



# Media Release

23 June 2017

## **Council adopts 2017-18 budget and remains committed to growing Cockburn**

The City of Cockburn's 2017-18 budget has been adopted by Council, with a rate rise of 1.75% - the lowest rate increase in 10 years.

This compares favourably with an average rate increase of 2.52% in the metropolitan area for 2017-18, and continues the trend of 2016-17 for Cockburn, when home owners paid some of the lowest household rates in Perth.

"Cockburn's average residential improved rate is the lowest among neighbouring councils, even when compared to other growth councils like Swan, Wanneroo and Armadale, who are all experiencing sustained growth and have a comparable separate rate for residential improved properties," Mayor Logan Howlett said.

This financial year, all properties rated using gross rental values (GRV) have new values provided by the Valuer-General of WA with an effective valuation date of 1 August, 2015. These will be used to calculate the rates for the next three financial years from July 1, 2017.

The GRV for Residential Improved properties have increased 1.40% overall and 0.79% discounting for the impact of minimum rated properties.

To negate this increase, the rate in the dollar from 2016-17 is reduced by this property value increase of 0.79%, before the recommended rate increase is applied.

Overall, the City will only receive 1.75% additional rates income from existing residential improved properties in 2017-18.

The pension rebate cap of \$750 first applied in 2016-17 will be retained by the State Government but the seniors rebate will disappointingly reduce from \$288.70 in 2016-17 to \$100 in 2017-18.

Overall, the average residential improved ratepayer will pay an extra 53 cents per week



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after concession and for those on the minimum payment rate, the increase will be 42 cents per week.

These payments are exclusive of the State Government's Emergency Services Levy collected by Local Governments to fund the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, which will increase by 4.63% in 2017-18.

The City will collect more than \$15.9m this financial year, compared to more than \$14.8m from this levy on behalf of DFES in 2016-17.

"We have buffered our residents from rising costs of waste, utilities and emergency services as much as practicable, while ensuring our budget remains balanced through a focused effort to deliver efficiency and value for money savings. We are committed to delivering quality facilities and services, which includes an extensive capital works program," Mayor Howlett said.

"As always, the City will continue to offer a range of rate payment options (now also including weekly or fortnightly instalments) and the provision of financial counselling services where necessary, to assist individuals and families in Cockburn."

## **Budget Highlights 2017-18**

Cockburn Bowling and Recreation Facility	\$8.6m
Parks – new and improved	\$6.1m
Roads - includes Spearwood Av duplication, Russell/Hammond/Frankland roundabout, & Verde Drive with roundabout	\$11m
Lakelands Hockey facility and clubrooms	\$4.5m
Buildings upgrade and refurbishment	\$3.1m
Bibra Lake Skate & Recreation Precinct	\$2.1m
Cycle paths and footpaths	\$2.0 m
Street tree planting	\$0.5m
Community grants and donations	\$1.3m
Free community events	\$0.7m

## **Operating spend (percentage of total) for 2017-18**

Roads, footpaths, cycle paths, drains & sumps	17.4%
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Parks/infrastructure & streetscapes	13.9%
Land development, planning & building permits	5.7%
Buildings, fleet & plant	3.3%
Recreation, sport & leisure	16.6%
Community development – child care, youth, family, aged/disabled & seniors	9.8%
Community safety	4.6%
Libraries	3.8%
Health – people & environment	1.7%
Governance	2.6%
Arts, culture & events	1.6%
Waste collection & disposal	18.2%
Administration	1.1%

The full budget will be available for viewing from 30 June 2017 at [cockburn.wa.gov.au](http://cockburn.wa.gov.au)

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