



# Have your say on Council's budget

Council has released its draft Annual Budget and Business Plan for public consultation until June 30.

The proposed average increase in rates is 4.5%, however the removal of the separate Aquatic and Fitness Centre rate after six years means the average increase for residential ratepayers will be just 1.17%.

Based on the average house value of \$318,000, this equates to \$1865 - up \$22 on last year.

The budget focuses on community

upgrades with \$10 million earmarked for capital works. This includes \$1 million of works at major recreation park ovals and \$4 million for roads and footpaths.

Key initiatives include:

- Second oval at Stockwell (\$345,000, subject to grant funding)
- Barossa Valley Tourist Park improvements (\$621,000)
- Southern Barossa Recreational Hub feasibility study (\$25,000)
- Air conditioning at the Rex (\$227,000)
- Jack Bobridge Track connection at

- Gawler end (\$50,000)
- Angaston main street upgrade (\$80,000)
- Mount Pleasant main street upgrade (\$40,000)
- Tanunda main street design works (\$50,000)
- Increased township tree planting (\$25,000)
- Investment in rural road network

The document is available on Council's website, in libraries and at the front desk of the Nuriootpa office. Feedback can be given via the website, email, facebook or in writing by 5pm June 30, 2015.



## Computer refresh

A suite of computers, printers and photocopiers are set to have a second lease of life in community organisations around the district.



As a result of a PC refresh Council has donated over 60 surplus devices to a wide variety of community groups, including Talunga Park Committee at Mount Pleasant.

Chairman Chris Hebart said the computer, printer and photocopier would make office administration quicker and more efficient.

Mayor Bob Sloane said upcycling the office equipment was a win-win for both Council and the community.

"The lease arrangements mean it's often cheaper for Council to find new homes and donate to community groups than ship the surplus PCs back to the leasing company," he said.

"We work on a four year refresh cycle in line with Council's budget and Long-Term Financial Plan and it's great to see community groups reaping the benefits of this arrangement."

"Talunga Park includes the caravan park and oval and is home to a huge number of events including horse events, motorsport, auctions, the Mount Pleasant Show and the Farmers Market," said Chris.

"It will be a huge advantage for the caretaker to have good quality equipment that can be used for bookings, invoices, marketing and other duties."

## A dog's life for animal officer



Chadd Schwarz with his award.

Every day presents a new challenge for Chadd Schwarz (pictured), SA's newly crowned Animal Management Officer of the Year.

"The strangest thing I've had to do is chase a peacock running through Nuri - I got it!" he laughs.

The Award recognises Chadd's commitment to best practice in animal management as well as innovation.

"One of the things I did was coordinate a dog attack and harassment incident report form. In the past we wrote notes and relied on our memory; now we can collate written

reports, statements and information in one document, which is pivotal for enforcement and legal proceedings," said Chadd.

However his job is not just about animals; as a General Inspector Chadd's work is incredibly varied.

"It's fire prevention, parking complaints, nuisance matters like gas guns and roosters, monitoring local government land - there's a lot of diversity," he says.

Chadd will represent South Australia at the national awards in Townsville in October.

## Snippets

### Community banners

There's still time to enter Council's community banner competition.

Students, artists and groups are invited to promote the theme 'How our community benefits from Local Government'.

Shortlisted artists will be invited to participate in a workshop

at Barossa Regional Gallery and the winning design will be displayed in Adelaide streets. Entries close June 22. Visit Council's website for more details.

### Enewsletter launched

Council has launched its e-newsletter, giving residents the option to access Council content online.

People can subscribe on Council's website to receive the latest Council news and updates electronically. The move reflects the growing spread and influence of electronic mediums for news and information.

### OAM honours

Congratulations go to Council Manager Steve Kaesler

(pictured) whose contribution to the community through music has earned him an OAM in the Queen's birthday honour list. Steve has been a key driver of the restoration of the 1875 Hill & Son Grand Organ.

Steve is joined on the honours list by Cr. Bim Lange, who was recognised for longstanding service to local government and the wider community.



## New payment to replace council rate concessions

The State Government has announced a proposed Cost of Living Concession (CLC).

The CLC will replace the concession formerly available on Council rates to pensioners, low income earners and self-funded retirees holding a

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, and has also been extended to tenants.

Mayor Bob Sloane said in the past the concessions were deducted annually on the rate notice but this is no longer the case.

"The main impact of the changes is that in 2015-16, pensioners and self-funded retiree concession holders will receive a payment directly from the State Government," he said.

Home owners who currently

receive the concession on Council rates do not need to apply separately for the CLC. Payments are expected to be made directly to home owners by cheque in September and to tenants early in 2016.

Council has produced a fact

sheet of frequently asked questions which is available on our website.

People seeking further information should contact the State Government Concessions Hotline on 1800 307 758 or visit [www.sa.gov.au/](http://www.sa.gov.au/)