



PortAugusta

CITY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Comment on Council's Draft report into rating review sought

Port Augusta City Council committed to review the way it sets rates for properties across the City. It engaged independent financial consultant JAC Comrie Pty Ltd to undertake a review of its basis of rating which has been endorsed by Council and is now available for public comment.

The draft Report '*Port Augusta City Council - Review of Basis of Rating*' was presented to Council on January 23, 2017 and is available to download on Council's website with printed copies also available from the Civic Centre foyer.

The report looks at the distribution of the rates across various classes of ratepayers within the Port Augusta City Council area and makes recommendations to amend the current system. The proposed changes include:

- Change the basis of its rating from Site Value to Capital Value
- Replace the Minimum Rate with a Fixed Charge to be applied to all rateable properties.
- Retain Differential Rating based on land use

It is worth noting that any changes will not affect how much revenue Council collects overall from rates but rather how the rating is distributed and this will mean some people will pay more and some will pay less.

Separate to the rating review, Council is also conducting a review of the level of services it offers and its efficiencies. Council's Long Term Financial Plan will also drive future budget processes.

Council is seeking comments on the draft report and has scheduled Community Forums on Tuesday, 28th February 2017. Three sessions will be held at 10am, 1pm and 7pm at the Institute Theatre, 52 Commercial Road, Port Augusta, to provide an opportunity for people to ask and have answered any general questions on the draft report and proposed changes to the basis of rating.

Any person may make representation in writing concerning the draft report and proposed change in basis of rating.

Submissions must be forwarded to:

Mrs Anne O'Reilly, Acting Director – Corporate Services at 4 Mackay Street, (PO Box 1704) Port Augusta SA 5700, or email submission to admin@portaugusta.sa.gov.au, no later than 4:00pm on Tuesday 7th March 2017.

Written submissions from individuals or groups may include a request to make a presentation to Council at the relevant Council meeting. Please note that details of written submissions will be included in a report within Council's public agenda and copies of all submissions will be provided to Elected Members.

For further information please contact Anne O'Reilly on 8641 9100.

ENDS

For further information please contact PACC Manager of Media and Communications, Cherie Gerlach, on 0427 413345.

JOHN BANKS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
07/02/2017