



# Derwent Valley Council News

Issue 5 - July 2019

## COUNCIL BUDGET BREAKDOWN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2019/2020

Following community consultation, Council's 2019/2020 Annual Budget of \$19.6 million was adopted at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday 25 July 2019.

This year the General rate increase has been set at 3.95%. The Waste Management Service Charge has been decreased from \$85.00 to \$55.00.

This increase is marginally higher than the Local Government Association of Tasmania cost index of 3.38%. The Council Cost Index (CCI) provides an aggregated picture of cost movements at the State level. The mix of construction and non-construction activity varies from council to council. Similarly, there are parts of the State where construction costs have been increasing faster than the State average. Such factors will all be of relevance at the local level when determining the level of rate increase necessary to provide the desired level of service.

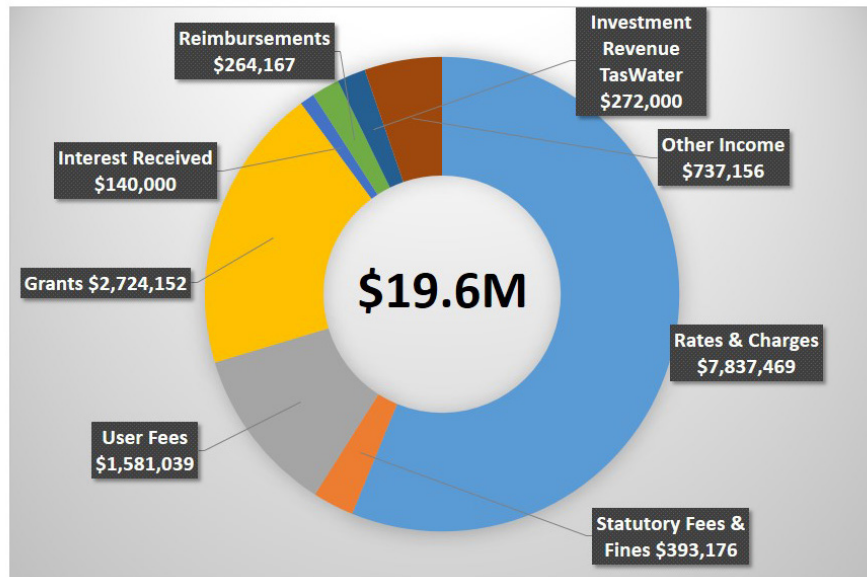
Property rates are Council's main source of income. The valuations provided by the State Government Valuer-General are used to calculate the rates on each property.

The 2019/2020 Annual Budget will support the delivery of local public services, amenities and infrastructure of the Derwent Valley Municipality.

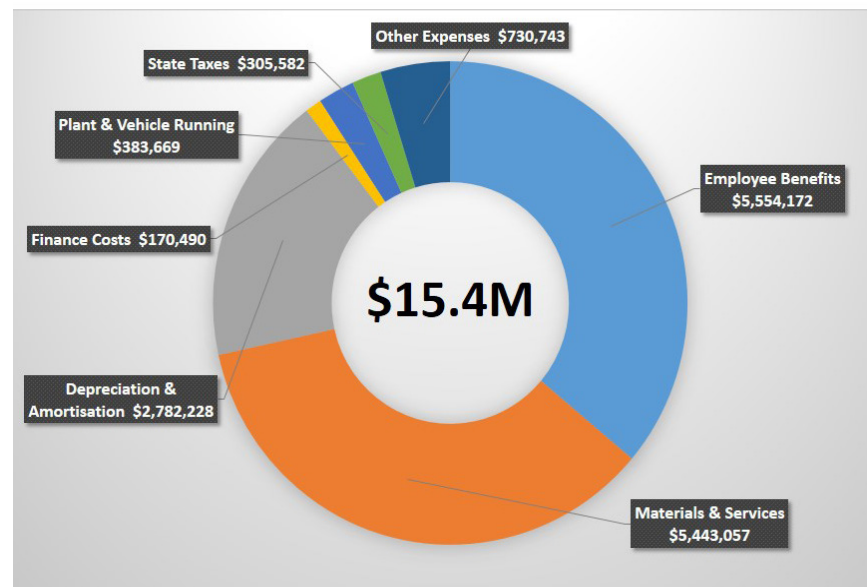
For information about Council Rates and Charges, contact our Customer Service staff on (03) 6261 8500.

For further information about Property Valuation and Adjustment Factors visit [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au) or contact Office of the Valuer General (OVG) on (03) 6165 4444.

## Council's Income for 2019/2020



## Council's budgeted Expenditure for 2019/2020



## WIN \$500 'DERWENT DOLLARS'

To be in the draw for a \$500 Derwent Dollar Prize, ratepayers are encouraged to pay their rates in full on or before the 31 August 2019. Derwent Dollars are vouchers that can be used at local businesses within the New Norfolk CBD area.



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It's been a busy year so far, with a big focus on completing a huge number of community and infrastructure projects, and continuation of our bridge rehabilitation program.

Council has just delivered the budget for 2019/2020 and we're comfortable with what we've delivered. We've balanced the need to address our ageing infrastructure but also with enough of a focus on investing for the future.

Understanding the current financial situation of residents across the municipality we've approved a 3.95% increase in rates revenue. This increase is marginally higher than the Local Government Association of Tasmania cost index of 3.38%.

We've also partially offset this increase by reducing the waste management charge to Derwent Valley residents. Even with this modest increase, this will be our biggest

spend on major projects we've ever done in a single year.

This year's budget contains a \$10.31M spend on infrastructure and capital works, partly funded by capital grants totalling \$5.65M and new borrowings of \$1.50M. Projects to be undertaken include the investment of \$2.50M on the Glenora Road upgrade, with a further \$2.72M being spent on our Roads and Bridges program that includes; Britten Street, Wyre Forest Creek and Plenty Valley Road bridges and Stage 1 of works to Molesworth Road.

Other projects to be completed in the coming year include; the Community Hall upgrade at Westerway, money set aside for the rehabilitation of the Peppermint Hill Landfill site; investment in Council's Integrated Business System and the long-awaited Derwent Valley branding project.

It also covers off community initiatives such as the installation of community noticeboards in Molesworth and Lachlan, the development of the Derwent Valley Youth and Family Strategy, and the celebration of stories about the achievements and talents in the community.

## DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL COMMUNITY FORUMS

Council has now implemented its new Community Forums Schedule, discontinuing the 30 minute community forum at the start of Ordinary Council Meetings in New Norfolk.

The new schedule includes Council Listening Posts, General Manager face-to-face sessions and Regional Community Forums. The schedule increases the community's access to Council from 6 to 25 hours, spread across different times and days to better suit the community's needs.

Since implementing the new schedule, we've had our first Listening Post at the Autumn Festival in April, a Community Forum before the May Ordinary Council Meeting in Lachlan and our first General Manager face to face session in the Council Admin Building in June.

These sessions have proven valuable for both the Community and Council and some of the topics covered so far include Dog Management, various Development Applications and associated works, various Project Updates and help available for community members needing assistance around the house and yard.

AUG	General Manager face to face sessions	Council Chambers
SEPT	Regional Community Forum	Bushy Park
OCT	Council Listening Post	High Street Market
NOV	General Manager face to face sessions	Council Chambers
DEC	Annual General Meeting	Council Chambers

*Community Forums Schedule for the remainder of 2019*

## EQUIPPING OUR KIDS TO BE STREET SMART

Council are proud to support Derwent Valley Youth and the Street Smart handbook Program. The Street Smart handbook is a practical life guide for 16 and 17 year old school leavers that is designed to help prepare today's youth for life after school.

The handbook covers important topics from sexual health and the effects of drug and alcohol abuse to legal rights and applying for a loan. It also offers information specific to the school leaver to prepare them for entering the workforce.

Our Valley 2030 includes several actions that focus on this important group. The Derwent Valley Youth and Family Strategy, though yet to be developed, will focus on participation, engagement and partnerships with youth and health service providers, ensuring Derwent Valley youth and their families are adequately supported.

The Street Smart Handbook is distributed to Year 11 students through local High Schools with copies also available at the front counter of the Council Administration building.





## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The warmer months of Summer helped our Infrastructure and Development team to tick off many projects listed in the 2018-19 Projects Plan. Completion of road renewal works, the undertaking of our Bridge Replacement program following last year's flood event and other upgrades to Council infrastructure have continued over the last few months.

These works included:

### ***Esplanade pontoon and rowing ways***

The pontoon and rowing ways were officially completed in February/March with some further works and repair of damaged flotation device being required due to vandalism. CCTV has since been installed in an effort to deter further damage with footage relayed to police station for monitoring.



### ***Installation of security cameras in New Norfolk***

Working in consultation with Tas Police and MAST (Marine and Safety Tasmania), installation of security cameras commenced in April at key locations around New Norfolk. The cameras will help increase security around town and be used as vandalism deterrents, also helping to reduce maintenance costs.

### ***Council Admin building public toilets***

The women's toilet at the council chambers was upgraded during April and May to a new, all abilities unisex toilet including new fixtures and fittings, family change room and baby change table. The toilet was designed to be compliant with disability access in mind, and a solid lockable external door replaced the previous steel gate, enhancing security for all users.

### ***Bridge restoration program***

Several bridge restoration projects were completed in April with timber re-decking completed on various bridges on Molesworth Rd and off Lachlan and Glen Fern Roads.



### ***Caravan Park Entrance***

A new Caravan Park entrance was constructed during February including additional pavement and installation of a controlled boom gate being carried out since then. The relocation of the entrance from The Esplanade to Page Ave enabled the closure of the Esplanade to vehicles, allowing construction to commence on the new New Norfolk Rowing Club on the corner of Ferry Street and The Esplanade.



### ***Lachlan Road Landslip***

After many months of negotiation and taking the time to get the right design, the Lachlan Road Landslip was completed in May. Large sections of tensioned mesh were installed to stabilise the slip zone and allow for vegetation regrowth.

### ***Derwent Valley Dog Exercise Area***

After consultation with stakeholders and the general public, a location at Humphrey Street Reserve was approved to install a fenced area including necessary core infrastructure elements; 'air lock' access gates, service gates, pathways leading to the site, and landscaping. The available budget permitted a small area to be fenced and opened, with the ability for future expansion, subject to additional funding.

### ***Maydena Community playground***

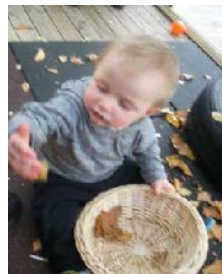
Installation of new playground equipment at Maydena Community Children's Park commenced around Easter. The Maydena Community Association assisted council to remove the old, non-compliant equipment and chose the type of equipment for the playground.

### ***Molesworth and Lachlan Community Notice Boards***

Council was successful in obtaining a Flood Recovery Grant, enabling Council to purchase and install two new Community Notice Boards to be located at Gleeson Park, Lachlan and outside the Molesworth Community Hall.



## VALLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE



At the Valley Children's Centre, nature play supports children's learning. Early childhood educators at the centre use the outdoors to enhance the children's playtime and teach them about their natural environment.



The younger ages are introduced to nature through activities like playing with autumn leaves. The sounds, smells and textures help gross motor and sensory development.

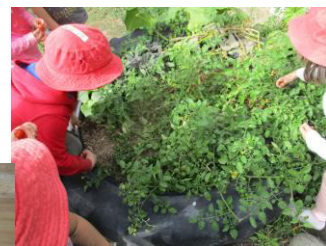


These children utilise nature to challenge their abilities to climb the logs and rocks pushing their own limits and boundaries in a fun social game.

Nature also provides for opportunities for children to learn mathematical concepts such as size, shape, number and pattern and help to sort or classify objects.

Nature can be utilised in so many ways as open ended experiences that support multiple areas of learning.

Children learn sustainable practices and develop positive attitudes, along with a healthy respect for the environment they live in. They learn about planting, caring for the plants we grow, recycling our scrap food, water care and the children love to harvest and eat the food they grow.



Through the community gardens, the children are provided opportunities to learn about gardening on a larger scale and to learn about good bugs that help the garden and bugs that we do not want in the garden.



'Like' the Valley Children's Centre on Facebook to stay in touch.

## DERWENT VALLEY RECREATION, PLAY, OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

We have engaged At Leisure Planners to prepare a Recreation, Play and Open Spaces Strategy. This will guide Council in relation to recreation and open space for the next 10 years and focus on some specific issues such as:

- priorities for play and open space across the valley
- opportunities to increase participation and wellbeing
- enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Derwent Valley
- the acquisition of new open space and disposal of any surplus
- open space requirements in new residential developments.

### **Have your say**

Council is seeking input from residents, clubs and community groups, and users of public open space to help direct this strategy.

### **We'd like to know:**

- What do you like most about public open space, parks recreation and sporting facilities in the Derwent Valley?
- What Council could do to encourage more people to be active, feel included and enjoy parks, sports facilities and recreation facilities more?
- How can the value of public open space and Council-owned resources be better realised?
- What is the priority for improvements to parks, reserves or public facilities that would benefit the broadest range of the community?

Visit the 'Current Projects' page on [www.atleisure.com.au](http://www.atleisure.com.au) to fill in an online survey. We will also be conducting phone surveys and holding group forums. Keep an eye out on our facebook page and The Gazette for more details shortly.

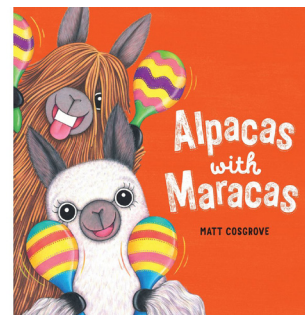
## NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME



On Friday 24 May, Mayor Shaw represented Council to participate in National Simultaneous Storytime at the New Norfolk Library. National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual event, where schools, libraries and childcare centres all read the same story at the same time.

This year, New Norfolk Primary attended to hear this year's story, *Alpacas with Maracas*. To add to the fun and engagement for all, the students heard the story first, and then used materials provided by the library to make their own maracas. The children then used their maracas at key points of the story as Mayor Shaw read it to the children for a second time.

Kate Boatwright from New Norfolk Library said that this was the first time the library has participated in National Simultaneous Storytime, but they were eager that this would be the first of many. She also said that they were hoping to start hosting more regular events for the library to engage with local schools for various activities.



## Derwent Valley Council News

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