



2022-23 Annual Business Plan Summary

The Annual Business Plan sets out Council’s proposed services, programs and projects for 2022-23. It aims to maintain efficient services for the community and continues progress towards the longer term objectives for the district as set out in the Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans.

Council relies heavily on rates and grant revenue as primary sources of income. The following table provides a summary of the Budgeted Operating Income and Expenditure for the 2022-23 year.

Operating Income	\$m	Operating Expenses	\$m
Rates	\$9.48	Employee costs	\$3.79
User/Statutory charges	\$0.31	Materials, Contract, Other	\$3.58
Grants	\$2.66	Finance costs	\$0.32
Other income	\$0.62	Depreciation	\$5.02
Total	\$13.07	Total	\$12.71

A full copy of the Annual Business Plan is available at www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Following adoption of the Annual Business Plan no material changes have been made to the version that was presented to the community for consultation.



Mayor Ben Browne

Project Priorities for the Year

In 2022-23 Council will undertake major Capital Works that are in accordance with Council’s Asset Management Plans. Capital works must at least be equivalent to Asset Management Plans in order to ensure the longevity of existing assets and statutory compliance.

Council is proposing capital expenditure of \$9.1 million of which \$0.5 million is allocated for new assets and the remaining \$8.6 million for renewal and upgrade of existing assets.

Civil

- Re-sealing of existing Sealed roads \$531,000;
- New Seal allowance \$150,000 (Loan funded) – the 2022-23 program will be an additional year of the program
- Infrastructure Renewal allowance \$500,000 (Loan funded)
- Pine Creek Bridge \$2.9M (Federal grant funding)
- Unsealed road re-sheeting \$1,805,000;
- Bridges \$158,000; Footpaths \$113,000; Kerbs \$61,000;
- Ayr Street Design \$200,000; Public Lighting \$40,000

Stormwater

- Jamestown Flood Mitigation \$200,000 (50% grants)
- Laura Stormwater Management \$100,000 (50% grants)
- Stormwater \$80,000; Floodway & Culvert program \$50,000

Plant

- Plant replacement of \$1,025,000 less trade values of \$100,000;

Buildings

- Swimming Pool projects \$158,000
- Other Building projects \$120,000
- New Gladstone Public toilets \$180,000
- Planned building minor capital \$65,000
- Hall compliance (Fire safety, Disability compliance) \$50,000
- Solar/Energy Upgrades \$40,000; Public toilet tiling \$40,000



Jamestown Memorial Park

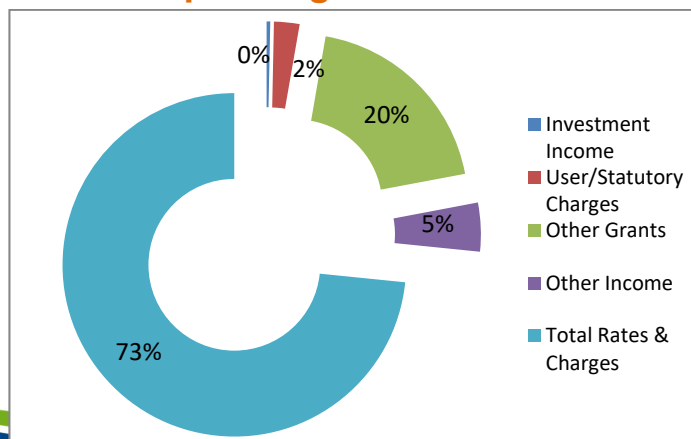
Public Open Space

- Playgrounds \$70,000;

CWMS

- CWMS projects \$203,000;

2022/23 Operating Revenue Mix



Significant Influences and Priorities

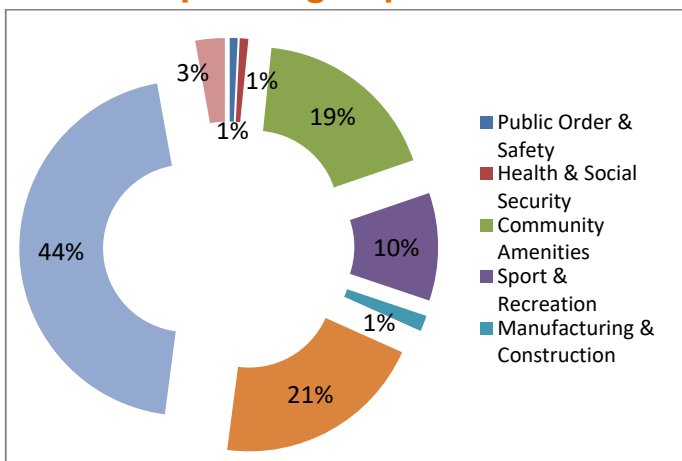
A number of significant factors have influenced the preparation of the Council's 2022-23 Annual Business Plan. These include:

- Consumer Price Index increases on relevant goods and services of 4.7% for the year to March 2022;
- Local Government Price Index (LGPI) increases on relevant goods and services of 3.5% for the year;
- Council to make gradual improvements towards a financially sustainable operating position;
- Requirements to maintain and improve infrastructure assets to acceptable standards including roads, footpaths, lighting, stormwater drainage, street trees and plantings, open space and Council properties;
- Service and infrastructure needs for a changing population;
- Commitments to continuing projects and partnership initiatives over more than one year.
- New fees/charges imposed by other governments e.g. Waste Levy, Regional Landscape Levy;
- Disability Access and Inclusion Planning initiatives

In response to these factors, and to minimise the burden on ratepayers, the Annual Business Plan has been prepared within the following guidelines:

- The Annual Business Plan will result in the total revenue raised through general rates increasing by 2.50%;
- Total operating expenses to be held within CPI and LGPI of the current year's level;
- Maintenance of service levels for continuing Council programs and activities;
- Continuing to pursue shared service opportunities with governmental agencies, other local government authorities and private enterprise;
- Improving Asset Management practices through the implementation of various Asset Management Plans and associated service level documents.

2022/23 Operating Expense Mix



Reflecting on 2021-22

Highlights of the goals and outcomes achieved by Council during the 2021-22 financial year include:

Building Maintenance Program

Continuation of Hall Fire Safety, disability and building repair programs.

Events

Council continues to support a range of significant events in its communities. Events this year were again limited due to Covid restrictions but included the Jamestown Christmas pageant, Jamestown Races and Caltowie Chilled Out & Fired Up Music Festival.

Other Operations

- Maintenance of roads and associated infrastructure including patrol grading, road patching and footpath/kerb repairs in the range of \$1.35M per annum.
- Public Open Space Maintenance (including Parks and gardens) of approx. \$500K per annum.
- Waste management, including Transfer Station operations and kerbside waste and recycling collection of approx. \$800K per annum.

\$1.63M Re-sheeting 64kms of various rural roads



A capital works program of \$12.2M, including \$9M for the replacement and renewal of existing assets and \$3.2M for new and upgraded assets (Boosted with Drought & LRCI funding of \$1.6M)

Major projects were:

- Re-sheeting approx. 64kms of unsealed roads to the value of \$1.63M
- Town Re-seal/New Seal works to the value of \$0.8M
- Major plant replacement program, Net \$1.9M
- Local Govt. Infrastructure Partnership Program (LGIPP) \$1.3M
- Completion of various Drought Projects of \$700K
- Local Road and Community Infrastructure Projects (LRCI) \$500K

What it means for rates in 2022-23

How does Council determine the rates payable?

Council adopts the capital values (as provided by the Office of the Valuer-General) on all properties in the Council District. Council determines what revenue is required for Council operations in the district for each financial year in the form of the Annual Business Plan & Budget. The rate in the dollar and the fixed charge are then declared by Council for all properties in the area.

For example: A residential property has a capital value of \$200,000 and Council declares a rate in the dollar of 0.6795 cents. That

property will pay \$200,000 x 0.6795 cents = \$1,359.00 + \$150.00 fixed charge for total of \$1,509.00.

In 2021-22 Council's general rate revenue was \$7,608,000. It is budgeted that in the 2022-23 financial year a 2.50% general rate increase apply to rateable properties bringing the gross expected rate income to \$7,795,000.

Overview

In setting its rates for the 2022/2023 financial year Council considered the following:

- The current economic climate and relevant factors such as inflation and interest rates;
- The specific issues faced by our community, including the effects of the drought and the previous impact of poor seasons for the farming community;
- The need to continue to replace and upgrade infrastructure and other assets including both plant and machinery and the road network;
- The objective of attracting and continuing to attract and support business activity to generate economic development;
- Council's Strategic Management Plan and the meeting of its objectives;
- The Budget for the 2022/2023 Financial Year and the Long Term Financial Plans;
- Householders, businesses and farmers;
- Employed, unemployed & pensioners;
- The broad principal of achieving equity in the distribution of rates;
- Minimising the level of general rates required by levying user pays fees and charges for goods and services where possible;
- Setting fees and charges to recover the full cost of operating or providing the services of goods, with provision for concessions to those members of the community unable to readily meet the full cost;
- Taking into account increases on Council valuations by the Office of the Valuer General;
- Council's membership of Regional Development Australia which in turn supports small businesses in the Council area;
- Promoting Single Farm Enterprise benefit which has reduced the rate burden on primary production businesses.
- Impact of the current Covid-19 measures on ratepayers.

Council conducts public consultation on a broad range of issues as required by its Public Consultation Policy. The Draft Annual Business Plan was available to all ratepayers and community members who had the opportunity to provide written feedback and comments prior to adoption.

Method Used To Value Land

Council may adopt one of three valuation methodologies to value properties in its area. They are:

- Capital Value – the value of the land and all improvements on the land;
- Site Value – the value of the land and any improvements which permanently affect the amenity of use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements;
- Annual Value – a valuation of the rental potential of the property.

Council has decided to continue to use capital value as the basis for valuing land within its Council area. Council considers that this method provides the fairest method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers when applying the equity test of taxation.

Land use types are based on information provided by the Office of the Valuer-General. Please contact Council if you would like to object to your land use type.

Land Use Types
Residential
Commercial - Shop
Commercial - Office
Commercial - Other
Industry - Light
Industry - Other
Primary Production
Vacant Land
Other

Adoption of Valuations

Council will adopt the valuations made by the Office of the Valuer-General as provided to the Council in April 2022.

You may object to the valuation referred to in this notice by writing served personally or by post on the Valuer-General within 60 days after the date of service of this notice.

Office of the Valuer-General
GPO Box 1354, Adelaide 5001
Email: OVGobjections@sa.gov.au
Phone: 1300 653 346.

Council has no role in this process. It is also important to note that the lodgement of an objection does not change the due date or amount for payment of rates.

General Rates

All land within a council area, except for land specifically exempt (e.g. crown land, council occupied land and other land prescribed in the Local Government Act 1999 – refer Section 168 of the Local Government Act 1999), is rateable. The Local Government Act provides for a Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through a general rate, which applies to all rateable properties.

Land Use Category	Rate in \$	Net Property Rate Revenue (\$'000)
Residential	0.006795	2248
Commercial - Shop	0.006795	65
Commercial - Office	0.006795	11
Commercial - Other	0.006795	229
Industry - Light	0.006795	7
Industry - Other	0.006795	34
Primary Production	0.002790	4745
Vacant Land	0.010300	160
Other	0.007227	221

It is proposed to raise \$7,720,000 net general rate revenue in a total revenue budget of \$13,066,500. Council anticipates the following general rates based on land use category to raise the necessary revenue.

Fixed Charge

Council proposes to impose a fixed charge on rateable properties of \$150. The fixed charge is levied against the whole of an allotment (including land under a separate lease or licence) and only one fixed charge is levied against two or more pieces of adjoining land, whether intercepted by a road or not, if the land is owned by the same owner(s) and occupied by the same occupier(s). Council believes that a fixed charge provides an equitable base for the rating system.

If two or more pieces of rateable land within the area of the Council constitute a single farm enterprise, only one fixed charge may be imposed against the whole of the land. The Single Farm Enterprise provision allows for eligible farmers to achieve more equitable distribution of the fixed charge (which reflects the changing nature of farm holdings in the area). Approval is subject to a written application and such evidence as Council may reasonably require. Applications must be received by June 30 to take effect in the following financial year.

Annual Service Charges

Council provides a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) to most properties in Jamestown, Laura, Gladstone and the Moyletown area of Jamestown. Council will recover the full cost of operating, maintaining and improving this service for this financial year (includes setting aside funds for the future replacement of the assets employed in providing the service and septic tank de-sludge on a 4-yearly cycle) through the imposition of an annual service charge of \$516.00 per occupied property unit and \$418.00 per unoccupied unit. The service charges have been increased in accordance with the CWMS Asset Management Plan.

Any surplus of revenue over expense is kept in a dedicated reserve account for future replacement or upgrades of respective schemes.

Council provides waste collection services to townships within the Council area. This annual service charge will be calculated at 100% of anticipated costs of roadside waste collection and disposal for all areas having a pickup. The Waste Collection Annual Service Charge proposed for 2022/23 year is \$250.00 per unit (2 bin system).

Some rural properties voluntarily participate in the service and are invoiced through Council's debtor system.

Please note that properties exempt from General Rates are not necessarily exempt from Annual Service Charges if applicable.

State Government Concessions

These concessions were formerly available to the holders of pensioner concession cards, veterans, low-income earners, unemployed, students, and self-funded retirees.

These concessions were all abolished by the State Government with effect from 30 June 2015. From 1 July 2015, the State Government has elected to replace these concessions with a single "cost-of-living payment" provided directly to those entitled. This payment may be used for any purpose, including offsetting Council rates. Note that not all former recipients of rates concessions will be entitled to the new payment. To check eligibility, contact the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Concessions Hotline 1800 307 758 or email concessions@sa.gov.au or at www.sa.gov.au/concessions

Also from 1 July 2017 the separate concession entitlements for Council Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) were also handled directly by the State Government.

Postponement of Rates for State Seniors Card Holders

Section 182A of the Local Government Act 1999 provides for the option for State Seniors Card Holders to postpone part of the rates on a long term basis. A deferred amount is subject to a monthly interest charge with the accrued debt being payable on the disposal or sale of the property. Applications are subject to the same conditions as deferral or postponement of rates.

For further information and details please contact the Rates Officer

Northern Areas Council:
PO Box 120 Jamestown SA 5491
Email: admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au
Phone: 8664 1139

Discretionary Rebate of Rates - Section 166(1)(l)

Any ratepayer who feels they require relief because of a substantial change in rates payable due to a redistribution of the rate burden arising from a change to the basis of council's rates may apply to Council. A rebate of rates under this section may be granted for a period exceeding one year, but not exceeding three years.

Payment of Rates

The Council has decided that the payment of rates will be by quarterly billing, due on the 2nd September 2022, 2nd December 2022, 3rd March 2023 and 2nd June 2023.

Difficulty in paying Rates

Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to experience difficulty with meeting the standard payment arrangements is invited to contact the Rates Officer, to discuss alternative payment arrangements. Council treats such inquiries confidentially.

Late Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act provides that Councils impose a penalty of a 2% fine on any payment for rates, whether due by instalment or otherwise that are unpaid after the due date. A payment that continues to be in arrears is then charged penalty interest at an interest rate, set each year according to a formula in the Act, for each month it continues to be late. Penalty fines allow the Council to recover some of the administration costs that arise because rates were not received by the due date.

Remission and Postponement of Rates

Where a ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates he/she is invited to contact the Rates Officer to discuss the matter. Council treats such inquiries confidentially.

Rebate of Rates

The Local Government Act 1999, requires Councils to rebate the rates payable on some land. This includes a 100% rebate for hospitals, health centres, churches and cemeteries. A minimum rebate of 75% is applied for land used predominantly for educational purposes (subject to some qualifications).

Applications for any other discretionary rebates should be in writing to the Manager Corporate Services, detailing the basis for applying for the rebate. Council will consider each application on merit.

Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates

Section 184 of the Local Government Act, provides that a Council may sell any property where the rates have been in arrears for three years or more. The Council is required to notify the owner of the land of its intention to sell the land; provide the owner with details of the outstanding amounts and advise the owner of its intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within one month.

Regional Landscape (State Government) Levy

The Landscape South Australia Act 2019 requires Council to raise a levy on behalf of the Northern & Yorke Landscape Region. This levy is shown separately on the rates notice.

Council does not retain this revenue, nor determine how the revenue is spent. Council is required to raise \$284,165 in 2022/23, being an increase of \$6,931 or 2.5%.

Council will recover this amount by applying a Levy of 0.01383 cents in the \$ against the capital value of every property in the area.

Any queries relating to the Regional Landscape Levy should be directed to:

Northern & Yorke Landscape Board
155 Main North Road, Clare SA 5453
Phone: (08) 8841 3444
www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ny

