

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## COORONG PROPOSES MAJOR ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN 18-19 PLAN

The Coorong District Council has this week adopted its **2018-19 Annual Business Plan** and budget, and **2018-2029 Long Term Financial Plan** reiterating its focus on roads and key district-wide infrastructure projects for the year ahead.

Key areas for investment outlined in the 18-19 plan, include:

- an increase of \$200,000 on its unsealed roads replacement program;
- an additional \$500,000 to improve unsealed roads service standards;
- a \$446,000 upgrade to the Tailem Bend public toilets' and associated amenities;
- a \$100,000 upgrade to the Coonalpyn public toilets' sewerage system;
- \$165,000 to continue upgrades at Tailem Bend's Dickson Reserve;
- an \$87,000 replacement and upgrade of the Peake water tank infrastructure;
- \$55,000 for Tintinara's Lake Indawarra Precinct;
- \$22,000 to support development of a Meningie off-leash dog park; and
- \$44,000 to support ongoing construction of the Murray Coorong Trail.



Coorong District Council Mayor Neville Jaensch says its been a period of exceptional economic growth for the district in recent years, and a focus on built environments was part of accommodating this.

"We've listened to the community and adopted plans which set out a responsible approach to the future," Mayor Jaensch says.

"We're a small Council in terms of population, but a big player in terms of the State's strategic growth plans. Both the ABP and financial plan recognise this and allow us to invest in key local projects needing attention, while also looking to partner with State and Federal agencies on major projects.

"We want to ensure the momentum continues in terms of industry and tourism investment in the Coorong, so will continue to focus on our public spaces and facilities, while also doing the groundwork in planning and development to ensure we don't miss any opportunities."

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The Council also remains committed to its exceptional work in community wellbeing and will continue to deliver a range of grass-roots activities already underway, while continuing to seek external funding for large-scale arts, health and social programs across the district.

Chief Executive Officer Vincent Cammell says the adoption of the ABP will see a rise in general rates by three per cent plus growth. Further, an adjustment will be made to the primary industry rating differential from 85 to 87 per cent.

“We have one of the biggest and busiest rural road networks of any local government area nationally, so it’s imperative that we look to invest in our sealed and unsealed sections,” Mr Cammell says.

“As part of a long term management approach, we’ll also be looking to divert heavy traffic from some of our smaller council roads back onto the State and national highways. This will help maintain our roads and improve safety.

“We’ll also be working to attract major road funding and partnership opportunities to assist with projects such as the Kulde Road upgrade, Murray Coorong Trail construction and Princes Highway entrance statements.”

Other significant factors outlined in the ABP (and Long Term Financial Plan) include:

- real growth of \$100,000 per year, over the next decade for capital renewal of unsealed roads as part of the long term financial plan;
- a new bi-annual playground renewal budget to start in 2018-19;
- removal of the early rates payment incentive to encourage quarterly payments, and allow for the community newsletter to be circulated with quarterly rate notices (thereby reducing printing and circulation costs); and
- introducing a fairer, transparent user-pays system for ratepayers benefitting from the water scheme at Wellington East and Peake – i.e. there will be a connection fee of \$235 (\$315 in 2017-18) for every property connected to the scheme and 0.60c/kl charge for those consuming water from the scheme.
- increase in total debt by 2028-29 to \$11.2 million (increase over 10 years by \$7.3 million) to fund the \$11.9 million in additional road funding as set out in the long term financial plan

“It’s an exciting time for our region, and our team is looking forward to working alongside the community, businesses, industry and supportive government agencies to ensure it continues,” Mr Cammell says.

All ratepayers will receive their 2018-19 ABP Summary document with their first quarter rates notice in August this year. In the meantime, those wishing to read the full plan can visit the website: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au).

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