

Budget 2018/19 Media Release

28 June, 2018

Council increases rate in the dollar by 3% and minimum general rate by 1%

Balonne Shire Council today announced at its Budget Meeting that rates have been increased across all categories by 3% in the rate in the dollar and 1% on the minimum general rate and that pensioners would continue to receive a maximum concession of \$170 for qualifying properties.

Mayor Richard Marsh said the objective of the 2018/19 budget was to consolidate rate revenue by reviewing categories and benchmarking those categories with local governments of a similar size.

“When setting the rates Council must evaluate and determine the range of services it needs to support the community for example, waste management, local roads and suburban care; decide how much money is need to fund services and infrastructure; establish how much funding could be received from the Federal and State Governments and other income sources; determine how much money is required from rates and charges to cover the balance of expenditure; and decide on the best mix of rates and changes to provide services to the community,” he said.

To minimise the impact on individual landholders Council today adopted the following:

- A 3% increase in the rate in the dollar for all rating categories. The rate in the dollar is applied to the land valuation to determine the amount of differential general rate you pay;
- A 3% increase for water, waste and sewerage utility charges;
- A 1% increase in the minimum general rate which is the minimum amount payable irrespective of valuation and is used for essential services such as road works, car parks, boat ramps, libraries, street lighting, community health and sporting facilities, parks and reserves, and amenities such as showers, toilet and barbecues in parks;
- Council will apply a 30% limitation on the increase of general rates to Differential Rating Categories 60, 61, 63, 69-73, 76 and 79;
- Council will continue to issue two six-monthly rates notices; and
- Services provided to Mungindi for waste and water services will have no change as per Moree Plains Shire Council.

Cr Marsh said Council had recognised its responsibility to customer service and concentrated on creating a budget that would deliver essential services to our communities and kept rate and charges increases to a minimum.

“Highlights in this year’s Budget include \$1.292 million for capital works on council roads, including gravel re-sheeting of local roads, this includes Transport Infrastructure Department funding on Kooroon Road and the Mitchell-Bollon Road,” he said.

“A further \$1.059 million has been allocated to capital works on streets to finalise works on Arthur Street and Kenny Lane; continue the upgrade of the River Foreshore and Dirranbandi Rail and River Precinct. Much of this funding has come from the Regional Economic Development Program.

“Council will fully fund the \$990,000 capital works budget for water projects for the renewal and upgrade of water infrastructure with projects across the Shire’s water supply schemes.

“The sum of \$135,000 has been carried forward to finalise the St George Sewerage Treatment Effluent Reuse capital project which was made possible through the Building Our Regions Fund.

“We have also allocated \$40,000 to look at our landfill remediation requirements into the future. This is a requirement of the Queensland Audit Office to ensure future generations are not left with the full cost of a new waste facilities and rehabilitation of the old sites.”

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