MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BAROSSA COUNCIL
held on Tuesday 21 July 2020 commencing at 11.50am in the Council
Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa

1.1 WELCOME
Mayor Bim Lange declared the meeting open at 11.50am.

Cr Hurn was not present in the chamber at 11.50am.

1.2 MEMBERS PRESENT
Mayor Bim Lange, Deputy Mayor, Cr Leonie Boothby, Crs John Angas, Tony Hurn, David de Vries, David Haebich, Don Barrett, Carla Wiese-Smith, Cathy Troup, Richard Miller, Kathryn Schilling and Russell Johnstone.

1.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Nil

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Nil

2.1 DEBATE AGENDA – MANAGER FINANCIAL SERVICES

2.1.1 RATE HARDSHIP POLICY COVID19 – GENERAL RATE REMISSION B3582

Cr Hurn returned to the meeting at 11.51am.

MOVED Cr de Vries that the Council endorse the revised Rates Hardship Policy at Attachment 1 which includes rate relief in the form of General Rate Remissions for qualifying ratepayers as listed in the table in this report, who have experienced financial hardship as a result of COVID-19, that upon application that meets the criteria for the relevant assessment(s) including evidence verified by a financial counsellor, financial advisor and/or accountant.

Seconded Cr Barrett

CARRIED 2018-22/198

PURPOSE
To consider and approve a general rate remission by application to assist those who are in hardship due to COVID-19 meeting selected criteria.
REPORT

**Background**

In March and June 2020 Council provided a deferral of rates option for those impacted by COVID-19 and becoming unemployed or enduring business failure or hardship providing deferral of outstanding 2020/21 (and other accrued years balances outstanding) rates and charges for a period concluding on 31 January 2021, without any fines and charges.

Understanding that many ratepayers and businesses will continue to be affected directly by COVID-19 in 2020/21, as part of the budget workshops and meetings Council considered further strategies to assist those impacted by COVID-19 providing a general rate remission budget.

**Discussion**

To provide process around a general rate remission for the COVID-19 event, Council's Rates Hardship Policy has been amended to ensure appropriate consideration of rate remission applications, as attached. Where an application meets financial hardship criteria Council staff can provide rate remission under sub-delegation on a case by case basis.

With the existing rate deferral application process Council provided the ratepayers with an online application and declaration relying on their honesty, no evidence is required.

As a rate remission is a reduction of the rate amount, a more defined application/criteria is required backed by evidence and independently verified. Although the remission amount is a relatively small per assessment, the written verification is not trying to make an onerous process on the ratepayers, rather it allows Council to apply due diligence as the remaining ratepayers are effectively covering the expense.

**Business and Non-Business Ratepayers**

The applicant will select criteria from one of two groups either Business or Non-business, reasoning that the payment of rates for assessments is impacted by COVID-19 to either their income from employment or profits from operating a business, as follows:

- Non-business – assessments/property is ratepayer(s) principal place of residence, as listed on the assessment record
  
  Non-business ratepayer(s) (must be the ratepayer for the assessment prior to 31 March 2020) experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 during the relevant period and experienced a loss of (combined) income of at least 30% as verified by a financial counsellor, financial advisor and/or accountant.
  
  Or
  
  - Business – the assessment/property primary purpose is to generate income (includes rental properties) for the ratepayer(s) as listed on the assessment record,

  Business ratepayer(s) (must have been operating prior to 1 January 2020) experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 during the relevant period and experienced a loss of profitability of at least 30% as verified by a financial counsellor, financial advisor and/or accountant.

It is suggested that the Local Government Category (LGC) Vacant Land is not given a general rate remission, considering that these assessments are unlikely to have been affected directly by COVID-19.

All applications will be treated in confidence and verification of financial information will only be sent to Council’s rates email address.

**COVID 19 relevant period**

The period the financial comparison information to be provided for the application is 22 March 2020 to 30 June 2020 to COVID-19.
The emergency declaration related to COVID-19 occurred on 22 March 2020 and there is the logically starting point in which to assess actual COVID-19 impact period. The period for this application ends on 30 June 2020 as financial information required with the application should be available aligning to the end date for that tax period. Using an application closure date of 31 March 2021 enables adequate time for the applicant’s information to be provided and a three month period for Council staff to assess and process the applications by 30 June 2021.

This general rate remission is therefore a recognition of the impact of COVID-19 only during the period 22 March 2020 to 30 June 2020. If Council desires to consider extending this program for general rate remission for ratepayers impacted by COVID-19 past that period, that could be as part of a report during 2020/21 or with next year’s budget consideration.

General Rate Remission
To be fair and equitable relevant to each LGC, the general rate remission amount to be applied for each assessment is slightly greater than the average total rate increase over last years rates. Along with keeping the proposed amounts at three 3 levels being $70, $100 and $820, to each LGC and assessment, as applicable to achieve an average zero rate increase for those that meet the criteria.

The average total rate increase is calculated using the average valuation calculation from the annual valuation report provided by the Valuer General 16 May 2020, removing past and new assessments along with the exclusion of 2020/21 growth from development. Note: Individual assessments may vary from these amounts.

The proposed general rate remission for each LGC range from $70 to $820 as applicable, as approved only one remission will be applied on an assessment.

Rating 2020/21 and COVID-19 General Rate Remission Budget table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Govt. Category</th>
<th>Total Assessment No.</th>
<th>Average Total Rates (Inc. Fixed Charge)*</th>
<th>Total Rate Average increase from last year</th>
<th>COVID-19 Budget provision impact %</th>
<th>COVID 19 Budget provision no. applications</th>
<th>Remission amount</th>
<th>Total Rebate provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>9,365</td>
<td>$2,113.60</td>
<td>$53.50</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,405</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>$98,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>$4,078.50</td>
<td>$83.10</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$12,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry – Light</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$2,888.30</td>
<td>$59.50</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>$672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Production</td>
<td>2,189</td>
<td>$2,585.20</td>
<td>$65.50</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>$15,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Land</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>$1,593.20</td>
<td>$38.20</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>$2,638.40</td>
<td>$66.00</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>$1,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry – Other</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>$36,520.10</td>
<td>$812.80</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17.60</td>
<td>$820.00</td>
<td>$14,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,029</td>
<td>$1,792</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,792</td>
<td>$142,401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES
Policy
Rates Hardship Policy
COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

How We Work – Good Governance

6.2 Ensure that Council’s policy and process frameworks are based on principles of sound governance and meet legislative requirements.

6.3 Align operational strategy to strategic objectives and measure organisational performance to demonstrate progress towards achieving our goals.

6.4 Ensure that decisions regarding expenditure of Council’s budget are based on an assessment of whole of life costs, risks associated with the activity and advice contained within supporting plans.

6.9 Provide access to Council’s plans, policies and processes and communicate with the community in plain English.

6.16 Provide contemporary internal administrative and business support services in accordance with mandated legislative standards and good practice principles.

Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

An estimate has been undertaken for impacts on a selected number of ratepayers using the total assessments for each Local Government Category.

The draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21 included an amount of $150,000 to provide rate remission on the general rate charges for 2020/21.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Included as part of the draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21 consultation and adoption process.

2.1.2
ANNUAL BUDGET & BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21 INCORPORATING THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020/21 TO 2029/30

B9880

MOVED Cr Johnstone that Council, pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999, having previously reviewed the submission made during the public consultation period and considered that submission and further amendments to the Annual Business Plan for 2020/21 as presented in this report, used for the purpose of public consultation, adopt the amended draft Annual Business Plan 2020/21.

Seconded Cr Hurn  CARRIED 2018-22/199

MOVED Cr de Vries that Council, pursuant to Section 122 and 123 of the Local Government Act 1999, having previously reviewed the submission made during the public consultation period and considered that submission and further amendments to the Annual Budget and Business Plan as presented in this report, Council adopt:

(1) The draft Annual Budget 2020/21, used for the purpose of public consultation, as amended, as The Barossa Council Annual Budget for the 2020/21 financial year;

(2) The annual review of the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the 2020/21 to 2029/30 financial years, used for the purpose of public consultation, as amended, as The Barossa Council Long Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2029/30;
(3) Notes the Chief Executive Officer’s Council’s Sustainability report on the Council’s long term financial performance and position as recorded in the Annual Budget & Business Plan 2020/21, incorporating the Long Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2029/30; and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make necessary minor changes to the text of the Annual Budget 2020/21, incorporating the Long Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2029/30 prior to formal publication;

(4) The reserve transfers for the items listed in this report.

Seconded Cr Miller

CARRIED 2018-22/200

PURPOSE
To adopt the consolidated Annual Budget & Business Plan (AB&BP) 2020/21, incorporating the annual review of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2020/21 to 2029/30.

REPORT

Background
Council approved a draft AB&BP and LTFP for consultation 12 June 2020, this document contains the Council’s statement of intended programs and outcomes for the coming financial year. This AB&BP has been developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review with Council Officers and Elected Members, and follows the Business Planning Framework outlined in the Strategic Directions area of this document. It includes both continuing services, programs and new initiatives, and follows the strategic directions outlined in Council’s Community Plan 2016 – 2036 and the LTFP.

This report provides with new information for Councils consideration for inclusion in the AB&BP and LTFP.

Discussion

Revised Information

Valuation, General Rating, Service Changes - Analysis

Valuation
Valuation data, as provided by the Valuer-General, has been received and updated in Council’s modelling tools, using the draft Rating Model as included within the Draft AB&BP for 2020/21. Updates have been made to the Property Valuation an increase of 4.6% over last year this includes an increase in natural growth at 1.09% (the Property Valuation increase as at 16 May 2020 was 4.2% including growth of 0.7%).

An amendment for the supplementary valuations to Week 30 June 2020 is included within the following Valuation and Differential Rating reports to this meeting and the AB&BP document.

General Rate Revenue
The overall increase to general rate revenue from last year is now at 1.44% (CPI Adelaide as at March 2020 was 2.4% and LGPI was 1.6%) plus growth of 1.09%. Due to slightly higher valuation increases, and additional growth, rates in dollar and fixed charges held as listed in the draft AB&BP, resulted in Councils general rate revenue increasing by $8k, slightly improving Council operating results in the forward years in the LTFP.

General Rate Remission
To assist ratepayers impacted by COVID-19, Council will provide a targeted rate remission rebate. Applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed under the requirements of Council Rates Hardship Policy and associated documents. The AB&BP included an expense of $150,000 to provide for this rebate.

Service Charges - Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS)
The CMWS revenue has increased by 3.17%, with existing users at 1.99% and growth in service numbers at 1.18%. Service charges must recover the cost of the CWMS service, the Service charge
for Residential customers is set at $344 pa, last year this was $337 pa and for Non-Residential customers there was a further increase in valuations from the amount previously listed within the draft AB&BP document at $0.001153 so the Service Rate has been decreased to $0.001127.

Service Charges - Waste Services
Overall the Waste Refuse and Recycling Services revenue has increased by 8.84%, with existing users at 6.73% and new services at 2.11%. The standard refuse and recycling collection service rate has been increased on last years charge from $161.00 to $173.00. The 140L Refuse Bin has increased from $109.00 to $111.00 and Recycling from $52.00 to $62.00. The refuse collection service rate for 240 Litre bins, available to commercial premises to upsize to 240L, has increased from $137.00 to $140.00. The service charge increases are mainly due to significant cost increases including the State Waste Levy, along with recycling sorting and disposal.
The Green Organics bin is an optional residential town service within the Council’s designated waste collection area. The expected service numbers have increased by 845 or 24.1% over last year. Customers who opt for this service are charged an annual fee, for 2020/21 this has decreased from $57.00 to $53.00.

Operating and Capital Budget adjustments:
Changes made to the AB&BP since the version adopted for Public Consultation at the Special Council meeting on 12 June 2020 are noted in the following table:

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<td>Adjustment to align with expected disposals</td>
<td>(314)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Old Talunga Park - grass roots projects</strong></td>
<td>Transfer grant income from TBP general allocations to identified projects</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td><strong>Lyndoch Rec Park - grass roots projects</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Full Cost Attribution (FCA)</strong></td>
<td>Allocation of internal services to external services and does not affect the overall net result</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Operating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 7,126

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<td><strong>Old Talunga Park - grass roots projects</strong></td>
<td>Transfer grant income from TBP general allocations to identified projects</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lyndoch Rec Park - grass roots projects</strong></td>
<td>Transfer grant income from TBP general allocations to identified projects</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stockwell Rec Park - open space projects</strong></td>
<td>Transfer grant income from TBP general allocations to identified projects</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Old Talunga Park - grass roots projects</strong></td>
<td>Transfer Capital expenditure from TBP general allocations to identified projects</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lyndoch Rec Park - grass roots projects</strong></td>
<td>Transfer Capital expenditure from TBP general allocations to identified projects</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Transfer Capital expenditure from TBP general allocations to identified projects</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full Cost Attribution (FCA)</strong></td>
<td>Allocation of internal services to external services and does not affect the overall net result</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Operating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 7,126
Subsequent to the release of the Draft AB&BP and LTFP on 17 June 2020, Officers have received new and revised information which has been included in the amended AB&BP and LTFP. These are grouped into Operating and Capital Budgets in the table above.

- **Operating Budget**
  Further reviews to the Budget over the last few weeks resulted in adjustments to the operating, in summary:
  - reduction to expenditure for internal charges for Refuse, reducing the service charge,
  - reduction to expenditure for Recycling sorting and disposal, reducing the service charge,
  - increase to the number of services for Refuse, Recycling and Organic Green,
  - contribution towards community vehicles now included,
  - align the budget $ to actual charges received for insurance charges, including workers compensation, income protection, buildings and contents, etc, and
  - numerous reallocations within the budget as noted in the table as blue font, including operating cost to capital.

The Nuriootpa Centennial Park Authority (NCPA) board approved their final 2020/21 Budget and Business plan and LTFP on 17 June 2020. The NCPA operating and capital budget information is contained within Council’s AB&BP and LTFP.

Full Cost Attribution has now been applied - this is an allocation of internal services to external services and does not affect the overall net result.

Additional operating adjustments have been included in the updated AB&BP as attached for the Operating and Capital Budget adjustments listed in the table above.

The various amendments to the operating items overall has improved the forecast result to an operating surplus of $233,840 (note: this amount includes amendments as per above table) from a draft operating surplus of $202k in the consultation document.

- **Capital Budget**
  Additional capital works have been included in the AB&BP as included in the Operating and Capital Budget adjustments table as follows:
  - reallocations within the budget including operating cost to capital
  - resourcing allocation to support The Big Project (TBP) works in 2020/21,
  - transfer Capital expenditure from TBP general allocations to identified projects, and
  - transfer grant capital income from TBP general allocations to identified projects.

**Reserve Transfers**
A reduction in reserves is required for the projects listed below (as previously discussed with Council during the budget and new initiative (NI) process):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>2020/21 Transfer Amount</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barossa Regional Gallery Cookbooks</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>Carry forward from 2019/20 Budget – Air conditioning *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recyclables Collection Reserve</td>
<td>2,867</td>
<td>Garage Sale Trail *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>47,867</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items marked with * have already been approved by Council; provided for information only.

All Service Charges net operating result will be adjusted to/from the relevant Reserve at the end of 2020/21 and a report provided to Council for this approval.

**Annual Budget & Business Plan**
As required under Section 123 of the Act, the draft Business Plan has been prepared and is contained within the first section of the draft AB&BP 2020/21.
Pursuant to Section 123 (7) of the Act, Council must adopt its Annual Business Plan with or without amendment before the adoption of its Annual Budget, as per the following excerpt:

(7) Each budget of a council must-
(a) be considered in conjunction with the council’s annual business plan (and must be consistent with that plan, as adopted); and
(b) be adopted by the council after the council has adopted its annual business plan.

Pursuant to Section 153(5)(a) of the Act, Council must adopt its AB&BP prior to adopting rates for the financial year.

Long Term Financial Plan
As required in Section 122 of the Act, Council must undertake a review of its LTFP as soon as practical after adopting the Council’s Annual Business Plan.

The annual review of the LTFP is included as a section within the document. It is noted that following the inclusion of the submissions and revised information above, the LTFP has been updated from the draft consultation document.

The LTFP sub-plans are prepared for Waste Service, CWMS Services, NCPA, all other Council services and consolidated to form Council’s summary LTFP - this summary annual review is reported within the AB&BP.

The LTFP includes known operational and capital expenditure programs to maintain, renew and implement assets and services as required for Council services over the ten years.

As both the Federal and State Government 2020 Budgets have been delayed due to COVID-19, Council will consider relevant impacts to Council services, grants, programs announced and capital projects with the September Budget Update and the Mid-year Review.

Revenue and Expenditure - Indexation
No changes have been made to General Rate Revenue increases as listed in the Draft LTFP at 1.44% with growth at 1.09% for 2020/21 and future years ranging from 2.5% to 2.75% pa, plus growth of 1% pa.

Operating expenditure is indexed within a range of 1.9% to 5%, with one-off and cyclic expenditure works and programs scheduled in the appropriate year as and when required.

To ensure appropriate cost recovery for Waste - Refuse & Recycling Services total revenue increases for existing customers in 2020/21 at 6.73% and then for the remaining years in the LTFP increases ranging from 2.25% to 2.5% pa plus new services estimated at 1% pa.

To ensure appropriate cost recovery for CWMS Services, increases in service charges total revenue increases for 2020/21 at 1.99% and then for the remaining years in the LTFP range from 1.5% to 2.75% pa, plus 1% pa estimated for new services. The LTFP includes known operational and capital expenditure programs to maintain, renew and implement assets as required for this service.

The NCPA have revised and adopted their LTFP in line with current information, trends and service requirements and has been validated to Council’s NCPA – LTFP sub-plan. Operating income and expenditure indexed at 2-3% pa and capital expenditure kept at minimal levels then increasing to around $200k pa from 2024/25. While maintaining an adequate cash balance for their operations, their loan debt repayments include the Council loan repaid at $130k pa till 2023/24 and a $1m 10 year fixed loan to be repaid by 2029/30.

Loans for a total amount of $23.6m as listed in the draft LTFP in years 2020/21 to 2024/25 and will be presented for Council’s consideration to help finance the expenditure requirements for TBP, as and when required. The type of loans ie. fixed and/or cash advance facility will be assessed as
appropriate to ensure at a minimum cash position is maintained in line with Council requirements and Policy.

Existing Community loans and scheduled repayments have been included in the LTFP in line with the approved agreements.

The LTFP sits within the Business Planning Framework providing an integral link between Council’s strategy and Council operations.

Financial Sustainability & Performance Report
As required in Section 122 of the Act, the Council’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is to prepare a report on the Council’s long term financial performance and position taking into account the provisions of Council’s annual business plan and strategic management plans.

Council’s Financial Sustainability Principles play an important part of the preparation of the LTFP and are included in the document. Council has adopted the Local Government sector key financial indicators to assess Council’s long-term financial sustainability. The CEO report uses the Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s) as a tool to analyse and measure forecasts to targets.

The measurement of Council’s performance includes both financial and non-financial KPI’s. These are reported within the document in detail for the budget year and in summary for the 10 year plan. An explanation of the variances for the LTFP KPI’s are recorded in the document.

A Financial Sustainability Performance Report is included in the final AB&BP on the section “Long Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2029/30”.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES
Attachment 1: Annual Budget & Business Plan 2020/21, incorporating the annual review of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2020/21 to 2029/30

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

How We Work – Good Governance

Corporate Plan
6.2 Ensure that Council’s policy and process frameworks are based on principles of sound governance and meet legislative requirements.
6.16 Provide contemporary internal administrative and business support services in accordance with mandated legislative standards and good practice principles.

Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Financial
Council must ensure (where practicable) all adopted budgets are within established financial sustainability targets or key performance indicators (KPIs). In instances where ratios are not within a target, the LTFP adopted by Council will reflect a sustainable progression to such target.

The original budget is adopted following an extensive preparation and consultation process including the raising of rates at the appropriate levels for financial sustainability to be achieved.

The Financial Sustainability analysis indicates that The Barossa Council is currently financially sustainable for the forecast period covered by the LTFP. This will require ongoing annual and quarterly reviews to monitor and review direction as appropriate.

For the 2020/21 Annual Budget & Business Plan and the LTFP:
KPI No. 1 – Operating Surplus cumulative years 2020/21 to 2024/25 is a deficit position at year five of ($1,337k).
KPI No. 2 - Operating Surplus ratios. Council’s expected forecast results are within the target range albeit at the low end of the scale, the rolling three year vary from a deficit (1%) to a surplus of 2.4% at an average of 0%
KPI No. 3 – Councils Net Financial Liabilities ratio forecast is 52.9% in 20/21 peaking at 66.9% in 22/23 and at 28.2% by 29/30
KPI No. 4 - the KPI target is being met over the ten year period, the rolling three year average being 86.2%.

KPI No. 1 – Analysis:
A cumulative deficit result is forecast for the first five years in the LTFP, Council is not meeting this target, has adequate retained earnings and cash to support the projected results and forecasts a return to an operating surplus by 2026/27. Due to the potential impact to ratepayers from COVID-19 Council limited the general rate revenue increase to 1.44% plus growth and implemented COVID-19 recovery plans. These decisions has resulted in operating deficits for 2021/22 to 2025/26. The general rate increases for years 2021/22 to 2025/26 have been increased to recover the revenue and return to an operating surplus in 2026/27.

KPI No. 2 – Analysis:
Although the operating result is within the target range of (2%) to 10% it is projecting an operating deficit for a number of years within the LTFP. Same comments from KPI no1 also apply.

KPI No. 3 – Analysis
Council is well within the target range and maintains a cash position during this LTFP, utilising a mix of fixed and CAD loans required to finance the significant Capital expenditure programs.

KPI No. 4 – Analysis:
The target is being met over the ten year period. For four years in this review the ratio is below the minimum rate, the lowest at 76.4%. A selection of TBP builds will upgrade and replace a considerable amount of assets. These works will be identified and then re-assigned as appropriate to renewal works and will improve this ratio.

This KPI is assessed to ensure Council provides for replacement/renewal of existing assets as they wear out or are consumed.

A substantial amount of ‘Upgraded’ asset work completed each year are partly renewing components of existing assets. For normal work cycles, components of these assets would need to be replaced when the depreciation or consumption of them had reduced their remaining life to zero, but as they are being upgraded to a better service level, they are effectively replacing asset components that would normally need to be replaced as/when due, this could have a significant favourable impact on the indicator.

It is imperative Council’s financial sustainability principles and indicators are considered in budget processes and estimates. All budget estimates must include the measurement of all financial indicators and where relevant the justification and implication for not working within these targets.

The objective for the review of Council’s LTFP is to achieve financial sustainability in the medium to longer term. In the absence of a regular review, financial sustainability will go unchecked, reducing Council’s ability to absorb unplanned activities or financial shocks and impacts.

The Corporate and Organisational Management Team will work to achieve the longer term target for further improvements to Council long financial sustainability through an ongoing budget and organisational initiatives include the following approach:

- Ongoing reporting of the approved Change Program.
• Alignment of the Community and Corporate plans to the Annual Budget & Business Plan and the zero based budget process completed in the 2020/21 year to recalculate all expenditure and revenue settings across every operational area to find savings and potential increased revenues from sources not related to rates;
• Continue to review the net cost of all services provided by Council to further drive opportunities for efficiencies;
• Continue to review Council’s asset base for accurate depreciation charges, renewal requirements and sustainable service levels.

Periodic updates on outcomes and options coming out of the work being undertaken has and will continue to be reported to Council.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Included as part of the Draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21 consultation and adoption process, and in accordance with the Act.

2.1.3 ADOPTION OF VALUATIONS FOR 2020/21 RATING PURPOSES B3582

MOVED Cr de Vries that the Council, in accordance with Section 167(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, adopts for rating purposes for the year ending 30 June 2021, the Valuer-General’s most recent valuations available to Council of the Capital Value in relation to the area of the Council, which specifies that the total values that are to apply within the area is $5,621,101,400 of which $5,499,573,995 is rateable.

Seconded Cr Hurn CARRIED 2018-22/201

PURPOSE

Property valuations received from the Valuer-General require adoption by law and for the basis of applying rates for the 2020/21 financial year.

REPORT

Discussion

The movement in property valuations from 2019/20 to 2020/21 is outlined in the table below.

Table 1 – Property Valuations Movement – updated Land Use Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Code</th>
<th>No. of assessments</th>
<th>19-20 Average Valuation</th>
<th>19-20 Average Valuation</th>
<th>No. of assessments</th>
<th>20/21 Total Valuations</th>
<th>20/21 Average Valuation</th>
<th>% Movement Total Valuations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9,253</td>
<td>3,180,341,783</td>
<td>9,365</td>
<td>3,326,006,326</td>
<td>355,153</td>
<td>4.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>330,707,718</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>399,165,774</td>
<td>568,300</td>
<td>8.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry - Light</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>16,992,885</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17,582,069</td>
<td>366,293</td>
<td>3.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry - Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>232,961,806</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>230,177,456</td>
<td>2,615,653</td>
<td>-1.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Production</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,179</td>
<td>1,342,921,435</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>1,412,159,397</td>
<td>645,107</td>
<td>5.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Land</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>100,358,665</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>96,777,139</td>
<td>171,591</td>
<td>-3.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>55,504,162</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>57,725,834</td>
<td>403,677</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,916</td>
<td>5,259,788,454</td>
<td>13,029</td>
<td>5,499,573,995</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There has been an increase of approximately $20m in the total property valuations from those tabled in the previous public consultation version of the Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21. This is as a direct result of recent re-visits and the creation of new land divisions by the Valuer-General in the past month.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Policy
Budget & Business Plan and Review Policy

The Barossa Council 20/38242 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2020
Rating Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How We Work – Good Governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.2 Ensure that Council’s policy and process frameworks are based on principles of sound governance and meet legislative requirements.
6.3 Align operational strategy to strategic objectives and measure organisational performance to demonstrate progress towards achieving our goals.
6.4 Ensure that decisions regarding expenditure of Council’s budget are based on an assessment of whole of life costs, risks associated with the activity and advice contained within supporting plans.
6.9 Provide access to Council’s plans, policies and processes and communicate with the community in plain English.
6.16 Provide contemporary internal administrative and business support services in accordance with mandated legislative standards and good practice principles.

Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refer Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY CONSULTATION</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Included as part of the draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21 consultation and adoption process.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECLARATION OF DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES 2020/21</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B3582</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVED Cr Johnstone that Council, pursuant to Sections 152(1)(c)(i), 153(1)(b) and 156(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, declares the following differential general rates on rateable land within its area for the year ending 30 June 2021, based upon the capital value of the land, which rates vary by reference to land use categories as per Regulation 14 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2013:

1. Category (a) - (Residential), a rate of 0.003489 in the dollar;
2. Category (b) - (Commercial – Shop), category (c) - (Commercial – Office) and category (d) - (Commercial – Other), a rate of 0.005271 in the dollar;
3. Category (e) - (Industry – Light), a rate of 0.005422 in the dollar;
4. Category (f) - (Industry – Other), a rate of 0.015908 in the dollar;
5. Category (g) - (Primary Production), a rate of 0.003200 in the dollar;
6. Category (h) - (Vacant Land), a rate of 0.006325 in the dollar;
7. Category (i) - (Other), a rate of 0.005792 in the dollar;

Seconded Cr Miller CARRIED 2018-22/202
MOVED Cr de Vries that Council, pursuant to Section 153(3) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1999, has determined to fix a maximum increase in general rates levied upon a category 1 land use (Residential) property for the year ending 30 June 2021, which constitutes the principal place of residence of a principal ratepayer at:

(a) 7.5% over and above the general rates levied for the 2019/20 financial year (for residential ratepayers who are in receipt of the Cost of Living concession); or

(b) 15% over and above the general rates levied for the 2019/20 financial year (all other residential ratepayers);

provided that:
- the property has been the principal place of residence of the principal ratepayer since at least 1 July 2019; and
- the property has not been subject to improvements with a value of more than $20,000 since 1 July 2019.

Seconded Cr Boothby

CARRIED 2018-22/203

PURPOSE
To adopt the policy position for general differential rates applied through a rate in the dollar of adopted values for the 2020/21 rating year.

REPORT
Discussion
A comparison of the rates-in-the-dollar for 2019/20 and 2020/21 is outlined in the table below:

Table 1 – Rate-in-$ comparison 2019/20 – 2020/21 – Local Government Categories 30 June 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% change to rate in $</th>
<th>19/20 Rate in $/charge</th>
<th>19/20 Revenue</th>
<th>% of Total Rate Revenue (excl Fixed Chg)</th>
<th>20/21 Rate in $/charge</th>
<th>20/21 Revenue</th>
<th>% of Total Rate Revenue (excl Fixed Chg)</th>
<th>% Increase in revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
<td>0.003514</td>
<td>11,174,767</td>
<td>50.47%</td>
<td>0.003469</td>
<td>11,604,436</td>
<td>51.08%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>0.005357</td>
<td>1,771,436</td>
<td>8.00%</td>
<td>0.005271</td>
<td>1,893,163</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry - Light</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
<td>0.005466</td>
<td>92,883</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
<td>0.005422</td>
<td>95,330</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry - Other</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>0.016140</td>
<td>3,769,204</td>
<td>16.98%</td>
<td>0.015908</td>
<td>3,881,663</td>
<td>16.12%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Production</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>0.003260</td>
<td>4,377,924</td>
<td>19.77%</td>
<td>0.003200</td>
<td>4,518,846</td>
<td>19.89%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Land</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
<td>0.006370</td>
<td>639,285</td>
<td>2.89%</td>
<td>0.006325</td>
<td>612,115</td>
<td>2.69%</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
<td>0.005850</td>
<td>324,699</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>0.005792</td>
<td>334,348</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Charge</td>
<td></td>
<td>356</td>
<td>4,375,596</td>
<td></td>
<td>360</td>
<td>4,470,480</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26,516,593</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>27,190,381</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES
Policy
Budget & Business Plan and Review Policy
Rating Policy

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS
Corporate Plan

How We Work – Good Governance

6.2 Ensure that Council’s policy and process frameworks are based on principles of sound governance and meet legislative requirements.
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6.9 Provide access to Council’s plans, policies and processes and communicate with the community in plain English.
6.16 Provide contemporary internal administrative and business support services in accordance with mandated legislative standards and good practice principles.

Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Financial
Refer Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21
Rating Policy

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Included as part of the draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21 consultation and adoption process.

2.1.5 DECLARATION OF FIXED CHARGE FOR RATING PURPOSES

B385

Moved Cr Hurn that Council, pursuant to Section 152 (1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1999, declare a Fixed Charge of $360 on each separately valued piece of rateable land within the Council area for the year ending 30 June 2021.

Seconded Cr Haebich

CARRIED 2018-22/204

PURPOSE

To set a Fixed Charge on all rateable properties for the 2020/21 rating year.

REPORT

A Fixed Charge of $360 represents a $4 increase on the amount applied for the 2019/20 rating year. The fixed charge is based around a policy position of ensuring a base payment for costs of running the Council.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Policy
Budget & Business Plan and Review Policy

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan
   How We Work – Good Governance

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Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999

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2.1.6 DECLARATION OF WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE CHARGE

B3582
Author: Senior Rates Officer

Moved Cr Johnstone that Council, pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999, and in order to provide the service of waste collection in those parts of the Council’s area described in (3) below, declares the following service charges by reference to the nature and/or level of usage of the service, for the year ending 30 June 2021:

(1) **Non-recyclable Waste Collection**

(a) An annual service charge of $111.00 per 140L collection receptacles
(b) An annual service charge of $140.00 per 240L collection receptacles;
   except in instances where, subject to written application to and approval by the Council, residential households with six or more permanent residents may receive a 240L receptacle at the same service charge level of a 140L receptacle.

(2) **Recyclable Waste Collection**

(a) An annual service charge of $62.00 per 240L collection receptacle
(b) An annual service charge of $53.00 per 240L Green Organic Waste collection receptacle

(3) **Parts of Council Area**

All Service Entitled Properties in the Designated Waste Collection Areas and along the Approved Waste Collection Route as identified in the Waste Management Services Policy.

Seconded Cr de Vries  
CARRIED 2018-22/205

PURPOSE
To declare the Waste Collection Service Charge for the 2020/21 rating year.

REPORT
The proposed service charges are based on the estimated cost to Council in providing the service.
Pursuant to Section 155(5) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council cannot recover by way of the service rate an amount exceeding the estimated cost of operating the service.

**ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES**

*Policy*
Budget & Business Plan and Review Policy

**COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

*Corporate Plan*
How We Work – Good Governance

6.2 Ensure that Council’s policy and process frameworks are based on principles of sound governance and meet legislative requirements.

6.3 Align operational strategy to strategic objectives and measure organisational performance to demonstrate progress towards achieving our goals.

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*Legislative Requirements*
Local Government Act 1999

**FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

*Financial*
Refer Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21
Rating Policy

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Included as part of the draft Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21 consultation and adoption process.

2.1.7 DECLARATION OF COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CWMS) RATE AND SERVICE CHARGE

**B3582**

**MOVED** Cr Haebich that Council, pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999, declare a service rate and impose a service charge for the year ending 30 June 2021, in the following areas to which Council makes available a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS):

1. **Lyndoch, Mount Pleasant, Nuriootpa, Penrice, Stockwell, Tanunda and Williamstown – Residential & Vacant Land Properties**
   (a) An annual service charge of $344 of occupied residential rateable and non-rateable land;
   (b) An annual service charge of $110 on each assessment of vacant rateable and non-rateable land.

2. **Lyndoch, Mount Pleasant, Nuriootpa, Penrice, Stockwell, Tanunda and Williamstown – Non-Residential & Non-Vacant Land Properties**
A service rate of 0.001127 in the dollar of the capital value of occupied non-residential rateable land.
3. **Springton – Residential & Vacant Land Properties**
   (a) An annual service charge of $589 (including a capital repayment contribution of $245) on assessments of occupied residential rateable land and non-rateable land;
   (b) An annual service charge of $245 on assessments of occupied non-rateable land;
   (c) An annual service charge of $75 on each assessment of vacant rateable land.

4. **Springton – Non-Residential & Non-Vacant Land Properties**
   (a) A service rate of 0.001127 in the dollar of the capital value and an annual service charge of $245 (capital repayment contribution) on assessments of occupied non-residential land.
   b) An annual service charge of $245 on assessments of occupied non-rateable land.

Seconded Cr Hurn CARRIED 2018-22/206

**PURPOSE**
To declare Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) rates and charges for the 2020/21 rating year.

**REPORT**
**Discussion**
The proposed service rates and charges are based on the estimated cost to Council in delivering the service.

Pursuant to Section 155(5) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council cannot recover by way of the service rate and charges an amount exceeding the estimated cost of operating, maintaining, improving and replacing the service.

The charge for all residential properties connected to a CWMS scheme is solely based on a service charge.

**ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES**
Policy
Budget & Business Plan and Review Policy
Rating Policy

**COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

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Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999
### FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

**Financial**
Refer Annual Budget and Business Plan 2020/21

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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### 2.1.8 DECLARATION OF REGIONAL LANDSCAPE BOARD LEVY B3583

**MOVED** Cr de Vries that Council, in exercise of the powers contained in section 154 of the Local Government Act 1999 and section 69 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, for the year ending 30 June 2021 - and in order to reimburse Council for the amount contributed to the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, a levy in the nature of a separate rate of 0.00009852 in the dollar of the Capital Value of land, be declared on all rateable land in the area of that Board.

**Seconded** Cr Johnstone

**CARRIED 2018-22/207**

### PURPOSE

To declare a levy to recover the costs of the State Government Northern and Yorke Landscape Board levy to collect the State’s taxation revenue and forward it to the Landscape board as required by law, for the 2020/21 rating year.

### REPORT

**Discussion**
The levy is collected on behalf of the State Government and then forwarded to the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board on a quarterly basis.

### ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

**Policy**
- Budget & Business Plan and Review Policy
- Rating Policy

### COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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**Legislative Requirements**
- Local Government Act 1999
- Landscape South Australia Act 2019
Rating Policy

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2.1.9 PAYMENT OF RATES

B2690

Author: Senior Rates Officer

MOVED Cr Angas that Council:

(1) Pursuant to Section 181(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1999, all rates and charges will be payable in four quarterly instalments due on 29 September 2020, 1 December 2020, 2 March 2021 and 1 June 2021; provided that in cases where the initial account requiring payment of rates is not sent at least 30 days prior to this date, or an amended account is required to be sent, authority to fix the date by which rates must be paid in respect of those assessments affected, is hereby delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

(2) Pursuant to Section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Chief Executive Officer (or his delegate) be delegated power under Section 181(4)(b) of the Act to enter into agreements with ratepayers relating to the payment of rates in any case where he considers it necessary or desirable to do so.

Seconded Cr Miller

CARRIED 2018-22/208

PURPOSE

To set the payment due dates for the 2020/21 rating year.

REPORT

Discussion

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, rate payments must be offered on a quarterly basis in September, December, March and June each year.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Policy

Budget & Business Plan and Review Policy

Rating Policy

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

How We Work – Good Governance

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Mr Martin McCarthy, CEO thanked Council staff and Elected Members for their efforts in producing the budget and policy positions during the period of COVID-19.

3. **NEXT MEETING**
Tuesday 18 August 2020 at 9.00am.

4. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**
Mayor Lange declared the meeting closed at 12.00pm.

Confirmed at Council Meeting on 18 August 2020

Date:........................................ Mayor:....................................