



# Kingborough

## Media Release

### COUNCIL ADOPTS BUDGET FOR 2017/18

**For immediate release**

**5 June 2017**

Kingborough Council has approved a four per cent rate increase for 2017/18.

While Council officers had originally recommended a larger rate increase for next financial year, Council determined an increase of four per cent, which was in line with the approved Long Term Financial Plan, was appropriate.

The rate rise will cost ratepayers on average, approximately \$1 extra per week, per household, depending on the capital value of the property.

The smaller increase in rates will delay Council in achieving an underlying surplus by 12 months. However, Council reached its decision with the community in mind. The Mayor of Kingborough, Cr Steve Wass said "While Council understands the reasons for the officers' recommendation; we considered the community's capacity to pay with other increases in the cost of living."

The Long Term Financial Plan aims to improve Council's overall financial sustainability into the future and continues to strike the right balance between maintaining a fair and equitable rating structure for all ratepayers and provides appropriate funding for required capital works."

The Long Term Financial Plan will be updated to reflect the current financial position of Council, including the loss of TasWater dividends effective from 1 June 2018. The plan will be available on Council's website and hard copies can be requested from the Civic Centre.

Kingborough Council has the lowest rates per rateable property in the Urban Medium Council category. The proposed increase will maintain Kingborough as charging the lowest rates, comparable to similar sized councils such as Clarence, Hobart and Glenorchy.

The total capital works budget for 2017/18 is \$19.04 million, including \$10 million for the Kingston Park project.





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The replacement and rehabilitation of infrastructure assets has been identified as a priority.

Highlights of new works, maintenance and stormwater solutions include:

- Upgrade to Tinderbox beach and reserve
- Significant investment in road works including resealing, reconstruction, rehabilitation and maintenance.
- Major road projects include: sealing of Oxley Road, rehabilitation of Morris Avenue and Mountain Road, Blanch Avenue reconstruction and Brightwater Road rehabilitation and stormwater upgrades.
- Major stormwater projects include Brown's River erosion stabilisation; Whitewater Creek and Nebraska Road stabilisation and Algona Road stormwater upgrades.
- Coningham toilet block replacement.
- Sports facilities upgrades, including showers at the Sports Centre, lighting at Kingston Beach and a new training ground for Lightwood Park.

Council remains committed to returning to a sustainable operating surplus, while continuing to provide a variety of unique and innovative services, including facilities and services for senior members, activities and workshops for youth, and other community events and initiatives promoting the health and well-being of Kingborough residents.

## ENDS

*For more information please contact Sarah Wilcox, Media & Communications Officer for Kingborough Council on 0428 033085 or 6211 8265.*

