

THE GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21



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.

With the sudden and significant economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic still being realised, Council has developed a responsible and fair Draft Budget 2020/21 that respects the challenges of the situation in Golden Plains and puts an emphasis on innovation and efficiency to reduce costs.

The primary focus of this year's Draft Budget is to confirm Council's commitment to continue delivering all its current services under the rates cap. Our people and our communities are the heart of Golden Plains – and this is reflected in the majority of budget spending dedicated to more than 60 services for the residents of the Shire.

With the principle understanding that maintaining our assets makes more sense than paying for new replacements, the Draft Budget 2020/21 also keeps Council's investment in local roads and infrastructure steady with several important major projects funded by State and Federal Governments this year.

KEY FEATURES OF DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21:

- \$43 million to deliver more than 60 services to the Golden Plains community
- \$13.6 million investment in capital assets
- \$2.8 million to maintain Council's assets
- \$2.3 million for active ageing and disability services
- \$1 million for community planning and grants
- \$900,000 for resealing local roads
- \$600,000 for gravel re-sheeting of local roads
- \$500,000 for improvements to local roads
- 2% rates cap in 2020/21, down from 2.5% in 2019/20
- Waste Management Charge: \$340 per household



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.

STILL TIME TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications are still open for the first round of Council's Community Strengthening Grants.

Community Strengthening Grants of up to \$10,000 are available in four categories: Healthy Active Living, Creative Community, Environment and Sustainability; and Community Safety. Community groups must match the amount of funding sought, either in cash or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project. Guidelines and eligibility requirements for each grant category can be found at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants.

Applications close on Friday 15 May, 2020, and all applications must be submitted online at goldenplains.smartygrants.com.au. For more information, contact Council's Community Partnership Officer at 5220 7220 or email communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



Golden Plains Shire Council has implemented a number of changes to its operations to reduce the risks to residents, staff and volunteers during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Council's 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 5 May 2020. For up-to-date information on the status of Council's services, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/coronavirus, or follow Council on social media.

UPCOMING BRIDGE CLOSURE

The Steiglitz-Durdidwarrah Road bridge over Sutherlands Creek in Steiglitz will be closed from Monday 18 May to Monday 8 June, 2020.

This is to allow for maintenance works to be undertaken on the bridge. Traffic management will be in place during the closure, and electronic signage will be installed at the site.



PREPARATION OF 2020/21 DRAFT BUDGET

At its meeting held on 28 April 2020, Golden Plains Shire Council resolved to place the 2020/21 Draft Budget on public exhibition, in preparation for its adoption on 23 June 2020.

Inspection of Draft Budget - These documents are available for inspection from 2 May to 29 May 2020 at Council's website, goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget or, due to the restrictions of face-to-face interactions, call Council's Customer Service at 5220 7111 to arrange a copy.

Submissions - Any person may make a written submission on these documents in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. They may request to appear in person or be represented by another specified person to present the submission at a Special Council meeting on Tuesday 9 June 2020, from 6pm at the Golden Plains Community & Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn.

Submissions should be lodged no later than 29 May 2020 at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations; email: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au; or post to the Director Corporate Services, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, 3331.

After considering any submissions, Council will meet to adopt the Council Plan and 2020/21 Budget on Tuesday 23 June 2020.

ERIC BRASLIS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

where opportunities grow...

2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, Victoria 3331

5220 7111 enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au goldenplains.vic.gov.au

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