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ABN 90 501 266 817

MEDIA RELEASE

Subject:	Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2022-2023 Consultation
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Date: 11 May 2022

THE Rural City of Murray Bridge is asking the community to have their say on the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2022-2023.

The draft plan outlines the proposed program of works for the next financial year and is available at Council Offices or can be accessed online.

Mayor Brenton Lewis urged residents to 'join the conversation' and have their say so Council can consider community feedback before adopting a final budget at its June meeting.

"I encourage residents to read the draft Annual Business Plan and see how we intend to continue building a safe, proud and progressive place to live, work and play," he said.

Mayor Lewis said "Our ongoing delivery of community infrastructure works in the face of a tough economic environment will continue through our baseline Capital Program of \$9.7m, ensuring the long term financial sustainability of Council is balanced with delivering our community needs."

Council is seeking to fund capital renewal programs amounting to \$8.8M, ensuring our regions infrastructure is appropriately maintained. The proposed draft budget includes \$3.2M in road renewal and the Greenspace program will look to commence installation of irrigation systems to use 'green-up' reserves such as Magpie Reserve and Rotary Jubilee Park.

"In addition to receiving funding for continuing works at Sturt Reserve, Council plans to replace the jetty at Woodlane Reserve with a floating pontoon," he said. Council has also been successful in attracting funding for the Regional Stadium expanding on the facilities for basketball and sporting as well as further funding for the Swanport Road reclaimed water pipeline, ensuring our commitment to reducing pressure on our precious Murray River water supplies.

The draft plan proposes an average rate increase of 3.5%, considerably less than the March 2022 CPI increase of 4.7% aiding in easing the burden on ratepayers.

The Community Consultation period opens on 10 May and closes on 31 May with residents and ratepayers able to provide feedback in writing and online.

View the documents and provide feedback at <u>letstalk.sa.gov.au</u>, the Local Government Centre or Murray Bridge Library.

Send written submissions to <u>council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au</u> or Chief Executive Officer, Rural City of Murray Bridge, PO Box 421 Murray Bridge SA 5253.

All written submissions received will be presented at a Special Council Meeting at 6pm 30 May 2022. This meeting will be live streamed via Council's YouTube channel.

The final Annual Business Plan and Budget 2022-2023 will be considered by Council for adoption on 14 June 2022.