

thrive.

Issue 2 | 2022
Rates and Budget Special



Dear Community Member,

In the language of the traditional owners of this land, Kaya. We are currently moving from the Noongar season of Makuru to Djilba where the cold weather gradually gives way to warmer days accompanied by an explosion of flowers. Wildlife will be nesting and protective of their newborn especially the koolbaridi (magpie) and djidi djidi (willy wag tails). It's a wonderful time of year to enjoy the changing landscape especially along the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River).

At the Town of Bassendean we believe that communities in partnership with local government can achieve many great things. Council has now adopted a new budget to fund initiatives that connect our community, building partnerships and capacity. The RAC Reconnect project "Power to the People" to be delivered this September/October, will help reimagine a portion of Old Perth Road to trial a pedestrian friendly zone. We will be inviting our local primary schools and residents to participate in an indigenous cultural program, along with many other diverse activities and events for our community to enjoy. We are also developing an integrated streetscape plan for Old Perth Road to enhance the future amenity of our town centre, with the aim to encourage visitors to linger longer in the Town Centre benefiting business and community alike.

It's an exciting time for the residents of Eden Hill and parts of Bassendean north of the railway line, as the installation of underground power has commenced. Streets that have had power poles removed are already enjoying improved LED lighting and the installation of new street trees. This transformative project will continue in stages over the coming year. The service charge for property owners within the project area will be collected over five years commencing this financial year and levied as part of the future annual rating process - you can read more about this on page 4.

Our Town Centre Masterplan was adopted late 2021 and the Town is currently engaging with State and Federal government entities to explore opportunities that may be beneficial to the district. We have also secured investment from the Federal Government for a new playground at BIC Reserve in the town centre. Whilst speaking of playgrounds, the Sandy Beach Nature Playground opened in July for all to enjoy - follow our Facebook page for more information.

This financial year we are continuing our strong focus on progressing our updated local planning framework. This is crucial to attracting investment and promoting development in our Town that aligns with our community's vision and meets the State's planning framework. In the coming weeks the draft local Planning Strategy will be out for comment with our community so please have Your Say when the time comes.

Our focus on sustainability and securing a better future for our community continues with a commitment to plant 1000 trees for the fourth winter in a row to increase tree canopy, cool our suburbs and provide important habitat for our wildlife. There is recognition that our community places a very high value on our natural environment with funds allocated to progress the concept plan for Point Reserve as well as ongoing investment in restoring the Bindaring Wetlands and other natural areas.

This budget aims to strengthen our financial sustainability whilst providing for the services and priorities most valued by our community. Recognising that everyone works hard to earn the money that the Town collects in rates, your contributions allow us to deliver the projects and services that our community values most. Thank you for helping to make our Town an even better place to live.

Kath Hamilton
Mayor

Your Councillors



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Role of Council

The Council governs our Town's affairs and is responsible for the performance of the local government's functions. Council also oversees the allocation of our Town's finances and resources; and determines our Town's policies.

Role of Mayor

The Mayor presides at meetings, provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district, carries out civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of our Town; speaks on behalf of our Town, and liaises with the CEO on our Town's affairs and the performance of its functions.

Role of Councillors

Councillors represent the interests of the electors, ratepayers and residents of our Town. They provide leadership and guidance to the community and facilitate communication between the community and the council.



Differential Rating at the Town of Bassendean

Rates are calculated by applying a rate in the dollar (set by Council) to the Gross Rental Value (GRV) of a property (determined by Landgate).

Council introduced Differential Rates as part of the 2022/23 Budget Process, with the creation of a “Vacant Land” Category, to impose a higher rate in the dollar on vacant land to encourage development.

For 2022/23, Council has introduced another differential rating category, for Commercial and Industrial property. This is to raise additional revenue to meet the higher level of service costs associated with commercial and industrial property and the localities within which they are situated.

These differential rating categories will assist in raising rates revenue for the Town

while spreading the rate burden more fairly, minimising the impact of rate increases for residential property owners.

For 2022/23, the increase in the rate in the dollar for all improved residential property in the Town is 4%, with a premium of 3% for Commercial and Industrial property and a premium of 50% for all Vacant Land. The minimum payment is proposed to remain the same as it has been for the last two years, at \$1,106, for all three differential rating categories.

These increases in rates were necessary to enable the Town to meet its current and future obligations, and to continue operating in a financially sustainable manner noting that in the previous two years there has been a minimal increase.

Waste not, want not: changes to tip passes this year

Baywaste is much closer to the Town, at 271 Collier Rd in Bayswater. Bassendean residents can now use their tip passes at Baywaste, with payment of a small fee of \$14.20 per tip pass at the time of use. Residents can continue to use tip passes at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility free of charge.

The Town has made some key changes to our tip pass program based on community uptake and usage, and to make it easier for residents to dispose of their waste:

1. Tip passes will no longer be provided with Rates Notices but will be available for collection from Customer Services and the Bassendean Memorial Public Library
2. Two tip passes will be provided, with both collected at the same time
3. Use of the Town’s tip passes will be permitted at Baywaste, in addition to the Red Hill Waste Management Facility.

Ways you can pay your rates

There are many ways to pay your rates:

1. Pay in full by the due date 26 August 2022

2. Pay by two instalments

- 1st payment due 26 August 2022
- 2nd payment due 11 January 2023

3. Pay by four instalments

- 1st payment due 26 August 2022
- 2nd payment due 28 October 2022
- 3rd Payment due 11 January 2023
- 4th payment due 15 March 2023

For payment by instalments the first instalment must be paid by the due date.

4. Special Arrangement

If you are unable to pay your rates in full or according to the instalment plans a payment arrangement can be set up for weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments.

5. Advance Pay

If you have paid your current years rates you can get a head start on the following years rates by paying payments via a direct debit.

6. Experiencing Financial Difficulty

The Town has an established process to assist ratepayers in financial difficulty as outlined in our Financial Hardship Policy. The application is available on our website.

Please note options 2,3 & 4 incur fees. Pensioners are exempt from these charges.

For further information regarding any of these payment options please contact our Rates Team on 9377 8000.

eRates: the easy way to pay

By choosing e-Rates you will be assisting the environment by reducing the impact on trees, plastic, water, greenhouse gas emissions and landfill waste which is all part of paper, envelope, printer cartridge and stamp production.

Register for e-rates and you will receive your rate notices, final notice and instalment reminder notices via email.

To register you must have your rates assessment number which can be found on the top of any previously issued rates notice or obtained by contacting the Rates Team on 9377 8000.

More time to pay

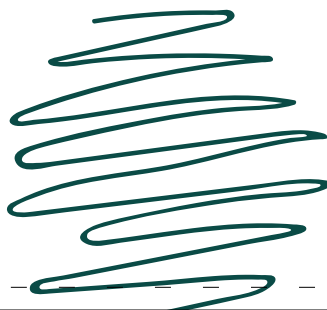
Council adopted a Financial Hardship Policy to help property owners experiencing financial hardship by enabling you to apply for assistance relating to outstanding rates or service charges or sundry debts. Please contact our Rates Team on 9377 8000.

Fire Safety

For fire safety reasons, you are required to maintain your property and reduce all combustible materials. See the notice in this envelope.

Pensioner Rebates

Rebates may be available on your rates if you have a Pensioner Concession Card, Commonwealth Senior Health Card or a State Senior Card.



Underground Power Project

If you're in the Underground Power Project delivery area you will have a service charge added to your rates notice.

This is for a new underground residential consumer mains connection; the connection charge is determined by the connection type and how many dwellings are connected to the main meter.

If your property is already connected via an underground cable the service charge will not be applicable.

The following outlines the service charge for a new underground residential consumer mains connection and how it is paid:

- Council has set the service charge for a standard consumer mains connection at **\$2,910** and for a 'cut and cap' connection at **\$1,455**.

- The service charge will be levied in **five equal annual instalments** and will be automatically included in your rates notice commencing in 2022/23.
- The service charge may be **paid in instalments**, which will be due at the same time as Rates instalments.
- **Pensioners and seniors** who currently receive a rebate on their Council Rates may be entitled to a rebate in accordance with the State Government Pension and Rebate Scheme.
- The Town has a **Financial Hardship Policy** to assist those who may be experiencing financial hardship.



Benefits of Underground Power



Fewer power outages, improved reliability and fewer asset failures after storms



Improved safety, better street lighting and fewer car collisions with poles



Improved street appearance by removing poles and wires, making it a more desirable area to live in, and higher property value



Reduced costs for street tree pruning



Lower life-cycle costs, minimal maintenance and operating costs



Improved opportunity for emerging technologies, energy trading, electric vehicle penetration and Smart City strategies

Major projects map

- 1** Nature based playground and Ablutions at Sandy Beach Foreshore
- 2** Underground Power in Eden Hill and parts of Bassendean
- 3** Nature play space at Wind in the Willows Early Childhood Education Centre in Bassendean
- 4** Public art at Mary Crescent Reserve and Sandy Beach Reserve
- 5** Palmerston Reserve – native ground cover and tree planting
- 6** Lighting upgrade at Ashfield Reserve
- 7** Lighting upgrade at Steel Blue Oval
- 8** Ashfield Flats Boardwalk
- 9** Old Perth Rd Tree Planting and Streetscape Plan
- 10** Point Reserve Detailed Design
- 11** Finalise the Bassendean Foreshore Precinct Plan
- 12** Complete the Success Hill Stabilisation Design
- 13** Develop Sandy Beach Foreshore Restoration Plan



Key priorities for the 2022/2023 financial year:

The Town has allocated funds to a number of exciting projects across the Town, as seen on the map, from further greening and enhancing Old Perth Road to creating safer and more usable green spaces for our community.

Operationally we will be focusing on giving back "Power to the People" through the Old Perth Road trial road closure and activation over September/October, further celebrating our First Nations history via a community cultural project, progressing the vision and design for the future of Point Reserve River Park and continuing the great work we do in Youth Engagement via Bassendean Youth Services.

Over the course of the year the Town will address ten local roads projects too!

More information on the above can be found on the Town's website.

HOME BY THE SWAN



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