

13	Kevin Griffin Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association	<p>Overview With current inflation rates of 2.2% as set by Reserve Bank of Australia, an increase in total rates and charges by 4.5% is disappointing. Is it Council's intention to continue pursuing similar massive budget increases, which are well in excess of the prevailing inflation rate, into the future? BCRRA welcomes the economic stimulus and community assistance provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 6: Liveability. Disappointment is raised for the reduction in roads budget from \$12.6M in 2019/20 to \$4.5M in 2020/21. Footpaths is also noted to drop by 60% down to \$1M from forecast \$2.5M in 2019/20. There are no major initiatives for roads indicated in the 2020/21 year. Council's 2017-21 plan recognises that the community wants safer roads and pedestrian access. BCRRA commends the motion to increase annual footpath spend to \$300K per annum, however this is still inadequate. BCRRA requests that Council revise the allocation for new footpaths to an amount of \$900K for 2020-21 and to budget for increased funding for new footpaths to an amount equivalent to 2% of the annual budget by no later than 2025.</p> <p>Capital Projects & KPI Reporting BCRRA requests that all details (including project plans and scope of works) available to Council Officers or Councillors in relation to the projects listed in the budget submission (page 5) be made publicly available. If Council is unwilling to make such reports available, BCRRA requests Council explain its reasons. KPI Reporting for Pro BCRRA requests that Council introduce and publish monthly reports showing the following project status information: 1. Total number of projects currently underway in current financial year 2. The name and project number for each project 3.The number of projects less than 50% complete 4.The number of projects between 51%-80% complete 5.The number of projects 100% complete. 6. Graphical representation of these results including prior month comparison. 7. YTD forecast and actual expenditure along with the variance between the two. Please provide explanation if Council is not prepared to produce these reports publicly.</p> <p>Financial Sustainability BCRRA requests a full public explanation from Council as to reasons and causes that led to the variances between: 2018-19 Budget \$808K Surplus, 2018-19 Actual deficit of \$9.55M and the 2018-19 \$3.2M deficit as shown in the 2019/20 Budget.</p> <p>Core System Implementation BCRRA request that Council provide the community with a full explanation as to what went wrong with this project and why the community should have confidence that earlier issues will not reoccur in future.</p> <p>Live Streaming BCRRA requests that each Councillor who is considering re-contesting for a position as councillor, now publicly declare whether or not they will support the continuation of live-streaming beyond the current trial period. If not, please provide explanation of why.</p> <p>Budget and Operating Result Please provide further explanation to note 6.10 so that it is meaningful to the average reader.</p>	<p>1. Rates and charges increase of 4.5% - Rates and charges are expected to increase by 5.1 % (\$3.19 million) in 2020/21 compared to the 2019/20 budget. This is due to:</p> <p>a. The 2.0% increase in average rates in accordance with the rate cap (\$973K)</p> <p>b. A further 2.0% increase in rates that is attributable to a 1.8% growth in the number of new properties (valuation increase of 2.0%) (\$950K)</p> <p>c. A 10.5% increase in the waste service charge. (\$1.3 million). This is attributable to a number of factors including increased recycling costs, increased environmental monitoring costs, increased capital expenditure including the proposed new Phillip Island waste transfer station and an increase in the State government landfill levy.</p> <p>2. Council notes and thanks the BCRRA for their support for the economic stimulus and community assistance measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the commencement of live- streaming of Council meetings.</p> <p>3. In response to your submission, the 2020/21 budget for the footpaths GAP program has been increased by \$176,267. This brings the total of 2020/21 budget for new and expanding pathways to \$967,000. Once including the \$220,000 of footpath renewal, there is a total of \$1,011,000 included for footpath spend in the 2020/21 Budget. The proposed budget for new and expanding footpaths over the next 4 years up to 2024/25 exceeds 2% of the value of the total capital works program. In the 2024/2025 financial year, budget spend on new and expansion projects equates to \$2.492 million, which is higher than 2% of combined operating and capital expenditure.</p> <p>4. Capital Projects. Funding has been provided in the proposed budget for a range of different projects that cross over into different disciplines, (engineering, strategic and statutory planning, major projects, waste management, climate change and recreation). Council has as part of its increased focus on Business Transformation developed a standard project management framework aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Council's delivery of major projects and place management initiatives. Council is unable to release details of project plans, scopes, Gant charts and project plans as requested as this information is operational in nature and not for public consumption.</p> <p>5. KPI Reporting for Projects. Council currently provides the community with a detailed quarterly capital works report that reports on financial performance to budget at an individual project level. Council acknowledges and thanks the BCRRA for their request for improved high level aggregate information on the capital projects portfolio and officers will investigate the implementation of improved KPI reporting for Projects as proposed by the BCRRA.</p> <p>6. Financial Sustainability. Council's 2018/19 financial results were impacted the recognition of a large one-off non-cash charge of \$5.2 million for landfill amortisation and a \$2.4 million contribution for the Highball facility that was developed at the new Wonthaggi Secondary School which is not a Council asset. Council is forecasting an improvement compared to budget of \$1 million in its 2019/20 underlying surplus. This has been driven by ongoing cost containment and discipline over its labour costs which are projected to be \$1.8 million less than originally budgeted.</p> <p>7. Core System Implementation – The project has taken longer to implement than originally planned due to a combination of factors including product availability and project resourcing. Significant progress has been made with a number of major modules actively being used and a clear plan for completion in the 2020/21 financial year.</p>
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