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Council budget supports liveability for the region

As part of its 2018/2019 budget, the average Gympie Regional Council ratepayer will have a 2.5% increase in rates.

"Rates contribute to the liveability of the Gympie region and support the maintenance of everything from public spaces to waste management services. This means the average residential ratepayer will have a rate rise of 2.5 per cent or less," Gympie Mayor, Mick Curran said.

"In real terms, just over 5,000 residents' rates will increase by one dollar or less and nearly 11,000 residents will have increases of between one and two dollars per week.

"Residential properties which have been valued much higher than the average will see rate rises between two to five dollars per week," he said.

These increases cover operational expenses as well as capital programs.

Over \$27 million will be spent on the region's road network with \$3 million for bridge replacements, \$3.5 million for gravel road sealing, \$7 million for road maintenance and an additional \$500,000 for unsealed road maintenance. Council has also allocated \$2.5 million for mowing and slashing work across the region.

The budget includes \$4.3 million for our parks network such as recreation parks, sports grounds, recreation trails, landscaping, tree management and foreshore vegetation.

\$8.7 million will go towards the region's waste services and facilities. This includes \$1.3 million to commence the design phase and the beginning of construction of the new Waste Management Transfer Station.

Mayor Mick Curran said this year's allocation of finances is in line with Council's vision to make the Gympie region the number one choice to live, work and play.

"By committing a significant amount of resources to improving and maintaining the region's roads whilst keeping rate rises to an absolute minimum, we are fulfilling a commitment to the community," Cr Curran said.

"It must also be remembered that Council is affected by outside influences in the same way as the average household and business, including increased costs across a range of services such as utilities and materials.

As a result of this, Council must continue to look inward and improve on how our services are delivered," Cr Curran said.

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