

THE GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21



Rates Support in Draft Budget 2020/21

Golden Plains Shire Council has confirmed a package of financial relief options for local residents and businesses to support the Golden Plains community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures have been funded in Council's Draft Budget 2020/21.

Golden Plains Shire Council is delivering the following COVID-19 related relief measures:

Ratepayers and residents experiencing financial hardship

- Introduction of a Special COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy for Golden Plains Shire Council ratepayers.
- Suspension of all current debt recovery action for unpaid 2019/20 rates through to 30 September 2020.
- Waive interest on overdue 2019/20 rates through to 30 September 2020.
- Waive penalties for late payment on pet registration fees through to 30 September 2020.
- New payment plans available for animal registration renewals.

Business support

- Introduction of a Special COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy for local businesses.
- Commitment to pay invoices from all local businesses within 14 days to support cash flow.
- Extension of time applications for business-related septic tank and planning permits expiring before 30 September 2020 can be lodged at no cost.
- Refund of all permit fees for events and activities that have been cancelled or closed as directed by Government.

- New allowance for commercial businesses to reduce their waste collection arrangements if necessary.
- Free mentoring support for small businesses experiencing hardship.
- Free promotion of local businesses on Council's website and social media with the Be Kind to Business campaign: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business/be-kind-business
- Dedicated COVID-19 business support page on Council's website with links to Federal and State Government programs: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business/covid-19-business-support
- Access to dedicated business support officer within Council for local businesses to receive individual assistance.

Capital works

- Council will continue budgeted capital works as scheduled to maximise local business and employment opportunities.

The COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy is available on Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

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.

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.

RATES PAYMENTS: MAY

Notices for the fourth rates instalment and final notices for overdue 2019/20 rates have been sent in the mail.

Residents who have joined the rates instalment program are reminded that the fourth instalment is due by 31 May 2020.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, and would like to apply for Council's COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy, call Council's Rates team at 5220 7111 for a confidential conversation.



CHANGES TO COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings Venue

All Council meetings will now be held at the Golden Plains Community Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, until further notice. Meetings will still commence at 6pm.

Closed to the Public

Due Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the public are no longer able to attend in person until further notice, in accordance with the Victorian Government's directions.

Meetings will be accessible online to the public and will be live streamed on Council's YouTube page.

The Agenda will be made available on Council's website www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au prior to the meeting.

ERIC BRASLIS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

where opportunities grow...



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

LEASING BANNOCKBURN SHIRE HALL

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR A COMMERCIAL OR RETAIL SERVICE
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:

- 2 x 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 phone 03 5220 7111 and ask for Council's Governance Team.

ERIC BRASLIS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

where opportunities grow...

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.

A selection of popular outdoor recreational locations including tennis courts have now been reopened in Golden Plains Shire. Following the Victorian Government's first stage in easing restrictions, some recreational and sporting activities have been given the green light to resume across the State, including outdoor group fitness, tennis, bowls, golf, equestrian activities, fishing and boating. Please note: all playgrounds, skate parks, bike parks and campgrounds across the Shire remain closed.

This information is current as of 19 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.

2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, Victoria 3331

5220 7111

enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

goldenplains.vic.gov.au

FIND US EVERYWHERE!

 GoldenPlainsShire

 @GPSCouncilNews