



The Golden Plains Shire Council Draft Budget 2020/21 is now on public exhibition and all residents and ratepayers are welcome to have their say on next year's financial plan.

What's New in Draft Budget 2020/21

<p>2% RATE CAP DOWN FROM 2.5% in 2019/20</p>	<p>Waste Management Charge \$340 +\$10 from 2019/20</p>	<p>Municipal Charge \$306 +\$6 from 2019/20</p>	<p>\$200 THOUSAND to pay for 2020 Council Elections</p>
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The 2020/21 Rate Cap has been set by the State Government at 2% and it's the law that Council's rates revenue cannot exceed this amount. The cap applies to the General Rates and Municipal Charge and it's an average increase across the Shire.

The 2020/21 Waste Management Charge is a fixed charge for every household in the Shire, to fund the kerbside collection of household waste and recycling, as well as waste management including the rising State Government Landfill Levy.

The Municipal Charge is a flat charge of \$306 for every household in Golden Plains Shire in 2020/21. A fixed rate charge ensures that all residents make a standard contribution and means that the rate share is equitably distributed across the Shire.

The Victorian Electoral Commission will charge Golden Plains Shire Council \$156,000 for the mandated Council Election in October 2020. Candidate training which is now mandatory under the State Government's new Local Government Act will cost a further \$44,000 in 2020/21.

<p>CHANGES TO COUNCIL FEES AND CHARGES</p>	<p>\$150 THOUSAND for Road Project Designs</p>	<p>\$75 THOUSAND for Streetscape Designs</p>	<p>\$50 THOUSAND to implement the Environment Strategy</p>	<p>\$75 THOUSAND Community & Recreation Design</p>
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2020 RATING STRATEGY REVIEW

At its February 2020 Ordinary Meeting, Council approved an extensive review of the Rating Strategy to further increase equity across the Shire.

Key features of the Rating Strategy Review:

- All residences will now be charged the same rate in the dollar.
- New differentials will be established for all farm properties, based on size and land use. Farms that are considered incoming generating will be charged at a different differential to farms used for residential use.
- Every vacant land block in the Shire will be charged the same rate in the dollar.
- All business, industrial and commercial properties in Bannockburn will be charged 120% of the rate in the dollar. Businesses outside of Bannockburn will be charged 100%.

The new rating principles are applied in Council's Draft Budget 2020/21.

COMMUNITY VISION 2040

Thank you to the 534 people who had their say during February and March on the future Golden Plains they would like to see in 20 years.

To the right is a brief summary of what you told us:

These results will inform the Draft Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040. Further engagement opportunities will be available, and will be communicated online and in print. To stay up-to-date with the project and see the summary of results, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

What you love about Golden Plains:

- Country Life
- Community
- Activities & facilities
- Close to main centres

What you want to see in 2040:

- Retain country feel
- Local shopping
- Facilities & Infrastructure
- Local activities & events

How you will make it a reality

- Better public transport
- Local jobs
- Attend events
- Being active in the community
- Volunteering
- Provide feedback

Read Council's Draft Budget 2020/21

Visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget. With face-to-face interactions closed at Council's Customer Service Centres, due to the COVID pandemic, residents seeking a hard copy of the Draft Budget can call Customer Service at 5220 7111.

Ask Your Budget Questions

With COVID-19 restrictions presenting a challenge for face-to-face Budget Drop-In Sessions, residents are invited to send in their Draft Budget questions by Wednesday 20 May via email at fiona.rae@gplains.vic.gov.au; mail to Manager Finance, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331; or online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget. Council's finance team will answer questions directly with a selection of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) published on Council's website and social media during the consultation period. This information will help residents to prepare their submission and have their say on the Draft Budget.

Make a Budget Submission

Written submissions may be lodged by 5pm, Friday 29 May. Post a submission addressed to Director Corporate Services, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331; email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au; or online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget.

Present a Submission to Council:

Council will hold a Special Budget Meeting at 6pm, Tuesday 9 June, and everyone who lodges a written submission is welcome to present it to Councillors. The final Budget 2020/21 will be considered for adoption by Council at its Ordinary Meeting in Bannockburn on Tuesday 23 June, 2020.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Council's Bannockburn, Linton and Smythesdale Customer Service Centres are closed for face-to-face interactions. Customers are still able to contact the Customer Service team by phone at 5220 7111, email at enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au, or online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/portal.

This information is current as of 12 May 2020. For up-to-date information on the status of Council's services, operations and events, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/coronavirus, or follow Council on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
BANNOCKBURN SHIRE HALL

Golden Plains Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest from commercial or retail operators interested in leasing the Bannockburn Shire Hall. The Shire Hall is located at 12 High Street, Bannockburn and is expected to be vacant from May 2020. The site offers:

- Two large spaces suitable for commercial or retail use
 - Kitchen and bathroom facilities
 - All abilities access
- Additional rooms for storage
- Prime High Street location in Town Centre, adjacent to Bannockburn Plaza
 - Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z)

Expressions of interest are due by 9am, Monday 22 June, 2020. For more information, email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111 and speak to Council's Governance team.

ERIC BRASLIS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
where opportunities grow...