

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET 2017/18

Cardinia Shire Council Plan and Budget 2017/18 was out for community scrutiny and written comment, by closing date 3rd May. The Budget approval will be processed at the Council meeting on 29th May 2017. In the meantime it can be viewed on Council website, or in hard copy at Pakenham Library, Emerald Library, each mobile library, or at Council civic centre in Officer.

It is important for all who pay rates to look through the budget document and council plan in order to see how rates revenue and council income is used, and the how financial priorities are identified.

In line with government policy, rates are to be capped at 2% this year and despite the need for tight financial strategy, the draft budget appears to be very well prepared, although reference is made to sale of council assets which for obvious reasons are not specified.

Previous cost shifting by government has finally been recognised and funding from state government is being received by council to assist with the mounting costs of growth corridor infrastructure and services. However, there is still a financial shortfall as population growth and development continue to increase so it will be vital for the government funding to continue to be provided and increased accordingly.

The needs of Cardinia Shire rural communities will continue to be dealt with on a slow priority list as government funding will generally be tied to all the ongoing urban projects that are required.

Eighteen submissions were lodged, three being presented at Council Meeting 15th May 2017, and the remaining fifteen will be included in the budget approval meeting agenda on Monday 29th May.

Gloria O'Connor

Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association