

What do my rates pay for?

From the Mayor

This year's budget focuses on maintaining services through efficiency and strong financial management, while also providing a positive capital works program. This includes \$15.9 million for capital works and \$8.5 million for roads and roads maintenance. There is also \$422,000 in works approved through Community Plans for towns including Robinvale, Manangatang, Nyah, Lake Boga, Ultima, Boundary Bend and Woorinen.

More than \$4.4 million is included for the maintenance and improvement of our recreation facilities.

Over \$8 million has also been allocated to the support of our elderly residents (this includes the Loddon Mallee Local Government Consortium).

The budget's 2.5 per cent average rate rise is consistent with the State Government's rate capping level. However, our residents and ratepayers do need to bear in mind that as this is a property revaluation year, the actual change for individual property owners will vary.

There's a moderate 1.7 per cent rise for kerbside rubbish collection charges

(in line with the December 2015 Consumer Price Index) and no increase in the charge for a 240-litre green waste bin.

I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors, Council staff, other levels of government and the broader community in implementing this budget for the benefit of the entire municipality.



Cr Les McPhee
Mayor, Swan Hill Rural City Council

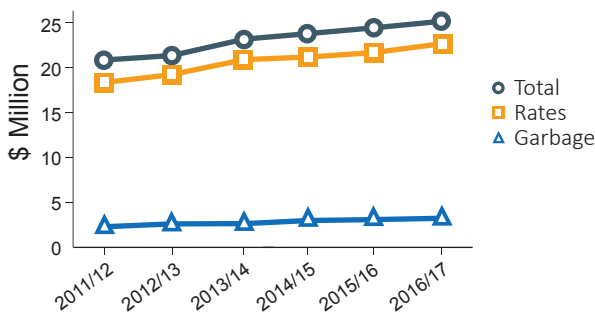
Has your valuation changed?

As of 1 January 2016, all properties in Victoria had new valuations assigned by Council valuers. The valuers analyse property sales and rental data trends, and consider other factors such as the highest and best use of the land, house value and other site improvements, land size, location and soil type. The new values will be used from 1 July 2016.

Ratepayers have the right to object to their new valuation within two months of the annual rate notice being issued.

Trends in rates and charges levied

The following graph shows total rates and garbage charges raised by Council each year since 2011/12.



Rates capping

Council has complied with the Victorian Government's rates cap of 2.5 per cent. The cap applies to the average annual increase of rates and charges.

The rates and charges for your property may have increased or decreased by a different amount for the following reasons:

- The valuation of your property relative to the valuation of other properties in the municipal district.
- The application of any differential rate by Council.
- The inclusion of other rates and charges not covered by the Victorian Government's rates cap.

Pay your rates in four easy instalments

You can pay your rates in four instalments using any of the payment options listed on your rates notice.

Pay all four instalments by 30 September to receive a 1 per cent discount.



2016/17 budget at a glance

Council receives funding from a number of sources and has a budgeted income of over \$56.4 million in 2016/17.

45%	Rates and garbage charges
25%	Grants - recurrent
10%	Grants - non-recurrent
10%	User fees
3%	Other
3%	Contributions - cash
1%	Statutory fees and charges
1%	Loans of \$500,000
1%	Proceeds from disposal of assets
1%	Reserves

Budget highlights

- Council's rate increase is 2.5 per cent while maintaining current service levels and providing for infrastructure, maintenance and replacement.
- **For every \$1 in rates, Council provides \$2.51 in services.**
- Works approved through Community Plans \$571,000.
- Roads and road maintenance (including external funding) \$8.5 million.
- Swan Hill CBD and Robinvale levee drainage works \$1.4 million.

For every \$100

Swan Hill Rural City Council spends in 2016/17.



* including external funding