

CAPITAL WORKS IN BUDGET BALANCE

Northern Midlands Council has adopted a \$12.76 million capital works program for 2026–27, including upgrades to roads, recreation facilities, public amenities and community infrastructure across the municipality.

COUNCIL BUDGET BALANCES COMMUNITY INVESTMENT WITH COST-OF-LIVING PRESSURES

Northern Midlands Council has adopted its 2026–27 Annual Plan and Budget, committing more than \$12.7 million to infrastructure, community facilities and essential services while keeping rate increases below inflation. The budget, adopted at a Special Council Meeting on 13 July, sets out Council's priorities for the coming financial year and includes significant investment in roads, recreation facilities, stormwater infrastructure and community assets across the municipality. The capital works program totals approximately \$12.76 million, with around 72 per cent of expenditure directed towards renewing and maintaining existing infrastructure.

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM said the budget strikes an important balance between continued investment in community priorities and managing the financial realities facing both Council and ratepayers. "Council has carefully considered the needs of our community and the rising costs facing all levels of government," Mayor Knowles said. "This Budget allows us to continue investing in the infrastructure and services that support our towns and rural communities while maintaining a responsible approach to long-term financial sustainability."

Among the major projects funded in the coming year are improvements to Campbell Town's main street between King Street and the Red Bridge, completion of reconstruction works on Ashby Road, upgrades at Pioneer Park in Evandale, development of the Napoleon Street Playground in Perth and improvements to the Longford entrance statement. Funding has also been allocated to continue the Breadalbane Shared Pathway, extend the TRANSlink stormwater detention basin, construct new public amenities at Napoleon Street in Perth and Blackburn Park in Campbell Town, upgrade facilities at the Ross Recreation Ground and improve accessible amenities at the Ross Caravan Park.

Beyond these headline projects, Council will continue to invest in the ongoing renewal and maintenance of roads, bridges and stormwater infrastructure throughout the municipality. Support for community grants, special project assistance, festivals, events and promotional activities will also continue, alongside investment in community facilities, recreation assets, plant, fleet and technology infrastructure.

Mayor Knowles said maintaining and renewing the municipality's existing assets remained a key priority. "We remain focused on renewing and maintaining our existing assets, supporting community activities and positioning the Northern Midlands for future growth and opportunity," she said. To support these investments, Council adopted a 4.0 per cent increase in the general rate in the dollar and a 4.0 per cent increase in kerbside waste service charges for 2026–27. Council noted the increase remains below the Hobart Consumer Price Index annual movement of 5.1 per cent recorded to March 2026 and has chosen not to apply an additional 1.0 per cent sustainability increase previously identified in its Long-Term Financial Plan.

The budget has also been prepared following the 2026 municipal revaluation, which has changed property values across the municipality. While Council's overall rate revenue will increase by 4.0 per cent, the effect on individual properties will vary depending on valuation changes, property type and location. Council has adjusted its rating model to help moderate these impacts and maintain equity across different property classes. The 2026–27 Annual Plan and Budget supports Council's Strategic Plan 2021–2027 and continues investment in the people, places and infrastructure that contribute to a strong and sustainable Northern Midlands. Copies of the Annual Plan and Budget are available from Council and on the Northern Midlands Council website.



New culvert components ready for installation as part of Council's investment in maintaining and upgrading critical infrastructure across the municipality.



Construction crews undertake reconstruction and sealing works on Ashby Road, delivering improved road safety, reduced maintenance requirements and enhanced access for the local community.

Streetscape works form part of the Campbell Town Main Street Upgrade, delivering improved amenity, landscaping and public spaces for residents, businesses and visitors.

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