



Street Address 50 Brolga Street, Quilpie
Phone (07) 4656 0500 **Facsimile** (07) 4656 1441
Email admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au **Web** www.quilpie.qld.gov.au
ABN 53 680 434 639

All correspondence to be addressed to:
Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 57, Quilpie QLD 4480

Our Ref: 138973

MEDIA RELEASE

2017-2018 Budget Adopted

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In handing down the 2017-2018 Quilpie Shire Council budget last Friday, Mayor Stuart Mackenzie is confident that the financially successful 2016-17 year has allowed Council to maintain a strong position moving forward.

Cr Mackenzie says the recorded net operating surplus of \$7.9M is a bit misleading as it has been bolstered by a pre-payment of \$2.5M Federal Government Financial Assistance Grant (FAG).

"This is a bi-annual re-current payment and paying it in the previous financial year doesn't alter anything except to upset our accountants and confuse things. It means our 'real' surplus was \$5.4M although some accounts are still being finalised for the 2016-17 year".

With a reduced capital works program of \$6.3M, Cr Mackenzie is confident in the forecasts for the 2017-18 year.

"We are taking a bit of a 'breather' this year after the major road works and building projects of the previous 5 years with, for the first time, no NDRRA (Flood Damage) funds in our budget", Cr Mackenzie says.

"This will allow us to focus on delivering nearly \$2 million worth of roads maintenance works across the shire", he says.

The highlight of the capital works program for this year will be the completion of the John Waugh Park upgrades, including the All Sports Centre, and the new Airport Terminal, including the installation of a new refuelling facility.

Cr Mackenzie said that both Airport projects have been made possible by the Queensland Government's "Works for Queensland" funding of \$1.1M which will be spent this year.

"Another round of this funding, to be spent over two years, was announced in the recent state budget and Council is still deliberating over where that will be spent", he says.

Rate increases have been kept to a minimum CPI rise of around 2%.

"This ensures we maintain our strong financial position and absorb the never ending cost rises" Cr Mackenzie said.

Service charges have also been kept to a minimal rise of 2%.

"Collectively our three service provisions of water, sewerage and garbage collection are all fully funded by the users of that service. This is a good position to be in and has only been achieved in recent years. Although the charges are quite high I believe they still provide good value for money", he said.

The full budget document is available for downloading from Council's website at www.quilpie.qld.gov.au.

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