

2020/21 Budget Submissions

Submitter	Nature of submission	Funds requested	Recommendation
Submitter 1	Request no 2% rate rise or increase in waste charges for 2020/21		No change to budget. The financial impact of not proceeding with the rate cap increase of 2% is significant over the 10-year long term financial plan. Financial assistance will be provided to those most impacted by the economic impacts of COVID-19 through the operation of Council's financial hardship policy and the Business and Community Recovery Grants program.
Submitter 2	Satisfied with 2% rate rise. Requests increased footpath construction in residential areas		
Submitter 3	Request no 2% rate rise for 2020/21		
Submitter 4	Request no 2% rate rise for 2020/21		
Submitter 5	3 year partnership to support philanthropic initiatives for Into Our Hands Foundation	\$45,000	Accept submission in part. Council contribution of \$15,000 over three years.
Submitter 6	Waiver of fees	\$60,000 - \$70,000	No change to budget. Submitter referred to State Government's Community Sport Sector Short-term Survival Package for financial assistance.
Submitter 7	Request no 2% rate rise for 2020/21		No change. Refer to commentary above.
Submitter 8	Request no rate rise for agricultural properties 2020/21, with a reduction in the differential as the value of farmland increases		No change to budget. Council adopted its Rating Strategy in 2018 and will adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> before 30 June 2021. It is not recommended that modifications to the rating differentials or rate in the dollar are made in isolation or before the Revenue and Rating Plan is adopted in 2021.
Submitter 9	Donation for Albury Wodonga Carer Accommodation Centre	\$1,000 - \$10,000	Accept submission in part. Council contribution of \$5,000 per annum for three years.
Submitter 10	Do not proceed with upgrade to Ivones Lane Bridge	Capital works expenditure \$300,000 Contribution income \$200,000	Accept submissions.
Submitter 11			Recommend that Council funds of \$100,000 be returned as savings to the 2020/21 budget.
Submitter 12			
Submitter 13			

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		Net impact \$100,000	
Submitter 14	Request no 2% rate rise for 2020/21		No change. Refer to commentary above.
Submitter 15	Request budget to be customer focussed	Nil	No changes to budget. Draft budget included funding for Customer Experience Strategy, upgrades to Council websites and digital transformation of services in addition to recurring budgets.
Submitter 16	Grant for equipment hire, development of business plan and administration support	\$15,000	No change to budget. Submitter referred to newly created Business and Community Recovery Grants program.
Submitter 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request no 2% rate rise for 2020/21 2. Deferral of projects (i) rebranding and marketing program; (ii) Apex Park development and (iii) Wareena Park redevelopment 3. Allocation of funds for heritage projects 4. Discounted entry to aquatic facilities 5. Increase funding of culture, arts and heritage 6. Increase funding of community grants and development of categories for equal participation in programs 		<p>No change. Refer to commentary above with respect to item 1.</p> <p>No change to timetable for delivery of rebranding and marketing, Apex Park or Wareena Park works. Council has reviewed its program delivery and modified as necessary for the impacts of COVID-19 and remains committed to these projects during 2020/21.</p> <p>Budget now includes a new Business and Community Recovery Grants Program to assist businesses and community groups.</p>
Submitter 18 (late submission)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support Grit and Resilience program 2. Support Apex Park development and recommends integration with Visitor Information Centre 3. Support organics processing plant 4. Encourage greater allocation of resources to sustainability measures 	No specific funding request	No change as submission was supportive of exiting budget allocations.

Officer Submissions	Nature of submission	Funds requested	Recommendation
COVID-19 Community Support from 1 July 2020	Council will introduce a range of measures to assist ratepayers, residents and businesses who've been financially impacted by COVID-19.	Waiver or discount of business fees and charges \$111,295 Business and Community Recovery Grant program of \$372,867	Approve, noting that impact from draft budget is reduction in revenue of \$111,295. Proposed Community Support Package provides targeted relief to impacted industries and businesses. The combination of fee relief and a grants support program is expected to be more effective at supporting local businesses than a rate freeze or broad-based deferral of rate instalments.
Fees & Charges	Increase to recycling bin charge. Recycling bin charges to increase by a further \$5 per bin in 2020/21. Bin charge for 2019/20 was \$136, draft budget proposed increase to \$144 and now recommended to increase to \$149.	Income increase \$74,575 Expenditure increase \$78,707	Recommend increasing fee to recover increased costs of recycling contract.
Fees & Charges	Retain existing fees for Wangaratta Sports & Aquatic Centre given facility is not reopening until mid-July 2020 and transition to COVID-Safe operating requirements will change utilisation of service in the short term. Corrections to fees for Planning services Simplification of Events fee structure	Nil	Majority of impact during period of YMCA management. No financial impact expected to draft budget beyond COVID-19 impacts included below. No financial impact as budgets had been calculated on correct fee. No financial impact, simplification of terminology only.
Changes due to State and Federal Budget, operating conditions and recent Council resolutions	A range of changes to income, expenses and capital works due to announcements in the State & Federal budgets, impacts of Covid-19 together with changes from recent Councillor briefing forums, Council meetings and successful grant applications.		Changes made in 2020/21 Budget. Officer submissions changed the 2019/20 Forecast and also the 2020/21 Budget. The submissions (including those listed above) result in a favourable improvement to the income statement of \$6.1 million in 2020/21 and \$962,000 in 2019/20.

	<p>Council has assessed the likely financial impacts of Covid-19 on its 2020/21 Budget and has estimated an unfavourable impact of \$430,000, comprising:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reduction in revenue from reduced patronage of Council services such as Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre 2. increase in costs to ensure Council services comply with all health and safety requirements for our customers, employees and the community 3. reduction in costs from expenditure that will not be incurred due to social distancing requirements. <p>Compared to the draft budget, 2020/21 total income has increased by \$6.618 million and total expenses has increased by \$459,000. This net favourable result of \$6.1 million is substantially due to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an increase in capital and operating grant income of \$3.9 million 2. recognition of reimbursement income of \$2.5 million in 2020/21 instead of 2019/20 3. a reduction in the depreciation expense of \$3.9 million and 4. materials and services expenditure increase of \$4.1 million from the draft budget to reflect expenditure obligations arising 		
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	from the additional operating grants and carry over of expenditure for projects commenced in 2019/20 that will continue into 2020/21.		
Capital works program	<p>Increase to capital works program for 2020/21</p> <p>Key changes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry over capital works from 2019/20 of \$1,117,024 as set out in May 2020 Council meeting; 2. Three new projects supported by grant funding of \$3,054,045 3. Carry over capital works from 2019/20 of \$1,132,468 to reflect recent changes to project delivery timetables 4. Net reduction of \$33,387 to 2020/21 capital works for Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre building renewal and aquatics equipment 5. Reclassification of two projects from capital to operating expenditure of \$250,000 	\$4,720,150 (including the impact of changes above for Ivones Lane Bridge)	<p>Approve, changes are aligned with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjustments made at May Council meeting 2. Recently announced grant programs 3. Project delivery timetables for projects.