



Life in the City of Gosnells



New Budget focused on community and infrastructure

Supporting the community, easing financial pressure on households and boosting infrastructure projects are the main priorities of the City's 2020/21 Budget.

This week, Councillors approved the new Budget on the basis that ratepayers would pay less in rates in 2020/21 than they did in the previous year.

Mayor David Goode said he was very proud that no individual would pay more in rates, unless their property value had increased significantly because of improvements they have made.

"Being able to reduce rates was a very important part in developing this new Budget," the Mayor said.

"The Coronavirus pandemic completely changed our Budget preparation and there has been a much greater focus on responding to our community's social and economic needs.

"We have increased spending on infrastructure to provide a \$33 million capital works program to recharge the economy. This will be funded through reserve and grant money, to help generate jobs and keep businesses and trades operating.



Thornlie Sports and Community Hub will be developed in 2020/21

"Some regular programs and events for our community have been changed due to physical distancing restrictions, however we are determined to ensure residents don't miss opportunities to come together, to raise community spirits.

"The City is working hard to come up with new ways to keep our community connected and the best way to keep up-to-date with what's happening in your neighbourhood is via the City's website, eNewsletters or social media."

More details are outlined in a newsletter being sent with all Rate Notices, which is also available on the City's website.

New trainee program

Several apprentice or trainee roles will be introduced at the City this financial year, as part of the City's response to COVID-19.

Mayor David Goode said it was vital that young people had secure employment pathways.

"Providing an apprenticeship-traineeship program is a very tangible and responsible way for the City to contribute to our community's economic recovery," the Mayor said.

"Roles will be available in the City's parks, construction, youth services and corporate sectors, giving young people a great opportunity to learn and develop skills on the job."

Details will be updated on the City's website.

All-abilities play projects



In a bid to improve accessibility for families and people with disability, \$4.2 million will be invested over the next two years to develop nine all-abilities playgrounds across the City. A similar project was recently completed at Tom Bateman Reserve in Thornlie (above) and is already proving very popular. See the City's website for updates.

Key infrastructure

To boost the local economy, the City will work on range of road and infrastructure projects, including:

- \$5.6 million – new Thornlie Community and Sports Hub.
- \$2 million – install all-ability play equipment at five parks.
- \$1.9 million – upgrade Spencer Road, from Hume Road to Regal Drive in Thornlie.
- \$1 million – make Gosnells Town Square a more interactive community space.
- \$732,000 – extend shared path along Railway Parade, Beckenham from William to Carmichael Streets.
- \$1.1 million – widen Warton Road in Canning Vale, between Ranford Road and Arion Avenue.
- \$940,000 – widen Burslem Drive in Maddington, between Atfield Street and Olga Road.
- \$2.6 million – upgrade Brabourne Street in Maddington.

Councillors' Corner

If it was the start of any other financial year, news about the City starting a multi-million dollar capital works program would seem like business as usual.

However, given everything we have experienced due to COVID-19, this year's package of road and infrastructure projects, worth \$33 million, is a critical step towards our community's economic recovery.

The program is \$14 million more than originally planned – a specific measure by the City to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Importantly, these projects will mainly be funded by grant and reserve money, not rate revenue.

I'm particularly pleased that the City has chosen to allocate a new \$1.1 million Federal grant towards smaller infrastructure projects. This will be a great help for local businesses and sole traders, who will benefit the most from these building projects.

As your Councillor, I'm happy to report that the City is in a good financial position to work through 2020/21 and, as a community, the further easing of restrictions means we can come together through more of our regular programs and activities.

For news of what's happening around your neighbourhood, I recommend you follow the City on social media, sign up for an eNewsletter or visit the City's website.

Cr Adam Hort

Sports donations

The City received more than 100 donations of pre-loved sports equipment for its recent Footy Drive to help eligible local kids play sport.

Kidsport players in soccer, netball, AFL, hockey, softball and tee-ball are among those to benefit.