

Mayor's Report to the Community



General Rate

The Council at its meeting on 29 June passed an increase of 1.9% in general rate revenue for the 2015-2016 financial year. Again, the challenge has been in balancing the competing priorities of required services, the continuation of strategic actions, maintaining a sound financial position and keeping rate increases to an acceptable level. While the Consumer Price Index advises the Annual Rate of Inflation in terms of groceries and other consumables, it is not necessarily indicative of the cost drivers of local government which has a broader range of impacts and extends to activities related to general construction such as road works and infrastructure provision. While CPI (Hobart) is currently 0.9%, it is proposed that the average movement in costs for the average council in Tasmania would be in the vicinity of 2.48%. The Council must also ensure it continues to provide core services at an affordable level and has remained mindful of the cost of living pressures facing our community when setting the general rate.

The rates this year reflect changes in the operations of the Council and increases in costs from suppliers. The major areas of increase are in waste management and roads. It is important to note that there are continuing pressures on the overheads of the Council, commonly referred to as the cost of doing business. Unless the Council maintains a realistic approach to the development of its Estimates and therefore the levying of its rates, then the overheads will start to bite into the level of works and services traditionally provided. The Council is continuing its sustainability project to look at further opportunities for raising revenue, reviewing how we deliver our existing services, and ensuring that we have the capabilities required to build a council that is sustainable, efficient, effective and responsive to community needs.

Service rates and charges

The Waste Management Service Charge has increased by \$6, from \$180 to \$186 per tenement. This increase is to cover the cost of the regional contracts for the provision of the household garbage collection and kerbside recycling services and is charged to each household that receives a kerbside recycling and garbage collection service. There is also a small increase of 4.15% in the Fire Service Levy which is collected by the Council on behalf of the State Government.

Rating policies

The Council has agreed to continue with the 5% discount for early payment of rates. However, this year the payment period has been amended in our Rates and Charges Policy and payment must be made in full by 31 August 2015 for the discount to apply. The Council is also pleased to continue its practice of not charging penalties for late payment of rates. The Council will again offer the availability of approved regular instalments and offers rate remissions of \$35 for eligible pensioners who live alone.

Capital works

A total capital works program of \$11,341,500 is planned for this year reflecting a 24.17% increase over the previous year. The increase in works is primarily centred around a one-off increase in Roads to Recovery grants and car park works which have secured external funding. Roads to Recovery funding has become critical to the future sustainability of the local road network and it is pleasing that the Federal Government has reaffirmed its commitment to until at least the 2018-2019 financial year.

Councillors

JAN BONDE (*Mayor*)

PO Box 220, Ulvstn, m 0408 545 584

JOHN BLOOMFIELD

2 New St, Ulvstn, ph 6425 2139

SHANE BROAD

102 Medici Dr, Gawler, m 0418 276 239

GARRY CARPENTER

687 South Riana Rd, S Riana,
ph 6437 6256

KATHLEEN DOWNIE (*Deputy Mayor*)

PO Box 122, Ulvstn, m 0408 442 293

GERRY HOWARD

9 Main Rd, Pngn, ph 6437 2786

ROWEN TONGS

8 Dorothy Pl, Ulvstn, 6425 9120

TONY VAN ROOYEN

12 Shaw St, Ulvstn, ph 6425 4946

PHILIP VINEY

91 Trevor St, Ulvstn, ph 6425 5388

Management

SANDRA AYTON

General Manager

COR VANDER VLIST

Director Corporate & Community
Services

PAUL BIDGOOD

Director Development & Regulatory
Services

JOHN KERSNOVSKI

Director Engineering Services



CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

PO Box 220 / DX 70506
19 King Edward Street
Ulverstone Tasmania 7315
Tel 03 6429 8900
Fax 03 6425 1224

www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au

Major capital works include \$1.949m. for urban roads, \$1.935m. for rural roads, \$480,000 for foot-paths, \$600,000 for bridges, \$696,000 for car parks, \$555,000 for parks and amenities which includes new toilets in the Coles/Furner's car park, \$220,000 for an upgrade to the Ulverstone History Museum, \$140,000 for refurbishment of aged-persons home units, and \$250,000 for recreation ground and sports centre upgrades. This program is supported by borrowings of \$200,000 to clean out and implement a more sustainable solution to the siltation issues in the Hiscutt Park pond.

Strategic issues

Our Strategic Plan identifies Council's priorities for 2014-2024 to be delivered through the Council's Annual Plan. The Strategic Plan focuses on the distinctiveness of our location, lifestyle and strengths to achieve the aspirations of local communities and to set the direction for the Council in determining how best to direct its resources and efforts. It summarises the key objectives, strategies and actions that the Council plans to pursue over the coming 10-year period.


The Annual Plan includes the initiatives and actions to be funded that will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Strategic Plan.

Some of the major initiatives and actions in the Annual Plan for 2015-2016 are as follows:

- Dial Sports Complex Master Plan preliminary design and consultation
- Review the Dial Range Recreation Management Plan in conjunction with land managers
- Investigate feasibility of further development of the Leven Canyon Floor Walk as a major adventure tourism experience
- Investigate feasibility for development of an off-road criterion track at River Park
- Progress the consolidation of equestrian activities to Batten Park
- Review the Central Coast Arts and Culture Strategy
- Progress the implementation of the Ulverstone History Museum Strategic Plan
- Implement the Central Coast Cycling Strategy
- Investigate regional and sub-regional shared services arrangements
- Develop a social media and digital marketing plan
- Investigate teenage-specific infrastructure at Fairway Park

The Minister for Local Government recently offered assistance for councils to investigate options to improve outcomes for their ratepayers through either voluntary amalgamations and/or shared service delivery models. The Council will be focussed over the next 12 months on exploring shared service models and opportunities within the region that will be in the interest of ratepayers, improve the level of service for communities, preserve and maintain local representation, and ensure that the financial status of the Council is strengthened. The Council's current policy is that it is opposed at this point in time to any amalgamation whatsoever as it has demonstrated that it exists as a viable council entity and remains strong and financially sustainable.

This year we have included a copy of our new quarterly newsletter which has been designed to keep you informed and engaged in activities within your community and ensure more effective communication between our residents and Council. It is envisaged that future newsletters will be in electronic format, and therefore ask that you follow the instructions at the bottom of the newsletter to enable us to send future copies to your nominated email address. Printed copies will be made available at Council offices for those unable to access the newsletter electronically.



Councillor Jan Bonde, Mayor

July 2015