



Media Release

24 July 2020

City adopts budget: Cockburn households will pay some of Perth's lowest rates during COVID-19 pandemic

The City of Cockburn's 2020-21 budget has been adopted by Council, with Cockburn households continuing to pay some of the lowest rates in Perth, despite economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cockburn's average residential improved rate of \$1,584 for 2020-21 is the lowest among neighbouring councils.

It remains the same as last year, after Council adopted a zero percentage average rate rise as part of measures to help the community deal with repercussions of COVID-19, in line with State Government calls to freeze rates, fees and charges.

"The one-off COVID-19 concession ensures no ratepayer will pay more in rates for 2020-21 (on a like for like basis) than in 2019-20, when the rate was also the lowest among neighbouring councils," Mayor Logan Howlett said.

"The one-off rates concession has helped balance the State Government's implementation of the Gross Rental revaluation by Landgate, which happens every three years."

All City-determined fees and charges will remain the same as 2019-20, with the City's Waste Services charge for commercial and industrial property staying at \$458 for a fifth consecutive year.

The mandatory waste service charge for commercial/industrial properties that do not use the waste service provided by the City, has been removed for 2020-21.

"The pension rebate cap of \$750 (first applied in 2016-17) will remain the same along with the Seniors rebate, capped at \$100," Mayor Howlett said.

2020-21 will be the twelfth year the City has delivered an operating surplus result, a primary indicator of financial health and performance, with a small closing surplus of \$38,911 representing a balanced budget.

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For the second year, community resident groups were invited to submit projects for consideration in the budget process and 20 projects valued at \$400,000 have been included in this year's budget, an increase on last year's \$357,000 commitment.

Rates collected this year will total \$107.77m with a capital budget of \$51.22m, including roads, drainage, parks and community infrastructure.

The impact of COVID-19 on the City's budget exceeds \$6m, including \$2.15m from the zero rate increase, and \$1.73m from the rates concession.

Budget highlights include:

Major building and facility construction projects including –

- Frankland Park at \$7.72m (total \$9.6m)
- Malabar Park BMX in Bibra Lake at \$1.66m (total \$3.25m)
- Treeby Community Centre at \$3.1m (total \$4.55m)
- Upgrading Goodchild Park in Hamilton Hill at \$0.8m
- Stage 2 of the Operation Centre at \$2.2m
- Cockburn Coast Oval (McTaggart Cove Road) will be constructed for \$1.5m based on land purchased from Development WA for \$9.43m (settlement date in 2025-26)

Parks and Environment Construction Program totaling \$6.0m including –

- New parks development plus a range of other projects covering greening plans, natural area improvements, playground renewals and 7 new projects under the City's Shade Sail Strategy

Numerous major road projects including –

- \$0.9m for blackspot work at the corner of Farrington Road and North Lake Road
- Construction of a roundabout at Rockingham Road and Phoenix Road (\$1.17m)
- Resurfacing projects \$1.11m
- Traffic Management initiatives \$0.7m
- Footpath (new and rehabilitation) \$2.25m
- Drainage and sump projects \$0.84m



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- A \$2m contribution towards the Karel Avenue upgrade being delivered by Main Roads WA – total project cost of \$5.5m (with part funding of \$2.5m from Jandakot Airport Holdings over 5 years)
- Stage 1 works at Henderson Waste and Recovery Park including bulk earthworks/relocation of Dalison Road/services at a cost of \$3m funded in full from the Waste Reserve.

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