



## *Shire of Kondinin*

# 2016/17 RATES NEWSLETTER

### **Introduction**

The Shire of Kondinin's Shire President Cr Allen Smoker, Councillors, CEO and the administration team are pleased to provide this newsletter covering the 2016/17 budget, which totals \$10.3million in revenue and \$10.3million in expenditure. It provides for significant capital expenditure encompassing a road construction program which includes gravel re-sheeting 50kms of key roads in the Shire, improved sporting and recreation amenities, plant replacement, building our reserve funds, employee housing, improved tourism and heritage amenities, etc.



Front Row Left to Right – John Read CEO, Cr. Sue Meeking -Deputy Shire President, Cr Allen Smoker - Shire President, Cr Rowena Butler, Cr Bruce Browning.

Back Row Left to Right – Cr Gerard Lynch, Alan George - Deputy CEO, Cr Rex Growden, Cr Murray James, Cr Gary Ilich, Cr Steve Jones.

## **Council**

### Council Elections

Elections are held every 2 years with the next election to be held in October, 2017. There will be 5 vacancies for the 2017 election with nominations advertised for these vacancies prior to October, 2017.

### Electors Meeting

The Council holds a general meeting of electors in February each year. Attendance at this meeting is open to all residents where Councillors and staff are on hand to answer any questions or queries electors may have covering the year under review.

## **Administration**

The Shires administration team comprises the following:

- John Read – CEO
- Alan George – Deputy CEO
- Vince Bugna – Manager of Finance
- Tory Young – Manager Planning & Development
- Doug Davey – Manager of Works
- Gary Valenta – Works Supervisor
- Heather Lockyer – Rates and Payroll Officer
- Ian Holland – Executive Support Officer
- Ellen Valenta – Senior Administration Officer
- Ayu Muftidhati – Trainee Customer Services Officer
- Cherith Smith - Hyden Administration & Library Officer
- Rachel Hendry - Hyden Administration & Library Officer

## **2016/17 Budget Summary**

### **1. Rates**

- Rates have been levied based on a 3.5% increase on rates assessed last year across all rating categories except GRV Mining Infrastructure where no increase has been imposed due to a change in valuation methodology adopted by the Valuer General. 3.5% can be considered a modest increase. Some individual rate assessment increases may vary because mandatory new Gross Rental Values (GRV) have been provided by the Valuer General, which apply from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016. A GRV revaluation of properties in the Shire is required every five years. Unimproved Value (UV) properties are re-valued by the Valuer General every 12 months.
- Rating revenue in the 2016/17 year is \$2.9million. A 5% discount applies for early payment.
- Expected interest on investments is \$78,000.00

### **2. Grants Commission**

- Each year the Shire receives a Federal Assistance Grant (FAG). The 2016/17 total grant is \$1.6million, the same as last year due to a Federal Government freeze on the normal CPI increases.

### **3. Law, Order & Public Safety**

- Council recently reviewed its Local Emergency Management Plan which details possible threats and counter disaster measures covering the Shire of Kondinin.
- Our bush fire brigades and local emergency services volunteers do a great job in countering bush fires and emergency incidents occurring in our area.

### **4. Health**

- Since 2013 Jupiter Health & Medical Services has provided a medical Doctor service to the Shires of Kondinin and Kulin communities. From 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 Jupiter's services will cease and Dr Alain Mackie will provide the service.
- Our Kondinin/Hyden St John Ambulance volunteers continue to do a great job in providing this important service.
- Environmental Health Services are provided to the Shire of Kondinin through RoeROC (a regional organisation comprising the Shires of Kondinin, Kulin, Narembeen and Corrigin). Our Environmental Health Officer (EHO) is Julian Goldacre, who provides a good service to the Shire of Kondinin. RoeROC also administers the Bending Regional Waste facility which services Shire members of RoeROC. Avon Waste are contracted to provide a weekly rubbish removal service to all towns in the four Shires. The Shire of Kondinin's 2016/17 budget provides for \$335,233 expenditure in the provision of health services.

### **5. Community Sporting/Progress Organisations**

- The Shire of Kondinin is well serviced by several community organisations that contribute significantly to the promotion and provision of sporting and other community facilities. These include the Kondinin Community Recreation Council, Hyden Progress Association and Karlgarin Progress Association, who all have community farm projects which generates significant funds for the purpose of bettering community facilities. Hyden Sports Council also actively promote sport and sporting amenities in the Hyden area.
- Sporting activity in the Shire includes AFL football, tennis, netball, hockey, cricket, lawn bowls, golf, etc. This sporting activity assists in creating the very strong sense of community that exists in our towns in the Shire of Kondinin. The standard of sporting facilities which include grass football, cricket and hockey ovals, tennis courts, golf courses, two synthetic lawn bowl facilities, netball courts, swimming pools/aquatic centres, etc. serviced by sports clubs/recreation centres and pavilion premises, can be considered of a high standard. The 2016/17 budget provides for the continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities. Last year the Shire spent over \$500,000 in a major upgrade/extension of the Hyden Sports & Recreation Pavilion and this year has allocated \$250,000 towards assisting the Kondinin Community & Recreation Council in the extension and upgrade of its club facility.
- The Shire in the 2016/17 year has allocated \$57,000 in Community Grants to various community organisations.
- The Shire is also contributing \$25,000 towards the \$75,000 Hyden Tennis Courts Lighting Project, funded a third each by the Shire, Tennis Club and Department of Sport & Recreation.
- The new budget also provides for the Shire contributing \$34,233 towards the Hockey Field Lighting for the Hyden Hockey Club.

## **6. Education & Welfare**

A child care facility (Hyden Occasional Child Care Association – HOCCA) is operated by volunteers, providing an important service to the Hyden area. The Shire of Kondinin has assisted the group financially with \$25,000 and \$10,000 in Shire grants in recent times, plus a \$6,710.00 community grant to assist with building improvements.

## **7. Housing**

The 2016/17 budget provides for the construction of a new Shire employee house in Kondinin to be located in Repacholi Parade.

## **8. Road Construction and Maintenance**

- The 2016/17 budget provides for the following works totalling \$2,701,211:
  - \$1,134,581 Roads to Recovery - 50kms re-sheeting various gravel roads. These roads include Worland, Henderer, Lovering, Notting-Karlgarin, Pederah West, Hyden Norseman, Kondinin Lake, Kondinin Narembeen, Roe and Mt Walker/Worland Road T junction.
  - \$495,000 Regional Road Group - Mt Walker & East Hyden Bin Roads – Bitumen Seal.
  - \$408,226 Road Maintenance
  - \$505,504 Summer & Winter Road Grading.
  - \$157,900 MRWA funded Road Maintenance
- A Kondinin & Hyden Town Site Stormwater Infrastructure Analysis has been provided for in the budget to be undertaken by Consultants, due to drainage problems in the town sites after rains -\$58,650

## **9. Plant Purchase**

- Following a cost benefit analysis, the Shire in the 2016/17 year will sell five of its (older) trucks and lease five new ones over a five year period. In the 16/17 year the Shire will also be re-furbishing its Hamm Roller, Low Loader and two side tipper trailers to bring them up to top condition (\$85,000), as well as purchase a new grader for the road construction crew (net \$245,000 changeover after trading in the existing Volvo grader). Arrangements are in place to build the Shire's Plant Replacement Reserve Fund to allow for the cash purchase of new trucks at the end of the five year period (2021/22) in the event we do not extend the lease period, as well as assisting with the future replacement of heavy earth moving plant. We are well on the way to achieve this objective and at the end of the 2016/17 year we will have \$583,000 in this reserve fund.
- The new budget also provides for the purchase of an additional new Community Bus based at Hyden at a cost of \$120,000.

## **10. Aged Accommodation**

The Shire of Kondinin recognises the important need to encourage our elderly citizens to remain housed in our Shire. Aged accommodation facilities provided in the Shire of Kondinin include Yeerakine Lodge located adjacent to the Kondinin Hospital providing four units, West Court Retirement Village catering for eight units located in Kondinin and Whispering Gums Retirement Village catering for six units located at Hyden.

The 2016/17 budget provides for a four unit extension to Yeerakine Lodge (\$992,000) funded by \$172,000 Shire contribution towards the National Stronger Regions grant funding application (\$600,000), to compliment the Kondinin/Kulin Aged Housing Committee contribution of \$150,000. This project is subject to gaining funding approval from the

Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Fund, which outcome will be known in August, 2016.

The Shire has joined seven other local governments to form the Wheatbelt South Aged Housing Alliance aimed at accessing grant funding from the Wheatbelt Development Commission's (Royalties for Regions) Growing Our South initiative for aged accommodation. Two additional units are planned for Westcourt Retirement Village in Kondinin and two additional units for Whispering Gums Retirement Village in Hyden. Subject to grant approval, which we expect will be known in the next few months, these units will be constructed in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 years.

#### **11. Wave Rock Improvements**

- The 2016/17 budget provides for over \$180,000 improvements to the Wave Rock precinct, including an additional toilet block to better cater for tourist numbers. Last year significant funds were expended as part of the Wave Rock Improvement Plan which included provision of new electric BBQ's, attractive shelters/seating and improvements to the toilet facility at The Breakers tourist picnic area, new pine log railing installed at the Wave Rock entrance area and Hippo's Yawn, as well as a new ticket entry machine which will accept credit cards as well as coins.
- Provision has also been made in the new budget for pole mounted, solar powered security cameras located at the Wave Rock entrance, Hippo's Yawn and at the Humps/Mulka's Cave car parks, due to the frequency of car break-ins in recent times.

#### **12. Other Amenities Provided in the 2016/17 Budget**

- Coronation Park Hyden Improvements - \$50,000
- Kondinin Pioneer Memorial Wall - \$25,000
- Bituminise car park in Karlgarin between Bowling Club and Hall - \$25,805
- Hyden Hall surrounds and adjoining street kerbing & paving - \$50,000

#### **Conclusion**

The Shire of Kondinin is in a healthy financial position and the 2016/17 year will allow the Shire to build further improvements to community amenities, build cash backed reserve funds to \$1.288 million and further consolidate our financial sustainability. The Shire's total debt/principal owing in respect of loans as at the 1/7/2016 is considered conservative at \$1,484,538, (which mainly comprises loan principals owing in respect of Hyden Sewerage (\$611,102) and Kondinin Aquatic Centre (\$449,757), with \$223,756 being local community organisation's self-supporting loans. No debt is being raised in the 2016/17 financial year.

Warm regards

**John M Read**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

# Budget Snapshot

2016/2017 Annual Budget - Where the Funds Come From and Where They are Spent

