Port Augusta
CITY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

2021/2022 Annual Business Plan and Budget Endorsed

The 2021/2022 Annual Business Plan and Budget was endorsed by Elected Members at a Port Augusta City Council meeting last night.

After receiving a high percentage of submissions on the draft 2021/2022 Annual Business Plan & Budget, Council made significant amendments to the plan before adopting the final version in response to community feedback.

Council has identified additional savings within the budget of $459,000, on top of the $276,000 reduction required to meet the adopted Long Term Financial Plan. The budgeted operating deficit has also been extended by $870,600 to $3,154,600 for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Mayor Brett Benbow stated "We would like to thank the community for their feedback and their patience, as we had further community discussions and amended the draft plan. Council will undertake further work to identify how the budgeted operating deficit can be reduced for the 2021/2022 financial year and beyond to ensure its objective of financial sustainability is achieved. It will be a significant challenge that may result in unpopular decisions required to be made."

Council will be moving to Capital Value as the basis of rating, with a fixed charge component of $900 also applying to general rates. Changes have also been made to differential rate percentages due to the change in basis of rating.

General Rate revenue to be collected from ratepayers has been reduced by $1.33M from the draft version of the Annual Business Plan & Budget.

Rates notices will be received by ratepayers in the week commencing 30th August 2021 with the first installment due on 1st October 2021.

Ratepayers experiencing hardship are encouraged to contact Council as soon as possible to discuss payment options.

Other key initiatives included in the coming year's budget include:

- Reconciliation Action Plan activities
- Disability Access & Inclusion Plan activities
- $97,500 Support for events
- CBD Master Plan (subject to the receipt of grant funding)
- Digital mapping of stormwater system stage 2
- Open Space Strategy review

- Stakeholder workshops to develop profile and prospectus to promote Port Augusta
- AALBG Master Plan activities
- $6,630,600 of Capital Expenditure projects

A full copy of the Council's 2021/2022 Budget and Annual Business Plan is available to download online at https://www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0037/956953/Final-Annual-Business-Plan-and-Budget-2021-2022.pdf

For further information please contact Council's Media and Communications Officer on (08) 86419100

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25/08/2021