

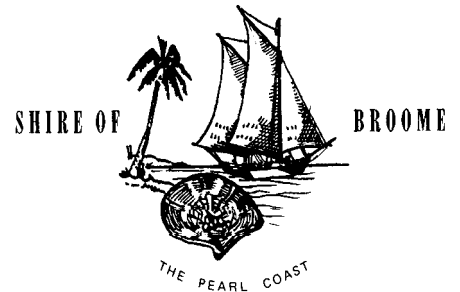
Shire of Broome

PO Box 44, Broome WA 6725

Phone: 08 9191 3456

Fax: 08 9191 3455

Media Release



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For immediate release

Council Adopts Responsible Budget for 2006/2007

Council has delivered its budget for the 2006/2007 year at the Special Council Meeting held on 15 August 2006.

The Shire will be raising \$8.68 million in rate revenue which will assist funding a variety of services costing approximately \$17.6 million. Rate funding will also contribute to the Shire's capital program which includes projects worth \$13 million.

The general increase in rates adopted by Council is 7.7%. Referring to an economic analysis by the WA Local Government Association, Cr Graeme Campbell said that the cost to local government to provide services and facilities has increased by 6.7% reflecting the impact of escalating construction and building costs.

"Council resolved a further 1% to assist the expansion of its services to the community," he said.

"In addition to rate revenue, other sources of funds for the Shire include \$3.56 million of operating grants, \$5.8 million in service fees and charges, \$6.56 million in capital grants and \$2.7 million from new borrowings."

"Approximately \$7.7million will be spent on building infrastructure including the completion of the Broome Visitors Centre, commencement of the Performing Arts Centre, Clubrooms for the new ovals, and \$330,000 to upgrade BRAC as a cyclone shelter," said Cr Campbell.

A further \$2.6million is earmarked for roads, drainage, footpaths and carpark capital works.

The Shire's Parks receive a \$332,000 boost with improvements to Town Beach and Cable Beach Reserves totalling \$200,000. Also receiving funding will be the completion of BRAC Stage 2 ovals and lighting costing \$2.3million.

Shire President Graeme Campbell said the community has been waiting a long time for the new ovals at BRAC and this budget provides for the completion of the project.

"I'm excited about the first games being played at the new ovals around April 2007," said Cr Campbell.

The Shire continues to support the tourism industry with 13% of rates revenue from tourism properties and 3% from commercial properties being directed to the marketing of Broome. Australia's North West, Broome's marketing body is set to receive approximately \$160,000 and the Broome Visitor Centre will receive a further \$55,000 to assist with marketing.

The Shire President said marketing Broome is essential for the town's economic viability. It is an activity which has flow-on benefits to all businesses and using the Shire's rating system to fund marketing activities ensures everyone contributes fairly to the promotion of Broome. He also advised that residential rates do not include any levies for tourism.

A final decision of Council at the same meeting saw the addition of thermal blankets and a pool heating system to be installed at the Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre during the year.

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