



MEDIA RELEASE
Friday 12 June 2015

Waratah-Wynyard Acting Mayor Mary Duniam said this year's Annual Plan and Budget Estimates were another important step in Council's move to further connect with the community.

"Council approved the draft Annual Plan and Budget ahead of adoption for the first time this year to allow for public feedback," Cr Duniam said.

"It was pleasing to see about 45 people take part in various information sessions as part of this consultation and that overall the budget was positively received."

Council will be considering the adoption of the 2015/16 Annual Plan and Budget Estimates at Monday night's Council meeting, which provides for a general rate increase of 2.48%.

The rate increase is in accordance with the annual movement of the Local Government Association of Tasmania's 2015 Council Cost Index. This index reflects a calculation based on the road and bridge construction index, Hobart CPI and the Public Sector Wages Price Index.

"While this budget has an underlying operating deficit of \$126,526, this is a significant improvement on Council's recent financial performance," Cr Duniam said.

"With the planned completion and/or refinement of the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan and Long Term Financial Management Plan during the year, it is expected that a return to an operating surplus is achievable in the near future."

Cr Duniam said with these factors in mind, Council will look to deliver \$793,000 in new strategic and operational projects, which includes \$583,000 in capital works.

“This will ensure Council keeps delivering quality infrastructure and the services residents and ratepayers expect,” Cr Duniam said.

“On top of this, Council will also be continuing our strong focus on the management of the communities’ assets and will allocate \$3.6 million for reconstruction, renewal and rehabilitation projects including bridges, roads, footpaths, vehicle fleet and sport and recreation facilities.”

The projects and initiatives include:

- Completion of a 25 Year Regional Community Plan and Council Strategic Plan;
- The staged completion of the Somerset CBD Masterplan and preparation of a Somerset Central Area Development Plan;
- A 10 year Open Space and Recreation Plan;
- Completion of the Wynyard Waterfront and Environs Masterplan, including the integration of the plan into the Wynyard central area;
- A unisex public toilet at the Sisters Beach Boat Ramp;
- Upgrade the Seabrook/Village Lane intersection through the installation of signage;
- Tree removal on land west of Frederick Street Reserve to comply with Civil Aviation Safety Authority requirements;
- \$750,000 renewal of the Inglis River Bridge in Pages Road, Moorleah;
- \$595,000 on the re-sealing of rural roads;
- \$340,000 on the re-sheeting of rural unsealed roads;
- \$121,400 on renewal and upgrade of drainage, kerb and channel at Raglan Street, Somerset
- \$80,000 on improvements at the Yolla Recreation Ground
- \$35,000 on renewal of the playground located at Boat Harbour Beach.

“In an effort to reduce costs at the Waste Transfer Station, Council has looked at reduced opening hours and the processing of some waste streams that will reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill,” Cr Duniam said.

“The opening hours will be to 10am to 4pm from 1 July 2015, pending adoption of the budget.”

While the wheelie bin collection charge of \$215 will remain the same, the waste utility charge will go from \$80 to \$90, which is due to continuing cost increases.

“However, there has been a 25% reduction in gate fees at the Waste Transfer Station and property owners will receive 10 tip tickets along with their rates notice,” Cr Duniam said.

Cr Duniam said Council continued its aim to deliver the best value for the community by improving the efficiency, effectiveness and cost of services to the community.

“Council will be therefore implementing the findings of a Form and Function Review of the organisation, which will include the continuation and enhancement of our current resource sharing arrangement with the Circular Head Council,” Cr Duniam said.

“This could also see us potentially making new arrangements with other neighbouring Councils.”

A copy of the Annual Plan and Budget Estimates is available in Council offices and online at www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/budget

Further enquiries may be directed to Communications Officer Corey Speers on 0427 207 573.

Authorised for general media distribution by Michael Stretton, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Friday 12 June 2015.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Office: | 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard TAS 7325 |
| Postal Address: | PO Box 168, Wynyard TAS 7325 |
| Telephone: | (03) 6443 8333 |
| Facsimile: | (03) 6443 8383 |
| Email: | council@warwyn.tas.gov.au |