



Financing Council's Proposed 2016/17 Budget

Subject to adoption, Council's Proposed 2016/17 Annual Budget is a total of \$66.9M with rates and charges consisting of \$39.9M of this income.

Rates and charges income is the equivalent of 60 per cent of the overall 2016/17 proposed budget.

Rate revenue helps fund the services Council provides to rate payers and residents. This revenue is collected by charging rates to the owner or occupier of every property in the municipality. Council uses property values to fairly distribute rates charged.

It is important to note that rates are not a fee for services received, they are paid into consolidated revenue for the provision of assets and services to the whole community.

The general rate increase will be 2.5 per cent in line with the rate cap set by the Minister of Local Government.

Other sources of income for the budget include grants, statutory fees and fines, user fees and contributions.

Mayor of South Gippsland Shire, Councillor Bob Newton said receiving revenue through rates is essential to Council's performance.

"By paying your rates Council is able to provide over 150 services to the community that helps assist with the health and wellbeing of our residents and development of South Gippsland.

"All rate payers are reminded that without their contribution many of the services Council provides would not be viable. Although Council is financially capable of meeting the rate cap in the short term, it will reduce Council's service capacity in the longer term," said the Mayor.

The community will have the opportunity to consider the budget and make formal written submissions once a draft budget is endorsed until the 27 April 2016.

Council is scheduled to formally consider and adopt the 2016/17 Annual Budget at its meeting to be held on 22 June 2016.

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