

MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 13 June 2018

City proposes minimal rate rise to ease financial burden on residents

Bunbury City Council on Tuesday instructed its staff to prepare the next budget based on rates increasing by 2.9 per cent for the 2018-19 financial year.

This includes a 1 per cent levy that will be used for the renewal and upgrade of existing assets such as roads, stormwater infrastructure and the city's path network.

The 2.9 per cent increase is less than the previous year's 4.5 per cent increase as Council recognises the current economic climate and the affordability of rate increases to the Bunbury community.

The increase will enable the City to meet the increased costs to provide services and facilities while also taking into account future growth and management of the City's assets.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said the 2.9 per cent increase would also allow for a modest surplus at the end of the year.

"Council recognises that some community members are doing it tough and we wanted to help alleviate some of that financial burden by introducing a minimal rate increase," Mayor Brennan said.

"This reduction in rates income will have no impact on current or approved projects for 2018-19."

The rate increase will be considered for adoption as part of the City's 2018/19 Budget, which will be presented to Bunbury City Council on 26 June 2018.

As the Budget will be adopted earlier than in previous years, ratepayers are advised that the rate payment instalment dates will be about two weeks earlier than last year.

The first instalment or payment in full will be due on 7 September 2018.

ENDS

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