



MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday 21 June 2016

Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh said trust was a central theme of Council's Annual Plan and Budget for 2016-2017 which was adopted last night.

"Following community feedback sessions in May, Council has continued to work on our plan for the next financial year, which includes more than \$6 million investment in infrastructure," Mayor Walsh said.

"While doing so Council has maintained its commitment to increase the general rate in line with the 2016 Council Cost Index at 1.87%."

Mayor Walsh said this demonstrated that Council's processes could be trusted.

"Council's Long Term Finance Plan (LTFP) and Strategic Asset Management Plan commit the Council to keep any rate increases in line with the 2016 Council Cost Index and we have delivered on this objective," Mayor Walsh said.

"The Annual Plan also continues a trend of sensibly addressing the Council's underlying deficit in accordance with the LTFP, with an underlying deficit of \$131,622 and an overall surplus of \$1.16 million budgeted to be delivered in 2016-2017, which demonstrates our continued resolve to move to an underlying surplus."

Mayor Walsh said Council was committed to delivering these surpluses by being prudent in containing costs and by continuing to enhance our resource sharing arrangements, principally with the Circular Head Council.

“Indeed, the fact that the increase in operational costs for 2016-2017 has been restricted to 2.13% is testimony to the Council’s commitment to contain costs,” Mayor Walsh said.

Mayor Walsh said in the future Council will seek additional ways to fund the community’s infrastructure needs including borrowing, external funding and the sale of surplus assets.

An investment in infrastructure through Capital Works of \$6.03 million is included in the Annual Plan, which includes \$3.43 million for new assets and \$2.6 million for reconstruction, renewal and rehabilitation projects,” Mayor Walsh said.

“This represents one of the largest programs ever delivered by this Council.”

The size of the program is assisted by a triple payment of the Federal Government’s Road-to-Recovery grant funding and includes the following major initiatives:

- \$750,000 for the development of a Wynyard Central Area Development Plan and the design and construction of a new carpark at the rear of the former Stubbs Hardware site in Wynyard;
- \$40,000 to complete upgrades to the Sisters Beach Esplanade recreational area;
- \$650,000 to complete next stage of the Somerset Village Development Plan;
- \$500,000 to commence staged implementation of the Camp Creek Rehabilitation works;
- \$675,000 for the completion of road works included in the Wynyard Waterfront and Environs Masterplan;
- \$60,000 for the completion of a Boat Harbour Development Plan to improve public amenity, traffic and parking arrangements, recreational use and development opportunity;
- \$200,000 to complete Stage 2 of the Council Administration Building Refurbishment Project; Waratah-Wynyard Council – Annual Plan 2016/2017
- \$50,000 to undertake a re-branding of the Council to align the corporate and destination marketing brand for Waratah-Wynyard;

- \$824,500 for the renewal and upgrade of sections of Mt Hicks Road and Oldina Road; and
- \$544,200 for the renewal of rural roads including Baulds Road, Buggs Lane, Buggs Road, Deep Creek Road, Oonah Road and Robin Hill Road. We look forward to communicating our successes to you as we implement these important initiatives and projects.

Further media 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 June 2016**

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