



Mayors Message

7 May 2008

MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET

Council adopted the Draft Management Plan and Budget for 2008/11 on Monday at an Extraordinary meeting. This plan clearly identifies the direction that Council will be taking over the next 12 month period, and gives an outline of projects for the coming 3 years.

The plan is on public display, which means that you have an opportunity to comment on its contents and the direction of Council. Council will accept your thoughts on this plan until 5.00pm Thursday 5 June 2008.

Highlights from the plan include:

- Creation of a new strategic plan for the community, this will occur following the release of guidelines from the Department of Local Government.
- Stage 1 of a review of sporting facilities and how they may be utilised greater
- Finalisation of the Local Environmental Plan
- Assessment of the Caravan Park requirements and recommendations for completion
- A review of Council's organisational operations
- Compilation of a community engagement and consultation plan
- Implementation of recycling
- Review and enhancement of the Charter and roles of progress associations
- Development of a scheme for volunteer recognition.

These of course will be in addition to the normal operations that Council carries out on a daily basis.

RATING REVIEW

Also on Monday Council met to review the rating structure review. This meeting set rating charges that are incorporated into the Management Plan.

Council very carefully considered the effect that any changes would have on you the ratepayer. The new structure, while many ratepayers have changed category most will see only a minimal change in the amount they are paying for rates.

Council has implemented a system that is fair and equitable to all ratepayers.

For those people who have changed categories I remind you that you are able to make an objection to your nominated category. Please check your notification letter as this details the date for response to Council.

MEDICAL CENTRE

Well you can see the rapid progress being made on the construction of the medical centre, I would like to let everyone know that the hydrotherapy pool is being installed over coming weeks. Delivery of the pool onto the site is scheduled for 8 May 2008 and full fitout and installation should be completed within 3 weeks. The final finishing touches should be then completed for the pool building.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

A reminder that The Electoral Commission of NSW are conducting a seminar in Young on Saturday 17 May 2008 running between 10.30 am and 12 noon for all interested candidates. The Electoral Commission will be facilitating the seminars and are aiming to cover key topics that prospective candidates need to have an understanding of prior to nominating for council. Existing candidates are encouraged to attend as there are many changes in legislative requirements and operational procedures from the 2004 local government elections.

Those people wishing to attend should contact the General Manager to make a booking.

Philip Hockney OAM
Mayor
7 May 2008