

Long Term Planning and Rating Strategy

In 2013, Council adopted the following suite of long term plans to guide it over the next ten years:

- Long Term Financial Plan 2013-2023
- Asset Management Plan 2013-2023
- Capital Works Program 2013-2023
- 2013 Rating Strategy

These plans proposed a managed increase of rates while delivering a substantial capital works program to maintain existing assets and to undertake new and exciting projects into the future.

The implementation of and compliance with these plans are the key to achieving ongoing sustainability of Council's operations and the delivery of desired levels of capital expenditure. The documents are available at www.pirie.sa.gov.au.

Council is now entering the third and final year of implementation of the 2013 Rating Review, which strives to achieve consistency by adjusting several principles of rating.

The use of land (as determined by the Valuer-General) now defines rates rather than location (recognising that valuations already allow for location and accessibility to services).

Ratepayers are reminded that local residential rates and primary production rates are still generally lower than those charged by neighbouring and similar regional Councils. With the implementation now complete, ratepayers can expect a more consistent application of modest rate increases in future years.

Community Consultation

In recent times, Council has made a concerted effort to provide information to the community on its plans, projects, facilities and services. Communication methods used include:

- ✚ Local newspapers, television and radio
- ✚ The "Pirieodical" for budget and other special purposes
- ✚ Social media, including Council's Facebook page
- ✚ Council's website, located at pirie.sa.gov.au
- ✚ Community eNews newsletter.

If you wish to subscribe to Council's Community eNews, go to Council's website and fill in your details. Council encourages your comments on its activities and values your feedback.

Council Achievements 2014/15

- ✓ Upgrade of shelter, carpark and entrance door at the Tourism and Arts Centre;
- ✓ Construction of shelters and installation of irrigation at various cemeteries;
- ✓ Upgrade of the Crystal Brook Waste Transfer Station;
- ✓ Planning/design for various stormwater drainage projects;
- ✓ Construction of shelters at Solomontown Beach and Bowman Park;
- ✓ Playground upgrades at Threadgold Park and Napperby;

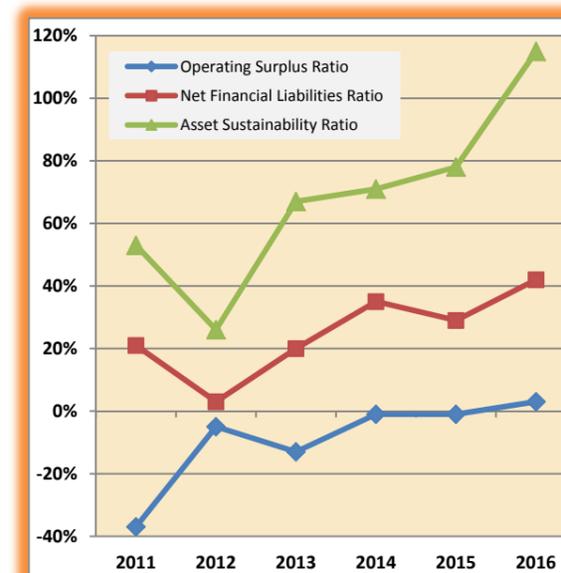


- ✓ Construction of a walking trail at Crystal Brook;
- ✓ Construction of the Abattoirs Road curve realignments;
- ✓ Road construction works at John Street and Greig Road, Crystal Brook and Muster Road, Napperby;
- ✓ Footpath works in Crystal Brook and Napperby;
- ✓ Bridge works at O'Shaunessy, Koolunga and Redhill bridges;
- ✓ Aerodrome runway, fencing and lighting upgrades;
- ✓ Completion of the duplication and upgrade of the Solomontown Boat Ramp facilities;
- ✓ Various building and equipment improvements at the Port Pirie and Crystal Brook swimming pools;
- ✓ Significant and increased commitment to the resealing and resheeting of district roads;
- ✓ Various improvements to community buildings and installation of additional bus shelters;
- ✓ Contributions to local sporting and community organisations and events;
- ✓ Concept planning and consultation for major Port Pirie CBD, Sporting Precinct and City Entrance upgrades.

Performance and Sustainability

Council's operations and financial performance are measured by a series of sustainability indicators. In adopting the budget and setting rates, Council takes into account its financial history and its progress towards achieving its long term targets. Such reviews are critical in Council's strategy to reach and maintain a financially sustainable position in the near future.

The following provides an analysis of Council's actual results to 2014, Forecast for 2014/15 and its adopted Budget for 2015/16.



- **Operating Surplus Ratio** (measuring annual operating result against rate revenue) is improving towards a sustainable surplus (positive) result;
- **Net Financial Liabilities Ratio** (capacity to fund net financial liabilities as a % of operating revenue) is temporarily increasing, but is still well within targets and acceptable industry levels; and
- **Asset Sustainability Ratio** (extent of replacement of existing assets) is improving towards a sustainable level.

Council has set targets for each ratio in its Long Term Financial Plan and will monitor progress of each to ensure that its objectives continue to be met.



2015/16 Annual Business Plan SUMMARY

The detailed Annual Business Plan is available from the Port Pirie Regional Council Administration Centre, Crystal Brook Rural Office and on Council's website www.pirie.sa.gov.au

Message from the Mayor

The 2015/16 Annual Business Plan and Budget provide an overview of Council's plans to provide services and infrastructure for the community, in a financially responsible manner, having regard to its limited resources.



In 2013, Council committed to a series of long term plans which provide a firm and sustainable direction to meet the ongoing aspirations and expectations of the community.

Council continues to follow these plans to provide a range of service improvements as well as the renewal of existing and the provision of new infrastructure throughout the district.

A total of \$12.6 million will be spent on capital projects, including \$5.6 million on road projects and \$1.6 million on the Port Pirie riverfront. Council is also continuing detailed planning for both the CBD rejuvenation and Memorial Oval sporting precinct, in anticipation of major government funding.

Despite challenging reductions in Government funding and increasing utility and construction costs, Council believes that it has managed to adopt a program to further upgrade its wide range of services and facilities for the betterment of the community.

John Rohde
MAYOR

Valuation and Rates

Council has adopted Capital Valuations, as provided by the Valuer-General, as the basis to raise its annual rates. The total valuation of the region is \$2273 million, of which \$2186 million is rateable.

Valuations have generally remained stable, with only a small proportion of properties subject to minor variations. Valuations of most rural land south of Port Pirie have increased, while many Solomontown properties have decreased. Overall, the total Capital Valuation of the district has increased by just 1.04%.

The rating structure includes various components which make up the rates payable, depending on the land use and location of property. The 2015/16 rates comprise of the following:

Fixed Charge (applicable to all properties)

@ \$450 per property (an increase from \$415)

+ Capital Valuation x Rate in \$

(differential rates determined by land use/locality)

Residential	0.375 cents in the \$
Commercial/Industrial	0.750 cents in the \$
Industrial (Smelter)	4.550 cents in the \$
Vacant	0.750 cents in the \$
Primary Production	0.300 cents in the \$
Other	0.375 cents in the \$

+ Waste Management Service Charge

(applicable to all residential properties in the district) @ \$212

+ CWMS Service Charge (per serviced property)

Crystal Brook Occupied \$180, Vacant \$135
Napperby Occupied \$420, Vacant \$315

+ NRM Levy (paid to the NYNRM Board)

(applicable to all properties) @ 0.0145 cents in the \$

= Total Rates Payable

A recent analysis has again identified that despite recent increases, Port Pirie's average residential rate is still well below the State average and less than all other Provincial Cities. It is also evident that the primary production rate in the dollar is comparative to other rural areas.

Last year, Council reviewed its CWMS charges and associated funds held and decided to reduce most fees for both Napperby and Crystal Brook. These fees remain unchanged.

The waste management service charge has reduced by \$16 to \$212 in consideration of the repeal of the carbon tax and efficiency improvements at the waste transfer station.

Council no longer administers pensioner concessions for rates. Eligible cardholders will receive a Cost of Living Concession of up to \$200 from the Department for Communities & Social Inclusion. Council will continue to apply CWMS concessions.

Rates may be paid in quarterly instalments on 11th September 2015, 11th December 2015, 11th March 2016 and 10th June 2016. Further details on rates calculations, concessions and valuations are provided in the Annual Business Plan and on the reverse side of rate notices.

Community Survey

A Community Survey was distributed in March and attracted 600 responses, the most to a Council public consultation in recent years. This public consultation has contributed to Council's planning process by identifying priorities and suggestions for improvement to the region, while also analysing the success of Council's existing services and facilities.

Public consultation was also undertaken on the Port Pirie Sports Precinct project during March 2015, following extensive stakeholder engagement during 2014. The consultation included a "Pirieodical" newsletter, extensive media promotion, social media campaign and, a shop front display. The Sports Precinct survey attracted 152 responses..

Both surveys have provided valuable information for the Council to plan for 2015/16 and well beyond, including towards the current review of its Strategic Plan for the next ten years. Results of the surveys are available from Council's website.

Planning for the Future

2015/16 will be an important year for Council, committing resources to plan various key projects for the coming years. These include:

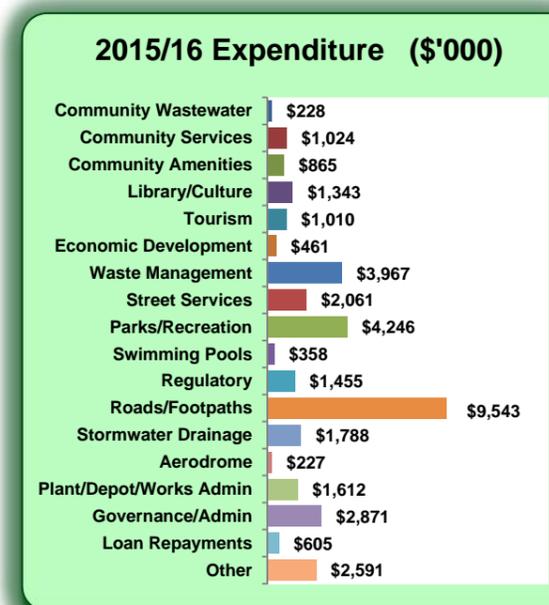
- ✓ Sporting Precinct design/preliminaries
- ✓ Port Pirie CBD design/preliminaries
- ✓ Cattle Track/Redhill Intersection design
- ✓ Crystal Brook Office/Library/Institute redesign
- ✓ Rural Living and Better Development Plans
- ✓ Streetlighting, marine, roundabout landscaping and roadside vegetation strategies

2015/16 ABP at a Glance

- **Capital Works** of \$12.6m, including \$8.3m allocated to the renewal of existing assets and \$4.3m for new assets;
- **Operating Surplus** of \$0.50m (the first planned operating surplus for many years);
- **New Loans** of \$3.7m, repayments of \$0.8m, resulting in a moderate increase to net debt position;
- **Average Residential Rates** increase of 4%-6%;
- Completion of implementation of the **2013 Rating Review**, to align business rates across the district and to increase primary production rates to a similar level as other Councils;
- **Asset Sustainability** improvement, by increasing funding allocations for the replacement/renewal of existing assets.

Budget and Activities

Council relies heavily on rate revenue as its primary source of income, representing 69% of its total operating revenue. Other sources include Government grants (21%), user charges (7%) and statutory charges (2%). The combined capital and operating budget expenditure of \$35.8 million is demonstrated below:



Major Projects for 2015/16

Council is committing a further increase to transport infrastructure with \$5.6 million allocated for **road construction, resealing and resheeting** (including flood damaged roads). The **Abattoirs Road straight** will be widened (subject to grant funding) and various **kerbing and footpaths** will be replaced.

Significant **stormwater works** will also be performed in the Port Pirie CBD and **streetlighting** will be replaced in Ellen Street. Council will undertake detailed design of both the **Memorial Oval Sporting Precinct** and **CBD rejuvenation** projects, which are subject to the receipt of significant government funding.



The area adjacent to the recently extended **Solomontown Boat Ramp** will be upgraded, including the completion of nearby **public conveniences, seawall, rigging area and dredging of the Port Pirie River**. Lighting will also be installed at **Berth 3**.

Works will be undertaken at the Port Pirie and various rural **Cemeteries**, and a number of Council and community buildings will be upgraded. Investigation into the redevelopment of the **Crystal Brook Library/Office/Institute** will occur towards providing a more functional community centre in the future.

Irrigation, barbeques and public bins will be installed in various parks, **Whitecliffs Reserve** will receive attention and some local **war memorials** will be upgraded. Council will also commit additional resources to **tree management, footpath improvements** and other community amenities in the region.

Importantly, Council is partnering with Nyrstar and the Targeted Lead Abatement Program (TLAP) to improve local **park facilities** and will provide funding for various **greening projects**, utilising resources under the Work for the Dole program.