

MEDIA RELEASE

31 July 2020

SUMMARY

- The 2020/21 budget will see increased spending on waste and recycling, community engagement and sustainable energy projects.
- This year's capital works program has been possible because of previous prudent financial management.
- The budget seeks to build upon the pandemic recovery measures implemented during the last quarter of 2019-20

A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET IN DIFFICULT TIMES

The Exmouth Shire Council has delivered a financially responsible budget that will see increased spending on waste and recycling, community engagement and sustainable energy projects.

The 2020/21 budget was endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 23rd of July and reflects a positive and realistic response to the financial challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of own-source revenue through rates and the impact on reduced fees and charges from aviation operations.

Shire President Matthew Niikkula acknowledged that "this year's capital works program has been possible because of previous prudent financial management which increased shire reserves and the administration's ability to leverage additional grant funding and sponsorship from the oil and gas sector."

"The budget seeks to build upon the pandemic recovery measures implemented during the last quarter of 2019-20 while also ensuring prudent financial management for the continued operational sustainability of the Shire."

"Along with other fellow Local Governments in the Gascoyne, Council adopted that there is no increase in the rates in the dollar for the 2020/21 financial year and have waived the instalment admin and interest charges. Penalty interest rates have been reduced from 11% to 8%, and there will be no increase in community fees and charges this financial year."

The adopted budget for 2020/21 has a surplus of \$47,432 despite a decline in revenue.

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Further information & media: <https://bit.ly/BudgetNewsletter>

Media contact:

Sandra Flint, Communications & Media Liaison Officer, Shire of Exmouth

M: [0459 431 439](tel:0459431439) | E: sflint@exmouth.wa.gov.au