

MEDIA RELEASE

Hope Vale Council's 2018 2019 Budget Adopted

Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council's 2018-19 budget was adopted today 25 July 2018 with clear priorities set by Council.

Acting Mayor Mrs June Pearson said there was plenty of good news in the 2018-2019 budget.

"Our plan delivers on what the community told us what its vision is and priorities are," Mrs Pearson said.

"This year's budget puts these priorities into action – you'll see comparative investment in social infrastructure, road reconstruction, essential services infrastructure, social service delivery and financial sustainability.

The budget is explained in a *Budget Snapshot*, available on Council's website www.hopevale.qld.gov.au

"We've broken it down into six primary areas of spending to explain the breadth of works and services," Mrs Pearson said.

2018-2019 budget includes:

- \$4,185,000 allocated for Capital Works programs including gazetted road restoration
- \$11,252,000 allocated for new housing, upgrades to established housing and responsive maintenance of housing managed by The Department of Housing and Public Works
- \$500,000 allocated to maintain Council's gazetted road network within the shire
- \$3,900,000 provided to ensure that services are delivered under Council's health and social services programs
- \$1,300,000 allocated for the operations and maintenance of essential services including water, sewerage, waste collection and parks and gardens
- \$1,800,800 provided for the administration of Council's business which includes depreciation

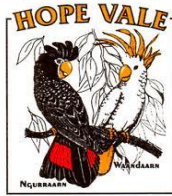
The budget overall reflects expected revenue of \$18.7M and expenditure of \$18.1M.

Mrs Pearson said that the Federal Government's decision to discontinue funding in Queensland for the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing post-30 June 2018 has impacted Council's financial position.

"The disappointing changes occurring currently with housing policies, and the experience of the past housing program of which Hope Vale Council was a partner, has a lot to teach both state and federal levels of government," Mrs Pearson said.

"As the situation around housing policies and programs continue to unfold, there is great potential for federal, state and local leaders to build upon the experience of the past while bringing fresh thinking to a new generation of approaches that respond to the diverse needs of Hope Vale," she said.

Mrs Pearson stated that the new challenges posed by today's economic trends further cements the idea that all Councils should be earning revenue and not just receiving them.



“Hope Vale Council sees the central issue of the housing program to be the question of whether it should be focused on places or people. Council believes that the program should, and can, do both,” she said.

“Through collaborative partnerships, Hope Vale Council developed a financially self-sustaining model which brings people and places together to benefit the community,” Mrs Pearson said.

“The narrow criteria set in relation to housing policies does not reflect the array of demands currently being faced by all small remote communities, so whilst acknowledging that Government policy changes, we are trying to work with all levels of Government to foster a solution for Hope Vale,” she said.

The Council has been appreciative of the Local Government Association of Queensland and the other Queensland Indigenous Local Governments for the ongoing campaign to convince the Federal Government of the vital importance of funding for housing in remote and indigenous communities.

Budget information, including the Snapshot can be found on Council’s website www.hopevale.qld.gov.au

Ends 27/07/2018

For further comment on this article please direct enquiries to Hopevale Aboriginal Shire Council’s communications officer Tracey Wilson on hvcomms@hopevale.qld.gov.au