

Date: 26 July 2018

Shire delivers budget focused on sustainability

The Exmouth Shire Council has underlined its commitment to financial sustainability by adopting a balanced 2018/19 budget.

Shire President Matthew Niikkula said today that after nine months of intense internal review, Council believed this budget was an important step towards improved financial sustainability and making Exmouth a better place to live, work and visit.

“Since we were elected in 2017, both the Council and Shire staff have done a power of work to review every aspect of our business units and their operations, our regulatory compliance and the strategic documents that lay the foundation for solid Council operations,” he said.

“With this budget we are setting a clear direction for the Shire and the Exmouth community and starting work on achieving the community vision outlined in our strategic community plan, Exmouth 2030.”

The 2018/19 budget includes a \$5.122m capital expenditure program that aims to address recent shortfalls in allocations for asset renewal and upgrades. Rates were increased by 1 per cent after a zero rate rise in 2017/18.

Key projects identified in this year’s budget include:

An additional \$177, 203 being transferred to asset preservation and replacement reserves. This is on top of the \$375,098 transferred to reserves from the 2017/18 budget surplus and directly addresses concerns raised during audit processes. This takes total reserves to \$6.61m.

\$1.75m for the upgrade of Murat Road, including road widening, intersection redesign, lighting and flood mitigation works and shared bike and pedestrian path upgrades. An additional \$417,000 has been allocated for road widening works on the Yardie Creek Road and \$192,000 to continue to reseal local roads.

Funding has also been allocated for improvements to town footpaths and street lighting and \$22,000 has been set aside to build storage facilities for sporting clubs at the shared hard courts and install bird deterrents at the facility.

Exmouth’s airport facilities will also benefit from capital expenditure to improve runways and \$150,000 has been allocated to install new septic ponds at the landfill facility.

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Media contact: Amanda Fuery 0409 107 112