



2014/2015 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How is the Business Plan and Budget (BP&B) developed?

A. The BP&B is an important part of Council's overall planning and is developed with reference to Councils Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans.

It links our strategic goals with our long term financial planning with our annual Budget process to ensure our priorities reflect the needs of our community.

It defines our objectives for the year and is a statement of the City's intended programs and activities for the financial year.

Q. What does the BP&B contain?

A. In defining Council's objectives for the year the BP&B contains a summary of estimated revenue and expenditure required to deliver intended programs and activities, all have been developed with the context of Councils commitment to financial sustainability and longer term financial planning. Importantly, it also describes Councils rating strategy and the impact on rates for our ratepayers.

Q. What is the impact on rates for ratepayers in the Draft BP&B?

A. Council's Long Term Financial Plan predicts a required 5% increase in rates, however the draft Budget is able to be balanced with a lesser 4.8% rate revenue increase, including a growth factor (new assessments) estimated to be in the order of 0.5% which we anticipate will result in an average rate increase of a little over 4% for 2014/2015.

This reduction in rate revenue is able to be achieved due to a combination of factors including:

- Major capital works project tenders less than anticipated (less borrowings)
- Savings in operational costs
- Success in grant funding for major capital works projects (less borrowings)

Q. How do Mount Gambier rates compare on a state wide basis?

A. The most recent (2013/2014) Local Government Association Rates Summary provide the following average residential rates comparative data:

- Average for all SA Councils	\$	1,178
- Average for all SA Metro Councils	\$	1,360
- Average for all SA Regional Councils	\$	1,093
- Average for City of Mount Gambier	\$	984

Q. What are some of the more significant projects contained in the BP&B?

A. Continuation of major capital works projects:

- Former hospital site	\$ 500,000
- Rail lands development (\$1m grant funding)	\$ 2,000,000
- CBD renewal	\$ 300,000

New Projects including:

- Blue Lake walking path lighting	\$ 450,000
- Men's Shed	\$ 80,000
- Dog Park	\$ 50,000
- Crater Lakes – deceased tree removal	\$ 100,000
- Education investment Fund (UniSA)	\$ 100,000
- 2014 Local Government Election	\$ 80,000

In addition Council has maintained all existing annual infrastructure programs i.e. roads, footpaths, drainage, playgrounds, plant replacement etc.

The Draft BP&B is available from:

<http://haveyoursaymountgambier.com.au/20142015-draft-business-plan-and-budget>

Q. When does consultation close on the Draft BP&B?

A. Friday, 9th May, 2014, after which time special meetings of Council will be scheduled to consider public submissions and eventually finalise the 2014/2015 Business Plan and Budget.