



## DEVONPORT CITY COUNCIL

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## COUNCIL APPROVES 2020-21 BUDGET

# 2020-21 COUNCIL BUDGET

# COUNCIL UPDATE

The Devonport City Council last night approved its 2020-21 Annual Budget.

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, Council income for 2020-21 is estimated to be down \$3.3 million, or 8% per cent, on the previous year's Budget.

Prior to the pandemic Council had forecast a small surplus for the 2019-20 year but the 2020-21 Budget now projects a deficit of about \$1.3 million for the current financial year increasing to about \$2.2 million in 2020-21, before returning to a small surplus in 2021-22.

COVID-19 related financial impacts include the loss of \$1.6 million in TasWater dividends, a significant reduction in parking revenue, the loss of commercial and community rent and income reductions from major regional facilities and attractions.

Council has supported the community with a range of economic initiatives which will eventually cost close to \$1 million including waiving all parking fees for a two-month period, ground fees for sporting clubs, rent payments for community and sporting organisations and licence fees for food businesses.

Rate deferrals, and in serious cases, rate remissions will be provided under a new Hardship Policy.

"This, along with the loss of some revenue streams and the financial support being provided to the community, means we have planned for an operational deficit next financial year," Mayor Annette Rockliff said

Cr Rockliff said Council would continue to provide all the services the community expect and value.

Council also made the decision to freeze property rates and all fees and charges at last year's levels given the current financial strain in the community.

Cr Rockliff said it had been necessary to reduce any discretionary operational expenditure, whilst continuing to invest in infrastructure, asset renewal and projects which will have long and lasting benefits for the community.

A capital expenditure program of more than \$25 million has been included in the Budget (**see story page two**).

# COUNCIL UNVEILS A \$25 MILLION CAPITAL PROGRAM TO BOOST THE LOCAL ECONOMY



A \$1.1 million Devonport Road renewal project will be funded in next year's Budget

The Devonport City Council has announced a capital expenditure program of more than \$25 million as a part of its 2020-21 Budget.

Capital infrastructure investment is considered one of the best and most effective ways local government can stimulate their local economy.

A total of \$15.56 million has been allocated for new capital works, in addition to over \$10 million in works funded in the current Budget which will be carried forward into the 20/21 financial year.

The LIVING CITY Waterfront Parkland project will account for almost half of the new planned capital expenditure, with Council contributing 25 per cent of the allocated \$8 million and the remainder coming from promised Federal funding.

The LIVING CITY project is considered even more crucial now than when it began five years ago given it is built on the principles of increasing the tourist market to North- West Tasmania, increasing business confidence, and improving the amenity of the city for those who live and work here.

Mayor Annette Rockliff said post the pandemic, these were all principles that Council would be strongly supporting, and considered itself fortunate to have had such a plan in place prior to the start of COVID-19.

"Over the next two years work on the Waterfront Precinct will see \$57 million in construction activity flowing through the economy with the privately-funded Waterfront Hotel and the Parkland."

"Importantly, at this time, Council will not be borrowing any additional money for this project."

The Public Open Space Program includes a path renewal project at the Don Reserve from Nicholls Street to James Street (\$140,000), a playground renewal and relocation at the Don Reserve (\$90,000), a new toilet block and link path at Horsehead Creek (\$95,000) and a new barbecue shelter at Highfield Park (\$75,000) – all to be funded from grant monies.

A total of \$4.83 million has been allocated for transport projects with stage one of the Devonport Road Renewal (\$1.1 million), the Coastal Pathway project (\$1 million), a \$500,000 allocation to the State Vehicle Entry Point Project at East Devonport and the renewal of Wright Street between Tarleton Road and John Street (\$400,000) the main projects.

Stage two of the Oldaker Street East catchment upgrade has been allocated \$550,000 of the \$1.2 million stormwater project budget.

A further \$350,000 will be spent on pipe upgrades at Church Street with funds also allocated for stormwater improvements at 298 Bellamy Road.

## SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP TO BE FORMED

Nominations are now open for a Sports Infrastructure Master Plan Working Group.

The Master Plan aims to provide a clear direction for the development of Council-owned sport and recreation infrastructure over the next 15 years.

At a minimum, the Sports Infrastructure Master Plan is expected to provide:

- An assessment of future sporting infrastructure required to support sporting trends.
- Recommendations for high-level changes to coordination, management and/or use of sporting infrastructure and facilities.
- A prioritised action plan supported by preliminary concept plans and indicative budget estimates.

The Working Group is to include representatives with a high-level knowledge and/or experience in sport and recreation planning or development.

Three members will be drawn from the business/general community, two from peak sporting bodies and one from the State Government.

Two Councillors will also be appointed.

The Terms of Reference and nomination form for Working Group membership can be found on Council's website.