

Budget delivers services and surplus

DOUGLAS Shire Council has absorbed rising costs to deliver a \$257,000 surplus in the 2023/24 Annual Budget.

The \$58.4 million operational budget along with a \$16.7 million dollar capital works program, was endorsed today (Tuesday, July 11, 2023).

Douglas Shire Mayor Michael Kerr said Council was operating responsibly during tough financial times.

“Council has no borrowings and is debt free at a time of rising interest rates,” he said.

“We are currently receiving good interest returns on investments which is also contributing to today’s positive result.

“The cost of building materials has increased dramatically in the past 12 months but through responsible spending and by resourcing grants for infrastructure projects we have managed to keep spending at a manageable level.

“The rising cost of living is impacting us all and, like our ratepayers, Council is operating within its means.”

A spending breakdown of the budget’s \$16.7M capital works program includes:

- Transport – \$6.38M
- Water Supply – \$3.66M
- Council & Community Facilities – \$1.88M
- Resource Management – \$541k
- Plant and Equipment – \$996K
- Wastewater – \$1.73M
- Drainage – \$300K
- Emergency Works \$225K
- Marine - \$948K

What does this mean for our ratepayers?

The median rate increase will be \$49 per year (Category 1 property).

Ratepayers with an investment property face an increase \$144 per year (Category 5 property).

“I believe that we have managed to get the best result we can to keep the broader general rate for residents as low as possible whilst committing to maintaining service levels,” Cr Kerr said.

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“This is a solid budget which keeps the broader general rate rises below CPI and far less than some neighbouring councils.”