



Friday 17 June 2019

Budget Challenges To Be Met

Circular Head Council Mayor Daryl Quilliam says the organisation will be taking a good look at itself in light of the budget for the 2019-2020 financial year.

In line with the theme of a community survey, where Council has asked the community to “tell it where to go”, Mayor Quilliam said the organisation needed to review the costs of its operations.

“Taking on the Smithton Wellbeing Indoor Recreation and Leisure (SWIRL) centre has been a big thing for us, and while it is operating at a loss there is no denying it’s an important community asset,” Mayor Quilliam said.

“But with an overall operating deficit for Council of \$1.06 million in the coming financial year, we really need to take a good look at ourselves, how much we are spending and how we operate.”

Mayor Quilliam said the Council would be mainly looking at existing service levels to see if there were any savings or other efficiencies to be made.

“That’ll include everything from how often we grade roads, sweep the streets, clean facilities, empty bins and the like,” Mayor Quilliam said.

“As part of our ongoing improvement program, it is essential that we find efficiencies in all areas of Council operations.”

Mayor Quilliam said SWIRL was performing well in terms of numbers and that there had been a lot of positive support, but it had made an impact on Council costs.

“This financial year we will be looking to raise rates by four per cent, which while above the Council cost index of 3.38 per cent, will help address a lot of the cost pressure,” Mayor Quilliam said.

The rate increase will come at the same time as municipal revaluations, which are used to calculate rates.

“This is why we need to be clear with the community and ask them what they want, how much they are willing to pay for, and whether they believe they are getting value for money,” Mayor Quilliam said.



Reflective in the paired back approach, Council will have a smaller capital works program this year, totalling about \$2.6 million of projects, with carry forward projects valued about \$3 million.

“It’s a real year of consolidation for us and considering the largest project in this year’s budget is the \$800,000 Mawbanna Road upgrade, really shows that we are tightening our belt,” Mayor Quilliam said.

Other significant projects include:

- ANZAC Park landscaping \$24,000
- Hellyer Beach access – Honey Richea Rd \$55,000
- South Rd/Beatties Hill widening \$192,000

Council continues to offer a 3% discount for rates paid in full by 31 August 2019. Alternatively rates can be paid in three instalments on 30 August, 29 November 2019 and 28 February 2020.

To participate in Council’s survey “Tell Us Where To Go” go to www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/CHSurvey - the survey closes on Monday, 24 June 2019.

Authorised for general media distribution by Mayor Daryl Quilliam, Circular Head Council