

Media Release

Budget Adopted

22 June 2017

Buloke Shire Council's 2017-18 Annual Budget was adopted at a Special Meeting of Council on 21 June 2017. The budget details the resources required over the next year to fund the large range of services provided to the community. It also includes the capital expenditure to improve and renew our roads, buildings and recreational facilities.

The budget was developed through rigorous consultation and review. As part of this a Community Forum Summit was held on 10 April 2017 to discuss the key assumptions and factors considered in the preparation of the budget.

Council received six submissions on the budget which were considered at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 14 June 2017.

Highlights of the \$9.3 million capital program include:

- Roads (\$1.93 million) – including Yeungroon Road rehabilitation, Nandaly-Nyarrin Road shoulder resheet, extensive resealing across the sealed road network and drainage improvements at Nullawil.
- Footpaths (\$69,000) – development between the hotel and park in Culgoa.
- Recreation facilities (\$2.7 million) – including commencement of Charlton Park 2020, development of synthetic bowling green at the Berriwillock Multi-Purpose Community Centre, and a number of drought proofing projects at recreation reserves.
- Tourism (\$1.1 million) – development of infrastructure to support tourism at Lake Tyrell.
- Swimming pools (\$290,000) – including replacement of the Wycheproof change rooms.
- Lakes (\$700,000) – to upgrade amenities at lakes across the Shire.
- Information technology (\$611,500) – including replacement of a number of Council's outdated and unsupported systems with an integrated enterprise wide software solution.
- Plant and equipment (\$620,000) – including replacement of tractors, town trucks and loaders.

The budget also includes funding to deliver tangible progress on other key priorities and initiatives including:

- Development of a ten year financial plan supported by Local Government Victoria Finance and Accounting Support Team program.
- Community planning initiative to standardise plans and create an Integrated Buloke Community Plan.
- Sustainability community grants program funded through revenue from the Coonoer Bridge Wind Farm.
- Implementation of Early Years network and parent support access courses.
- Development of a Buloke Inclusiveness Plan.
- Development of an Economic Development Strategy and Tourism Strategy.

“Council is pleased to adopt the Annual Budget. It is a financially responsible budget for the year and in conjunction with the Council Plan forms the key building blocks to a bright future for Buloke. After enduring many cut backs in previous budgets it is rewarding to be putting such great resources into areas that the community have highlighted as most important. I’d like to thank the community and staff for working together with Council to deliver this budget”, said Mayor, Cr David Pollard.

You can view the budget on Council’s website or pick up a copy from Council’s Wycheproof office.

End release

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au