

## Rating

### Rate Capping

The Council is very aware of the current financial environment the community is experiencing and has endeavoured to keep increases to a minimum. Again, this year, a rate cap of 12% is being proposed to address any potential inequities with how the rates are levied across the region.

### Rebates and Concessions

The Local Government Act requires Councils to rebate the rates payable on some land. Specific provisions are made for land used for health services, community services, religious purposes, public cemeteries and educational institutions.

Discretionary rebates may be applied by the Council under Section 166 of the Act, upon receipt of applications in accordance with Council's Rate Rebate Policy that deem to satisfy the criteria specified within the Policy.

The Berri Barmera Council will again offer additional concessions.

For those ratepayers who are on fixed incomes such as pensioners and self funded retirees, we will remit a fixed amount of \$20 per annum of the general rates, \$20 per annum of the effluent drainage charge and \$20 per annum of the waste management service charge.

To be eligible to receive the remission an application must be made to Council and is subject to the following criteria:

- The property is the principal residence of the ratepayer;
- The ratepayer is able to produce one of the following identification cards:
  - ◊ Pensioner concession card—Centrelink
  - ◊ Pensioner concession card—Veteran Affairs
  - ◊ T.P.I. Card—Veteran Affairs
  - ◊ Or they can demonstrate to Council that they are a self funded retiree with an income of less than \$35,000 per annum.



## Further Information

### Remission, Postponement and Deferment of Rates

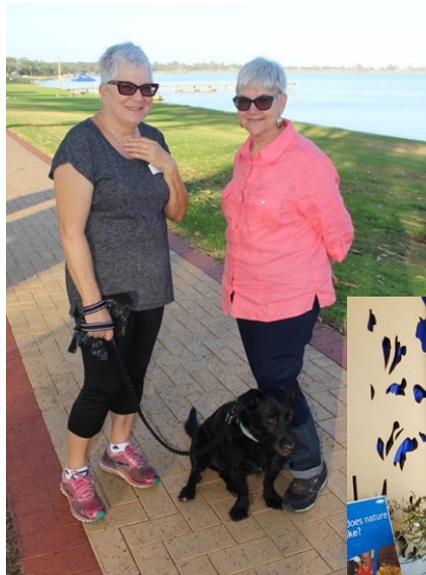
The Local Government Act permits the Council, on the application of the ratepayer, to partially or wholly remit rates or to postpone rates on the basis of hardship. Where a ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates it is recommended to contact the Rates Officer on (08) 8582 1922 to discuss the matter.

The due dates for the quarterly instalments of Council rates for 2019/2020 are 2 September 2019, 2 December 2019, 2 March 2020 and 1 June 2020.

The Berri Barmera Council (Principal Office)  
19 Wilson Street, BERRI SA 5343  
Telephone (08) 8582 1922  
Fax (08) 8582 3029  
Postal Address PO Box 229, BERRI SA 5343  
Email – [bbc@bbc.sa.gov.au](mailto:bbc@bbc.sa.gov.au)

Barmera Library Customer Service Centre  
Barwell Avenue  
BARMERA SA 5345

A copy of the entire Annual Business Plan 2019/2020 can be obtained from Council's offices or from Council's website [www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au](http://www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au).



**Berri  
Barmera**  
COUNCIL

*Building a better community*



**The recent State Government budget delivered to Councils an increase to the Solid Waste Levy which is imposed under the Environment Protection Act 1993.**

Council was well into its preparations and consultation of the Annual Business Plan when the announcement was made by the State Government that they were proposing an increase to the Solid Waste Levy.

**For the Berri Barmera Council this will mean an additional \$39,000 in waste disposal costs for 2019/2020.** These costs would normally be recovered by the Waste Management Services Charge.

To recover the additional charges brought about by the State Government, Council would be required to increase its waste management service charge by 5.5%.

Council have decided however to find savings throughout the budget as the year progresses and retain the proposed increase of 2% to the waste management service charge that is necessary to recover general contract cost increases.

The 2019/2020 Annual Business Plan and Budget provides information about the activities, projects and key outcomes that the Berri Barmera Council intend to undertake over the course of the coming financial year.

In formulating the Annual Business Plan, Council has reflected on its commitment to providing the community ongoing investment in core infrastructure and the continuation of ongoing service delivery and community initiatives. There are 99 planned projects that will contribute towards achieving Council's long term objectives.

Council remains committed to improving the community's assets while respecting the community's ability to pay rates and has kept the increases at reasonable levels with the proposed average residential rate increase of \$34 per annum (0.65 cents per week).

I encourage all community members to review the Annual Business Plan as it details the projects and priorities Council will undertake on their behalf over the next twelve months.

*Karyn Burton, Chief Executive Officer*

## Future Direction - Strategic Plan

The Council's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 outlines the following Vision, Mission and Goals as an expression of Council's response to the aspirations of the community and to ensure our district is a great place to live, now and into the future.

### 3.1 Our Vision

In 2030 the Berri Barmera Council will be a sustainable, prosperous, confident regional community throughout the Riverland of SA.

### 3.2 Our Mission

Our business is to work with the greater community of the Riverland to create opportunities, strengthen partnerships and build a vibrant, inclusive society.

### 3.3 Our Goals

The goals outlined describe Council's objectives in being *ADVOCATES OF OPPORTUNITY*. They are Council's reply as to what it will do to combat the challenges that face the region in the foreseeable future.

For further information regarding these objectives please refer to Council's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 which can be viewed online at [www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au](http://www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au).

The Annual Business Plan is built initially from the recommendations of the endorsed Long Term Financial Plan, however there are other influencing factors taken into consideration, particularly with regards to the impact on rate revenue. The major influencing factors are listed below:

- Receipt of funding from the Federal Government in response to drought and the effects on the community, thus enabling Council to bring forward and carry out much required infrastructure works.
- Planning for future residential development and industrial / commercial development through the provision and need for key infrastructure to support such development and growth.

- Council's Strategic Plan and the focus it places on its future direction providing a sound basis for long term financial management and on-going financial sustainability of the Council.
- Increasing statutory matters that absorb significant amounts of staff time. These include reporting to Council's Community Wastewater Management Services regulator, the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA). Recent changes to the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act and the Animal Management Act have an impact on staff resourcing as well.
- Requirements to maintain and improve infrastructure assets to acceptable standards including roads, footpaths, kerbing/guttering, stormwater drainage, parks and gardens and recreational reserves, council properties and the like.
- Increasing regulatory standards e.g. audit committee, risk management and occupational health and safety compliance.
- Local Government Cost Index increases on relevant goods and services.
- Enterprise bargaining agreements which provide for wages and salary increases. This includes the retention and recruitment of qualified and experienced staff.
- Cost increases higher than that of the published CPI, such as electricity and water charges, insurances, waste management charges and fuel and oil costs.
- The requirement to maintain the provision of services at the high level currently provided and expected of the community – yet striving towards an operating surplus position.

## Project Priorities for 2019/2020

- Upgrade to irrigation at Cobdogla Oval and Barmera Memorial Oval
- Monash Township Revamp – upgrade medians, install artificial turf, install seating and carry out landscaping.
- Continuation of shared use path along Riverview Drive/Fenwick Road
- Enhancements to new Berri Wharf including programmable lighting, rendering swim steps, picnic seating and signage
- Tourism signage upgrades
- Upgrades to Barmera Soldiers Memorial Hall including solar installation, electrical upgrades and air conditioning
- Installation of solar panels on Berri Town Hall, Civic Centre and Council Works Depot buildings
- Purchase of equipment for Bonney Theatre Projection
- Lighting for Lake Bonney Jetty
- New playground equipment for Monash Adventure Park
- Upgrade to spectator seating at Riverland Regional Innovation and Sports Precinct
- Upgrade amenity adjacent to Barmera Skatepark/Community sports precinct.
- Upgrade Lake Bonney walking/cycling path

- Install footpath in between Berri Stadium and Berri Special School
- Lake Bonney Barmera Caring for Country Management Plan
- Berri Swimming Centre improvements
- Berri Council office accommodation
- Berri No. 1 Oval Grandstand

## Rate and Service charge

To fund the 2019/2020 Budget, Council will raise operating revenue of \$16,244,446. This includes an amount of \$8,344,546 coming from general rate revenue. It will continue to use the differential rating method based on land use.

Council provides a Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) to each of its townships and the full cost to maintain this service for 2019/2020 is budgeted to be \$3,572,417. These costs include capital expenditure of \$417,326 for the replacement and renewal of pumps and other equipment and for the running of the Wastewater Re-Use Scheme. The service charge for 2019/2020 is \$718 per occupied unit and \$359 for each unoccupied (vacant land) unit.

The total revenue Council will raise from the effluent drainage service charge is \$2,887,078

Council provides a recycling and green waste collection. This service includes –

- Weekly domestic collection in a smaller 140 litre bin for all properties
- Fortnightly recycling collection in a 240 litre bin for all properties
- Fortnightly green waste collection in a 240 litre bin for town residential properties.

The annual service charge has been set at \$220 for the three bin collection and \$186 for the two bin collection. This is a 2% increase on 2018/2019 charges.

