



# Kingston District Council ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN SUMMARY 2020-2021



## Message from the **MAYOR & CEO**

Developing the 2020-2021 Annual Business Plan & Budget has undoubtedly been difficult with the issues of COVID-19 being at the forefront of our considerations. This combined with on-going issues from coastal influences impacting our shoreline and marine facilities, has been a balancing act for Council.

The plan is closely linked to our Community Plan 2019-2029, showing what we plan to do over the next 12 months to ensure Kingston continues to be a thriving destination that encourages tourism and lifestyle living. All the actions, services and projects within this plan aim to make our community even better!

Our Council area is unique in many ways and we are faced with a different set of challenges to metropolitan councils, and in indeed many rural ones. We have a seasonal population and economy, an ageing demographic, over 100kms of coastline with some 25kms of it actively being managed. Further, we have a vast rural and agricultural area which reasonably expects a serviceable and well maintained sealed and unsealed road network.

We understand that securing a bright future for our community will require investment in infrastructure, and specifically, marine facilities, to support growth prospects. The Kingston Main Street Stimulus Project will continue into 2020-2021 as will consideration of long-term, financially sustainable boating facilities, whether they be at new or existing locations. We accept that the on-going closure of Maria Creek Boat Launching Facility and sand management issues at the Cape Jaffa Marina is of concern to boat owners and our business community. However, short-term solutions to maintain the boating facility, particularly at Maria Creek, are simply not sustainable.

As we work through these issues, Council will also increase its focus on the promotion of other recreation and lifestyle opportunities, introduce more arts, cultural and historical drawcards to create an even more vibrant place for our residents and visitors.

The 2020-2021 Annual Business Plan & Budget has not only been developed to address known current needs, but to allow for decisions to ensure that we give future generations access to great services and facilities, whilst balancing responsible spending of the current generation's ratepayer funds.

We encourage you to read the 2020-2021 Annual Business Plan & Budget, to understand what have planned for the year ahead and what we achieved in 2019-2020. Please reflect on the range, diversity and quality of services, activities and infrastructure available to you as a Kingston District Council resident. We look forward to working with you in a positive and proactive way as we seek to deliver our plans together.



*Kay Rasheed*  
**KAY RASHEED**  
Mayor



*Nat Traeger*  
**NAT TRAEGER**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Looking back on 2019-2020

Despite the unprecedented challenges faced by Council and its administration and works teams at the start of 2020, we are very proud of the following key achievements delivered in 2019-2020:

- Main Street Upgrade Project, Stage 1 of 2 for upgrading Agnes, Holland & Hanson Streets
- Re-sheeted 27.63km of unsealed roads
- Patrol graded 1,500km of unsealed roads
- Wyomi Beach footpath reinstatement
- Installed 16 new solar lights along Marine Parade
- Successfully obtained funding for the following projects:
  - > Development of a Public Art Framework
  - > Wyomi Beach Sand Nourishment Campaign
  - > Development of a Coastal Adaptation Strategy
- High level response and local led recovery in the wake of the Keilira Bushfire, including facilitation of BlazeAid Base Camp at Gall Park to support recovery efforts
- Installation of information board at the Kingston RV Park
- 2,500 free trees were gratefully accepted by the community through Council's annual Free Tree program

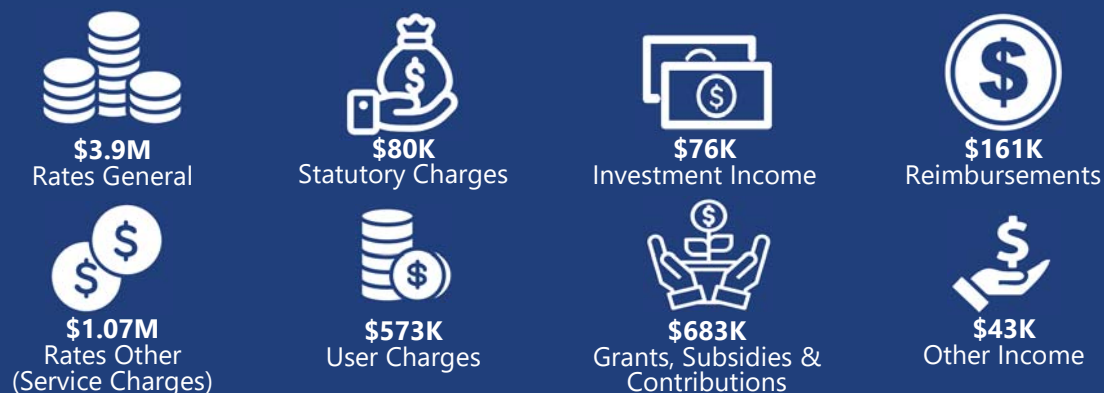


## Funding the ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

In delivering services and programs contained within this Annual Business Plan, Council is targeting an operating deficit of **\$875,909** due to budgeted operating revenues of **\$6,689,161** and budgeted operating expenses of **\$7,565,070**. The primary reasons for this deficit is due to planned dredging at the Cape Jaffa Anchorage Marina, with dredging costs expected to decrease as Council addresses the backlog of sand management requirements.

The Annual Business Plan outlines a total Capital Expenditure budget of **\$3,123,763**. This consists of **\$1,992,763** to renew existing assets and **\$1,131,000** will be spent on new assets.

### WHERE WILL COUNCIL SOURCE FUNDS IN 2020-2021?



# INFLUENCES, PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES

There are a number of significant factors which have influenced the preparations of Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2020-2021. These include:

- Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all groups (Adelaide) was 2.1% for the year ended 31 December 2019; this assumption has been factored into user charges and general rate increases
- **COVID-19 - due to the unprecedented consideration of COVID-19, Council is mindful of being conservative and to acknowledge future challenges as well as the potential for continuing economic uncertainty**
- Target date for transition and implementation of new Planning and Design Code and e-planning being 31 July 2020
- A significant increase in the cost of providing kerbside waste services due to the increase in the solid waste levy payable to the State Government
- Requirements to maintain and improve infrastructure assets to acceptable standards, including roads, footpaths, buildings, stormwater drainage and Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS)
- Ongoing coastal management costs required to responsibly manage our coastline, including sand and seagrass management, erosion concerns, the Maria Creek Sustainable Infrastructure Project and Cape Jaffa Anchorage Marina
- Proactive and responsible management of the Kingston Foreshore Caravan Park to aim for a break-even position despite the significant impacts of COVID-19 on the tourist and accommodation sector
- Council is projecting an operating deficit in 2020-2021 which is higher than the LTFP target operating deficit. This is anticipated to be a short-term position and Council is committed to working towards an operating result which is consistent with the Long-Term Financial Plan

## MAJOR PROJECTS 2020-2021



**\$994,763**

### Road Construction & Footpaths

The total amount for capital renewal of roads is determined through Council's Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan and integrated asset management system (Assetic).

Council will invest \$868,763 resealing and re-sheeting Council roads.

Council has identified three locations for footpath upgrades to improve pedestrian access:

- \$20,000 (new) | South Terrace
- \$13,000 (renewal) | Charles Street
- \$93,000 (renewal) | Cooke Street



**\$30,000**

### Stormwater

In response to ratepayer concerns and identified stormwater problem areas, an assessment of Council's existing stormwater system will be conducted.

This project will review Council's existing system and issues.

Funding opportunities will be explored for construction or upgrades as identifies throughout the assessment, and to integrate any future upgrades into Council's strategic plans.



**\$865,000**

### Main Streets Stimulus

The Kingston Main Streets Stimulus Project will be completed (Stage 2 of 2). Council received significant grant funding to undertake this project (total grant funding of \$1.337M), which commenced in 2019-20 with the completion of the stormwater upgrade.

The main construction component will be delivered and aims to provide 'a greener, safer and more accessible' town centre for our community and visitors by linking our three (3) main streets of Agnes, Holland and Hanson Streets.



**\$70,000**

### Apex Park

Located at the town entrance, this facility is a popular place for children and young families in our community. Council will undertake some upgrades at this facility. This project will include:

- Removal of two existing BBQ shelters and main shelter due to structural issues
- Construction of new shelter area
- Remedial works to known issues at the skate park
- Remedial works to the basketball court



**\$25,000**

### Heritage Signage

In 2018 Council in conjunction with the Kingston SE National Trust installed 25 heritage markers throughout the township at sites with significant local history.

This project will be an extension of the existing heritage trail.

Ten additional locations will be identified in consultation with the Kingston SE National Trust and new interpretive markers will be installed.



**\$60,000**

### Coastal Projects

Coastal management is extremely important to our community. This budget allocation and projects are in addition to ongoing budget allocations for coastal management (such as seagrass management).

The budget allocation identified is for coastal planning projects including:

- \$10,000 – Coastal Planning
- \$50,000 – Maria Creek Sustainable Infrastructure Project Stage 2



# RATES & CHARGES *Summary*

## Method used to Value Land

Council has adopted the use of capital value as the basis for valuing land. Council considers that this method is the fairest method to distribute the rate burden across the community.

In adopting capital value as the basis for valuing land, Council believes that this more appropriately addresses the 'principles of taxation' and is a better indication of capacity to pay.

## Rating Methodology

The Annual Business Plan and Budget will raise \$3,993,020 (net) in general rates for the 2020-2021 financial year. As a result, Council will apply the following cents in the dollar for the differential land use categories:

*Residential* - \$0.3388 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (a) (Residential).

*Commercial (Shop, Office, Other)* - \$0.3388 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of categories (b) (Commercial – Shop), (c) (Commercial – Office) and (d) (Commercial – Other).

*Industrial (Light, Other)* - \$0.3388 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of categories (e) (Industry – Light) and (f) (Industry – Other).

*Primary Production* - \$0.2541 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (g) (Primary Production). Primary Production rate has been set at 25% less than the Residential cents in the dollar in accordance with Council's 'Rating Policy'. The reduced differential rate is to acknowledge the importance and significance of Primary Production to our community.

*Vacant Land* - \$0.3896 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (h) (Vacant Land). Vacant Land cents in the dollar is set at 15% higher than the Residential cents in the dollar in accordance with Council's 'Rating Policy'. The increased differential rate is to encourage development of vacant land and reduce investment holdings.

*Other* - \$0.3388 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (i) (Other).

*Marina Berth* - \$0.3388 cents in the dollar for rateable properties with a land use of category (j) (Marina Berth).

## Maximum Increase on Rates (Rate 'Capping' Rebate)

Council will apply a maximum increase ('capping rebate') on general rates of 12% for eligible assessments within the Council area on general rates liability (except in circumstances as detailed in Council's 'Rating Policy'). The 'capping rebate' is considered by the Council to be appropriate to provide relief against what would otherwise amount to a substantial change in rates payable due to rapid changes in valuations.

## Minimum Rate

Council will impose a minimum rate of \$591.50.

## Community Wastewater Management System Levy

Council provides a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) to defined properties in the township of Kingston. Council will recover the cost of operating and maintaining the service through the imposition of a service charge.

- > \$258.00 per unit on each vacant allotment
- > \$386.00 per unit on each occupied allotment

## Mobile Garbage Bin Levy

To meet the costs associated with the kerbside collection of putrescible waste and recycling, Council has a Mobile Garbage Bin (MGB) service charge on all properties within the defined collection area. The service charge is levied in accordance with Council's 'Mobile Garbage Collection and Disposal Policy' and relevant legislation.

- > \$258.00 for each service which shall consist of a 240 litre and 140 litre mobile garbage bin service provided to the property

## Regional Landscape Levy

From 1 July 2020, the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Levy will be replaced by the Regional Landscape Levy, due to the introduction of the Landscape SA Act 2019. Council is required to collect the levy on behalf of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board. Council does not retain the revenue or determine how the revenue is spent. In 2020-2021, the Regional Landscape Levy will continue to be based on 'local government land use'. The following levies are applicable for 2020-21:

- > \$81.00 for Residential, Vacant & Other
- > \$123.00 for Commercial
- > \$193.00 for Industrial
- > \$346.50 for Primary Production

## Assistance Available

Council acknowledge the extreme and difficult circumstances that have presented in 2020, specifically the Keilira fire and COVID-19, which may result in ratepayers experiencing financial difficulty.

Council has adopted a 'Rates Hardship Policy' which provides information to ratepayers who may be experiencing difficulty in paying their rates as a result of financial hardship, or specifically due to the effects of COVID-19. Ratepayers who may be experiencing financial difficulty are encouraged to contact the Council office for a confidential discussion.

Council rate concessions and Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) concessions are no longer administered by Council's and have been replaced by the 'Cost of Living Allowance'. Please visit [www.sa.gov.au/concessions](http://www.sa.gov.au/concessions) for further information on State Government Concessions.

## Contact us

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The full Annual Business Plan and Budget documents can be obtained from the Council office or on our website.

