



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Tuesday 21 April 2015**

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Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh has invited the community to have its say on the Draft Annual Plan 2015-2016.

Council has released its annual plan for the first time prior to adoption to provide the opportunity for community feedback and input.

“Council is hoping to hear from a wide cross section of the community on the annual plan priorities, allocation of funds as well as the proposed rates increase,” Mayor Walsh said.

“We hope that in doing so that people can start to understand how Council comes to these decisions.”

Mayor Walsh said this year’s budget was a lengthy process that required balancing reduced income and increasing expenses.

“While the plan for the next financial year is modest in spending, it is big on strategic and operational projects while keeping rates as low as possible,” Mayor Walsh said.

“Council has therefore proposed an increase in the general rate of 2.48%, which is in line with the Local Government Association of Tasmania’s 2015 Council Cost Index.

“Rather than CPI, this index more accurately reflects the cost of local government service provision, the cost of infrastructure and employee costs.”

With this cost in mind, Mayor Walsh said Council continued to look for efficiencies.

“With decreasing income as a result of the freezing of Federal Government grants and increasing depreciation costs, Council will be facing a deficit of more than \$142,000, however, this is a significant improvement on previous years with an operating surplus now within sight,” Mayor Walsh said.

“In response to these challenges Council will be completing its Strategic Asset Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan this year in addition to a number of other strategic priorities.”

Some of the more exciting projects and initiatives included in the annual plan 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; and
- Revised operational arrangements for the Wynyard Transfer Station.

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

“We also continue to look at the form and function of Council’s operations and will focus on ensuring the efficiency and cost of our services to the community,” Mayor Walsh said.

“Part of this approach will see us not only continuing our resource sharing arrangement with Circular Head Council and shared services with Burnie City Council, but also strengthening this and looking for opportunities with other neighbouring Councils.”

Information sessions on the Annual Plan will occur in the first week of May at the following locations.

- Monday 4 May at the Waratah-Wynyard Council chamber, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard from 4-6pm;
- Tuesday 5 May at the Waratah-Wynyard Council Waratah office, Smith Street, Waratah from 4-6pm; and
- Wednesday 6 May at the Somerset Hotel, Wragg Street, Somerset from 4pm-6pm.

Copies of the plan are available online or at Council offices. Feedback can be made in person at Waratah-Wynyard Council offices, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard, or Smith Street, Waratah, in writing to the General Manager PO Box 168, Wynyard Tasmania, 7325 or email [council@warwyn.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@warwyn.tas.gov.au), via [www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/yoursay](http://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/yoursay), or posted onto Council's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WaratahWynyard](http://www.facebook.com/WaratahWynyard). Comments close at 5pm on Friday 15 May 2015.

*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 Tuesday 21 April 2015.**

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