

Shire of Broome
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MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

Differential Rates – Submissions Open

The Shire of Broome is seeking public submissions on proposed differential rates for the 2008/2009 financial year.

The general increase in rates projected by Council is 8.75%. This is a reduction of 1.2% from the previous year when rates were set at 9.95%.

The 8.75% figure represents a 5% increase based upon the WALGA index of 70% Perth CPI and 30% general construction industry index, plus 3.75% for new initiatives.

Since 1999/2000 businesses falling under the commercial or tourism category have been levied at a higher rate to support Australia's North West Association and other Broome tourism marketing initiatives, given that they benefit from the influx of visitors to town.

Broome Shire President Graeme Campbell said that the cost to local government to provide services and facilities has continued to increase, reflecting the impact of escalating construction and building costs.

"There is no doubt that meeting community needs while planning for the future is a financial challenge," said Cr Campbell.

"While we have tried to minimise the rate increase it still sits in line with the Shire's long term financial plan," he said.

"We believe we have acted with considerable constraint given the community demand for services and new projects, said Cr Campbell.

The budget is expected to be endorsed by Council on 24 July, with some \$1.5 million of new projects proposed for the 2008/2009 financial year including:

- Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre oval change rooms, car parks, an access road and a cricket pitch;
- Street sweeper and operator;
- Water playground;
- Tractor and mowing attachments for seven additional parks and ovals;
- Christmas decorations;
- Rural school bus stop seats;
- Public shade; and
- Library book self-loan machine

With mounting environmental pressures potentially impacting on the Shire, an Environmental Officer will be employed.

The Shire has also recognised the need to undertake a range of activities to address worker housing, asset management, sport and recreation and an electoral ward review under the Local Government Act. A review of the town planning scheme will also be addressed in 2008/2009.

Differential rate submissions close 4pm 24 July 2008.

Ends

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