

Date: 30 May, 2019

Rates revenue to remain steady in 2019/20

The Exmouth Shire Council has adopted a rates strategy that will result in the majority of property owners paying less rates in 2019/20 when compared to the previous year.

Shire of Exmouth CEO Cameron Woods said a widespread reduction in residential Gross Rental Values (GRV) following a recent visit by the Valuer General had forced Council to review its plan to increase overall rates revenue by \$60,000 - \$70,000 in 2019/20.

“The 2019/20 the Shire of Exmouth rating proposal has been heavily influenced by a revaluation which has negatively impacted the majority of (GRV) for residential properties located outside the Exmouth Marina,” he said.

“As a result the Shire has stepped away from its long term financial strategy, which aimed to increase rates revenue by up to \$70,000 in 2019/20 as it would have resulted in significant increases in rates in the dollar.

“Instead we have implemented a strategy that will see overall rates revenue increase by just \$4,318.78, (0.13%) this financial year.

“So, while the applied rate in the dollar has increased, the overwhelming majority of Exmouth home owners will get a reduced rates bill, with some paying up to 43 per cent less than last year.”

Property owners in general residential GRV will pay an average of 0.1% less and vacant land owners will pay an average of 12.15% lower rates.

For home owners whose properties had held or maintained their GRV, the rate in the dollar increases had been kept to a minimal 2%. This included commercial, developed marina, marina holiday homes, mining and rural properties.

Mr Woods said that while good news for home owners, the drop in revenue meant the Shire would have to carefully consider all expenditure in order to deliver a balanced budget.

“The Shire is committed to delivering good financial management and this reduction in forecast revenue will have to be considered as part of the 2019/20 budget.”

The 2019/20 budget is due to be considered by Council in July.

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