

A message from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Council Listens

Local Government is the only level of government that publicly consults on annual draft budgets. This is an important part of Council's budget process, and occasionally it reveals issues that need to be addressed, as was the case with this budget.

The draft Budget and Annual Business Plan released for public consultation proposed an average rate increase for existing assessments of 2.85%, with an additional 1.71% of rate revenue coming from new assessments created from new development. The average rate increase for most Land Use Categories (LUC) was well under 2.85%. However, the average increase for primary production properties was around 7.4% following the re-valuation initiative by the State Valuer General

During the public consultation period, primary producers expressed concern about the large rate increase, compared to other land use categories, causing them to bear a significant proportion of the rate increase. Council members and staff acknowledged these concerns and responded by reducing the rate in the dollar, meaning there was a slight revenue reduction for the primary production category.

We acknowledge the outstanding work done by Council staff, to amend the budget without compromising the program, model the effects of various options, and arrive at a solution that corrected the inequity. We also thank Councillors for the positive way they listened and worked cooperatively to help resolve the expressed concerns.

Council General Rates are a tax to benefit the whole community.

Council rates are a tax, like income tax and GST. Rates are a tax based on property value, whereas income tax is a tax determined by income. The principle is the same. The tax raised (in our case, rates) are used to make available a range of services to residents, who will access these services variably. Many of these services are legislated by the government, for example, development assessment, building consent, dog and cat management, noise control, building fire safety, and compliance with various laws and by-laws. Others are prescribed in the Council's function as outlined in the Local Government Act, and include the provision of infrastructure, library services, customer service, various social responsibilities, recreational and other community facilities, improving economic outcomes and the administrative resources to coordinate and deliver these services.

The Annual Business Plan (ABP) details the services, programs, and projects Council intends to deliver in the 2021/2022 Financial Year. It has been developed to address the current needs of the community, but also to ensure that future generations have an even better region to live, work and visit.




Bill O'Brien
Mayor



Deane Rohrlach
Deputy Mayor



Highlights for 2021/2022

	0% Increase in General Rate/\$		Reduction of the Primary Production Rate in the \$		\$2M for Re-Sheeting and New Construction of 20 Rural Roads
	\$5.11m Light Stimulus Program		Increased Social Inclusion and Lifelong Learning Programs		\$485K for Resealing 10 Township Roads
	Completion of Heavy Vehicle Route 3 (Roseworthy to Gawler River)		Completion of Gerald Roberts Road Bridge		Development of Regional Subsidiary
	Commencement of a 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan		Upgrade of the Business Enterprise System		New Destination Brand for Tourism

Strategic Objectives

Light Regional Council's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 recognises the strategic priorities that sustain Council's vision over the next four years. To achieve this, three goal areas have been identified, each of which are underpinned by key objectives. A full list of Council's Strategic Goals and Objectives can be found on our website light@light.sa.gov.au

Goal 1: Community

- Progression of the identified priorities of the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (RPHWP).
- Increased participation in lifelong learning and social engagement programs through Council's library and community development services.
- Upgrade to Council's Enterprise System enabling customers to track the progress of their requests for improved efficiencies and customer experience.
- Commencement of the preparation of a 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).
- The 2021/2022 program of works to maintain and upgrade designated community facilities.

Goal 2: Environment

- Prepare a Sustainability Strategy, including a review and update of Council's Sustainability Policy.
- Develop a system to capture carbon emissions data, to establish a baseline for ongoing monitoring.
- Develop an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy.
- Seek grant funding opportunities to improve and develop open space.

Goal 3: Investment

- Facilitate diversification activities to improve on-farm profitability.
- 2021/2022 Capital Renewal and Light Stimulus Programs.
- Advocacy for improved regional bus services and opportunities for future public transport.
- Increase the promotion of new and existing events that showcase the region's strengths and hospitality.

2020/2021 Achievements

Council reflects on progress and achievements from 2020/2021 over the new financial year as part of the forward planning for the new year ahead. Some of Council's accomplishments across the Light Region are reflected in the highlights below:

- Delivery of a \$6.5m Capital Works Program, including an upgrade of Gundry's Hill in Kapunda, major reconstruction of Stonewell Road, and upgrades of Roennfeldt Road in Greenock and surrounds, and the College Road and Oates Road freight route in Roseworthy.
- Provision of financial and business support for COVID-19 relief programs.
- Council's Community Grants Program awarded funding to 31 recipients across 5 different categories, encouraging local groups and individuals to take a more active role in the community as well as creating opportunities for participation.
- Implementation of the statewide e-planning portal for development services, increasing access for residents and ratepayers.
- Recipient of the Jim Crawford Innovation in Libraries Commendation Award (Community Impact) for the Story Trail Initiative which promoted literacy development and encouraged the community to explore the region.
- Increased use of recycled water for road construction and open space irrigation.

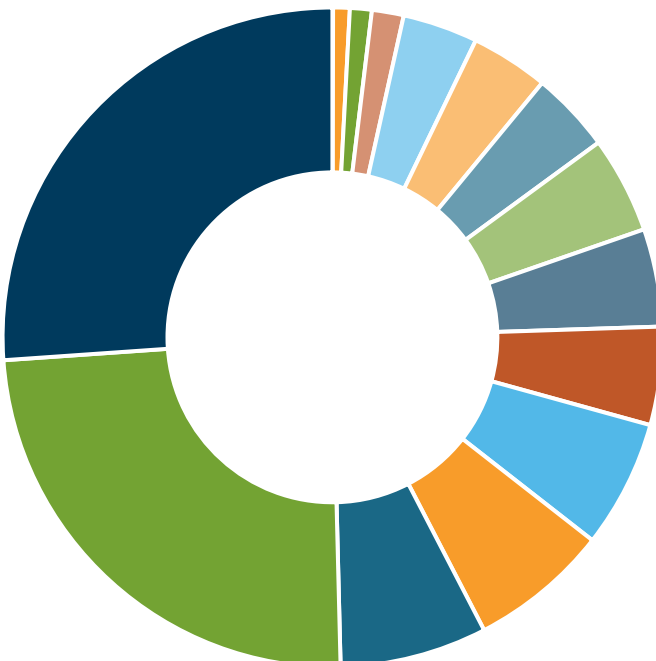


Mayor Bill O'Brien leading a group of children along the award-winning Story Trail at Hewett featuring the book 'King of the Outback: the story of Sidney Kidman.'



The Kapunda RSL received a \$1000 Community Development Grant to go towards the repair and redisplay of the Mortars at Dutton Park.

How your rates are spent (\$'000)



Your Rates Explained

General Rates account for 66% of Council's revenue which funds the services, programs and initiatives provided to the community.

For the fourth consecutive year, no increase was applied to the rate in the dollar for all Land Use Categories (LUC), however, there is a reduction in the rate in the dollar for the Primary Production LUC, which helps offset revaluations by the South Australian Valuer-General in which primary production land increased in value more than any other LUC.

Your individual rates are based on up to four (4) of the components listed below.

The General Rate – Council General Rates benefit the whole community. It is calculated by multiplying the rate in the dollar (set by Council) by the value of your property, as determined by the Valuer-General of South Australia (over which Council has no control). Thus, the general rate you pay may alter if the value of your property changes. If you believe your property valuation is too high, you can apply to the Valuer-General to have it reviewed. The minimum general rate payable is \$875.00.



Property Valuation × **Rate in the Dollar** = **General Rates Payable**

*Excludes properties on minimum rate.

The general rate in the dollar is based on:

Rate/\$ Proposals by Land Use Category (LUC)	2020/2021	2021/2022
Residential	0.0044794	0.0044794
Commercial Shop	0.0078390	0.0078390
Commercial Office	0.0078390	0.0078390
Commercial Other	0.0089588	0.0089588
Industrial Light	0.0123184	0.0123184
Industrial Other	0.0123184	0.0123184
Primary Production*	0.0036283	0.0033596
Vacant Land	0.0078390	0.0078390
Other	0.0044794	0.0044794

*Reduced rate in the dollar.

The Annual Refuse Collection and Recycling Charge* –

This charge is set to cover the actual cost of the service. In 2021/2022 the annual refuse charges for the Township service is \$317 (3 bin), and for the Rural service is \$214 (2 bin). Since many properties located outside the townships cannot access Council's rubbish pick-up service, this is a separate charge, to ensure that only those using the service pay for it and are not subsidised by those for whom it is not available.

The Community Wastewater Management System

Annual Service Charge* – The annual service charges for the Community Wastewater Management Schemes at Kapunda, Freeling, Greenock, Roseworthy and Nuriootpa is \$570 per unit. A few years ago, the Government instructed Councils that this charge should cover the full cost of delivering the service, calculated by using a formula they supplied. When Council applied this formula, it discovered that the amount being charged annually was well under what it should be, and rather than a large increase in one year, it has been gradually increased each year by a defined amount, until the required level is reached. Since many properties outside the townships do not have access to Council's wastewater removal systems, this is also applied as a separate charge.

**These charges are based on services provided for individual properties.*

Rates Payment Due Dates

- 3 September 2021
- 3 December 2021
- 4 March 2022
- 3 June 2022

You can request to receive your notices electronically by registering for



Please refer to your rates notice or council website for further details.

Contact Details

Principal Office: 93 Main Street, Kapunda
Postal Address: PO Box 72, Kapunda SA 5373
Telephone: 08 8525 3200
Fax 08 8566 3262
Email: light@light.sa.gov.au
Website: www.light.sa.gov.au

