

6 May 2019

## **Increases in Water and Sewer Charges**

The Draft Operational Plan for 2019/20 for Warrumbungle Shire Council is on public exhibition and is proposing that there be increases of up to 18% for water charges and 15% for sewerage charges.

“Council is proposing large increases for the water and sewer for the 2019-20 year” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Denis Todd. “These increases are necessary to fund capital works as well as ongoing services and activities.”

“Council acknowledges that these are significant increases however with the drought Council has had to carryout a number of emergency works to keep up water supplies to the communities. These emergency works have included Coonabarabran and Mendooran” said Cr Todd.

“In addition to the emergency works backup supplies have been provided at Coolah, Mendooran and Binnaway. Fortunately, Council has received considerable grant funding to help with these works however Council has also had to contribute to these works” said Cr Todd.

“In addition to this Council is also planning on undertaking major works at Coonabarabran, Coolah, Dunedoo and Baradine. These projects are all very expensive, but necessary” said Cr Todd.

“On top of these we also have other issues to deal with such as:

- increasing costs of maintaining and upgrading infrastructure;
- increasing electricity and fuel costs;
- ageing infrastructure and a backlog in renewals;
- maintenance of, and increase in, service levels across the Shire; and
- costs increasing more than revenue for a number of years”.

“Our water and sewer services are essential services and it is necessary for Council to ensure that they are operating effectively.”

“Council is also required to achieve ongoing full cost recovery for our water supply and sewerage services. Full cost recovery involves raising sufficient revenue to cover maintenance and administration costs as well as the cost of water supply infrastructure. This requirement has resulted in the fees and charges that are proposed”

“The draft 2019/20 Operational Plan is now on public exhibition and can be viewed at Council’s offices, Macquarie Regional Libraries across the Shire, Baradine Rural Transaction Centre, Mendooran Post Office and on Council’s website.

“Don’t miss the opportunity to let us know your thoughts on the draft plan and associated documents. Comments on the draft plans need to be made by Friday, 24 May 2019” concluded Cr Todd.

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