

MOVING AHEAD

In the City of Melton

14

Spring 2020

2020/21 Budget Special



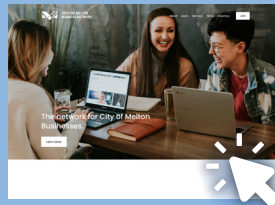
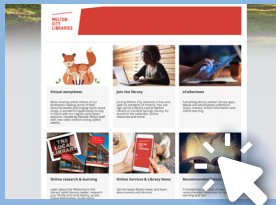
MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As we draw closer to the Council elections which will be held in October this year, I'd like to take this opportunity to express how honoured I've been to serve this community over the past four years. The support and encouragement I've received from residents during this term has been humbling, and I've enjoyed contributing to making this community an even better place to build a home and raise a family.

The past six months have proven very challenging for many, as we continue to navigate this global pandemic. The wellbeing of our community is paramount for Council, and we have worked diligently to reimagine the way we do things, so our residents can continue to access the programs and services they need to lead healthy and happy lives. This includes preparing our annual budget, which in 2020/2021 has been framed around a zero per cent rate rise, taking into account the needs of all residents, many of whom are experiencing hardship at this time.

Cr Lara Carli
Mayor City of Melton



WORKSHOPS, ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO ONLINE

Melton City Libraries and Arts

There's lots to see and do online with Melton City Libraries and Arts. Enjoy English conversation classes, join our digital book club or participate in afterschool activities. You can also access thousands of books, magazines, newspapers and movies online.

- ▶ Visit melton.vic.gov.au/libraries to explore all our great online library services, or go to facebook.com/cityofmeltonlibraries to participate in activities for adults and kids. Take an online tour of our latest exhibitions and explore arts programs at melton.vic.gov.au/arts

Melton Learning Directory

If you're looking for innovative and interactive online programs, then look no further than the Melton City Council Learning Directory.

Offering weekly classes and workshops, the Directory showcases local tutors and engaging content that's fun and educational for all, including cooking lessons, yoga, crafts and so much more.

- ▶ Visit meltonlearning.com.au or facebook.com/MeltonLearning for more info. All ages, all abilities... there's something for everyone on the Melton Learning Directory.

Venture Melton webinars, tutorials and watch on-demand videos

If you're looking for quality business-related webinars, tutorials and on-demand videos to develop your practical and creative business skills, then check out Venture Melton's super practical online tutorials that will have you energised and taking action the moment you finish.

You can start anytime you want and learn at your own pace.

- ▶ Get started, visit: vmbusinessnetwork.com

COUNCILLORS AND WARDS

Your local Councillors are:

Watts Ward



Mayor, Cr Lara Carli
0409 951 020
lara.carli@melton.vic.gov.au



Cr Michelle Mendes
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Coburn Ward



Cr Ken Hardy
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Cr Sophie Ramsey
0412 584 067
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Cr Yvonne Sebire
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Cr Bob Turner
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Cambridge Ward



Deputy Mayor, Cr Steve Abboushi
0437 231 680
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Cr Goran Kesic
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Cr Kathy Majdlik
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MELTON CITY COUNCIL

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2020/2021 Budget Update



Zero per cent rate rise in 2020/2021

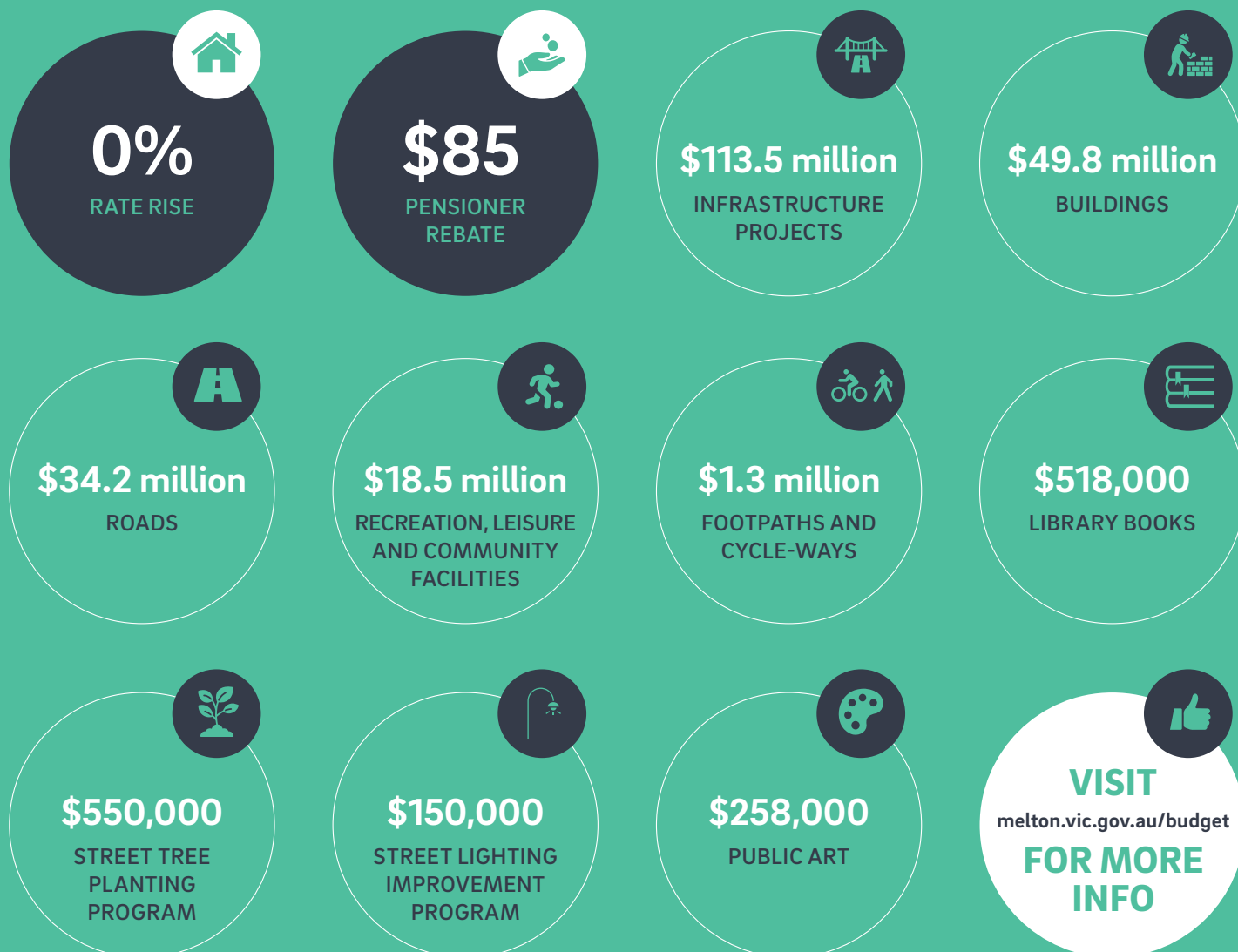
Council was well into its budget planning process when the COVID-19 crisis struck, forcing us, and the rest of the world, into a largely unprecedented situation of social and financial upheaval.

In response, Council focussed its energy on redeveloping its budget so that it was not only financially responsible, but also took into account the many residents who were experiencing financial hardship as a result of the economic and social

restrictions implemented to manage the coronavirus pandemic.

To this end, Melton City Council's 2020/2021 budget has been reframed around a zero (0%) per cent rate increase, and includes an \$85 pensioner rebate for eligible property owners.

This clearly illustrates that we are a sustainable Council that's responsive to community needs, and strives to provide valuable services, programs and facilities to ratepayers by investing in new and renewal infrastructure projects.



2020/2021 Major Projects



COMMUNITY CENTRES

\$2.17 million

Construction of Eynesbury Station Early Learning Centre

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Signalisation of the intersections at:

\$4.24 million

Caroline Springs Boulevard at Rockbank Middle Road, and The Crossing

\$2.9 million

Brooklyn Road and Station Road, Melton

\$5.3 million

Taylors Road at Westwood Drive, Taylors Hill

ROADS

\$1.15 million

Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Mount Cottrell and Greigs Roads

\$500,000

Design works to seal Troups Road South, Mount Cottrell

\$500,000

Design duplication of Hume Drive, between Calder Park Drive and Gourlay Road, Taylors Hill

BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

\$3.89 million

Expansion of the Melton Recycling Facility

\$1.1 million

Construction of soundwalls at Silverdale Estate

RECREATION

\$22 million

Construct Cobblebank Indoor Stadium

\$10.4 million

Construct stage 1 and 2 Eynesbury Recreation Reserve

\$1.6 million

Construct Diggers Rest Community Pavilion and Oval

\$2.15 million

Refurbish and expand Brookside Pavilion

\$2 million

Taylors Hill Recreation Reserve facility development

\$1.5 million

Construct stage 2 MacPherson Park redevelopment project

COVID-19: Council's response to the worldwide crisis

COVID-19 has changed the way people, businesses and community organisations get things done on a local, national and global level, and Council is no exception.

Over the past six months, we have restructured, repositioned and reimagined the way we deliver services and programs to our community.

We've set up special interest groups on social media for seniors and new parents; and created dozens of free, educational and recreational videos covering topics including yoga, cooking, job readiness, and money management, just to name a few.

We've transitioned many of our face-to-face services to online delivery including Early Years Programs like *Preschool Storytime*, *Toddler Time*, *Babytime* and Little

Steamers; Sons of the West; online art exhibitions and workshops; Council meetings and citizenship ceremonies; and even held a virtual Career's Expo that attracted over 7,000 visitors.

We've promoted our local businesses online and in local papers, and offered free membership to our Venture Melton Business Network to July 2021. We've even taken some programs targeting our move vulnerable residents out to the community by delivering craft kits to seniors and *Play and Learn at Home* kits to families; and established our highly successful *Click and Collect* and *Click and Deliver* programs for our library members.

Financial hardship, fees and charges

One of our most significant initiatives has been the development of policies and programs that look at how we can help ease the financial burden many of our

residents, local groups and clubs are facing at this challenging time. This includes:

- 0% rate increase for the 2020/2021 financial year
- rates deferrals payment plans
- waivers for interest on rates
- fee waivers for sporting clubs and associations; 2020/2021 business permit renewals; Street Trader permits; Food and Health registrations; and Planning fees for commercial use and development for six-months
- refunds for venue hirers who have paid in advance.

To find out more about Council's response to the COVID-19 crisis and the programs and services you can access at this time, visit our website melton.vic.gov.au/covid19

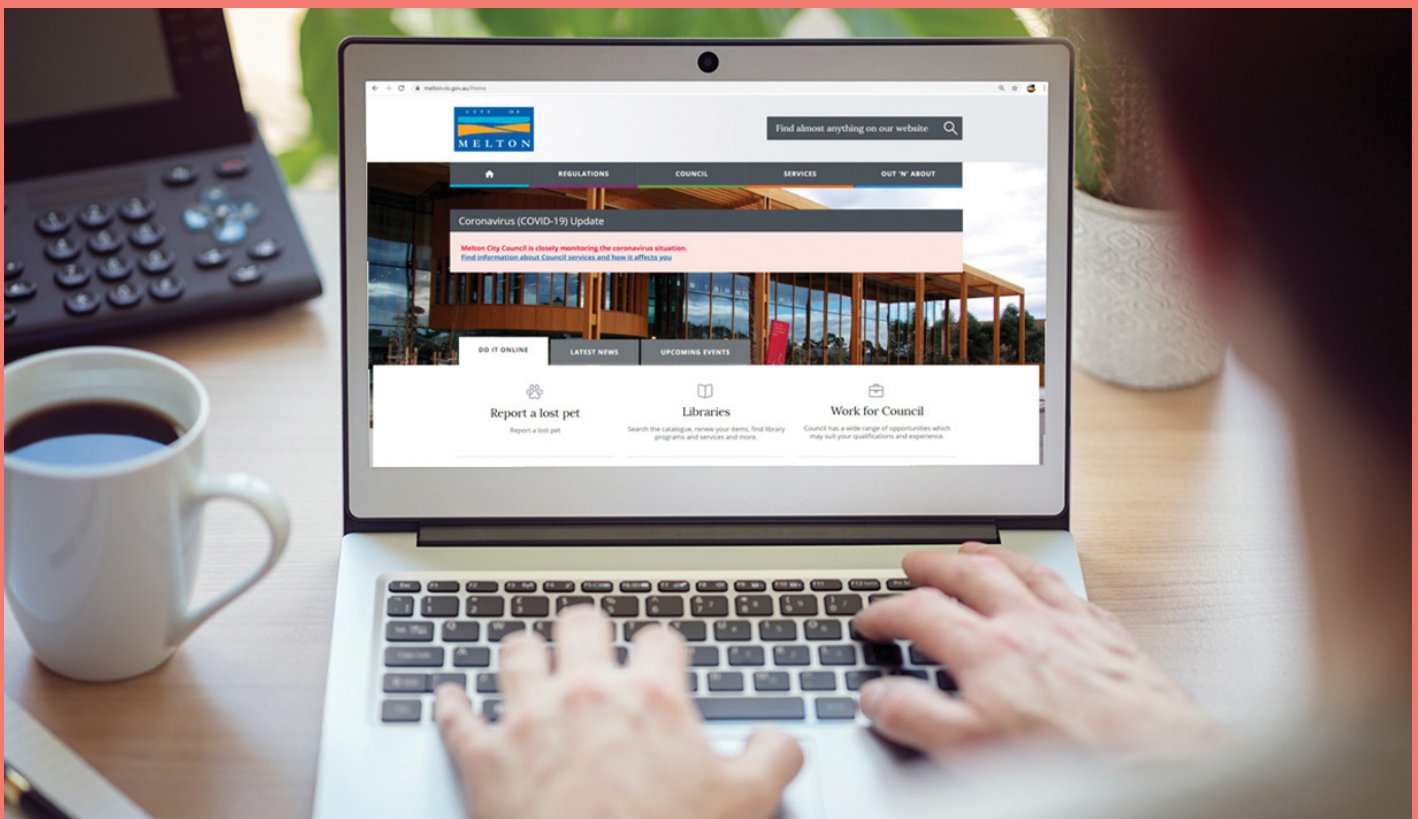




Day-to-day transactions? Get online!

With our Customer Service Centres closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, it's important to know you can still undertake those all-important, day-to-day, face-to-face transactions on Council's

website—like paying your rates and invoices, registering and renewing your pet registrations, booking a hard waste collection and submitting a planning application.



Visit **melton.vic.gov.au** and you can also access a wealth of information about online learning and training opportunities, community grants, library services, activities for teens, seniors and children's, support for new parents and much, much more.