



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**3 August 2020**

## **Council budget adopted with zero per cent rate rise**

A zero per cent rate rise for City of Melton ratepayers has been made official in the 2020/21 Council Budget adopted on Monday night.

Melton City Council made the decision to minimise the rates cost in response to the hardship experienced by residents during the COVID-19 crisis.

The community can also look forward to a full capital works program worth \$113.5 million. It will deliver an exciting and diverse mix of buildings (\$49.8 million), leisure and community facilities (\$18.5 million), road upgrades (\$34.2 million), footpaths and cycle-ways (\$1.3 million), library books (\$518,000), public art (\$258,000), and more for the City's growing community.

Some highlights include:

- construction of Eynesbury Station Early Learning Centre;
- extension of the Caroline Springs Community Facility;
- construction of Boundary Road from Mount Cottrell Road to Outer Metropolitan Ring Road;
- development of the Taylors Hill Recreation Reserve facility;
- construction of the Diggers Rest Community Pavilion and Oval;
- continued works to develop the Cobblebank Indoor Stadium;
- installation of traffic lights at a number of major intersections;
- and expansion of the Melton Recycling Facility.

City of Melton Mayor Cr Lara Carli said Council was committed to delivering a budget that would continue to meet residents' changing needs.

"We always strive to do what's best for our community and this year that meant taking into account the hardship many residents have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 crisis," Cr Carli said.

"I'm really proud that we'll be able to deliver so many high quality services and facilities while also minimising the cost to ratepayers.

"Our residents have welcomed the zero per cent rate rise, and I'm sure it will make a considerable difference to them."

**A Thriving Community Where Everyone Belongs**



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Council considered 19 submissions received in response to the budget, primarily from ratepayers and organisations seeking additional funding for Council facilities and programs.

“Thank you to everyone who shared their views on the budget and helped us ensure this final plan for the year ahead meets the needs of you and your families,” Cr Carli said.

“I look forward to seeing our community make the most of the exciting new buildings, sports facilities and more, as well as the many programs and services we’re continuing to grow and provide.”

To view the budget, go to [melton.vic.gov.au/budget](https://melton.vic.gov.au/budget)

ENDS

Melton City Council media enquiries (not for publication): Kylie Kitchen – Media and Communications Officer on (03) 9747 7132.