

# Mayor's Report to the Community



## General Rate

The Council at its meeting on 17 June passed an increase of 2.1% in general rate revenue for the 2019-2020 financial year. In setting the General Rate, the Council has remained mindful of the cost of living pressures facing our community whilst also ensuring that we continue to provide core services at an affordable level. The challenge has once again been in balancing the competing priorities of services we must provide, services we would like to provide, the continuation of strategic actions, maintaining a sound financial position and keeping rate increases to an acceptable level. 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 by the Council.

Property revaluations have taken place this year and there has been considerable fluctuation in the assessed annual value from property to property as determined by the Tasmanian Valuer-General, making it difficult to compare rates from one year to another. While there is only a 2.1% increase in the general rate revenue, the revaluation will see a large number of properties with a rate reduction which will be offset by a similar number of properties receiving a rate increase greater than 2.1%.

## Service rates and charges

The Waste Management Service Charge has increased from \$203 to \$263 per tenement which reflects the introduction of the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) which will commence in late October. During the next few months, you will receive more information explaining why FOGO is being introduced, how it will work and what you can do to reduce and manage your waste more effectively. The extra FOGO bin and collection will be included in the current 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 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, with payment to be made in full by 31 August 2019 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 \$28.58m. is planned for this year. This is a large program for the Council due to major strategic works that are planned to happen over the year.

Major capital works this year include \$7.5m. to complete the Cultural Precinct, \$1m. towards LED lighting and \$7.931m. for the Coastal Pathway. Other capital works include \$2.7m. for urban roads, \$2.03m. for rural roads, \$440,000 for footpaths, \$520,000 for bridges, \$325,000 for car parks, \$335,000 for drainage, \$1.35m. for waste management, \$720,000 for parks and amenities, \$157,000 for aged-persons home unit refurbishments, and \$1.63m. for recreation ground and sports centre upgrades. The program is also supported by borrowings of \$6.2m. to contribute to the LED street lighting, Cultural Precinct, FOGO and Coastal Pathway.

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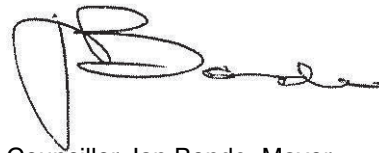
## Strategic issues

Our Strategic Plan identifies Council's priorities for 2014-2024 and sets the future direction for the Council in determining how best to direct its resources and efforts to achieve the vision and aspirations of our local community.

It summarises the key objectives, strategies and actions that the Council plans to pursue over the coming 10-year period and guides the Council's Annual Plan which details the initiatives and actions to be funded each year in order to achieve the long-term objectives.

Some of the major initiatives and actions in the Annual Plan for 2019-2020 are:

- Construction of the Cultural Precinct (Ulverstone History Museum, Visitor Centre, art gallery and planetarium).
- Complete planning of the former Penguin Recreation Ground redevelopment and investigate funding/developer opportunities.
- Continue to develop the Central Coast shared pathways network – completing the Turners Beach to Leith shared pathway, the safe road-use project along Penguin Road between Robertsons Road and Seaside Crescent, and progress completion of the Penguin to Sulphur Creek and Ulverstone to Penguin sections of the shared pathway.
- Complete the Penguin Foreshore remediation and protection project.
- Create further placemaking opportunities in Penguin and Ulverstone to make our central business districts vibrant community hubs for locals and visitors alike.
- Finalise and commence implementation of the Perry-Ling Gardens Master Plan.
- Complete the construction of the Reibey Street-Crescent Street-Kings Parade-Queen's Garden area.
- Conduct a '7-Day Makeover' in Turners Beach.



Councillor Jan Bonde, Mayor

July 2019