



City of Mount Gambier

# ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET SUMMARY 2020/2021

## FROM THE MAYOR

The 2020/2021 Annual Business Plan and Budget is a statement of the City of Mount Gambier’s intended program of work and outcomes for the upcoming financial year. It was adopted by Council on 23 June 2020 and was developed with reference to the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan.

This summary outlines the mandatory and discretionary services provided by Council, the key outcomes from 2019/2020 and initiatives for 2020/2021. It also includes information about how the budget will be spent to deliver services and programs to the community, developed within the context of Council’s commitment to financial sustainability and long term financial planning. Importantly, it also describes the impact on rates with Council setting a zero per cent increase of the fixed charge and differential rate components of rates to assist ratepayers through the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the impact of COVID-19 reverberates across the globe, the need to invest heavily in the social and economic wellbeing of our community is of utmost importance.

In response, the City of Mount Gambier has developed a multipronged plan that focusses on our people, our economy and our recovery.

We have restructured our budget and redirected resources to ensure we have the capacity to support our community through this period and lead towards a strong recovery.

I hope that you find this summary a useful indication of the work Council is undertaking to make the City of Mount Gambier an inclusive city where people lead fulfilling lives.

**Lynette Martin OAM**  
MAYOR



## FROM THE CEO

The 2019/2020 financial year ended with significant challenges for all levels of government, and for our residents. The Council has committed significant funds to supporting those facing hardship and we have engaged with our business community to listen to their concerns and solutions.

The 2020/2021 budget has been crafted taking into account these concerns and solutions. Ratepayers will see no increase in their rates (unless the property value has altered) and no increase in Council’s fees and charges. We have also taken on temporary staff who were experiencing unemployment as a result of COVID-19 and introduced new initiatives including a bulky waste collection trial and suspension of green waste (FOGO) fees. We continue to listen, plan and respond so that our resources can be used to help those that need it most.

Council has recently endorsed the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and the 2020/2021 budget allocates funds to deliver on the first year of this plan, as well as providing resources to lead our community toward a strong recovery from COVID-19. Separately funds have been allocated to our transformational Community and Recreation Hub project which is set to provide a much needed boost to the local economy and the community more broadly upon completion.

As CEO, my focus remains on building the team at Council to deliver the city’s vision and meet community expectations. I have taken my first year to plan for the future and make our city the best it can be. I look forward to walking alongside you on this journey.

**Andrew Meddle**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Our vision:  
*An inclusive city where people lead fulfilling lives.*



All councils have mandatory responsibilities under the Local Government Act and other relevant legislation.

In response to community needs the City of Mount Gambier also provides a number of discretionary services, programs and support. These include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Animal control
- ▶ Building and planning regulation
- ▶ Community development and engagement
- ▶ Economic development
- ▶ Environmental health
- ▶ Environmental sustainability initiatives
- ▶ Event support
- ▶ Main Corner and Riddoch Art Gallery
- ▶ Sport and recreation facilities
- ▶ Tourism and visitor services
- ▶ Citizenship ceremonies
- ▶ Library programs and services
- ▶ Sponsorship and community grants
- ▶ Free public WiFi
- ▶ Cemeteries
- ▶ Youth programs

In 2020/2021 approximately 68% of the City of Mount Gambier's operating revenue will come from rates. This revenue is used to provide mandatory and discretionary services to the community.

## CORE SERVICES



\$4.2m

Maintenance of parks, gardens and reserves



\$2.4m

Footpath construction and maintenance program



\$5.9m

Roads and drainage



\$2.8m

Kerbside waste and recycling collection and disposal



\$0.5m

Public amenities and streetscaping



**266 trees** planted as part of the 2019/2020 street tree program



**15,090 program participants** at the Mount Gambier Library in 2019/2020



**Approx. 2,100 tonnes** of kerbside recycling collected and saved from landfill

**0%**

**0% rate increase** in response to COVID-19 (unless the value of the property has changed)



Responsible management of Council's assets worth **\$240m**

## KEY OUTCOMES 2019/2020

Railway Station building improvements



Pump Track construction at Hastings Cunningham Reserve



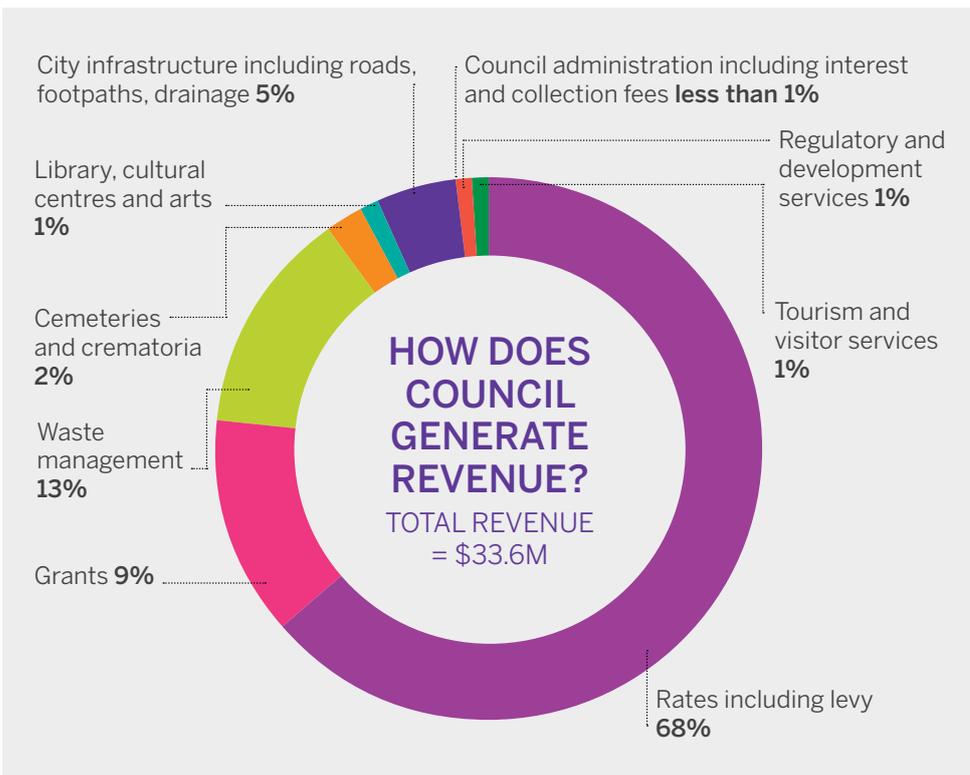
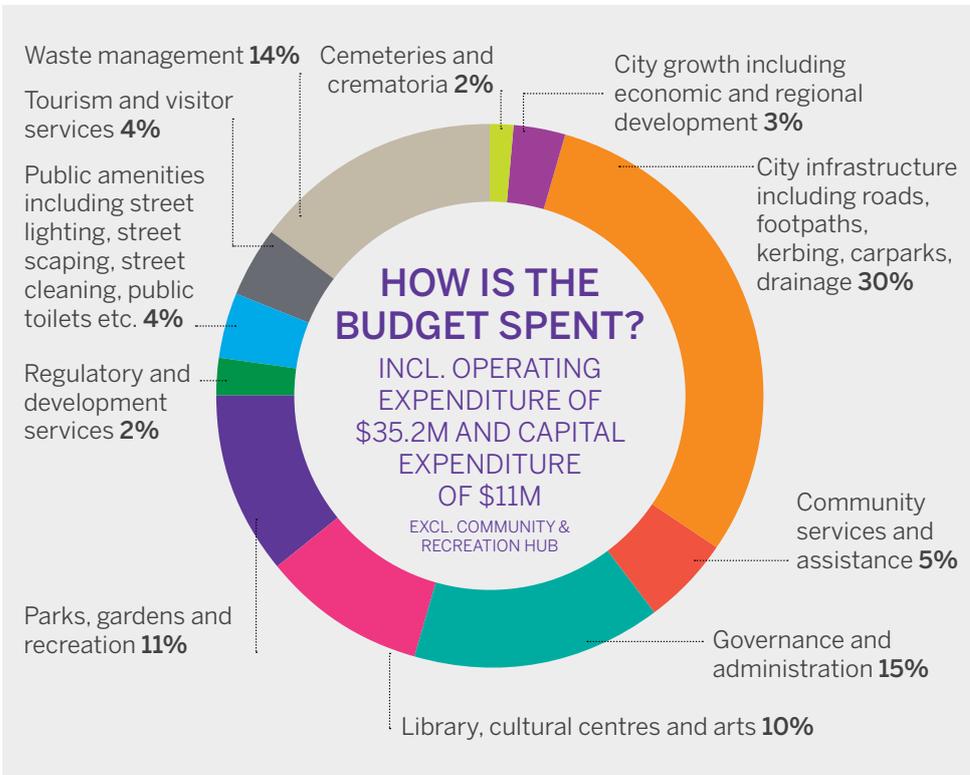
Delivery of and support to community events



# 2020/2021 BUDGET INFLUENCES

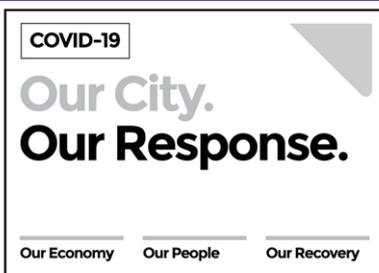
We live and operate in a dynamic environment with increasing pressure from economic, operating and political influences impacting on the budget including:

- Our City. Our Response COVID-19 initiatives including 0% rate increase, fees and charges freeze, waiver of outdoor dining fees, employment program, bulky waste collection trial and a multimillion dollar stimulus and recovery allocation.
- Community and Recreation Hub: significant resources committed to the establishment of governance, financial and construction processes for the oversight and management of the project.
- Suspension of green waste (FOGO) bin subscription fees.
- Establishment of strategies aligned with the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.
- Maintaining and fostering a wide range of community support services, programs and initiatives.



## KEY INITIATIVES 2020/2021

Our City. Our Response COVID-19 initiatives



Community and Recreation Hub construction



Suspension of FOGO (green waste) fees



## HOW THE BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET IS DEVELOPED

The Annual Business Plan and Budget is set and endorsed by the Elected Members of the City of Mount Gambier.

Elected Member workshops were held during the budget process to consider and discuss the cost of services and projects.

Community members were invited to provide feedback on the Draft 2020/2021 Annual Business Plan and Budget by written submission.

On 23 June 2020 Elected Members adopted the budget for the 2020/2021 financial year.



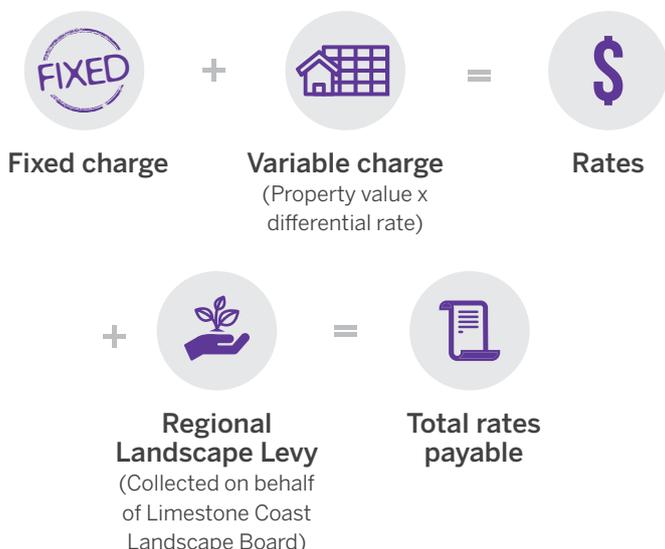
**14,244** rateable properties



**27,275** residents in the City of Mount Gambier

## HOW RATES ARE DETERMINED

Council's rating strategy uses a combination of a fixed charge on every rateable property and a differential or variable rating system, based on land use, when calculating general rates.



In response to COVID-19 Council has not applied a blanket rate increase for 2020/2021, however some ratepayers may experience an increase due to what is known as the growth benefit. Council has no control over the growth benefit of rates as this is influenced by property values which are determined by the Valuer-General.

The City of Mount Gambier uses valuations from the State Valuation Office. The rate in the dollar determines how much you pay according to how much your property is worth.

The fixed charge component is \$682.70, reflecting no increase compared to last financial year's fixed charge. The fixed charge applies to every rateable property and will continue to raise approximately half (45%) of Council's gross general rate revenue.

The differential or variable rating component that raises the remainder (55%) of Council's required gross general rate revenue is determined by multiplying the individual property value (capital value provided by the State Valuation Office) by the differential rate in the dollar adopted for each separate land use category i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, primary production, vacant land or other land use.

In terms of residential rates, the average residential ratepayer will pay \$1,247. This is an increase of \$9 (0.7%) compared with the 2019/2020 average, due to the growth benefit as explained above.

| Average rates         | 2018 /2019 | 2019 /2020 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| SA metro councils     | \$1,598    | \$1,643    |
| SA rural councils     | \$1,399    | \$1,438    |
| City of Mount Gambier | \$1,188    | \$1,247    |

In 2019/2020 City of Mount Gambier ratepayers paid on average \$191 less in residential rates in comparison to other regional cities in South Australia\*.

*\*Based on the Local Government of South Australia rates survey 2019/2020*

As part of Council's rating strategy a range of rate relief measures or assistance can be provided including:

- ▶ Residential (principal place of residence) rate cap
- ▶ Vacant land rate rebates
- ▶ Postponement of rates for seniors
- ▶ Hardship
- ▶ Mandatory and discretionary rate rebates.

City of Mount Gambier



PO Box 56  
Mount Gambier SA 5290  
Phone: 08 8721 2555  
city@mountgambier.sa.gov.au  
www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

Find us on Facebook  
@cityofmountgambier

The City of Mount Gambier Annual Business Plan and Budget 2020/2021 outlines the services, programs and activities Council plans to deliver over the next 12 months.

View the document on Council's website.

