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Town of Gawler adopts 2022/23 Annual Budget and Business Plan

Town of Gawler has officially adopted its 2022/23 Annual Budget and Business Plan, along with its 2021/22-2030-31 Long Term Financial Plan.

Both documents were endorsed by Elected Members at Council's Ordinary General Meeting, held on Tuesday, 28 June.

The 2022/23 Annual Budget and Business Plan details a minor underlying operating surplus of \$168,000 (with the distortion caused by advance Federal Government grant funding removed), which represents 0.5% of Council's total operating revenue of \$34 million.

Despite current inflationary and interest rate pressures placed on Town of Gawler's Budget development, exacerbated by the current conflict in Ukraine and ongoing supply-chain issues, Council has agreed to a modest 3.5% increase in General Rates from existing ratepayers, which is considerably less than Adelaide's current inflation rate of 4.7%.

This incorporates a 0.25% increase in General Rates specifically towards the future major upgrade of the Gawler Aquatic Centre, currently earmarked to occur across the 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years.

The General Rates increase for 2022/23 will translate to a minor increase of \$60 (\$1.15 per week) for the average residential ratepayer.

Some key asset renewal and replacement works budgeted for the 2022/23 financial year include:

- \$1,029,700 – Road resealing (5.8kms)
- \$464,000 – Footpaths renewal (1.6kms)
- \$319,500 – Kerb & Gutter renewal
- \$244,700 – Replace Calton Road (Gawler East) playground
- \$205,300 – Replacement of irrigation systems at Apex Park and Willaston Cemetery
- \$192,700 – Resurfacing of Gawler South oval carpark
- \$141,300 – Unsealed roads resheeting (1.6kms)
- \$25,000 – Reseal of Skate Park

The 2022/23 Annual Budget and Business Plan also provides for a \$3.2 million investment towards the completion of Stage 1 of the Karbeethan Reserve redevelopment (supported by \$1.6 million of State Government funding), along with \$315,000 to construct 2.1kms of new footpaths.



Quotes attributable to Gawler Mayor Karen Redman:

"Determining the Annual Budget is a task the Council does not take lightly, particularly in light of the many financial challenges and opportunities we face with Gawler being a major growth Council," Mayor Redman said.

"Our prudent financial management approach, underpinned by sound financial policy targets, means that priority capital works funding will continue to be provided towards the scheduled renewal and replacement of our existing \$300 million-plus asset base, without placing excessive financial burden on our ratepayers.

"Our Annual Budget also provides funding for the Local Government Boundaries Commission to undertake an extensive investigation of Council's Stage 2 Local Government Boundary reform proposal, which is a vital step towards bringing our communities of interest together under the one Council".

"I commend Council staff and Elected Members for the extensive work and effort that has gone into formalising the 2022/23 Annual Budget and Business Plan."

Quotes attributable to Town of Gawler CEO Henry Inat:

"Managing the financial consequences of being a major growth Council continues to be a challenge for the Town of Gawler, but with prudent and sound financial strategies applied, Council is well-placed to ensure the financial sustainability of its operations and balance sheet," Mr Inat said.

"While Council previously consulted on a 2.75% General Rate increase from existing ratepayers, recent spikes and future forecasts in the rate of inflation and interest rates has meant that a higher General Rate increase will need to be applied to ensure that Council's operating expenses continue to be funded from its recurrent revenue.

"It is pleasing to note that the revised 3.5% increase endorsed within the 2022/23 Annual Budget and Business Plan is substantially less than the rate of inflation.

"The Administration continues to explore opportunities to deliver cost savings and efficiencies in the delivery of the myriad services that the Council provides, and looks forward to meeting the challenges of another busy year ahead."

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The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359