



Media Release

12 December 2022

Draft financial plans for community input

Mount Barker District Council has released two draft Long Term Financial Plans (LTFP) to the community for feedback following recommendations from the Audit and Risk Committee that the plans be presented to Council for their consideration, seeking endorsement for community consultation.

Previously, the council has adopted a consolidated LTFP that reports on both the operations of the council and wastewater service. This year, they have developed two Long Term Financial Plans: one for the wastewater service and a consolidated plan inclusive of the council operations and the wastewater service.

Mount Barker District Council Mayor, David Leach said: “The two LTFPs are designed to ensure that the council has sufficient funds available to provide services and maintain infrastructure over a ten-year period.”

“Wastewater services are a major operation of Council and will require significant long term financial management over the next decade. Providing a separate LTFP for wastewater will show clarity and transparency for this essential service,” Mr Leach said.

“There are also a number of major projects such as the regional aquatic and leisure precinct that will be built and funded over a number of years. Alongside these, Council is responsible for many services and facilities that our communities use and rely on us to continue to deliver every day.”

The council’s acting chief executive officer, Brian Clancey said: “These draft plans contain information on forecast future rates, fees and charges with implications for ratepayers, developers and customers. It is important to recognise that the subsequent adoption of these plans will not fix any such amounts. Decision making on rates, fees and charges occurs annually at a council meeting in July following community consultation on a draft council annual business plan and budget.”

“Included in the draft consolidated Council LTFP is a rate smoothing strategy to ease the impact on ratepayers in 2023/24 arising from forecast significant increases in council costs as reflected by the Consumer Price Index,” Mr Clancey said.

In conjunction with the release of the LTFPs, a community and stakeholder engagement strategy has been developed to help the council staff to achieve greater reach and participation during the engagement period.

“We have a number of different engagement techniques in our plan because we want to make sure that as many people as possible are informed about the LTFPs and that we are hearing a wide range of views from individuals, families and groups throughout the district,” Mr Clancey said.

Planned engagements include forums on the council’s Your Say website, discussions with developers, business, community associations, and to locations in the townships that people already visit such as shopping centres and sporting venues.

“I commend and thank staff for the hours of work it has taken putting the two Long Term Financial Plans and engagement plan together,” Mr Leach said.

“While the plans, when finalised and endorsed, will drive Council’s long term objectives, it is worthwhile noting Long Term Financial Plans are evolving documents. Updates will be made annually to adapt to the opportunities and challenges facing our communities and district, and the context we work in.”

Community members are encouraged to review the Mount Barker Council’s Long Term Financial Plans and provide input.

The full documents, supporting materials and information about engagement activities across the district can be viewed on the Your Say website at yoursay.mountbarker.sa.gov.au.

Engagement is open from Wednesday 14 December 2022 until 5pm Monday, 6 February 2023.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mount Barker District Council Communications Manager, Ian Hildebrand
P: (08) 8393 6470 | E: ihildebrand@mountbarker.sa.gov.au