

Council Newsletter

WINTER 2017

Available online at www.barungawest.sa.gov.au



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Wow - it's winter already! "Welcome" to our quarterly edition of the Council Newsletter! I welcome your feedback on this publication and am keen to receive any suggestions of articles that you wish to see covered next time.

In my role as Mayor, I am very fortunate to be involved in really interesting forums and to meet interesting people along the way. In mid May, the Regional Summit 2017 was held at Clare, with Ministers Geoff Brock and Susan Close in attendance. Local Government along with relevant government departments are very aware of challenges facing smaller communities like ours in the District Council of Barunga West.

As quoted in the Stock Journal "*Shrinking family sizes, larger farms and notions of fewer employment opportunities have all lead to the perception of a decline in regional SA. But in reality, innovation and co-operation appear to be sparking a revival in country communities*". Please take time to read pages 8-11 of May 25th edition of the Stock Journal if you can. There are 109 less people living in regional SA than 12 months ago, according to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. We have to be proactive to protect what we've got and stand up with a strong united voice for our future viability.

Council have carefully planned budget strategies for 2017/18. One significant change from 1st July sees Council employees resume the patrol

grading and maintenance of all unsealed roads. It took a great deal of consideration to change from three contracted grader operators to now purchase an additional grader and combination roller. This machine will have optimum use for Council's financial outlay with two full time operators designated to road grading. Improved grading strategies and financial efficiency is our major goal with this new project. The construction grader, already owned by Council, will be available for use on road grading if the need arises.

The Coastal Hazard Planning Meeting No. 3 held recently in Port Broughton was well attended. Staff have processed a grant application for the provision of a coastal engineering study for the Pt Broughton foreshore area. Planning Manager, Ben Harry is working hard on this project currently, along with the Crown Land/ Coast Protection Board.

Minimising rate increases and providing accountability to our rate payers is foremost in our long term financial strategies. Public consultation has been undertaken on all our town boundaries plus the Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget. Elected Members and staff are striving for a common goal of improvement for our community.

Kind regards,
Mayor Cynthia Axford

Please provide any written comments to Council via email, our website, fax or post to:

Head Office (Port Broughton):

11 Bay Street

Port Broughton SA 5522

Phone: 08 8635 2107

Fax: 08 8635 2596

email: barunga@barungawest.sa.gov.au

Postal Address:

PO Box 3

Port Broughton

SA 5522

Bute Office:

15 Railway Terrace

Bute SA 5560

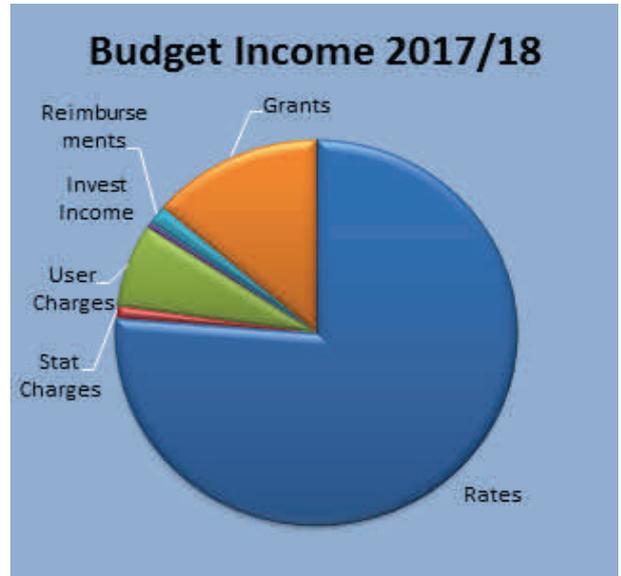
Phone: 08 8826 2011

Fax: 08 8826 2173

Budget Summary 2017/18

The 2017/18 Budget has been prepared on the basis of detailed analysis of the following factors:

- Historical income and expenditure analysis;
- Continuation of the process of reduction of expenditure through resource sharing with other Councils and changes to processes and procedures;
- Council’s Infrastructure Asset Management Plans;
- Council’s Strategic Plan and Long Term Financial Plans (LTFP).



As a result of this analysis and expenditure reduction, Council has elected to limit the increase in General Rates to 4.50%, a reduction from the planned 5.50% increase per the 2016/17 Long Term Financial Plan. This rate reduction is sustainable over the medium term, and at this stage Council believes that it can reduce the rate increase further in coming years. Council anticipates having a balanced budget in 2018/19. It is the nature of Council operations that unforeseen & unplanned expenditure may be required in future years, and if so, Council will review the impact on the LTFP if and when that occurs.

Budget Income

Council continues to rely heavily on Rates income. All 68 Councils in SA receive annual Financial Assistance Grants.

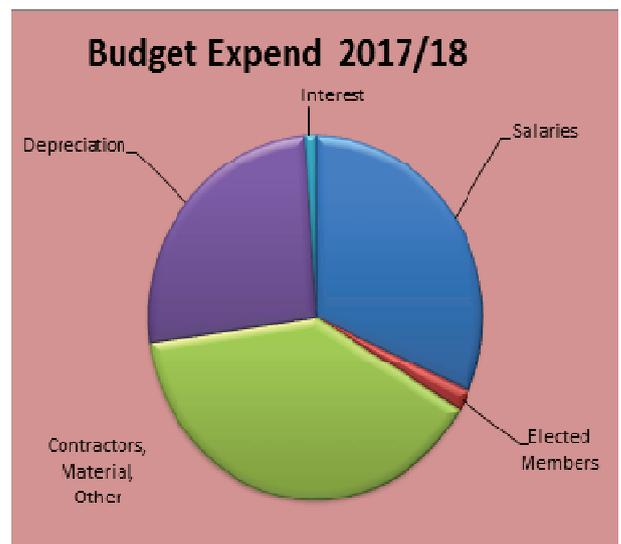
The average allocation to SA Councils in 2016/17 for General Purpose grants was \$1,616,000. Due to a complex combination of size, populations, length of roads, etc, Barunga West received only \$347,000.

Similarly the average annual allocation for Local Roads was \$479,000, and our Council received \$186,000. The end result is that Rates income accounts for approximately 76.2% of Council’s total income.

Budget Expenditure

Salaries & Wages accounts for about 30% of Council expenditure. This increases to 32% in 2017/18 as a result of the addition of 2 new employees to operate Council’s new patrol grader. Contractor expenses reduce due to the council now providing patrol grading services direct, not extending the three existing grading contracts. Depreciation accounts for about ¼ of Council’s operating expenditure.

In 2017/18 this non cash expense will be matched by Capital works totalling \$1,363,000.



Country Cabinet Community Lunch, Pt Broughton Bowling Club

A Community luncheon was hosted by the Port Broughton Bowling Club on Monday, April 3. Invited key stakeholders, business owners, community leaders, volunteers & Councillors within the region were invited to meet the Premier Jay Wetherill and all Ministers of his Cabinet. We were thrilled with the response to invitations, with over 130 people in attendance for the



most amazing country spread provided to our dignitaries and guests. This showcased the amazing hospitality provided by the Bowling Club. Council thanks all the workers for their cooking and serving of the luncheon on the day. This event coincided with the Premier's birthday, so we took the opportunity to present him with a cupcake and candle, before all singing a hearty "Happy Birthday" to the Premier. Visits after lunch were arranged for several Cabinet Ministers to visit several locations. This was our opportunity to shine and present our Aged Care facilities, Regional Health service, local business projects and the tourism highlights of the District Council of Barunga West. We took every opportunity to present our district with pride to our city governance counterparts who reciprocated with positive feedback after the event. The following morning our Council were given the opportunity to provide a presentation in conjunction with Copper Coast and Yorke Peninsula Councils, at Clare. We highlighted concerns to the Country Cabinet Ministers, such as adequate road funding, possible loss of hospital services in rural regions, burdening red tape and Crown Land issues. Our Council was appreciative of the opportunity to be heard on such matters of serious concern to us and our ratepayers.

Mayor Cynthia Axford

Councils Customer Service Procedures



Council receives a high volume of general enquiries & job requests in a variety of ways, namely:

- In person
- Phone
- Email
- Facebook
- Website

Customer Service employees follow the same procedure for all Customer Service Requests (Requests), as follows;

- ⇒ The Request is immediately registered in Council's Records Management System and given a unique Record Number.
- ⇒ The Request is immediately forwarded to the relevant staff member/department.
- ⇒ This staff member is responsible to action the Request.
- ⇒ Wherever possible, in the instance of phone enquiries or personal attendance at Council offices, the Request is dealt with immediately, if the relevant employee is available.
- ⇒ If the employee is not available, Customer Service staff will endeavor to answer Customers queries if they are able too, otherwise they will forward requests to the relevant staff member as per the above procedures.

Our Customer Service staff will treat every enquiry, job request or complaint with professionalism, confidentiality and promptness, as they are here to help you.

If a staff member cannot help you straight away, please ask our Customer Service staff for the Record Number relating to your enquiry. This will assist ratepayers with follow up of their enquiry, directing the request to the relevant employee. The Administration team is strongly committed to serving the Customer as efficiently as possible.

Changes to Dog Registration categories 2017

As of **2017** under the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995, dog registration in South Australia has been simplified. Your dog now falls under one of two simple categories. These changes have been made to streamline registration categories throughout the state.



Standard Dog - a dog that is both **microchipped and de-sexed**
(eligible for 50% off full registration fee)

Non-Standard Dog - All other dogs, including those with exemptions

Contact your local vet about getting your dog microchipped soon!

Lower fees still apply for working dogs, greyhounds, assistance dogs and concession card

Holders. **Other categories, which may have previously attracted a concession, no longer apply.**

Dogs can be registered from July 1st, due by August 31st 2017

New dog and cat laws are coming on 1 July 2018.
Changes include compulsory microchipping and desexing.
Visit dogcatboard.com.au

Keeping warm this winter

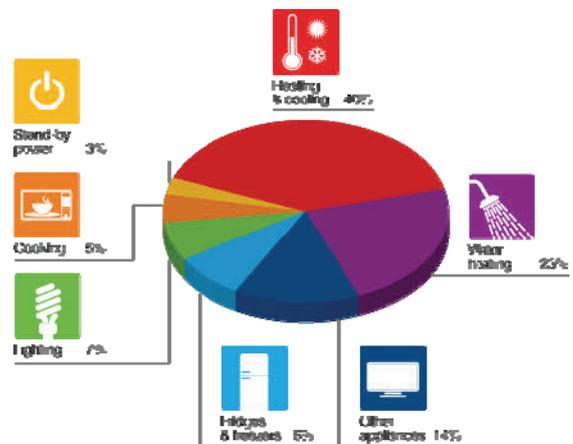
Did you know that on average 40% of the cost of your electricity bill is due to heating & cooling your home. Heating your home can add to your winter energy bills, but by making a few simple changes you can minimise your energy costs and have a cosy home. Use the sun to heat your home for free. Open curtains and blinds during the day and move anything blocking out the light, such as external shading. Prevent draughts by using a door snake or adhesive sealing strips around doors and windows to help keep warm air in.

A lot of heating can be lost through your ceiling and walls. Insulation will help keep your home warmer in winter and reduce your need for heating appliances. If you don't have ceiling insulation, consider having it installed. If you rent, ask your landlord if they will have it installed. Choose the best heater for your needs based on the area you need to heat and use it efficiently. Close doors to unused rooms so you only heat the areas being used.

If your heater has a thermostat, consider setting it between 18°C and 21°C, and maintain your heater according to the manufacturer's instructions so it keeps running efficiently.

For safety, never leave heaters unattended. Never use outdoor gas heaters or LPG cylinders inside, as they are a fire risk and can release toxic gases into your home. If using a gas heater, always ensure it has adequate ventilation.

For more information and advice on heating including a running cost calculator visit sa.gov.au/energy or call the Government of South Australia's Energy Advisory Service on 8204 1888.



Local Nuisance & Litter Control Act

The Local Nuisance & Litter Act 2016 will be coming into effect as of the 1st of February 2017. This act encompasses noise, pollution, litter, unsanitary conditions of premises etc. Fines may apply for any offences against this Act.

For more information about the Act please visit www.legislation.sa.gov.au

DrumMUSTER

Rinse them out, round them up and run them in. DrumMUSTER is the national program for the collection and recycling of empty, cleaned, non-returnable metal and plastic agvet chemical containers. Bookings to dispose of chemical containers through Council's DrumMuster can be made through Council on 8635 2107. An agreed time will be made with trained Council staff.

CONTAINERS CANNOT BE DROPPED OFF AT WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR BOOKING.

For drums to be eligible for collection they must be:

Free of chemical residue (some stains may be accepted)

Be clean, dry and have lids removed

Containers carrying the drumMUSTER logo only, will be accepted.

For more information visit www.drummuster.com.au



Mobility Scooters– Road Safety

The **Australian Road Rules** state that a person using a mobility scooter is classed as a pedestrian if the maximum speed on level ground cannot exceed 10 km/h.

As such the rider:

- must observe the same road rules that apply to pedestrians
- must not obstruct the path of any driver or other road user
- must not travel along a road if there is a footpath or nature strip adjacent to the road, unless it is impracticable to travel on the footpath or nature strip
- if travelling along a road must:
 - keep as far to the side of the road as possible
 - travel facing the approaching traffic unless it is not practicable to do so
- can use shared paths, off-road bike paths and shopping malls
- does not need to have a driver's licence.



Being safe

- Know, understand and practice using all of the scooter controls and functions.
- Have the scooter regularly serviced and undertake safety checks on a regular basis.
- Plan safe routes that provide footpaths and safe crossing points when travelling to places you usually visit.
- Be visible – wear brightly coloured clothing, attach a flag to your scooter.
- Consider fitting headlights for extra visibility.

Review of Township Boundaries

The introduction of the Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016 ('the Policy') has highlighted that Council may need to review 'township boundaries', as Council may wish to provide greater compliance regarding air quality matters, such as with solid fuel heaters. Section 5 (1) of the Policy states that a person must not cause or permit the burning of matter by fire in the open on any land within a council area. Section 5 (2) qualifies this statement by further describing that subclause (1) does not prevent a person from carrying out the following burning activities within a township boundary, such as

- 1) lighting or maintaining a fire using charcoal, dry wood or other dry plant material for the purpose of preparing food or beverages;
- 2) burning charcoal (but not wood or other plant material) in a brazier, chiminea or fire pit for domestic heating;
- 3) burning agriculture or forestry waste, burning off vegetation for fire prevention or control, or burning vegetation for any other purpose, outside a fire danger season, provided that—
 - a) the burning activity is carried out in accordance with a burning permit issued by Council; and
 - b) the person complies with any mandatory measures of a prescribed burning code of practice that apply in relation to the burning activity; and
 - c) the person has regard to any recommended measures of a prescribed burning code of practice that apply in relation to the burning activity.

Note: The Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016 does not apply to the following activities, among other contained within the Policy, namely:

- 1) burning undertaken in accordance with a permit or other authority issued under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 or as otherwise authorised by or under that Act;
- or
- 2) burning for the purposes of fuel load reduction or other fire prevention or control purposes as required or authorised by or under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005;

Copies of maps for each proposed township boundary are available at either Bute or Pt Broughton Council offices or online at Council's website under the 'Community Consultation' page. Feedback forms are available also.

Consultation period from May 10th to Friday June 30th 2017.



WHAT'S ON

Please read the calendar below for “What’s On” at The District Council of Barunga West

June	Event	Time	Location
10th & 11th	Family Fishing Competition Enquiries ph: 86352854	1AM –5PM	Port Broughton Jetty
10th & 11th	Maritime Art Exhibition		Pt Broughton Town hall
13th	Council Meeting	7PM	Pt Broughton Council Chambers

July	Event	Time	Location
11th	Council Meeting	7:00PM	Pt Broughton Council Chambers

August	Event	Time	Location
8th	Council Meeting	7:00PM	Bute Soldier’s Memorial Hall

Port Broughton & Bute Waste Disposal Sites

PORT BROUGHTON: Dale Road, Port Broughton SA 5522

BUTE: Barunga Gap Road, Bute SA 5560



Port Broughton Opening Hours
 Sunday..... 9.00am to 12.00pm
 Monday..... 9.00am to 12.00pm
 Thursday..... 9.00am to 12.00pm

Bute Opening Hours
 Sunday..... 2.00pm to 4.00pm
 Wednesday.....3.00pm to 5.00pm

Please be advised that ALL Waste Disposal Sites will be closed on Total Fire Ban days.
 Both sites charge a range of fees depending on quantities and efforts are made to recycle as many products as possible.