



Media Release

Buloke Drafts Budget Under Rate Cap

10 May 2018

Buloke Shire Council has approved its draft Annual Budget 2018/19 for public exhibition and submissions at its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 9 May 2018. Amongst the budget highlights is the setting of a 2% rate rise, which is below the rate cap of 2.25% set by the Essential Services Commission. In addition, Council has moved to reduce the differential rate for farming land from 98% to 90% in order to fairly share the rate burden across the community.

Working under the lower rate rise, Council will deliver \$12.85 million for infrastructure assets, complete the 2016 flood restoration works, develop a rating strategy, deliver its own direct library service and the implement the Buloke Inclusiveness Plan. Highlights of the capital works program include the construction of the Charlton Park 2020 project, Donald Community Precinct development, upgrades to the amenity blocks at Watchem, Tchum and Wooronook lakes and a \$10.8 million investment into the road network. As part of the consultation period Council will hold a Community Forum Summit in Wycheproof on Monday 14 May 2018.

“The proposed budget was developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review. In Buloke we know to get the job done we must share the load. The application of a 2% rate rise is Council lifting our share of the load whilst still delivering existing service levels. We have prioritised what our community have indicated to us, delivering on key projects to improve roads, buildings and recreational facilities. I invite the community to review the budget and make their submissions”, said Mayor Cr David Pollard.

Residents will see a rise in general waste and recycling charges in response to changes in global recycling markets, with the kerbside garbage and recycling charge set to increase by \$33 per household.

The draft Annual Budget 2018/19 is available for inspection at <http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/news-and-consultation> or you can obtain a hard copy from Council’s Wycheproof Office.

Members of the public are invited to make written submissions on the budget before 4.00pm on Friday 8 June. Those making submissions may wish to make a verbal submission to the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 13 June 2018.

End release

For further information contact Team Leader Communications, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au