$185
Milang Vacant	172	3.18%	\$292	\$50,224
Strathalbyn Occupied	1991	10.54%	\$325	\$647,075
Strathalbyn Vacant	191	10.41%	\$244	\$46,604
Strath Half-Occupied	9	4.08%	\$306	\$1,377
Port Elliot Occupied	776	5.59%	\$359	\$278,584
Port Elliot Vacant	162	5.49%	\$269	\$43,578
Mt Compass Occupied	123	7.43%	\$347	\$42,681
Mt Compass Vacant	107	7.44%	\$260	\$27,820
Waterport Occupied	122	3.32%	\$373	\$45,506
Waterport Vacant	13	3.32%	\$280	\$3,640
Elliot Gardens	102	3.73%	\$139	\$14,178
Total				\$2,167,866

Headworks Connection Charges

	Connection Fee	Developer Contributions	Total Income
Goolwa	\$4,300	\$0	\$84,000
Milang	\$4,300	\$0	\$8,400
Strathalbyn	\$4,300	\$0	\$84,000
Port Elliot	\$4,300	\$0	\$8,400
Mt Compass	\$4,300	\$0	\$8,400
Waterport	\$4,300	\$0	\$0
Goolwa North	\$6,700	\$0	\$143,000
Total		\$0	\$336,200



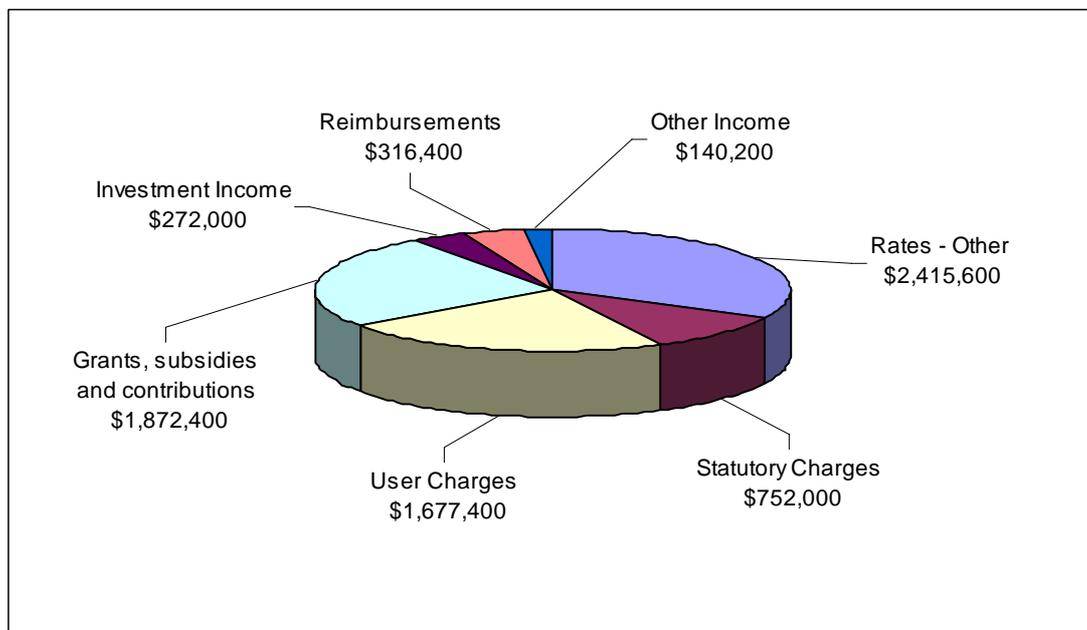
Funding the Annual Business Plan

Consistent with the Council's long-term financial plan, an operating surplus before capital revenues is being targeted in 2008/09.

The operating surplus measures the difference between operating revenue and expenses for that period. The Council's long-term financial sustainability is dependent on ensuring that, on average over time, its expenses are less than its revenue.

The Council's revenue in 2008/09 includes \$18,674,000 proposed to be raised from general rates.

Other Operating sources of revenue for the Council are:





2008/2009 Budget

- Total operating revenue to increase from \$24.05m to \$26.12m
- Operating expenditure to increase from \$23.96m to \$26.14m
- Operating deficit (before capital revenue) of \$28,100
- Net surplus (after capital revenues) of \$1.4m
- Long-term borrowings to decrease from \$17.7m to \$16.0m

Key Financial Indicators

Indicator	2007/2008	2008/2009
Operating Surplus Ratio	0.4%	0.0%
Net Financial Liabilities	78.3%	65%
Interest Cover Ratio	4.7%	2.7%
Asset Sustainability Ratio	96%	88%

Refer to Appendix 1 for more detailed information on Key Financial Indicators



Financial Statements

ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL BUDGET 2008/09

Original Budget 2007/08 \$000	Projected Actual 2007/08 \$000		Recurrent Budget 2008/09 \$000	Project Budget 2008/09 \$000	TOTAL 2008/09 \$000
INCOME STATEMENT					
INCOME					
16,975.0	17,065.0	Rates - General	18,674.0		18,674.0
2,014.7	2,054.8	Rates - Other	2,415.6		2,415.6
730.1	946.1	Statutory Charges	752.0		752.0
1,418.3	1,880.6	User Charges	1,677.4		1,677.4
1,776.0	3,469.2	Grants, subsidies and contributions	1,872.4		1,872.4
302.0	402.0	Investment Income	272.0		272.0
389.8	431.6	Reimbursements	316.4		316.4
443.0	480.7	Other Income	140.2		140.2
24,048.9	26,730.0	TOTAL INCOME	26,120.0	-	26,120.0
EXPENSES					
8,523.7	8,538.4	Employee Costs	9,321.7	57.0	9,378.7
8,636.8	8,781.1	Materials, contracts & other expenses	9,257.5	55.0	9,312.5
1,136.4	1,136.4	Finance Costs	724.8	233.2	958.0
5,666.6	6,438.0	Depreciation, amortisation & impairments	6,498.9		6,498.9
23,963.5	24,893.9	TOTAL EXPENSES	25,802.9	345.2	26,148.1
85.4	1,836.1	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	317.1	(345.2)	(28.1)
1,250.0	551.0	Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	-	1,430.7	1,430.7
1,335.4	2,387.1	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	317.1	1,085.5	1,402.6



**ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL
BUDGET 2008/09**

Original Budget 2007/08 \$000	Projected Actual 2007/08 \$000		Recurrent Budget 2008/09 \$000	Project Budget 2008/09 \$000	TOTAL 2008/09 \$000
BALANCE SHEET					
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
2,662.2	1,162.8	Cash	3,313.80	(1,701.80)	1,612.00
2,374.6	2,374.6	Receivables	2,374.60		2,374.60
66.6	66.6	Inventory	66.60		66.60
<u>5,103.4</u>	<u>3,604.0</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>5,755.00</u>	<u>(1,701.80)</u>	<u>4,053.20</u>
Non-current Assets					
258.3	258.3	Other Non Current Assets	258.3		258.30
16,367.7	11,844.2	New Property, Plant & Equipment	5,054.8	9,639.9	14,694.70
215,862.9	215,091.5	Property, Plant & Equipment	219,442.9	-	219,442.90
<u>232,488.9</u>	<u>227,194.0</u>	TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>224,756.0</u>	<u>9,639.9</u>	<u>234,395.9</u>
237,592.3	230,798.0	Total Assets	230,511.0	7,938.1	238,449.1
LIABILITIES					
Current Liabilities					
3,327.6	3,327.6	Trade and Other Payables	3,327.60		3,327.60
344.6	344.6	Future Reinstatements	344.60		344.60
90.0	90.0	Short Term Provisions	90.00		90.00
1,331.6	1,331.6	Short Term Borrowings	1,331.60		1,331.60
<u>5,093.8</u>	<u>5,093.8</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>5,093.80</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,093.80</u>
Non-Current Liabilities					
272.7	272.7	Trade and Other Payables	272.7		272.70
1,168.7	1,168.7	Long Term Provisions	1,168.7		1,168.70
16,127.4	8,281.4	Long Term Borrowings	7,677.3	6,852.6	14,529.90
<u>17,568.8</u>	<u>9,722.8</u>	TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>9,118.7</u>	<u>6,852.6</u>	<u>15,971.3</u>
22,662.6	14,816.6	Total Liabilities	14,212.5	6,852.6	21,065.1
<u>214,929.7</u>	<u>215,981.4</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>216,298.5</u>	<u>1,085.5</u>	<u>217,384.0</u>
EQUITY					
120,621.1	122,263.0	Accumulated Surplus	122,788.6	1,453.4	124,242.00
92,949.4	92,949.4	Reserves	92,949.4	-	92,949.4
1,359.2	769.0	Other Reserves	560.5	(367.9)	192.6
<u>214,929.7</u>	<u>215,981.4</u>	TOTAL EQUITY	<u>216,298.5</u>	<u>1,085.5</u>	<u>217,384.0</u>



ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL					
Original Budget 2007/08 \$000	Projected Actual 2007/08 \$000	BUDGET 2008/09 CASH FLOW STATEMENT	Recurrent Budget 2008/09 \$000	Project Budget 2008/09 \$001	TOTAL 2008/09 \$002
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
24,048.9	26,730.0	Receipts	26,120.0	-	26,120.0
(18,296.9)	(18,455.9)	Payments	(19,304.0)	(345.2)	(19,649.2)
<u>5,752.0</u>	<u>8,274.1</u>	Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	<u>6,816.0</u>	<u>(345.2)</u>	<u>6,470.8</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES					
Receipts					
1,250.0	551.0	Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	-	1,430.7	1,430.7
1,549.5	2,420.3	Sale of replaced assets	993.9	-	993.9
Payments					
(12,996.5)	(11,867.3)	Purchase of Renewal/Replacement Assets	(5,054.8)	(1,647.0)	(6,701.8)
(3,328.5)	(805.0)	Purchase of New/Expansion Assets	(7,992.9)	(7,992.9)	(7,992.9)
<u>(13,525.5)</u>	<u>(9,701.0)</u>	Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	<u>(4,060.9)</u>	<u>(8,209.2)</u>	<u>(12,270.1)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Receipts					
3,846.0	-	Proceeds from Borrowings - Council	585.3	4461.6	5046.9
4,000.0	-	Proceeds from Borrowings - CWMS		2391.0	2391.0
Payments					
(1,787.0)	(1,787.0)	Repayment of Borrowings	(1,189.4)		(1,189.4)
<u>6,059.0</u>	<u>(1,787.0)</u>	Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities	<u>(604.1)</u>	<u>6,852.6</u>	<u>6,248.5</u>
(1,714.5)	(3,213.9)	Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	2,151.0	(1,701.8)	449.2
4,376.7	4,376.7	Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,162.8		1,162.8
<u>2,662.2</u>	<u>1,162.8</u>	Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	<u>3,313.8</u>	<u>(1,701.8)</u>	<u>1,612.0</u>



**ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL
BUDGET 2008/09**

Original Budget 2007/08 \$000	Projected Actual 2007/08 \$000		STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	Recurrent Budget 2008/09 \$000	Project Budget 2008/09 \$000	TOTAL 2008/09 \$000
Accumulated Surplus						
117,571.3	117,571.3		Balance at Beginning of Period	122,263.0		122,263.0
1,335.4	2,387.1		Change in financial position resulting from operations	317.1	1,085.5	1,402.6
8,254.8	8,893.2		Transfers from reserves	1609.22	635.0	2,244.2
(6,540.4)	(6,588.6)		Transfers to reserves	(1,400.7)	(267.1)	(1,667.8)
<u>120,621.1</u>	<u>122,263.0</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>122,788.6</u>	<u>1,453.4</u>	<u>124,242.0</u>
Asset Revaluation Reserve						
92,949.4	92,949.4		Balance at Beginning of Period	92,949.4		92,949.4
			- Transfers to Reserve			
			- - Revaluation Decrement			
			- Transfers from Reserve			
<u>92,949.4</u>	<u>92,949.4</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>92,949.4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,949.4</u>
				-92,388.92		-92,756.80
Open Space Reserve						
51.7	51.7		Balance at Beginning of Period	51.7		51.7
			Transfers to Reserve			
			Transfers from Reserve			
<u>51.7</u>	<u>51.7</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>51.7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51.7</u>
Common Effluent Drainage Reserves						
2,035.5	2,035.5		Balance at Beginning of Period	410.2		410.2
6,472.6	6,510.8		Transfers to Reserve	1,400.7	267.1	1,667.8
(8,136.1)	(8,136.1)		Transfers from Reserve	(1,586.5)	(635.0)	(2,221.5)
<u>372.0</u>	<u>410.2</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>224.4</u>	<u>(367.9)</u>	<u>(143.5)</u>
Water Scheme Reserves						
168.2	168.2		Balance at Beginning of Period	78.2		78.2
66.5	76.5		Transfers to Reserve	-		-
(118.7)	(166.5)		Transfers from Reserve	(22.7)		(22.7)
<u>116.0</u>	<u>78.2</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>55.5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55.5</u>
Boating & Riverfront Development Reserves						
199.9	199.9		Balance at Beginning of Period	199.9		199.9
			- Transfers to Reserve			
			- Transfers from Reserve			
<u>199.9</u>	<u>199.9</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>199.9</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199.9</u>
Halls & Library Reserves						
14.7	14.7		Balance at Beginning of Period	14.7		14.7
			- Transfers to Reserve			
			- Transfers from Reserve			
<u>14.7</u>	<u>14.7</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>14.7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14.7</u>
Other Reserves						
603.7	603.7		Balance at Beginning of Period	14.4		14.4
1.3	1.3		Transfers to Reserve	-		-
	(590.6)		Transfers from Reserve			
<u>605.0</u>	<u>14.4</u>		Balance at End of Period	<u>14.4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14.4</u>
<u>214,929.7</u>	<u>215,981.4</u>		TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD	<u>216,298.6</u>	<u>1,085.5</u>	<u>217,384.0</u>



ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL
Balance at Beginning of Period

Original Budget 2007/08 \$000	Projected Actual 2007/08 \$000		Recurrent Budget 2008/09 \$000	Project Budget 2008/09 \$000	TOTAL 2008/09 \$000
24,048.9	26,730.0	Operating Revenues	26,120.0	-	26,120.0
(23,963.5)	(24,893.9)	Less Operating Expenses	(25,802.9)	(345.2)	(26,148.1)
85.4	1,836.1	Operating Surplus/(Deficit) (before capital amounts)	317.1	(345.2)	(28.1)
Less Net Outlays on Existing Assets					
12,996.5	11,867.3	Capital Expense on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	5,054.8	1,647.0	6,701.8
(5,666.6)	(6,438.0)	Less Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	(6,498.9)	-	(6,498.9)
(1,049.5)	(1,920.3)	Less Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	(993.9)	-	(993.9)
6,280.4	3,509.0		(2,438.0)	1,647.0	(791.0)
Less Net Outlay on New and Upgraded Assets					
3,328.5	805.0	Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	-	7,992.9	7,992.9
(1,250.0)	(551.0)	less Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	-	(1,430.7)	(1,430.7)
(500.0)	(500.0)	less Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets			
1,578.5	(246.0)		-	6,562.2	6,562.2
(7,773.5)	(1,426.9)	Net Lending/ (Borrowing) for Financial Year	2,755.1	(8,554.4)	(5,799.3)
Funding transactions associated with the above net overall deficit, or applying the overall net funding surplus are as follows:					
7,846.0	-	New Borrowings	585.3	6,852.6	7,437.9
(1,787.0)	(1,787.0)	Repayment of Principal	(1,189.4)	-	(1,189.4)
1,714.5	3,213.9	(Increase)/Decrease in Cash and Investments	(2,151.0)	1,701.8	(449.2)
7,773.5	1,426.9	Funding Transactions	(2,755.1)	8,554.4	5,799.3

ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL
Budget 2008/09

FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	Budget
Operating Surplus	\$ (28,100)
Operating Surplus Ratio	
Operating Surplus	0.0%
Rates - general & other less NRM levy	
<i>This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of general and other rates, net of NRM levy.</i>	
Net Financial Liabilities	\$ 16,820,200
<i>Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses).</i>	
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	
<u>Net Financial Liabilities</u>	65%
Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy	
Interest Cover Ratio	
Net Interest Expense	2.7%
Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy less Investment Income	
Asset Sustainability Ratio	
<u>Net Asset Renewals</u>	88%
Depreciation Expense	
<i>Net asset renewals expenditure is defined as net capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.</i>	



Alexandrina Council

2008/2009 Budget

Function Summary

(Including gross movement in reserves and loans)

Description	2008/2009 Budget	Cash Budget
	\$,000	\$,000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Governance	3,117	3,725
Finance, IT & Records	3,144	4,779
Environmental & Regulatory Services	5,910	4,525
Engineering & Infrastructure	23,298	17,169
Water Supply & CED	8,076	6,934
Council Committees	155	69
Total Expenditure	43,700	37,201
<u>INCOME</u>		
Governance	(462)	(462)
Finance, IT & Records	(24,746)	(24,746)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	(1,412)	(1,412)
Engineering & Infrastructure	(4,016)	(4,016)
Water Supply & CED	(7,545)	(7,545)
Council Committees	(45)	(45)
Total Income	(38,226)	(38,226)
<u>NET</u>		
Governance	2,655	3,263
Finance, IT & Records	(21,602)	(19,967)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	4,498	3,113
Engineering & Infrastructure	19,282	13,153
Water Supply & CED	531	(611)
Council Committees	110	24
Total Net	5,474	(1,025)
<i>Less Non Cash Item (Depreciation)</i>	6,499	
Net Cash Budget	(1,025)	



Alexandrina Council 2008/2009 Budget

Reconciliation Function Summary

Description	2008/2009 Budget
	\$,000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Operating	26,148
Capital	14,695
Principal Repayment	1,189
Transfer to Reserve	1,668
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	43,700
<u>INCOME</u>	
Operating	(26,119)
Capital	(2,425)
Borrowings	(7,438)
Transfer from Reserve	(2,244)
<i>Total Income</i>	(38,226)



Alexandrina Council 2008/2009 Budget Governance

Description	2008/2009 Budget	Cash Budget
	\$,000	\$,000
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	1,419	2,794
Economic Development	85	81
Communications	12	11
Libraries	1,536	809
Council Properties	65	30
Total Expenditure	3,117	3,725
INCOME		
Administration	(200)	(200)
Economic Development	-	-
Communications	-	-
Libraries	(169)	(169)
Council Properties	(92)	(92)
Total Income	(461)	(461)
NET		
Administration	1,219	2,594
Economic Development	85	81
Communications	12	11
Libraries	1,367	640
Council Properties	(27)	(62)
Total Net	2,656	3,264

Council Committees

Description	2008/2009 Budget	Cash Budget
	\$,000	\$,000
EXPENDITURE		
Council Committees	154	68
Total Expenditure	154	68
INCOME		
Council Committees	(45)	(45)
Total Income	(45)	(45)
NET		
Council Committees	109	23
Total Net	109	23



Alexandrina Council 2008/2009 Budget

Arts & Lifestyle Services

Description	2008/2009 Budget	Cash Budget
	\$,000	\$,000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Community Services	1,583	1,271
Cultural Services	110	87
Total Expenditure	1,693	1,358
<u>INCOME</u>		
Community Services	(563)	(562)
Cultural Services	(4)	(4)
Total Income	(567)	(566)
<u>NET</u>		
Community Services	1,020	709
Cultural Services	106	83
Total Net	1,126	792

Environment & Regulatory Services

Description	2008/2009 Budget	Cash Budget
	\$,000	\$,000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Regulatory Services	2,188	1,543
Environmental Services	895	670
Tourism & Information Centres	1,134	953
Total Expenditure	4,217	3,166
<u>INCOME</u>		
Regulatory Services	(690)	(690)
Environmental Services	(29)	(29)
Tourism & Information Centres	(127)	(127)
Total Income	(846)	(846)
<u>NET</u>		
Regulatory Services	1,498	853
Environmental Services	866	641
Tourism & Information Centres	1,007	826
Total Net	3,371	2,320



Alexandrina Council 2008/2009 Budget

Engineering & Infrastructure

Description	2008/2009 Budget	Cash Budget
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Sanitary & Garbage	2,558	1,828
Depot & Plant	2,349	3,963
Asset & Infrastructure	2,765	2,083
Parks & Reserves	1,235	850
Roads	10,750	5,832
Street & Stormwater Management	916	471
Conveniences, Caravan Parks, Cemeteries & Halls	1,069	701
Sport & Recreation Facilities	1,656	1,441
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	23,298	17,169
<u>INCOME</u>		
Sanitary & Garbage	(688)	(688)
Depot & Plant	(1,056)	(1,056)
Asset & Infrastructure	(166)	(166)
Parks & Reserves	(9)	(9)
Roads	(1,846)	(1,846)
Street & Stormwater Management	-	-
Conveniences, Caravan Parks, Cemeteries & Halls	(225)	(225)
Sport & Recreation Facilities	(26)	(26)
<i>Total Income</i>	(4,016)	(4,016)
<u>NET</u>		
Sanitary & Garbage	1,870	1,140
Depot & Plant	1,293	2,907
Asset & Infrastructure	2,599	1,917
Parks & Reserves	1,226	841
Roads	8,904	3,986
Street & Stormwater Management	916	471
Conveniences, Caravan Parks, Cemeteries & Halls	844	476
Sport & Recreation Facilities	1,630	1,415
<i>Total Net</i>	19,282	13,153



Alexandrina Council 2008/2009 Budget

Strategy, Finance & Information Services

Description	2008/2009 Budget	Cash Budget
	\$,000	\$,000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Accounting	651	1,363
Finance	2,109	2,109
Information Management	383	1,306
Rate Revenue	-	-
Total Expenditure	3,143	4,778
<u>INCOME</u>		
Accounting	(426)	(426)
Finance	(5,671)	(5,671)
Information Management	(70)	(70)
Rate Revenue	(18,580)	(18,580)
Total Income	(24,747)	(24,747)
<u>NET</u>		
Accounting	225	937
Finance	(3,562)	(3,562)
Information Management	313	1,236
Rate Revenue	(18,580)	(18,580)
Total Net	(21,604)	(19,969)

Appendix 1 - Key Financial Indicators

Operating Surplus Ratio

(Operating surplus before capital revenues (excluding profit/loss on disposal of non current assets and revaluations) divided by total rates revenue)

**total rates revenue excludes revenue from the NRM levy*

Interpretation

This ratio expresses the operating surplus (deficit) as a percentage of general and other rates, net of rebates.

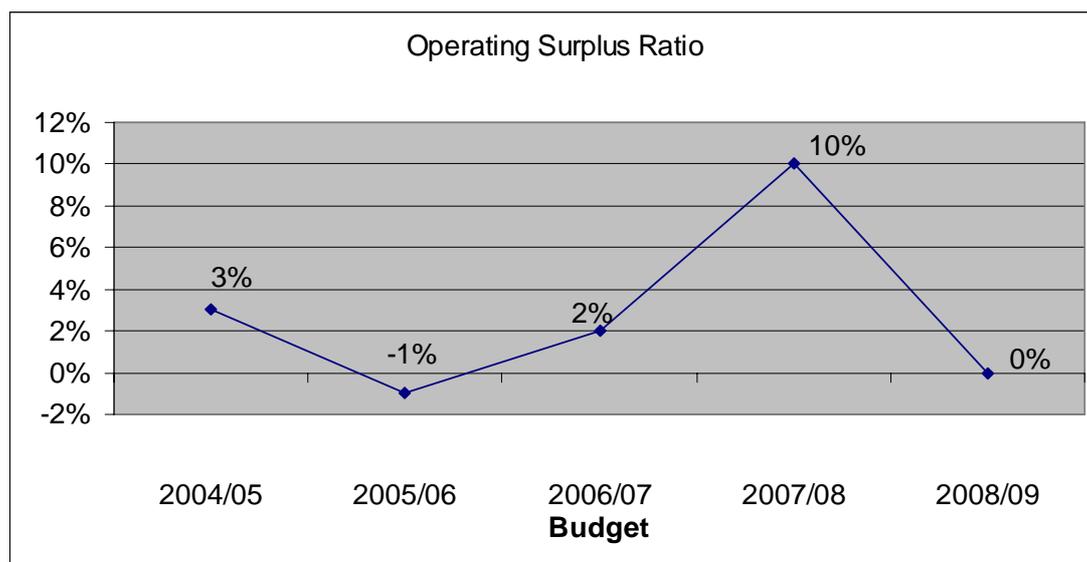
A negative ratio indicates the percentage increase in total rates required to achieve a break-even operating result.

A positive ratio indicates the percentage of total rates available to fund capital expenditure over and above the level of depreciation expense without increasing council's level of net financial liabilities. If this amount is not required for capital expenditure it reduces the level of net financial liabilities.

Objective

Operating surplus ratio between 0 and 5%

Council should be trying to achieve a small operating surplus ratio. Where a negative surplus ratio exists councils need to either increase operating revenues and/or reduce operating expenses.



Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

(Net financial liabilities divided by total operating revenue)*

** total operating revenue excludes profit on disposal of non current assets and revenue from the NRM levy*

Interpretation

This ratio indicates the extent to which net financial liabilities of the council can be met by the council's total operating revenue.

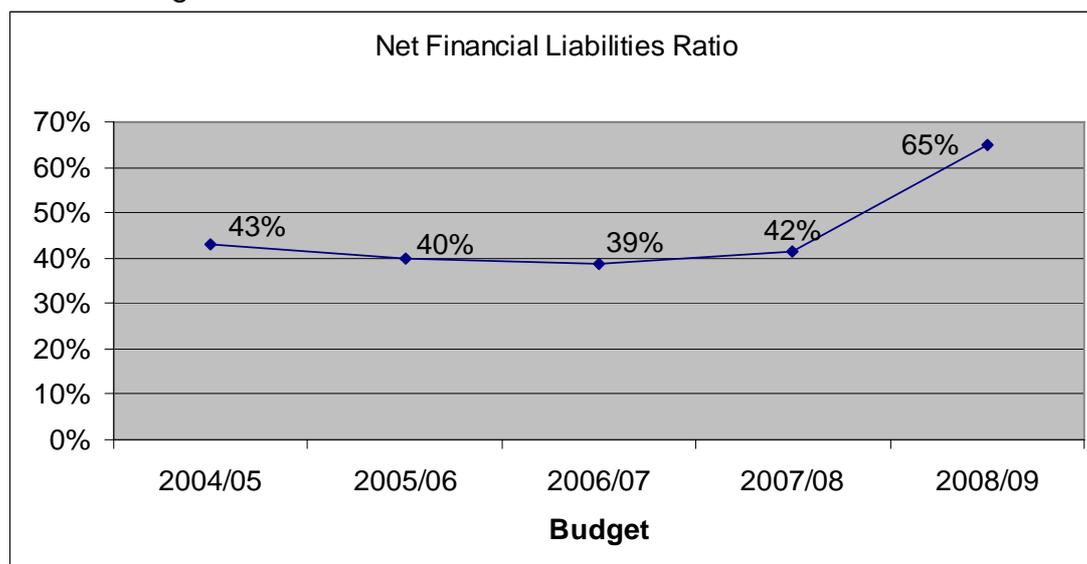
Where the ratio is falling it indicates the council's capacity to meet its financial obligations from operating revenues is strengthening.

Where the ratio is increasing it indicates a greater amount of council's operating revenues is required to service its financial obligations.

Objective

The target for net financial liabilities should be greater than zero on the basis that an ongoing negative ratio implies that a council may be placing a higher priority on investment in financial assets rather than applying ratepayer funds to the provision of services and/or infrastructure renewal.

The target for net financial liabilities should also be less than 100% to ensure the ratio remains within acceptable limits. Each council may choose to vary this maximum limit given the particular circumstances and risk profile of the council and taking into account its Long Term Financial and Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans.



Interest Cover Ratio

(Net interest expenses divided by total operating revenue)

** total operating revenue excludes profit on disposal of non current assets and revenue from the NRM levy.*

Interpretation

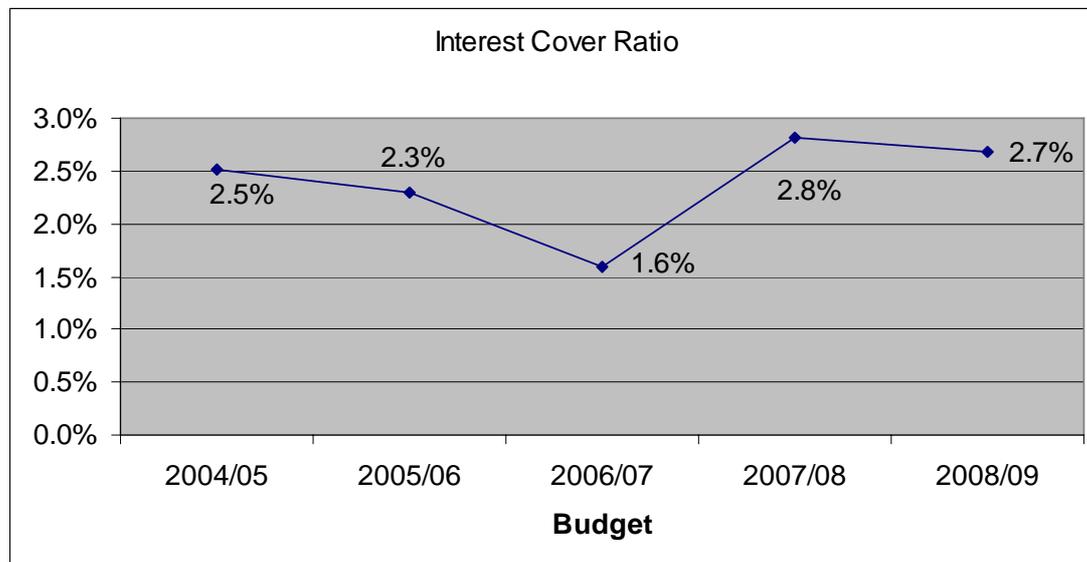
This ratio indicates the extent to which council's commitment to interest expenses are met by total operating revenues.

Objective

Net interest/total operating revenue should be less than 10%

The target for net interest expenses/total operating revenue is considered a reasonable limit to ensure net interest costs can be met comfortably by operating revenues.

Each council may choose to vary this maximum limit given the particular circumstances and risk profile of the council and having regard to its long term financial plans.





Asset Sustainability Ratio

(Capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of existing depreciable assets/depreciation expenses)

Interpretation

This ratio indicates whether the council is renewing or replacing existing non-financial assets at the rate of consumption.

However by ensuring that capital expenditure on existing assets is at least equal to depreciation over the long term the council is ensuring the value of its existing asset stock will be maintained and that the amount of spending over time will be shared equitably between generations of ratepayers.

In calculating this ratio a council can use the optimal level of capital expenditure on renewal and replacement identified from their Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan as the denominator as opposed to depreciation.

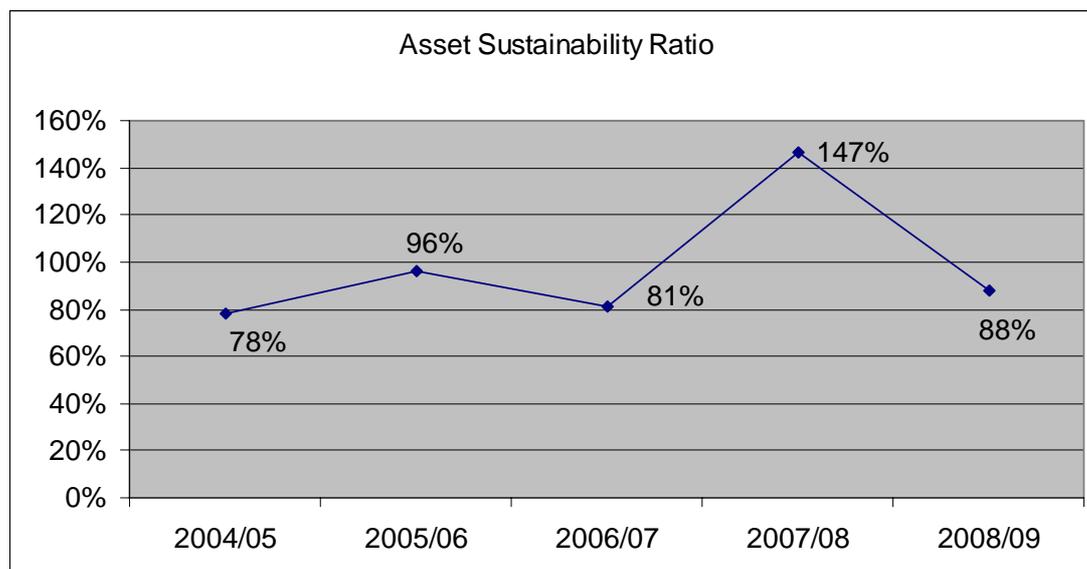
Objective

Net outlays on existing assets/depreciation $> = 90\%$

This target will mean that a council is ensuring the proportion of total assets consumed compared to the amount spent in preserving the asset on an annual basis is appropriate.

However it must be remembered that depreciation represents an allocation of predominantly historical costs over the useful life of the asset, rather than an estimate of future costs.

Achieving an operating break even result will demonstrate that the cost of consumption of assets in any one year is being met by current ratepayers.



Appendix 2

Rating Policy 2008/2009

Introduction

This document sets out the policy of the Alexandrina Council for setting and collecting rates from its community.

The policy covers:

- Purpose;
- Principle;
- Background;
- Strategic Focus;
- Local Government CPI;
- Annual Adoption of the Rating Policy;
- Method Used to Value Land;
- Adoption of Valuations;
- Differential General Rates;
- Notional Values;
- Business Impact Statement;
- Minimum Rate;
- Rate Capping;
- Natural Resource Management Levy (the Council's collection role);
- Pensioner Concessions;
- Self Funded Retiree Concessions;
- Unemployed Persons Concessions;
- Payment of Rates;
- Late Payment of Rates;
- Postponement of Rates;
- Rebate of Rates;
- Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates;
- Hindmarsh Island Bridge Act;
- Disclaimer

Purpose

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this policy documents the principles of the Alexandrina Council in determining the proposed rating policy for the 2008-2009 financial year. A large section of detail in this paper is provided to comply with the requirements of the Local Government legislation. Additional detail is also presented as a means for the community to form an appreciation of the methods of rating and the impact on various groups and individuals in the district.



Principles

Councils must raise revenue for governance and administration, which deliver goods and services to the community.

Council's major source of revenue is Rates, derived as a tax on land within the Council area.

All ratepayers receive benefits from paying rates, but those benefits are consumed in different quantities and types over the lives of the ratepayer.

The Alexandrina's rating policy is underpinned by:

- Accountability and professional ethics,
- Community consultation,
- Transparency and simplicity,
- Efficiency,
- Equitable distribution of the rate burden,
- Consistency with the strategic directions of Council,
- Compliance with relevant legislation,

Background

Councils are faced with the need to balance service levels within financial constraints while meeting the expectations of the community. Councils must discharge their legal obligations as determined by several Acts of Parliament relative to the role of Local Government. Consequently responsible financial management and in particular, appropriate taxation (rates) levels are necessary to provide the financial resources to meet those expectations and obligations.

The Alexandrina Council established a Rates Review Committee in July 2004 to advise Council on the opportunities for rate reform. The areas which came under the spotlight of the committee were:

- Continued use of Capital Values for rating purposes.
- Continued use of locality / land use as a factor for differential rating or change to an alternative such as tiered rating or rating by locality only.
- The continued use of the minimum rate or a change to a fixed charge.
- Continued use of rebates - to be applied on a needs basis.
- Continued use of rates capping.



The final recommendations of the committee to Council which were adopted were to:

- Change to rating by land use category determined by the Local Government (General) Regulations 1999, only with the ultimate goal of one rate in the dollar for all categories, with the exception of vacant land.
- Continue the use of rates capping to be applied to residents only (conditions apply), with the per centum being at least 4% above the general rate rises in each category (which was 7% in 2004).
- The minimum rate continues to be used for rating purposes.
- Capital Values continue to be used for rating purposes.
- Rebates to be applied on a needs basis only.
- Develop a greater awareness of the rate setting process in our community.
- Lobby members of parliament to enact reform of the Local Government rating provisions and level of concessions payable to pensioners and self funded retirees.
- In setting the rate in the dollar each year Council should be mindful of the previous rating structure and equity across all land use groups.

These methods best meet the principles of equity, fairness, simplicity, transparency and efficiency.

Strategic Focus

In setting its rates for the 2008/2009 financial year the Council has considered the following:

- Its current corporate plan, *Alexandrina Council Corporate Plan 2004-2009*, which was adopted in 2005 and will be reviewed in 2008. The strategic corporate plan was developed following an extensive series of public meetings and community consultation with local businesses, community groups and interested citizens.
- The *Alexandrina Council Infrastructure Plan 2002-2012*.
- The recurrent expenditure and income expected for the 2008-2009 financial year.
- The resources required for the delivery of Council services are documented in the Annual Business Plan and Budget 2008-2009 and Annual Statement which provides direct links to the Corporate Plan and outlines financial performance levels and non-financial in the form of stated projects for delivery over the next 12 months.



Prior to determining the level of rates required each year, Council considers:

- The infrastructure needs, service delivery needs and related expenditure priorities in relation to the Corporate Plan and community needs.
- Equity issues and the relationship between the various land uses and the previous rating structure
- Extremities in valuation and how their effect can be minimised in setting rating levels.
- Increased use of “user pays” cost recovery systems.

There will continue to be economic pressures applying to the Council in a number of ways, which will have an impact on the Council’s budget and therefore put pressure on rates, for example:

- The doubling of the waste levy paid by Councils to the State Government
- The need to respond to requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the closure of landfill sites
- The cessation of some community grants previously received from other tiers of government.
- The need to fund long-term maintenance on road, drainage and other infrastructure.

Method Used to Value Land

The Council may adopt one of three valuation methods to value the properties in its area.

They are:

- *Capital Value* – the value of the land and all of the improvements on the land;
- *Site Value* – the value of the land and any improvements which permanently affect the amenity of use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements; and
- *Annual Value* – a valuation of the rental potential of the property.



The Council has decided to continue to use Capital Value as the basis for valuing land within the council area. The Council considers that this method of valuing land provides the fairest method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers on the following basis:

- The equity principle of taxation requires that ratepayers of similar wealth pay similar taxes and ratepayers of greater wealth pay more tax than ratepayers of lesser wealth;
- Property value is a relatively good indicator of wealth, and Capital Value, (which closely approximates the market value of a property) provides the best indicator of overall property value; and
- The distribution of property values throughout the Council area is such that few residential ratepayers will pay significantly more than the average rate per property.

Valuation Movements over past 12 months

The most recent valuation data received from the State Government's Valuation Office has (including new developments) increased by 10%, from \$4,944,300,000 (\$4.94 billion) to \$5,482,400,000 (\$5.48 billion). Growth to date has increase by 3% with revaluations increasing by 7% (this includes non-rateable properties).

Adoption of Valuations

The Council will adopt the most recent valuations available from the Valuer-General to apply for the year ending 30th June 2008. If you are dissatisfied with the valuation made by the Valuer-General then you may object to the Valuer-General in writing, within 60 days of receiving this notice of the valuation, explaining the basis for the objection - provided you have not: (a) previously received a notice of this valuation under the Local Government Act, in which case the objection period is 60 days from the receipt of the first notice; or (b) previously had an objection to the valuation considered by the Valuer-General.

The address of the Office of the Valuer-General is:

Office of the Valuer-General
GPO Box 1354
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Email: objections@saugov.sa.gov.au

Phone: 1300 653 345

The Council has no role in the valuation review process.

It is important to note that the lodgement of an objection does not change the due date for payment of rates.

Notional Values

Certain properties may be eligible for a notional value under the Valuation of Land Act 1971. This can relate to certain primary production land or where there is State heritage recognition. A notional value is generally less than the capital value and this will result in reduced rates, unless the minimum rate already applies.

Application for a notional value must be made to the Office of the Valuer-General.

Business Impact Statement

Council has considered the impact of rates on all businesses in the Council area, including primary production and viticulture. In considering the impact, Council has assessed the following matters:

- Those elements of Council's strategic management plans relating to business development.
- The current and forecast economic climate identified in Access Economic's publication *Business Outlook, 2007*.
- Council's recent development approval trends.
- The state wide drought and possible effects on industries affected.
- The operating and capital projects and new programs for the coming year that will principally benefit industry and business development.
- Valuation changes.

Council recognises the importance of supporting and encouraging a diverse and healthy business sector including primary production and this is reflected in Council's strategic management plans.

Councils Revenue Raising Powers

All land within a council area, except for land specifically exempt (e.g. crown land, council occupied land and other land prescribed in the Local Government Act – refer Section 168 of the Act), is rateable. The Local Government Act provides for a Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through a general rate, which applies to all rateable properties, or through differential general rates, which apply to categories of land use and/or locality. In addition, Council can raise separate rates, for specific areas of the Council or service rates or charges for specific services. Council also raises revenue through fees and charges, which are set giving consideration to the cost of the service provided and equity issues. The list of applicable fees and charges is available at the contact locations listed in this document.



Differential General Rates

The Act allows Councils to differentiate rates based on the use of the land, the locality of the land or on the use and locality of the land.

Current categories of land use defined by the Local Government (General) Regulations 1999 are

1. Residential
2. Commercial-Shops
3. Commercial-Office
4. Commercial-Other
5. Industrial-Light
6. Industrial-Other
7. Primary Production
8. Vacant Land
9. Other

Minimum Rate

A Council may impose a minimum rate, provided it has not imposed a fixed charge. Council has historically imposed a minimum rate. The minimum rate is levied against the whole of an allotment (as defined in the Act) and only one minimum rate is levied against two or more pieces of adjoining land (whether separated by a road or not) if they are owned by the same owner and occupied by the same occupier. The reasons for imposing a minimum rate are:

- Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties make a contribution to the cost of administering the Council's activities; and
- Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties make a contribution to the cost of creating and maintaining the physical infrastructure that supports each property.

Council is proposing that for the 2008-2009 financial year the minimum rate be \$580 an increase of \$20 on the previous years minimum.

Rate Capping

Council is proposing that for the 2008-2009 financial year the maximum increase in the general rate to be charged on rateable land within its area that constitutes the principle place of residence of the principle ratepayer shall be 11% (conditions apply).

Natural Resource Management Levy

The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Levy, set by the NRM Boards, is a state government tax imposed under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004. The levy provides additional funding to help take care of natural resources such as water, soil, animal, marine and plant control.

The levy is based on the capital value of land and is shown as a separate charge on the rates notice.



Pensioner Concessions

An eligible pensioner may be entitled to a State concession on Council rates and water and effluent charges where applicable. Application forms, which include information on the concessions, are available from the Council at the contact locations listed on the first page. They are also available from SA Water Corporation and its District Offices or the Department of Human Services.

An eligible pensioner must hold a Pension Card, State Concession Card or be a T.P.I. Pensioner. They must also reside at and be responsible for the payment of rates on the property for which they are claiming a concession.

The State Government administers applications. Payment of rates should not be withheld pending assessment of an application by the State Government as penalties apply to unpaid rates. A refund of rates will be paid to an eligible pensioner if Council is advised that a concession applies and the rates have already been paid.

Self Funded Retirees Concessions

A person who holds a State Seniors Card may be entitled to a concession of general and separate rates under the Local Government Act 1999, providing the land constitutes the person's principal place of residence. However, a person is not entitled to receive both the State Seniors Card concession and the Pensioner concession.

Questions from ratepayers regarding rate concessions for self-funded retirees are to be directed to - Revenue SA Call Centre – 1300 366 150

Unemployed Persons Concessions

The Department of Human Services (Families SA Division) may assist with the payment of Council rates for your principal place of residence (concessions are not available on vacant land or rental premises). Please contact your nearest Family and Youth Services office for details.

Payment of rates should not be withheld pending assessments by SA Water, Revenue SA or Families SA, as penalties will arise.



Payment of Rates

Rates can be made by single payment or by equal or approximately equal four quarterly payments. Council will send out instalment notices to ratepayers advising them of their next instalment due date at least 30 days prior.

Rates may be paid:

- At any Post Office in Australia;
- By telephone, by using the BPAY service through participating banks or phoning DEFT Payments Systems on 1300 130 833;
- By internet payment at www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au
- By mail by posting to PO Box 21, GOOLWA SA 5214; or
- In person, at the Council offices:-

Alexandrina Council
Library & Customer Service Centre
11 Cadell Street
Goolwa SA 5214

During the hours of
9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
9am to 12 Noon Saturday

Strathalbyn Branch Office
1 Colman Terrace
Strathalbyn SA 5255

During the hours of
9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday
Closed for Lunch 12.30 – 1.30pm

EFTPOS Facilities are available for payments

To ensure security of your credit card, Council will not accept telephone payments at our Council Offices.

Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to, experience difficulty with meeting the standard payment requirements, or is planning an extended absence at the time rates are due is invited to contact our Rates Staff on 8555 7000 to discuss alternative payment arrangements. The Council treats such inquiries confidentially.

Late Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act requires that Councils impose a penalty of 2% on any payment for rates, whether instalment or otherwise, that is received late.

The purpose of this penalty is to act as a genuine deterrent to ratepayers who might otherwise fail to pay their rates on time, to allow Councils to recover the administrative cost of following up unpaid rates and to cover any interest cost the Council may incur because it has not received the rates on time. Rates remaining unpaid will be charged interest each month at a rate prescribed in the Act. The Council may at its discretion remit penalties for late payment of rates where ratepayers are experiencing genuine hardship.



The Council issues a final notice for payment of rates when rates are overdue i.e. unpaid by the due date. Should rates remain unpaid more than 21 days after the issue of the final notice then the Council may refer the debt to a debt collection agency for collection. The debt collection agency charges collection fees that are recoverable from the ratepayer.

When the Council receives a payment in respect of overdue rates the Council applies the money received as follows:

- First – to satisfy any costs awarded in connection with court proceedings;
- Second – in payment of debt collection costs;
- Third – to satisfy any interest costs
- Fourth – in payment of any fines imposed
- Fifth – in payment of rates, in chronological order (starting with the oldest amount owing)

Postponement of Rates

a) General Postponement of Payment of Rates due to Hardship
(for a maximum period of one year)

Under Section 182 of the Local Government Act a postponement of rates may be considered if Council is satisfied that the payment of these rates would cause hardship. Council may, on application and subject to the ratepayer substantiating hardship, consider granting a postponement of payment of rates for a maximum period of one year in respect to an assessment on the condition that the ratepayer agree to pay interest on the amount affected by the postponement at the cash advance debenture rate and if the ratepayer satisfies the following criteria:

- The property is the principal residence of the ratepayer, and
- The property has been owned by the ratepayer and has been their principal residence for a minimum of 1 year, and
- The rateable value of the property exceeds \$150,000

Or can demonstrate to Council they are a self funded retiree, earning less than \$25,000 per year.

Or any other financial hardship reason as approved by Council

The amount postponed will not exceed:

- 40% of the rates payable for the assessment and shall accrue interest at the cash advance debenture rate published by the LGFA for 1st July each year.
- 50% of the land value of the principal place of residence



which will be conditional :

- The owner must advise the current or potential mortgagee of such debt
- Any change in financial circumstance must be immediately advised
- A new application must be completed for each new year postponed

The amount of the postponement may be extended only on special Council approval.

All applications for rebates, remissions or postponements must be in writing, addressed to:

The Chief Executive
Alexandrina Council
PO Box 21
Goolwa SA 5214.

b) Long-Term Rates Postponement for State Seniors

State Seniors Card holders, upon application, now have the right to postpone on a long-term basis, council rates otherwise payable. The postponement scheme is restricted to rates on the State Senior's principal place of residence and, at the discretion of the State Senior, could cover part or all of annual rates payable.

The long-term postponement scheme for State Seniors Card holders is non-concessional (i.e. compound interest would be payable on the accumulating postponed balance).

Those ratepayers choosing to participate in the scheme are still able to avail themselves of existing State Government concessions provided on Council rates for pensioners and self-funded retirees.

Council's financial position will need to be protected by ensuring that the postponed amount is a senior ranking charge against the property. In this way, Council has the power to claim the postponed amount at the time of a voluntary transfer of the property or from an estate.

Rebate of Rates

The Local Government Act requires Councils to rebate the rates payable on some land. Specific provisions are made for the land used for health services, community services, religious purposes, public cemeteries, the Royal Zoological Society and educational institutions. The Council under Section 166 of the Act may apply discretionary rebates.

Council also rebates rates to community organisations that encourage, enhance and foster the well being of our community, especially the youth and aged.

Please refer to Council's Rate Rebate Policy.

Enquiries can be made through our Rates office on 8555 7000.

Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act provides that a Council may sell any property where the rates have been in arrears for three years or more. The Council is required to notify the owner of its intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within one month, and must provide the owner with details of the outstanding amounts.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, the Council enforces the sale of land for arrears of rates and a copy of the Council's policy is available from Rates staff on 85557000 or by writing to Alexandrina Council, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214.

Hindmarsh Island Bridge Act

Pursuant to the Hindmarsh Island Bridge Act 1999, levies and contributions payable for persons affected, apply from the 1st of July 2002. This is a Government of SA charge collectable by this Council only. Enquires should be directed to the Rates section of Council on 8555 7000.

Disclaimer

A rate cannot be challenged solely on the basis of non-compliance with this policy and must be paid in accordance with the required payment provisions.

Where a ratepayer believes that the Council has failed to properly apply this policy it should raise the matter with the Council. In the first instance contact our Rates Officers on 8555 7000 to discuss the matter. If, after this initial contact, a ratepayer is still dissatisfied they should write to Mr John Coombe, Chief Executive, Alexandrina Council, PO Box 21, Goolwa, SA 5214.

Contact Details for Further Information

Rates Officers on 8555 7000

Fax : 8555 3603

Email: alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au