



MEDIA RELEASE

Buloke Granted Rate Increase

31 May 2016

The Essential Services Commission Victoria (ESCV) has this morning announced it has approved Buloke Shire Council's application for a rates increase of 3.05% for the 2016/17 year. This is 0.55% higher than the rate cap of 2.5% determined by the Minister for Local Government.

The ESCV is satisfied that a higher cap is appropriate because Council has a clearly identified strategy in its current four year Strategic Resource Plan to repay its \$7 million loan in 2019. The application is in line with that strategy.

In its decision, the ESCV noted that Council strongly improved its financial position in recent years, by driving significant efficiencies. It also considered that Council has engaged openly and transparently with the community about our financial challenges.

A copy of Council's application and response to ESCV's request for information is available at www.esc.vic.gov.au. Appendix A shows the communications between Council and ESCV during the assessment period.

"The 3.05% figure was what we took to our community back in October last year. With the garbage charge remaining the same for the next financial year the actual increase in rates and charges is under 3%. The Commission's decision reaffirms Council's responsible direction as we ensure Buloke's financially stable position now, and into the future", said Mayor, Cr Reid Mather.

The budget is currently in a period of public exhibition, giving the chance for written submissions on the budget. The proposed budget can be viewed online at www.buloke.vic.gov.au or is available for inspection at the Shire Offices in Wycheproof.

Submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Buloke Shire Council, P.O. Box 1, Wycheproof, 3527. Submissions must be received no later than 4.00pm Friday 3 June 2016.

Any person who wishes to be heard in support of their written submission must request this in their submission. Anybody who would like to be heard will be entitled to appear before the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 8 June 2016 at 7.00pm in the Wycheproof Supper Room.

End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520