

MEDIA RELEASE

Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2020-21

out for public consultation

16 June 2020

Alexandrina Council has released its draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2020-21 for community consultation, which takes place from Tuesday 16 June to 6 July 2020.

“The draft plan reflects our commitment to help the Alexandrina region rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19, whilst also responding to the financial pressure we know is being felt within our community.” said Alexandrina Council Mayor Keith Parkes.

“The draft plan sets out our budget for the 2020-21 financial year and reflects Council’s commitment to maintaining our enviable lifestyle, and providing services and facilities that benefit our residents, ratepayers, visitors and natural environment.”

“This year, your feedback on our draft plan is more important than ever. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current economic environment impacting us all, we encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us”, said Mayor Parkes.

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

“This year, in response to COVID-19, Council administration has worked in partnership with our Elected Body to deliver the lowest ever rate increase in Alexandrina’s history. The proposed average general rate increase is 1.2% for 2020-21.

I am pleased to report that Council administration has worked diligently in identifying efficiency savings of 1.4% of operational expenditure in 2020-21, to a value of \$670,000, equivalent to 1.9% of rates. Efficiencies over the last three financial years equate to a reduction of 3.3% or \$1.12 million in operating expenses, helping to keep rate increases to a minimum.

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

The draft Plan includes delivery of a number of climate change initiatives including:

- annual corporate energy and carbon reporting
- installing a total of 180kW solar energy on Council libraries and depots in Goolwa and Strathalbyn
- switching public street lighting to LEDs

- incorporating energy efficiency initiatives such as LED lighting and energy efficient appliances into Council's capital works (Buildings) program inclusive of the Goolwa Office, Strathalbyn Town Hall, Alexandrina Business Hub and Milang Foreshore Public Toilet
- continuing with Council's annual nature conservation and street tree planting programs, and
- implementing the recommendations from our recent Climate Governance Assessment to ensure Council policies and procedures facilitate a climate emergency response.

Council welcomes feedback from our community and invites residents and ratepayers to view the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2020-21, which is on display at Council offices and libraries; and can also be viewed on Council's website at www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au

Feedback is encouraged through Council's My Say site <http://mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/ABP2020-21>