

Future Direction—Strategic Plan

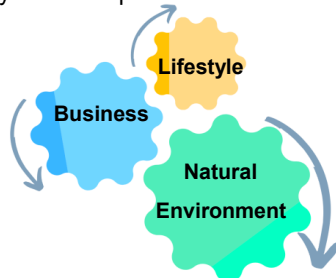
Council's Strategic Community Plan 2020-2025 outlines the following Vision, Mission and Goals as an expression of Council's response to the aspirations of the community and to ensure our district is a great place to live, now and into the future.

Our Vision

To enhance the livability and enterprise of our community.

Our Values

Professionalism
Excellence
Service
Leadership
Resilience
Accountability
Inclusiveness



Our Themes

Our Strategic Community Plan is shaped by three themes. Our commitment to these three themes shapes our work, our values and our practices. They are Council's reply as to what it will do to combat the challenges that face the region in the foreseeable future. The themes are Lifestyle, Natural Environment and Business and are intertwined so that when all three themes are being addressed collectively that will provide our community a way of life we can all be proud of.

For further information regarding these objectives please refer to Council's Strategic Plan 2020- 2025 which can be viewed online at www.berribarmerra.sa.gov.au.

Influencing Factors

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 both Federal and State Governments in response to COVID-19 to provide economic stimulus within the community.
- 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 Community 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 a significant amount 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 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 by the community – yet striving towards an operating surplus position.
- The economic effects that the COVID-19 global pandemic has had and will continue to have on every sector of the community.

Project Priorities for 2021/2022

- Construction of Multisport Changerooms and Oval Lighting Upgrades at the Barmerra Sporting Precinct
- Lake Bonney Nature and Cultural Tourism Project (Caring for Country)
- Environmental Management and Sustainability Strategy
- Initial activation of other strategic planning being the Growth Strategy, Alan Glassey Master Plan and Coombe Street Master Plan.
- Streetscape Design of McGilton Road, William and Denny Streets and the continuation of Riverview Drive.
- Upgrades to public toilets at Martin Bend and at Overland Corner
- Various small scale projects.

Rate and Service Charge

To fund the Business Plan and Budget, Council will raise operating revenue of \$17,824,103 which includes general rates of \$8,864,938.

The Valuer-General has provided Council with the property valuations for 2021/2022 whereby there has been an overall increase of 6.45% for valuations over the Council area.

Council provides a Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) to each of its townships and the full cost to maintain this service for 2021/2022 is budgeted to be \$3,199,310. These costs include capital expenditure of \$150,000 for the replacement and renewal of pumps and other equipment and for the running of the Wastewater Re-Use Scheme. The service charge for 2021/2022 is \$760.00 per occupied unit and \$724.50 for each unoccupied (vacant land) unit.

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 \$234 for the three bin collection and \$198 for the two bin collection. The fee for an additional red bin will be \$215.



Rate Relief measures

Rebates and Remissions

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.

For those ratepayers who are on fixed incomes such as pensioners and self funded retirees, Council 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.

The rebates and remissions are subject to the applicant meeting certain criteria. For further information please refer to the Annual Business Plan document or get in touch with Council directly.

Rate Capping Rebate

For 2021/2022 Council are proposing to apply a rate cap of 1.5% to all residential properties. This decision is in response to rapid property valuation increases experienced by the residential sector and a rate relief mechanism allowable to Councils under the Local Government Act.

In addition, to address any potential inequities in how the rates are levied across the district, Council has decided to continue to provide relief by way of an additional rate capping. Where a ratepayer is levied an increase in general rates greater than 12% a rate cap will be applied to ensure no ratepayer will pay any more than 12% on the previous year's general rates for all property categories other than residential (which has a rate cap of 1.5% applied).

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 they contact the Rates Officer on (08) 8582 1922 to discuss the matter.

Further information

The due dates for the quarterly instalments of Council rates for 2021/2022 are:

Quarter 1	15 September, 2021
Quarter 2	15 December, 2021
Quarter 3	15 March, 2022
Quarter 4	15 June, 2022



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A copy of the entire Annual Business Plan 2021/2022 can be obtained from Council's offices or from Council's website www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au.



The 2021/2022 Annual Business Plan and Budget is a plan developed for sustained services and improvements following a turbulent period that impacted our society during the COVID-19 pandemic, with its impact continuing to be felt across our district and region.

The Annual Business Plan and Budget sets out Council's proposed services, programs and projects across all our district's towns and communities for the coming financial year. It also sets out how Council will fund these.

Council has been fortunate in receiving further capital funding from both the Federal and State Governments which will assist Council to deliver major projects such as the Barmera Multisport Changerooms and Oval Lighting Upgrades.

For 2021/2022 Council proposes to again have a NIL increase to the rate in the dollar for all property categories. The Valuer-General has provided Council with valuations for the purpose of calculating general rates to be charged with residential properties once again experiencing significant valuation increases by an overall increase of 6.45%.

Council are mindful of the impact to council rates that such property valuation increases will have on the normal household budget and therefore will apply a cap to eligible residential properties of 1.5%. To ensure reasonable rate increases are based on the cost of delivering services to the community being approximately equivalent to the Local Government Price Index.

Our aim continues to be to develop an effective, efficient business that balances the future sustainability of Council with the ongoing delivery of important services and programs to our community.

Council and staff look forward to working with our community to implement the projects within the Annual Business Plan, collectively working towards Building a Better Community.

Karyn Burton, Chief Executive Officer

