



MEDIA RELEASE

Port Augusta City Council 2022-2023 Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget open for community feedback

08/06/2022

The Port Augusta City Council's Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for the 2022/2023 rating year, will be open for community consultation during June, so the community can have their say.

Annually Council makes decisions about services and facilities, upgrades, and new projects. This is balanced against Council's Long Term Financial Plan which focusses on the financial sustainability of Council, its Strategic Directions 2019-2029 and Infrastructure Asset Management Plans.

For Port Augusta City Council, it is a challenge to provide the range and level of services that the community desires with a relatively low number of rate payers.

Mr John Banks the Chief Executive Officer of Port Augusta City Council stated "Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget this year indicates a 1.2% reduction in general rates. This reduction is reflective of the \$750,000 contribution by the SA Government towards the operating costs of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, which brings this garden in line with other Botanic Gardens in South Australia, which receive State Government funding."

Some other key items within the Draft Plan and Budget are:

- \$6.669M on asset renewal
- \$721,000 on new assets
- \$2.89M for the Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre upgrade
- \$295,000 for renewal of ICT hardware
- \$125,000 on Stormwater Management Plan stage 3
- \$167,000 Sponsorship for Community groups and events
- \$88,000 for Local Government election expenses and training of new Council

Feedback from the community is very important – Having "*Your Say*" assists Council to understand the needs of the community.

“By having ‘Your Say’, the local community is helping to make our Council area a better place to live. Not only in 2022/23, but also for future generations as well”. Mayor Brett Benbow stated.

Copies of the draft 2022/2023 Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget are available for perusal at the Civic Centre’s front foyer and on Council’s website. Online submissions may be made through Council’s website <https://www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au/enquiries/your-say/current-consultation/202223-draft-annual-business-plan-and-budget> (via the ‘Your Say’ portal). Written submissions may be submitted to Council, addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Port Augusta City Council, 4 Mackay Street (PO Box 1704), Port Augusta SA 5700 and must be received by **Wednesday 29th June 2022 at 5pm**.

A public information session will be held on **Thursday 16th June at 5.30pm** in the Flinders Room at Central Oval, 10 Augusta Tce, Port Augusta. At this session, the document will be presented, and Council Officers and Elected Members will be available to answer queries in relation to the draft plan. To register to attend this session <https://www.trybooking.com/CAGGP> or call 8641 9100

A Special Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 5th July 2022 from 6pm** to receive submissions on the draft 2022/2023 Annual Business Plan

Members of the community who wish to make a verbal submission to Council must register their interest with Ms Lisa Leonard, Acting Executive Assistant on 8641 9144 by Wednesday 29th June 2022 to enable arrangements to be made.

Please note that details of submissions will be included in a report within Council’s public agenda and copies of all submissions will be provided to Elected Members for perusal.

For further information please contact Council’s Media and Communications Officer on (08) 8641 9100

JOHN BANKS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
8/06/2022