



Council invests in a strong future for Victor Harbor with 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget

The City of Victor Harbor adopted its 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, 13 July 2022.

The \$49.8 million budget aims to harness opportunity and further enhance Victor Harbor's position as a place of choice to live, work, visit and invest in.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said the budget focuses on securing a strong future for Victor Harbor while still ensuring Council can deliver services and initiatives that our community needs today.

"Our stunning environment, vibrant community and proximity to Adelaide continue to draw people to our region and reinforce Victor Harbor as the southern hub of the Fleurieu Peninsula. With our 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget, we aim to meet the needs of our expanding and diversifying community," said Mayor Jenkins.

"The Annual Business Plan is an important document that outlines what services, programs and projects we will be delivering during the year to achieve our community's long-term aspirations."

The Council's 2022/23 budget forecasts a capital works program worth \$17 million, offset by grants and other revenue totalling \$5.2 million, and operating expenditure of \$32.9 million resulting in a deficit of \$1,092,700.

"During the financial year, we will work to identify efficiencies and cost savings to bring the forecast deficit closer to a breakeven position," said Mayor Jenkins.

"The continuing impacts of Covid-19, material and contractor shortages, and inflationary pressures are presenting challenges for the Council. The Annual Business Plan takes into account these difficulties and prioritises the upgrades and investments that our community really needs."

Some of the significant projects to be undertaken during 2022/23 include:

- Completion of a new visitor centre and stable complex for the Horse Drawn Tram
- Upgrades to Waitpinga/ Range Road (subject to grant funding)
- Replacement of missing and damaged channel markers leading into the Bluff Boat Ramp
- Establishment of an Active Wellbeing Program (subject to grant funding)
- Preparation of detailed technical designs for Stage 1 of the proposed Arts and Culture Centre
- Footpath replacements along Ozone Street, Harvey Avenue, Bay Road and Swain Road
- New public toilet facilities for the Bluff Boat Ramp
- Continuing construction works for Stage Four of the Mainstreet Precinct Upgrade.

Average rates payable will increase by 4.7% across all categories, in line with the March CPI increase. For the average residential ratepayer this will mean a \$106 increase compared to last year.

Mayor Jenkins thanked all community members and organisations who provided feedback to Council as a part of consultation on the draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

“Understanding the community’s views is an important part of the Council’s annual budgeting process, and the City of Victor Harbor really values this input,” said Mayor Jenkins.

“This year, a number of changes were made from the draft budget that went out for public consultation and the final budget that has been adopted by the Council. Community feedback played an essential role in this.”

The City of Victor Harbor’s 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget will be available for viewing online at www.victor.sa.gov.au/abp or in hard copy at the Civic Centre at 1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor.