

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor will make the following declaration:

“I acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay respect to elders, past and present”.

The Mayor also to advise the Meeting and members of the public that Council Meetings, not including Closed Meeting, are livestreamed, audio-visually recorded and published to Council’s website.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021

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BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED AT THIS MEETING IS TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH IT IS SET OUT IN THIS AGENDA UNLESS THE COUNCIL BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY DETERMINES OTHERWISE

1. APOLOGIES

Ald Ewington (Leave of Absence)

2. ESTIMATES, CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME, FEES AND CHARGES 2021/2022**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****PURPOSE**

To consider the Estimates, incorporating the Capital Expenditure Programme, for the 2021/2022 financial year, together with an updated List of Fees and Charges.

RELATION TO EXISTING POLICY/PLANS

Consistent with council's adopted Strategic Plan.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 82 of the *Local Government Act* requires the General Manager to prepare Estimates of the council's revenue and expenditure for each financial year.

CONSULTATION

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Estimates provide statutory authorisation for recurrent and capital expenditure for financial year 2021/2022. Based on the draft estimates, the required increase in rating effort to meet the proposed functional outcomes is 3.77% net of growth and the effects of the State Government Fire Services Contribution.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. That the Estimates for financial year 2021/2022 attached as Attachment 1 be adopted.
- B. That the Capital Expenditure Programme for financial year 2021/2022 attached as Attachment 2 be adopted.
- C. That the updated List of Fees and Charges attached as Attachment 3 be adopted.

NB: This decision requires an Absolute Majority of council.

ESTIMATES, CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME, FEES AND CHARGES 2021/2022 /contd...

ASSOCIATED REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.** Council is required to adopt Estimates for each financial year.
- 1.2.** Estimates, Capital Expenditure Programme, and List of Fees and Charges for financial year 2021/2022 have been prepared following a series of council workshops which considered a range of programs, projects, initiatives and issues likely to have an impact on the organisation in the coming year, including the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the community, council services and community infrastructure.
- 1.3.** In the previous year, council's principled approach in developing the 2020/2021 budget in an environment of great uncertainty was conservative regarding the level of service that would be required as the pandemic evolved.
- 1.4.** As the community transitioned through lockdown restrictions it became apparent that council's network of tracks and trails, multi user pathways and open spaces provided the support needed to lessen the physical, social and mental health consequences of the restrictions that were required to keep the community safe.
- 1.5.** The economic stimulus and loan funding provided by the Federal and State Governments, particularly in the provision of housing construction subsidies, lead to a surge in planning, building and plumbing applications that was unexpected. To meet the statutory deadlines and customer expectations additional staff were recruited during the year to provide the services driven by this increased demand. The costs associated with these positions were offset by unbudgeted additional fee revenue. This mirrors council's commitment in the framing of the 2020/2021 budget on prioritisation of delivery of core and essential services to the community.

- 1.6.** Recent policy decisions by State and Federal governments in relation to the housing grant scheme has provided an extension of the timeframes to qualify for grant funding. In doing so it is expected that the high demand on council will continue at current levels into future years. This has been factored into the 2021/2022 Estimates as an increase in fees and charges income alongside an increase in employee costs to respond to the ongoing demand for services.
- 1.7.** Council's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2031 was adopted in April and the budget is framed considering the goals and strategies embedded within it. In the development of the Estimates it is prudent that it is referenced to other long-term financial management plans. Council's 10 Year Financial Plan is currently under the 4 year statutory review, however the underlying principles that guide the long-term view remain relevant and are reflected in the Estimates for the 2021/2022 financial year. The following guiding principles are reproduced from the current 10 Year Financial Plan:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES REVENUE, EXPENDITURE AND CASHFLOW

The guiding principles in relation to revenue, expenditure and cashflow include:

- *Ensure that there is balance between ensuring capacity to maintain the delivery of council services that continue to meet community expectations and the relative rating effort required.*
- *Reprogramming of council activities that were impacted by COVID restrictions.*
- *Ensuring that cashflow is well understood and managed to support council operations, capital program and debt commitments.*
- *That council's long-term financial plan will be reframed to effectively manage debt and the rating strategy in coming years.*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES CAPITAL, SERVICE AND ESTABLISHMENT

The guiding principles in relation to capital, service and establishment include:

- *That the capital budget adopts a focus on the long-term strategic asset management plans that balances renewal effort, risk mitigation and the development of new community infrastructure.*
- *Complete existing/iconic masterplans through continued community engagement, progressing to DA where possible.*
- *That council's service delivery be focussed on statutory, regulatory and core service requirements.*
- *The budget to have a focus on building and maintaining staffing and organisation capacity to respond to the needs of a growing city.*

- 1.8.** Once adopted by council, the financial year 2021/2022 Estimates will be incorporated into a draft Annual Plan for subsequent consideration by council.

2. REPORT IN DETAIL**Overview of Operational Estimates**

- 2.1.** The Estimates (refer Attachment 1) provide the high-level financial framework within which council will operate for the 2021/2022 financial year. They have been prepared in the wake of council's principles set in 2020 as it considered the many unknowns of the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic. The budget principles set out above aim to ensure council remains in a sound long-term financial position.
- 2.2.** The budget principles respond to council's 10 Year Financial Management Plan and Financial Management Strategy.
- 2.3.** The Estimates are consistent with the detailed programme budgets discussed by Aldermen at a series of workshops over recent months.
- 2.4.** The Estimates require an increase in overall rating income of 3.77% on 2020/2021 levels net of growth. Growth in the rates base during 2020/2021 is estimated at 1.5%, compared to the long-term average of approximately 1.4%.

This and the remaining capital programme require borrowings of \$5.6 million to support the delivery of the capital programme. Council's Financial Management Strategy Principles allow for council to consider borrowing when it will result in long lived community infrastructure.

- 2.27.** The Estimates include the repayment of borrowings that will be recovered through property rates. Council considered funding the \$5.6 million from internal funds however modelling indicated that, in the long term, the financial benefits in sourcing borrowings in the current low interest rate economic environment warranted sourcing the borrowing externally. Irrespective of whether the funds are borrowed internally or externally, there remains the requirement to repay the amount through property rates.

3. CONSULTATION

3.1. Community Consultation Undertaken

Nil

3.2. State/Local Government Protocol

Nil

3.3. Other

Nil

3.4. Further Community Consultation

Community consultation regarding the Estimates is not required. Notwithstanding, relevant media releases and community advice will be provided.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires the adoption of Estimates each year.

5. EXTERNAL IMPACTS

Nil.

6. RISK AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no other issues to be addressed beyond meeting the statutory obligation to adopt Annual Estimates.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Estimates provide statutory authorisation for recurrent and capital expenditure for the 2021/2022 financial year. Based on the Estimates, the required increase in rating effort will be on average 3.77% net of growth.

8. ANY OTHER UNIQUE ISSUES

Following adoption of the Estimates, a draft Annual Plan will be prepared for consideration by council at a future meeting. Council is required to adopt an Annual Plan each year.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1. The attached Estimates reflect a range of issues considered by Aldermen.

9.2. The overall increase in rating effort required to meet the proposed expenditure levels is 3.77% net of growth.

Attachments: 1. Estimates 2021/2022 (11)
2. Capital Expenditure Programme 2021/2022 (5)
3. List of Fees and Charges (26)

Ian Nelson
GENERAL MANAGER

