

Gannawarra Shire Council Annual Budget 2017/2018

Adopted 28 June 2017

This Budget Report has been prepared with reference to Chartered Accountants ANZ "Victorian City Council Model Budget 2017/2018" a best practice guide for reporting local government budgets in Victoria.



Budget processes

This section lists the budget processes to be undertaken in order to adopt the Budget in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations).

Under the Act, Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget for each financial year. The budget is required to include certain information about the rates and charges that Council intends to levy as well as a range of other information required by the Regulations which support the Act.

The 2017/2018 budget, which is included in this report, is for the year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and is prepared in accordance with the Act and Regulations. The budget includes financial statements being a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Capital Works. These statements have been prepared for the year ended 30 June 2018 in accordance with the Act and Regulations, and consistent with the annual financial statements which are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The budget also includes information about the rates and charges to be levied, the capital works program to be undertaken, the human resources required, and other financial information Council requires in order to make an informed decision about the adoption of the budget.

A 'proposed' budget is prepared in accordance with the Act and submitted to Council in May for approval 'in principle'. Council is then required to give 'public notice' that it intends to 'adopt' the budget. It must give 28 days notice of its intention to adopt the proposed budget and make the budget available for inspection at its offices and on its web site. A person has a right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the budget and any submission must be considered before adoption of the budget by Council.

With the introduction of the State Government's Rate Capping legislation in 2015 Councils are now unable to determine the level of rate increase and instead must use a maximum rate increase determined by the Minister for Local Government which is announced in December for application in the following financial year.

If a Council wishes to seek a rate increase above the maximum allowable it must submit a rate variation submission to the Essential Services Commission (ESC). The ESC will determine whether the rate increase variation submission has been successful by 31 May. In many cases this will require Councils to undertake 'public notice' on two separate proposed budgets simultaneously, i.e. the Ministers maximum rate increase and the Council's required rate increase.

The final step is for Council to adopt the budget after receiving and considering any submissions from interested parties. The budget is required to be adopted by 30 June and a copy submitted to the Minister within 28 days after adoption. The key dates for the budget process are summarised below:

Budget process	Timing
1. Minister of Local Government announces maximum rate increase	Dec
2. Officers update Council's long term financial projections	Dec/Jan
3. Council to advise ESC if it intends to make a rate variation submission	Jan/Feb
4. Council submits formal rate variation submission to ESC	Mar
5. Officers prepare operating and capital budgets	Dec/Feb
6. Councillors consider draft budgets at informal briefings	Feb/Mar
7. Proposed budget submitted to Council for approval to advertise	April
8. Public notice advising intention to adopt budget	April
9. Budget available for public inspection and comment	April/May
10. Public submission process undertaken	April/May
11. Submissions period closes (28 days)	May
12. Submissions considered by Council/Committee	Jun
13. Budget and submissions presented to Council for adoption	Jun
14. Copy of adopted budget submitted to the Minister	Jun