



**Maryborough
City Council**

Administration Building
431-433 Kent Street
PO Box 110
Maryborough Qld 4650

Tel: 07 4190 5800
Fax: 07 4123 1470

www.maryborough.qld.gov.au



14th August 2006

Infrastructure and strategic planning for the future is the focus of this year's \$51 million Maryborough City Council Budget.

Mayor Barbara Hovard said it was a practical budget with key spending of almost \$17 million on infrastructure.

"The green-change phenomenon is bringing new residents and eager investors to our city and we need strategic planning and infrastructure to prepare for the development happening now, and more waiting in the wings."

"Infrastructure is vital but also costly to provide. Over the next year, around \$6 million will be spend on water and sewerage services, \$5.2 million on streets, roads and drainage and other similar infrastructure and \$1.1 million on refuse and recycling."

The average residential property will pay around \$1.60 extra a week in rates or a net increase of 5.2% or \$83 a year.

Te rates rise has been kept to under 6%, in keeping with the actual increase in costs to Local Government which rose by 5.7% over the past year – due mainly to escalating construction costs.

The separate category for Rural Residential properties has been discontinued. These properties will now be categorised as Urban, and will have a general rate rise of about 7.8% to bring them into line with city residences.

Cr Hovard said careful, strategic planning was needed to ensure Maryborough's growth as a vibrant, dynamic and attractive City and to achieve this \$150,000 would be spent on a review of the City Plan. Council will also employ a strategic planner to focus on high level planning.

"We need to open up opportunities for expansion however we can't afford to allow unplanned progress to destroy the intrinsic character of our town," she said.

To foster ongoing residential and industrial development, \$2.7 million has been allocated towards targeted land acquisitions and the opening up of freehold land.

Several initiatives will keep Maryborough's momentum moving, including the Port Maryborough Marine Industry Park, the Airport Master Plan and the development of an industrial hub for large-scale industry and logistical distribution centres.

Marketing remains a key priority, with over \$1million towards tourism, marketing and promotion and events.

Cr Hovard said Council faced a continuing challenge to ensure adequate funding for the maintenance, renewal and extension of our City's water supply, against a background of sharply rising construction costs.



**Maryborough
City Council**

Administration Building
431-433 Kent Street
PO Box 110
Maryborough Qld 4650

Tel: 07 4190 5800

Fax: 07 4123 1470

www.maryborough.qld.gov.au

media release

“This year Council has revisited and reviewed its approach to this difficult task. After considering a number of options, it has decided to restructure the water base charge and discontinue the water utility infrastructure charge.

The water base charge for a residential property with a standard 20mm water service connection has been set at \$340 per annum (before discount).

This is a gross reduction of \$10 per annum when compared with the combined water base charge (\$250) and water utility infrastructure charge (\$100) totalling \$350 levied the previous year.

The rising cost of providing water, and the likelihood Council will have to buy water from Sunwater to guarantee a source from the Mary River means water charges will rise from 70c to 80c per kilolitre. This equates to 68c per kilolitre with Council’s 15% discount.

Refuse charges will go up by \$10 a year, while sewerage charges will increase from \$345 per pedestal to \$370.