



DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

27 JUNE 2018

2018-2019 BUDGET ADOPTION

The District Council of Grant's budget was adopted on 20 June 2018. The 2018-2019 budget continues to focus on financial sustainability and is based on Council's long-term financial strategy. That strategy now shows that over the next five years Council will manage with modest annual rate increases, no new borrowings, strong capital expenditure and renewal of existing assets, all while maintaining existing service levels.

District Council of Grant Mayor Richard Sage said that Council was conscious of the impact of the current financial climate on the general public as well as the need to maintain services to the community. "Despite rising costs, we have been able to keep rate increases to a minimum while continuing to ensure that valued services and infrastructure are maintained and key infrastructure projects are funded responsibly."

\$2.3 million has been allocated for new assets including \$400,000 for the sealing of a 2km section of Mingbool Road with 50% coming from grant funding. \$570,000 has been allocated for kerbing and channelling of township streets and \$250,000 for upgrades to Community Wastewater Management Systems.

Other major initiatives proposed include completion of the \$1.2 million revitalisation of the Port MacDonnell foreshore. The jointly funded "Waterfront" project with the State Government includes a boardwalk, creative public art, interpretive signage, passive rest areas and shelters, rehabilitated lawn and picnic facilities, landscaping and improved beach access. Implementation of projects listed in the Port MacDonnell and River and Coastal Master Plans continues with an allocation of \$119,000 for the upgrade of the Donovans Boat Ramp to floating pontoons, an upgraded boat ramp at Dry Creek, town entrance signage, new shelter and carpark at Racecourse Bay and a shelter at Nene Valley.

Council's 2018-19 budget will also provide continued financial support for those in most need with a 60% rebate on rubbish rates for eligible concession card holders. The rebate is in addition to the State Government rate concession.

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The Council's net financial liabilities, being the most comprehensive measure of indebtedness, is expected to decrease by \$328,000 in 2018-19 to approximately \$3.2M at 30 June 2019 – this is equivalent to a \$13,000 mortgage on a \$500,000 house.

Council continues to assess our future directions, operating practices and opportunities to improve our financial performance without compromising services or increasing rates beyond what the community will accept.

Full budget papers can be found at www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/FinancialInformation

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