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MEDIA RELEASE

Alexandrina Council's Draft Annual Business Plan 2021/22 open for Community Consultation

19 May 2021

Alexandrina Council's draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2021/22 commenced consultation on Tuesday 18 May, inviting the community to view the draft documents and provide feedback.

The draft Annual Business Plan and Budget is an important step towards delivering the vision and aspirations expressed in Council's recently endorsed A2040 plan to 'Thrive'.

Rates are Council's main source of income and are applied to all levels of Council operations and capital projects so as to provide the services and facilities that meet community expectation and need. To achieve this, Council is proposing a rate increase (to the average assessment) of 2.7% (being 1.2% CPI plus 1.5% sustainability factor).

Alexandrina Council Mayor Keith Parkes is confident the draft plan balances the community's expectations with achievable outcomes, particularly in light of ongoing COVID-19 related impacts.

"The draft plan reflects our commitment to achieving our A2040 vision, which is simply to thrive in a liveable, green and connected community, whilst balancing the impacts felt by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Council has considered how best to support residents, ratepayers and local businesses so as to remain economically resilient throughout the year ahead, with a continual focus on wellbeing, environmental and infrastructure outcomes," he said.

The draft plan also sees Council continuing to leverage opportunities following the availability of stimulus funding from both the Federal and State Governments, and identifies a range of projects to stimulate economic activity and generate employment. These key projects include:

- Strathalbyn Town Centre Streetscape & Town Hall Revitalisation;
- Redevelopment of the Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct;
- Reinvigoration of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct;
- Beacon 19 Boat Ramp Refurbishment; and
- Stormwater Upgrade at Tarella Street, Milang.

Alexandrina Council CEO, Glenn Rappensberg said, “A significant effort has been made to again minimise this year’s rate increase; while presenting a realistic budget that ensures we can sustainably fund services, existing infrastructure and new facilities which have been identified as so very important to the economic and social well-being of the community we serve.”

“We value your feedback on our draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us. As a community we have shown resilience, innovation and kinship over the past twelve months and this budget aspires to build on that foundation to strengthen Alexandrina’s enviable way of life.”

The draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2021/22 is available for residents and ratepayers to view and provide feedback via an online survey at mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/ABP2021-22, with submissions accepted by Council until 5pm, Wednesday 16 June 2021.

Alternatively, the document can be viewed, and feedback provided at the Goolwa and Strathalbyn Libraries and Council offices. Feedback can also be sent by post to Alexandrina Council, PO Box 21, Goolwa, SA, 5214 or by email to alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au

All submissions received will be considered by Council before formal adoption of the Annual Business Plan and Budget, planned to take place at a Special Council Meeting on Monday, 5 July 2021 at the Alexandrina Council Community Chambers in Goolwa. For further information visit mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/ABP2021-22