

Northern Midlands Council adopts a \$39.7 million balanced budget for 2024 – 2025.

General rates hold to the level of the local government cost index of 3.74%.



At the Council meeting on 24th June 2024 the Council agreed to a modest rate increase of 3.74%

Starting 1 July 2024 to 30 June, 2025 rates will increase by 3.74% which is an average rate increase of \$70-\$86. An average property in Avoca, Conara and Epping can expect rates to increase approximately \$70. In Campbell Town, Cressy and Ross individual rate bills will have an average increase of \$80 and Evandale, Longford and Perth will see an average increase of \$86 on their residential rates notice.

Total rate revenue in 2024-25 is estimated at \$14,609,248 which represents 57.3 percent of Council's total revenue excluding Capital grant funding. There is an expected General Rate revenue increase of approximately \$150,000 from expected new rate base development in the Northern Midlands over the next twelve months.

All properties within the Northern Midlands area were revalued in 2019 and the new valuations provided by the Valuer General on 1 July 2019. This year that valuation has been applied plus the adjustment factors for each of the land use categories.

To ease the impact of rate increases on the community Council will continue the three (3) instalment payments system again for 2024 - 2025. The first instalment being on or before 31 August 2024. The second instalment on or before 30 November 2024 and the third instalment on or before 28 February 2025.

Pension Rate rebates of \$379 apply for a TasWater customer or \$559 for a non TasWater customer. Forms are available from the council office or downloadable from our website. Ratepayers may also take advantage of a 0.5% discount if the rates and charges are paid in full before 31 August 2024.



Council planted over 2300 trees in 2023-2024.

Kerbside Collection Service Charges will increase by 20%.

There will be new service charges for waste management (garbage/waste removal). The new Garbage/waste removal services for urban areas are:

- \$210 for one 140 litre mobile garbage bin, one 240 litre mobile recycling and one food organic garden organic (FOGO) recycling bin in our urban areas.
- \$300 for one 240 litre mobile garbage bin, one 240 litre mobile recycling bin and one FOGO recycling bin in our urban areas.

If you live in our in our Rural Serviced Areas, the rates are:

- \$210 for one 140 litre mobile garbage bin and one 240 litre mobile recycling bin.
- \$300 for one 240 litre mobile garbage bin and one 240 litre mobile recycling bin.

If you require additional recycling bins, there is a charge of \$144 for each additional bin.



State Fire Commission levy increases.

Pursuant to section 93A of the *Local Government Act 1993* Council makes the following service rates in respect of the Fire Service Contributions it must collect under the *Fire Service Act 1979* for the rateable parcels of land within the municipal.

For urban areas such as Cressy, Campbell Town, Longford, Perth & Evandale there is an increase of 2.5% (Volunteer Brigade rating district 0.315 cents in the dollar of assessed annual value of such land). For rural areas there will be an increase of 6.6% (0.22 cents in the dollar of assessed annual value of such land). The council has set an annual \$49.00 minimum amount payable in respect of the service rate for fire protection.

Roads and Infrastructure of the Northern Midlands Council:

Over the whole municipality of the Northern Midlands which covers an area of more than 5,128 square kilometres, the Council maintains and makes safe 110 kilometres of urban sealed roads, 465 kilometres rural sealed roads, 15 kilometres urban gravel roads and 370 kilometres rural gravel roads.

In addition to the recurring base federal grants that Council receives, there is a special purpose grant funding of \$14 million expected during 2024-2025 for the following projects:

- Campbell Town & Perth Main Street Projects \$8,000,000
- Longford Streetscape footpaths \$1,393,628
- Perth Urban Stormwater Improvements \$1,863,514
- Roads to Recovery \$960,936
- Roads & Community Infrastructure Phase 4a & 4b \$909,136
- Western Junction Stormwater Detention improvements \$265,000.

The Council has set a large capital works budget of \$32.2 million including the maintenance and construction of following programs for 2024-2025:

- Road Program of \$17,863,669
- Footpath Program of \$1,336,290
- Bridge Replacement of \$3,527,028
- Stormwater Program of \$1,835,030
- Community Building Improvements of \$3,138,160
- Recreation Improvements \$2,206,270
- Fleet Replacement Program (net cost of) \$1,632,000
- Plant & Equipment \$295,000
- Information Technology & other equipment \$387,139

The Council will continue to maintain similar operating service levels as last year, and support local community with a small grants program and special event funding rounds.



Upgrade of the War Memorial Hall, Longford.

Other Major Projects for 2024-2025:

- Campbell Town and Perth Urban Main Street Improvement projects.
- Bridge/culvert upgrades over Sheepwash Creek at Perth.
- Longford and Breadalbane pathway projects.
- Reconstruction of sections of Elphinstone Road and Ashby Road.
- Detention Basin extensions at TRANSlink Industrial Estate.
- Replacement of the Longford Caravan Park amenities building
- Improvements to Pioneer Park at Evandale and Macquarie River reserve at Cressy.



Perth Main Street foot path improvements.

If you would like more information the Council's Annual Plan which outlines Special Projects, Capital Works and other tasks and targets to be achieved over the next 12 months is available on the Council's website.

www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Mary Knowles OAM, Mayor