

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 June 2012

Media release

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Building a sustainable Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Council has adopted a budget which delivers for the community, the environment and the economy, and will build a sustainable region.

Mayor Mark Jamieson said council had made the tough decisions needed to keep the rate rise at the lower end for Queensland councils while maintaining infrastructure and services.

“This budget takes us another step closer to a sustainable community and lifestyle, a sustainable environment and sustainable economy,” he said.

“We know many people are finding it difficult to make ends meet – and an average ratepayer will pay less than a dollar a week extra for rates and waste.

“We have tightened our belts where possible and will continue to look for further savings over the life of the council.

“One of our top priorities was to make the Sunshine Coast a better place to do business and our suite of economic development initiatives has us headed in the right direction.”

Among the key items of the \$604 million budget for 2012/13:

- a total capital works program of \$146 million including \$18 million for land acquisitions in the Maroochydore principal activity centre
- \$ 7.8 million for economic development initiatives
- a balanced budget
- a general rate increase of 3.6% - below council's real costs and at the lower end for Queensland councils
- waste management rises kept to 9.2% despite the introduction of a federal carbon tax (*a car trip to the tip will stay the same, a trailer-load rises by \$2, commercial charges fall due to the scrapping of the State waste levy*)
- no increase in key levies such as the environment, public transport, tourism and heritage levies
- continuation of pension remissions, estimated at \$3.8million
- continuation of early payment discounts, estimated at \$8.8 million.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Chris Thompson said the budget is about financial sustainability - maintaining and enhancing services while also ensuring Council's long-term future.

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“Council will meet or better Local Government Financial Sustainability Targets – with the exception of the asset sustainability rate,” he said.

“This budget will strengthen the economic foundations of the Sunshine Coast which were laid in the initial term of the council.”

Measure of Financial Sustainability	Budget 2012/13	LGA Indicator
Working Capital Ratio	2.7 : 1	between 1 : 1 and 4 : 1
Operating Surplus	\$7.7 million	Not Applicable
Operating Surplus Ratio (including capital revenue)	13.9%	between 0% and 10%
Operating Surplus Ratio (excluding capital revenue)	1.8%	between 0% and 10%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	30%	not greater than 60%
Interest Coverage Ratio	(7.3)%	between 0% and 5%
Asset Sustainability Ratio	70%	greater than 90%
Asset Consumption Ratio	80%	Between 40% and 80%

ENDS

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