



Media Release

Buloke Adopts 2018/19 Budget

21 June 2018

Buloke Shire Council adopted its Annual Budget 2018/19 at a Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday 20 June 2018.

Council received 16 submissions to its draft Annual Budget 2018/19, most of which were around the issue of farm rates. The submissions were on the back of excellent two way consultation on this year's budget. Four residents spoke to their submissions at Council's 13 June Ordinary Meeting.

The budget is built around a 2% rate rise, which is below the rate cap of 2.25% set by the Essential Services Commission. Council took into account the submissions from the community and have altered the farm rate differential to 88%, a 2% decrease on what was budgeted for at draft stage. This is an overall shift of 10% from the 98% farm rate differential in 2017/18.

As part of the Annual Budget 2018/19, Council has identified the production of a Rating Strategy as a high priority piece of work to be done within the financial year. This strategy will undergo heavy public consultation to identify the fairest way for the rate burden to be carried by the Buloke community.

Other highlights of the \$32.9 million Annual Budget 2018/19 include:

- \$9.0 million of flood restoration works to repair damaged roads
- \$14.5million capital program, with an emphasis on road renewal and upgrade projects.
- \$8.7 million on Recreational facilities including Charlton Park and the Donald Recreation Reserve
- \$1.9 million on tourism
- \$800,000 on upgrading lake facilities
- Compilation of a 10 year financial plan
- Direct management of library services
- Implementation of an Early Years Network and parent support access courses.

"Council was delighted to approve a really exciting budget, with some intergenerational capital projects. It was developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review. Right throughout the process we worked in with the community and listened to their ideas on shaping the budget. Having 16 submissions speaks to the level of consultation and communication undertaken by Council. The moving of the farm rate differential is testimony to Council listening to its residents. We look forward now to delivering this budget in what is a very productive time for Buloke ", said Mayor Cr David Pollard.

The Annual Budget 2018/19 is available to view at www.buloke.vic.gov.au or at Council's Wycheproof office.

End release

For further information contact Manager Customer Engagement, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au