

DRAFT

DPOP

2015-16

FACT SHEET

The 2015/16 Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) will be open to public comment until 25 May, allowing an opportunity for the community to have their say on how council spends its dollars over the next financial year.

WHAT IS THE DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN?

The DPOP lists the actions, programs and activities Council will undertake during the financial year July 2015 to June 2016 inclusive.

This Plan is one of the documents required by the NSW Government's Integrated Planning and reporting framework.

The document must be made available for public comment and as well as the proposed actions and capital works program it includes the Revenue Policy, Rating Maps and proposed Fees and Charges.

THE BUDGET –A KEY FEATURE

This is a budget that tells the story of the hard work that has been done to drive efficiency within Council over the past two years and to shift internal costs to delivering new infrastructure and projects across the Shoalhaven.

Council has done a huge amount of work with the Transformation Program to contain operating costs and maintain services, and this work will continue as we strive to meet the requirements of the State Government's 'Fit for the Future' criteria.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR PRIORITIES FOR 2015/2016 ?

This budget has the **Biggest capital spend ever for Council at \$240M over 2 Years. A Small cash deficit of \$0.5m** is also a feature. A number of **Major Projects** are to be rolled out across the Shoalhaven these include:

- REMS1B - Upgrade of Nowra and Bomaderry Sewage Treatment Plants
- Porters Creek dam remediation works
- Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre

- Nowra pool redevelopment
- \$6M Flinders Road
- \$1.26M wharf upgrade at Huskisson
- \$640K boat launching ramp at Sanctuary Point
- \$500K Nowra CBD
- Bridge replacement at Jacobs Drive Sussex inlet
- \$420K reconstruction of Wallace Street, Nowra
- \$300K Bellevue Street, South Nowra
- \$500K Paradise Beach road, Sanctuary Point
- \$400K reconstruction of Golf Ave, Mollymook
- \$800K Camden Street, Ulladulla
- \$1.4M drainage projects with major works at Bomaderry, Lake Tabourie and Sussex Inlet
- \$3M sealing and widening of Turpentine Road
- \$6M Flinders Road improved access and widening

Other highlights of the budget include an efficiency dividend which has delivered some \$1.8M in savings as part of the Transformation Program and the realignment of fees and charges to more sustainable cost recovery model.

There is also a special rate variation application for Jerrerra Estate which has been included in the forward projections following consultation with landowners which includes a \$7M spend on major road and infrastructure upgrades. These works will see rates for the landowners in the Jerrerra estate increase significantly. A decision is expected from IPART mid-May on whether this can proceed.

HOW HAS "FIT FOR THE FUTURE" BEEN CONSIDERED?

Council has commenced to show its plan for how it intends to meet the State Government's mandated 'Fit for the Future' process as part of the DPOP exhibition. The full list of strategies will form the basis of a report to go to Council in May.

The State Government has set 7 benchmarks which councils across the state have to meet to ensure they are classified by an independent panel as being 'fit for the future' and able to continue to deliver the services expected from communities in NSW.

We will work together in the Shoalhaven to foster a safe and attractive community for people to live, work, stay and play; where sustainable growth, development and environmental protection are managed to provide a unique and relaxed lifestyle.



WHAT DOES "FIT FOR THE FUTURE" MEAN FOR OUR COUNCIL?

Plans show that there is a long term strategy to meet the benchmarks placing the Shoalhaven in a good position to continue into the future. Currently Council meets 3 of the 7 benchmarks but there is a lot more work to be done towards ticking off all the criteria including a \$13.5M gap in operating result. To do this Council is looking at both the revenue and expenditure sides of the table.

There has been a lot achieved over the past 2 years with reductions in expenditure totalling \$4.4M and the targeted operational savings for 2015/16 increases to \$5.5 million. There is a continued push for further productivity and efficiency savings across the organisation.

RATE RISE PROPOSAL

A 5% rate rise (above rate pegging) for three years from 2017 to 2019 is also being proposed. Without that the \$13.5M gap will need to be filled by cutting services. This means Council would need to close some or all of our pools, tennis courts, community halls, sporting fields, centralise our library and drop other community services like the immunisation program – and we still may not even reach the \$13.5M mark.

It will be the next term of council that will make a final decision on rating levels needed in the future years. It is important to note that:

- The Shoalhaven has one of the lowest rate base of any other Council in its group (which includes Maitland, Tweed, Wollongong, Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour) with an average of \$967 per annum; and is one of the

lowest in the region.

- State Government cost shifting costs Council between \$6-10M per year.
- The Federal Government has also introduced a 3 year freeze on the annual financial assistance grants that will see council lose close to \$1.2 million in revenue.
- Council has one of the largest local government areas on the coast with roads and services required for 49 geographically spread towns and villages.

HOW CAN YOU HAVE YOUR SAY?

The DPOP and associated Fees and Charges, are on public exhibition from 28th April 2015 to the 25th May 2015.

There are a number of ways to have your say;

- Attend a community meeting:
 - Ulladulla Civic Centre on Thursday 30th April, 7pm
 - Vincentia High School on Wednesday 13th May, 7pm
 - City Administrative Centre Nowra on Monday 11th May, 7pm
- Email Council at council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au
- Lodge a written submission at any Council office, or by posting to The General Manager, PO Box 42, Nowra, 2541

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY SUBMISSION?

Details from all submissions will be collated and assessed in order to make any changes and prepare the final DPOP and the associated Fees and Charges, for adoption by Council.

This assessment, along with the final DPOP will be reported to the Ordinary Council meeting in June 2015. This information will be provided on Councils website.

