

MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 26 July 2017

Budget focus on community and growth

The Bunbury City Council is firmly focused on investing in the community and growing our city after last night adopting the 2017/18 Budget.

At the heart of the Budget is 4.5 per cent increase in rate yield.

Recent revaluations of properties by Landgate determined the actual impact on individual property owners.

One per cent of the rate increase is allocated to the upgrade and renewal of existing assets, which continues an initiative adopted in the previous financial year.

The City's total budget is \$90.8 million which comprises \$39.7m in capital works, \$48.8m in operating expenditure and \$2.3m for debt reduction.

Key capital projects include the Koombana Foreshore upgrade (currently underway) \$11.6 million and the construction of the new depot at \$8 million.

Mayor Gary Brennan said he commended this budget, which continues to support the community while providing for population growth.

"A rate increase of 4.5 per cent is responsible while also providing for growth, future expenditure and achieving Council's strategic objectives," Mr Brennan said.

"The 2017/18 budget continues that strategy with more support to community-based organisations than previously provided."

These include increasing the operational subsidy of the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre by up to \$435,000; providing \$20,000 for the Bunbury RSL to assist with the 100 year commemoration of the end of the First World War; \$15,000 each to the Clontarf Academy and Girls Academy; and \$10,000 for continuation of the School Chaplaincy program. The annual Christmas in the City and Australia Day Skyfest events require an investment of \$412,000.

Budget highlights include:

- Redevelopment of the Stirling Street Arts Centre \$1M
- Stormwater Drainage \$2.4M
- Marine Walls and Jetties \$800K
- Footpaths \$704K
- Landscape, Parks and Entry Statements \$436K
- Grants and Subsidies to the Community \$525K

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- Annual Subsidies to Community and Cultural Organisations \$697M
- City's Contribution to Arts and Culture \$1.1M
- City's Contribution to Sport and Recreation \$3.8M
- Road Works \$3.7M

ENDS

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