

COS Agenda for COS Council Meeting 24 June 2015

2015-2016 COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM

The Draft 2015/2016 Budget allocates a total of \$145,000 funding for this scheme as per Council's resolution.

The Draft 2015/2016 Budget has an allocation of \$145,000 for the Council Community Funding Program which encompasses four funding categories:

- COPACC Assistance \$10,676
- Small Equipment and Training \$24,670
- Community Projects \$45,340
- Recreation Facilities \$64,314

SMALL EQUIPMENT & TRAINING:

Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club \$385

C. COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Wye River Surf Lifesaving Club \$1,180

Wye to Wongarra Landcare \$5,000

COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 REVIEW

Changes to the Council Plan

Challenges facing Council Financial constraints.

The following sentence has been added (pages 3 and 11): The introduction of rate capping by the State Government, to take effect from July 2016, will increase the pressure on our capacity to provide services.

Administrative changes

The following alterations are required to account for the changes in Councillor roles and in the Executive Management Team:

- The replacement of Councillor Lyn Russell as Mayor with Councillor Frank Buchanan.
- The replacement of Councillor Frank Buchanan as Deputy Mayor with Councillor Brian Crook.
- The replacement of Rob Small as Chief Executive Officer with Sue Wilkinson.
- The replacement of the former General Manager Sustainable Planning and Environment, Jack Green, with Acting General Manager Development and Community Services, Doug McNeill.
- Replacement of the former organisational structure with the new structure.

THE 50+ PLAN 2015-2025

Background

The 50+ Plan is a strategic long-term process that will assist Council in planning for an ageing population. It is aimed at all residents aged 50 years and over. to play an active role in society, while society must in turn encourage and accommodate this.

Over the last 3 years Council has been working on community development and empowerment models within the Improving Liveability for Older People (ILOP) project; the Positive Ageing Ambassador DVD; the ILOP Toolkit on behalf of the MAV and the Department of Health and Human Services .

ADOPTION OF THE 2015-2016 ANNUAL BUDGET

At the Council Meeting held on 22 April 2015, Council endorsed the proposed budget .

The budget proposal is for an increase in the average rates and charges, per assessment, of 4.90%.

This increase enables Council to continue to deliver existing services and deliver a number of key initiatives and projects. The proposed Budget is also designed to deliver an operating surplus to fund the capital work activities of Council. The Budget is considered to be prudent and responsible and will ensure that Colac Otway Shire Council remains in a sustainable, low-risk financial position.

Key highlights of the Budget include:

- The lowest average rates and charges rise in more than a decade - being 4.9 %
- An average forecast increase in rates and charges per assessment of \$87.00 per year or \$1.67 per week
- The delivery of a capital works program which will be the second largest in the shire's history – valued at \$17.34 million (includes \$3 million carried forward works)
- The completion of the Bluewater Fitness Centre upgrade and the return to full operational service levels
- \$2.48 million to commence major upgrades to the facilities for Colac's premier sports facility - Central Reserve
- \$5.6 million for road reconstruction, re-sheeting, re-sealing and safety upgrades across the entire shire
- An extensive program of new and renewed footpaths across the entire shire valued at \$650,000
- \$670,000 for upgrades to bridges, determined on a safety priority basis
- \$1.47 million upgrades to the eastern entrance of the Colac CBD and open space
- A program of service reviews in key areas including Planning
- The delivery of an operating surplus to partially fund capital work activities
- No new borrowings

Capital Works and other Projects

- Roadworks – including reconstruction, resheeting, Resealing and safety upgrades - \$5,600,000
- Colac Central Reserve redevelopment - \$2,480,000
- Bluewater Fitness Centre redevelopment (completion) - \$1,340,000
- Buildings works – including renewals, essential safety, Fire services upgrades and disability access upgrades - \$1,550,000
- CBD Entrances Project - \$1,100,000
- Bridge works - \$670,000
- Footpath renewal works - \$400,000
- New footpaths - \$250,000 · Urban drainage renewal - \$150,000

- New Playgrounds - \$140,000

The total new project Capital Works in the Budget is \$14.34 million with a further approximately \$3 million of capital projects carried forward from 2014-15, giving a total capital works program for 2015-16 of \$17.34 million. With Council's budgeted depreciation being \$9.34 million this covers the ratio of 150% as per the resolution from 26 February 2014 Council meeting will be met for the 2015-16 financial year

Rating and Valuations Council's total rates and charges will increase to \$27.98 million (including supplementary rates) to enable the delivery of services and infrastructure to the community. The Budget is for an increase in the average rates and charges (excluding supplementary rates) of 4.9% for the 2015-2016 financial year. The combined 2014-2015 Rates and Charges bill per assessment was \$1,784. The average for 2015-2016 is forecast to be \$1,871, being an \$87 or \$1.67 per week increase on 2014-15.

Fire Services Property Levy

Council has been informed of a significant increase in the Fires Service Property Levy (FSPL) to be charged for 2015-16. Whilst this is not a Council charge, Council is forced to collect the FSPL on behalf of the Victorian Government through the rate collection process. The fixed portion of the FSPL will increase in 2015-16 by \$2 per property (from \$102 to \$104) for residential properties, and by \$5 (from \$205 to \$210) for other properties. **The large increase however, will be in the variable rate, which sees a 32% increase for residential properties, with a 13% increase for commercial and primary production and a 12% increase for industrial properties.** Whilst the proportion of the variable charge is significantly less than the fixed charge as a whole of the charge, **the overall rise in the FSPL payable by ratepayers per category is as follows: Residential 9% Commercial 8% Industrial 9%**

Waste Charge

The kerbside collection charge has been reviewed in the light of service costs. It is proposed to increase the kerbside collection charge as follows: · Weekly charge has increased from \$272 to \$285 · Fortnightly charge has increased from \$180 to \$189.

Final Budget 2015-2016

Council authorises the amount intended to be raised: An amount of \$ 27,926,934 be declared as the amount that Council intends to raise by general rates, municipal charge and service (Waste Management) charges, which is calculated as follows: Category Income General Rates \$ 22,665,036 Municipal Charge \$ 2,505,528 Annual Service (Waste Management) Charges \$ 2,756,370 TOTAL \$ 27,926,934

4.2.4 Holiday Rental Land Any land that contains a dwelling, cabin or house or part of a house that:

- is used for the provision of holiday accommodation for the purpose of generating income; or
- is made generally available for holiday accommodation and is a secondary or supplemental source of income for the owner.

Note: Typically, the category will include absentee owned holiday houses, owner occupied "Bed and Breakfast" establishments, farm properties with accommodation cabins, holiday farms and the like.

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in Clause 4.2 of this Resolution) by the relevant rate in the dollar indicated in the following table:

Rating Category Rate in the dollar of CIV

Residential- Colac, Colac East, Colac West, Elliminyt 0.004513

Residential- Other 0.003836

Rural- Farm 0.003565

Holiday Rental 0.004513