



# Special edition budget and council plan

## Providing for city's growth

**MAKING** provision for Wodonga's expected growth takes priority with Wodonga Council in its newly released four-year council plan.

The council plan, which also includes a strong focus on the health and wellbeing of Wodonga residents, comes under three pillars in line with the council's vision of our city, our people and our future.

Wodonga Mayor Cr Mark Byatt said the plan had a strong focus on fulfilling the council's vision for a prosperous regional city which was alive with opportunity and thriving on growth and investment.

"Some of the key priorities for this will include investigating the feasibility of creating an urban square which extends Woodland Grove to interface with The Cube Wodonga," Cr Byatt said.

"We have also recognised the need to co-operatively work with developers in the central business area to understand their needs and challenges and deliver on projects which are of vital importance to our city."

Cr Byatt said the council continued to focus on Logic Wodonga, including attracting more businesses to the

logistics hub and strengthening the capacity of the existing tenants.

"This desire to grow existing businesses is also a key theme throughout the council plan, as we believe the council has a strong role in supporting them and encouraging them to strengthen, therefore creating employment opportunities and jobs growth," he said.

The plan has also identified many opportunities for working with all sectors on the community.

"As a council, we see it as important that while we plan for growth and development, we maintain the

services, facilities and environment which make Wodonga such a desirable place to live," he said.

"A well-planned community means that Wodonga will not lose the identity which appeals to people."

Members of the public are invited to give feedback on the council plan at [makewodongayours.com.au](http://makewodongayours.com.au). Hard copies can be accessed at the city offices in Hovell St, community centres and Wodonga Library.

Formal submissions, which can be heard before a sub-committee of the council, must be received by 5pm on Wednesday, June 12.

## Traffic experiences in CBA will be improved

**WODONGA** Council has set the foundations for the city's future in a visionary and innovative draft budget, presented at May's council meeting.

The draft budget places a strong emphasis on improving the city's Central Business Area (CBA), including the realignment of Elgin Blvd (\$5.8m), as well as continuing to provide a wide array of services and facilities to the city's residents.

Wodonga Mayor Cr Mark Byatt said with many exciting developments happening in the CBA over the next decade, it was vital the council planned carefully for this.

"Wodonga is one of the fastest growing cities in Victoria and as such, the council must manage this growth while continuing to provide the quality of living our community enjoys," he said.

"This draft budget proposes new borrowings of \$3 million in the next financial year and the council proposes a further \$5.8 million will be borrowed over the following three years to provide a strong platform for these multi-generational projects and ensure that the council's future vision for the city's heart will be achieved.

"It is important that we continue to foster this growth in our CBA and build the necessary infrastructure to attract businesses and further investment to our city."

He said that many of the budget items were in response to community feedback, including the Hovell St green space, which the council was

confident would add to the vibrancy of the city's heart.

Cr Byatt said the draft budget proposes a 4.75 per cent rates increase.

The total council budget is \$64.6 million, with \$36.4 million in rates revenue. The operating result is \$3.96 million. The underlying result when contributions and capital grants are excluded is a \$0.49 million deficit.

### The capital works budget is \$17.6 million, with highlights including:

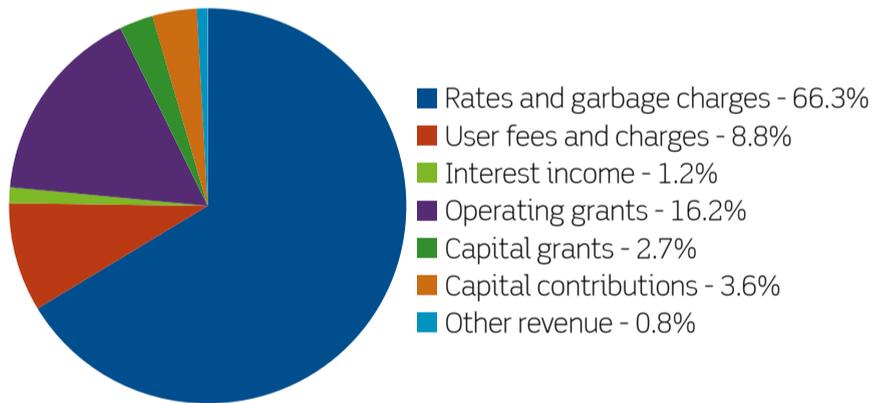
- CBA: \$10.4 million\*
  - Roads: \$2.9 million\*
  - Upgrade of Wodonga Tennis Centre: \$1.04 million\*
  - Health and wellbeing projects: \$445,000\*
  - Cycle paths: \$240,000
  - City entrances: \$200,000
  - Playgrounds: \$180,000
- \*Includes grants and contributions

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Formal submissions, which can be heard before a sub-committee of the council, must be received by 5pm on Wednesday, June 12 marked to the attention of Trevor Ierino at the council or can be emailed to [tierino@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:tierino@wodonga.vic.gov.au)

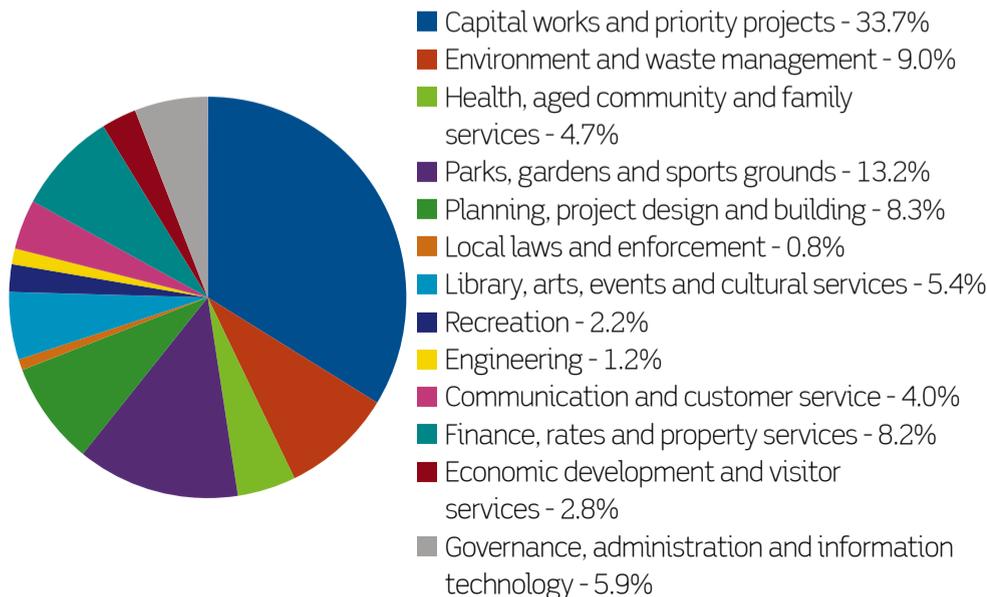
### Council's revenue sources

The below chart provides an indication of Council's revenue sources. It shows what percentage each revenue source provides.



### Council's expenditure allocations

The below chart provides an indication of how Council allocates its expenditure across the main services that it delivers. It shows what percentage is allocated to each service area that council spends.



# About the council plan:

The plan outlines key strategic priorities that the council will deliver over the next services and budget allocations. At the heart of the council plan is the vision for 'Our community in all that we do. This mission will guide the decisions of the council. It is planning and this is reflected throughout the document. The council will measure it on an annual basis. The council plan is developed around three key areas:

## Our city:

### Planning for growth and development

*Highlights from the council plan*



**Strategic objective: Wodonga is a prosperous regional city, alive with opportunity and thriving on growth and investment.**



Complete the review of the Wodonga Planning Scheme to ensure it includes a growth strategy, reflects housing diversity and healthy and affordable living principles.



Complete the Central Business Area 2020 Vision and Strategic Action Plan.



Complete the realignment of Elgin Boulevard.



Continue to work with Places Victoria to ensure divestment of Junction Place land.



Continue to attract new and diverse businesses to Logic Wodonga.



Lobby for a second university in Wodonga.

Continue to lobby State and Federal government for funding towards projects of regional significance such as the Baranduda Sporting Precinct.



## Our people:

### Providing a great lifestyle

*Highlights from the council plan*



**Strategic objective: Our people will enjoy a great lifestyle.**



Implement the Healthy Together Wodonga initiative and the Be Active initiative.

Work with Albury Wodonga Health to develop a strategy to maximise positive outcomes for Wodonga.

Work with the Department of Health to successfully transition aged care services to a new provider.

Determine future uses for the Wodonga racecourse precinct.

Complete the integration of the public health planning into the council plan and then receive approval by the Minister of Health.



four years. It is used to plan for the community – its priorities, major projects, our city, our people, our future'. The council's mission is to strengthen our community. It is the council's belief that public health and wellbeing is inherent in all council activities. We report progress towards achieving targets and report back to the community on an annual basis.



## Our future:

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enjoy an excellent quality of life.



### Managing our business to support our community

#### *Highlights from the council plan*

**Strategic objective: We are innovative, responsive and responsible in the way we conduct business.**

Review and implement a community engagement strategy.

Continue to maintain city landscapes and public areas that promote civic pride.

Continue to work with the Victorian Government and Hume regional councils in development and implementation of Hume Regional Growth Plan.

Develop an organisational plan which responds to the council and community's vision for Wodonga.



IMAGE: Ben Robson

# Message from your councillors



## Challenges and opportunities for our city

**WODONGA** continues to be one of Victoria's fastest growing regional cities and has enjoyed a sustained population growth rate, and ongoing residential, commercial, and industrial development. Wodonga's residential population base is fast approaching 40,000; and as a regional 'hub', our city services a regional catchment of approximately 175,000 people, making it the largest city in North East Victoria.

**Vision for Wodonga**  
Our community vision to 2033 (where Wodonga's population is expected to be in excess of 50,000 people) encompasses excitement, inclusiveness and a great deal of civic pride for the future. The vision focuses clearly on 'Our city, our people, our future'; and to use a descriptive phrase from our past, "this city is measured by the character of its people".

Delivering the vision will require comprehensive forward planning, sustained investment in infrastructure and services and continuing focus on a sustainable economy. Maintaining Wodonga as a liveable city, and maximising partnerships with government, industry, business and our community will be critical.

**The changing face of Wodonga**  
The council is required to plan both for today and tomorrow. It's fair to say Wodonga is emerging from its existence as a rural-based town, to very quickly becoming a significant regional city and important contributor to Victoria's economy, liveability and vision for a 'state of cities'.

The rail revitalisation project has created a unique and historical opportunity to build Wodonga's 'city heart' for the current community and future generations, as well as strengthen our prominence in the region and the state.

**The challenges**  
In this environment of ongoing growth, Wodonga is challenged to

meet the increasing community expectations for a sustained level and quality of services, and the provision of a wide range of higher order, well maintained community infrastructure and assets.

To meet these demands, the council (on behalf of community), state and federal governments, public and private organisations, will need to work together in order to leverage their collective capacity. The requirement of the council is to plan for, and balance the existing community expectations and future growth requirements with a mind on priority, affordability and impact to ratepayers.

The council plan and budget being presented to the community reflects these priorities and commitments.

**The opportunities**  
First and foremost, the prospect of creating and building the city's heart will take a number of years to complete and will require great vision, determination and courage, as well as significant and ongoing investment.

Continued co-operation with both public and private organisations will be required to ensure important developments progress in and around our city. A benefit of this will be the strengthening of our economy, and increased diversity and services for our community. We are indeed in for an especially exhilarating journey as a community.

**The final word**  
In finishing, Wodonga as one of Victoria's and the nation's vital regional cities has before it a number of very unique and inspiring opportunities. With my colleagues in the council, I commend this bold four-year plan and supporting budget, which will support the direction of the city and underpin what can only be described as unprecedented growth and an enviable lifestyle choice.

## About the Wodonga Council draft budget:

THE draft budget forms an integral part of the council's overall strategic planning framework. It provides a basis for enabling the delivery of the directions which have been established in the council plan.

The council's priority is to ensure that the council plans and provides for both current and future generations with a focus on careful financial management.

Wodonga is one of the fastest growing regional cities in Victoria and as a council, it must carefully plan and manage this growth. A challenge, but also an opportunity, is to provide the quality of living that the community enjoys, while also maintaining existing assets, ensuring an appropriate level of

borrowings and being conscious of the impact of rate levels on the community.

The draft budget contains information about rate increases, operating forecasts, service levels, cash and investments, capital works, financial position, financial sustainability and key strategic activities of the council.

It should be read in conjunction with the council plan and Strategic Resource Plan, which provides a detailed analysis, information and the necessary strategies to achieve long-term sustainability.

Formal submissions, which can be heard before a sub-committee of the council, must be received by 5pm on Wednesday, June 12.

## Borrowings:

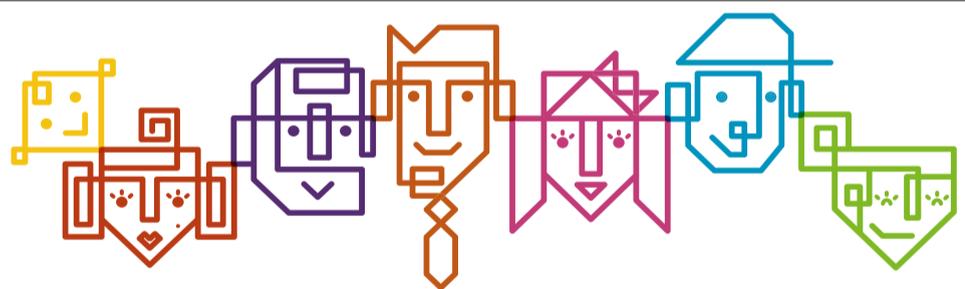
NEW borrowings will be \$3 million, which will fund the council's share of infrastructure upgrades at Junction Place, including the realignment of Elgin Boulevard.

The following factors were considered with these new borrowings:

- The borrowings can be mainly funded in the long-term by the new rates growth which will occur as a

result of the Junction Place development.

- The project will benefit current and future generations.
- The project is key to Wodonga's continued growth.
- They are consistent with strong financing principles and the council's strategic direction.



## Make Wodonga Yours

[makewodongayours.com.au](http://makewodongayours.com.au)

**TO** have your say about the 2013 - 2014 to 2016 - 2017 *Proposed Wodonga Council Plan*, visit [makewodongayours.com.au](http://makewodongayours.com.au) and follow these four simple steps:

1. Register to get involved – shown on the right hand corner of the home page;

2. Check your personal email inbox for an activation link;

3. Click on the link to verify your registration and account; and

4. Your registration is now complete.

**citylife**  
wodonga.vic.gov.au

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Council meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the third Monday of the month (except if it falls on a public holiday). Meetings are held in the Wodonga Council chambers on level two, council offices, 104 Hovell St, Wodonga and commence at 6pm. Agendas can be downloaded from the council's website the Friday prior to the meeting and minutes are also available after the meeting.

See [wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://wodonga.vic.gov.au) for contact details for all councillors.