

Council has prepared its draft Delivery Program for the four year period from 2017/18 to 2020/21. This document, which also includes the draft Operational Plan for 2017/18, outlines items such as:

- services and key actions planned by Council for 2017/18 to 2020/21
- a summary of the major capital works planned for 2017/18 to 2020/21
- our long term financial plan for 2017/18 to 2026/27
- rates, charges and fees proposed for 2017/18.

In respect to the rates, charges and fees, items of note include:

- CPI increases in waste collection, water access, waste consumption and wastewater charges.
- removal of the \$73 waste operations charge that was previously paid by all residential properties.
- the introduction of a 50% pensioner / health care card holder concession, on a 12 month trial, for eligible season ticket holders for the Burns Point Ferry.
- a 4.9% increase in our total rate income for 2017/18. This is 3.4% above the standard rate peg limit of 1.5%, with the funding from the additional percentage to be expended on increased asset renewal works and actions to improve the health of our waterways. The 3.4% extra increase has been approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the 2017/18 financial year only.
- The Delivery Program also outlines a three year program of above rate peg limit increases proposed by Council being 4.9% for 2017/18, 5.9% for 2018/19 and 5.9% for 2019/20 with the extra monies to be expended on increased asset renewal and our healthy waterways program. These increases are intended to be permanent increases to our rate income.

In addition to our recurrent capital works for roads, footpaths and stormwater the two major community infrastructure projects planned for 2017/18 are:

- Expansion of the Skennars Head Sports Fields.
- Design, approval and commencement of construction for a two court Indoor Sports Centre as part of the Ballina High School re-development. This will then form part of a larger four court complex.

The draft documents are now on exhibition and members of the public are encouraged to inspect the documents and make submissions to Council during the exhibition period. As part of the exhibition process Council will hold two public meetings. The dates and venues for these meetings are as follows and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

7pm Monday 29 May 2017	Wardell Memorial Hall
7pm Tuesday 30 May 2017	Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre

The draft Delivery Program, Operational Plan and associated documents can be viewed at Council's **Community Access Points and website**.

Submissions close: Tuesday 13 June 2017.

Enquiries: Linda Coulter, Manager Financial Services, Ph 6686 4444.

2017/18 Donations Program:
Community Groups - Financial Assistance
Community Halls – Capital Assistance
Sporting Groups – Capital Assistance

The draft 2017/18 Operational Plan provides funding through our donations program to assist community based groups deliver services to our residents.

For guidelines on how financial assistance is provided refer to the Council's donation policies available on our website **ballina.nsw.gov.au** (search Financial Assistance).

To be eligible for financial assistance the relevant application form must be completed and returned to Council. Forms can be downloaded from **ballina.nsw.gov.au** (search Council Forms).

Applications close: Tuesday 13 June 2017.

Enquiries: Jay Ellis, Administration Officer, Ph 6686 4444.