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## 2018/19 Budget & Rates adoption

The 2018/19 Budget and Rates were adopted by Council at its recent meeting held on 26 June 2018.

“The budget was extensively debated by Council over a number of months, and I am pleased to announce that the final position reached was a small estimated underlying operating surplus of \$47,000”, Mayor Karen Redman said.

Council has been continually mindful of the impact that Council Rates have on ratepayers. “Council has ultimately adopted a budget that requires a 2.4% increase in General Rates from existing ratepayers, which is less than the 3.0% previously foreshadowed in the draft budget and Long Term Financial Plan”, Mayor Redman noted.

“The Council previously consulted with the community on a 3.0% increase, but additional new revenue from growth and further focus in reducing costs has enabled Council to reduce the increase to 2.4% for existing ratepayers, which has been a great outcome, and now means that our General Rate increase for existing ratepayers is the lowest percentage increase in the region. Importantly this is the smallest increase in the general rate for over a decade”, Mayor Redman said.

The increase that individual ratepayers experience will vary, subject to movements in individual property valuations. “As Council has not increased the rate-in-the-dollar for properties included in the ‘Residential’, ‘Primary Production’, ‘Vacant Land’, and ‘Other’ land use categories, the 34% of residential ratepayers who have had no change in their property valuation will incur no increase in their General Rates whatsoever. Further, 26% of all ratepayers will incur an increase of 1% or less”, Mayor Redman noted.

As the median property valuation for Commercial and Industrial properties remained unchanged, the rate-in-the-dollar for such properties has been increased by 2.4%. The Minimum Rate has also been increased by 2.4% from \$954 to \$977.

The 2018/19 Budget includes a capital works program of \$16.7m, which includes the following projects:

- Completion of construction works associated with the restoration and refurbishment of the State Heritage Listed Town Hall and Gawler Institute
- Structural remediation of the Gawler Mill Bridge
- Stage 6 upgrade of Murray Street (between Mitre 10 and Southern Hotel)
- Continuing the rehabilitation of the Gawler Aquatic Centre (Stage 4 of 5)
- Construction of 1.7kms of new footpaths
- Resealing of 3.35kms of sealed roads
- Resheeting of 1.43kms of rural roads
- Installation of solar panels at the Gawler Administration Centre (estimated payback period of 4-5 years)
- Installation of War Memorial at Pioneer Park
- Installation of new playground at Willaston Oval
- Roof replacement and stadium floor upgrade at the Gawler Sport & Community Centre
- Commence redevelopment of Walker Place precinct

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**ENDS**

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