From the Mayor, Cr. Paul Peulich

As Mayor of the city, I am proud to present Kingston Council’s 2014-2015 Budget, which aims to deliver quality services that the community needs and infrastructure that helps make our city thrive.

The budget is focused on balancing Kingston’s needs and priorities by delivering projects such as our three community hubs, expansion of maternal child health services, more accessible child care and day care, improving our built and natural environments and supporting our clubs and community organisations. Kingston Council is committed to delivering an affordable and sustainable budget which reflects the needs of our diverse city.

Kingston Council is responsible for maintaining and improving $2.5 billion in community assets, including roads and drains, community buildings and public open spaces such as parks and gardens. In this financial year Kingston will be delivering $45 million in capital works.

CARBON TAX REPEAL
Following the Federal Government’s repeal of the carbon tax, we have amended our budget and are happy to pass on savings to you the ratepayers. As a result of the carbon tax repeal the average rate increase was reduced from 4.25% to 4.06%.

RETIREMENT VILLAGES
Council has also introduced a differential rate for retirement village land of 90% of the General Land Rate which Council believes is a fairer rate that reflects the constraints imposed by the Retirement Villages Act.

Our city is a great place to live - our beautiful beaches, world class golf courses, bushy reserves, tranquil wetlands, safe bicycle and walking trails and bustling businesses, make Kingston a great place to live, work and raise a family.

I believe that this budget has responsibly invested in our city and the downward trend in rate rises (please see graph) demonstrates a concerted effort to deliver value for money in the interests of all residents and ratepayers.

2014-15 Budget at a glance
• 4.06% increase in total rates and charges revenue
• $45m capital works program
• Reduction in waste charges
• No increase to municipal charge which remains $100
• Continuation of $80 rate rebate for pensioners in addition to the state government rebate of $208

Kingston’s rate history

Funding highlights
• Roads reconstruction $2.7m
• Parkdale Family & Children’s Centre $2.2m
• Edithvale Family & Children’s Centre $3.4m
• New Clayton South Kindergarten $1.4m
• Drainage $3.8m
• Footpath renewal $1.5m
• Road resurfacing $1.3m
• Traffic management $0.7m
• LED street light fittings replacement program $1.5m
• Foreshore recycling bins $75K

FOR EVERY $100 COUNCIL SPENDS IT GOES TO......
How to pay your rates

PAY IN FOUR INSTALMENTS
You can pay in four instalments using any of the payment options below. The first instalment must include any arrears outstanding and is due by 30 September 2014.

PAY BY LUMP SUM
To pay your rates in full, please make payment by 15 February 2015 using any of the payment options below:

PAY BY DIRECT DEBIT
You can have your rates debited from your nominated cheque or savings account in 10 payments over 10 months.

If you paid by direct debit last year
• you will be automatically registered for direct debit this year using the same nominated account
• if your bank account details have changed please complete a new direct debit form
• ten monthly payments will be debited from your nominated account on the first business day of the month commencing in September and concluding in June

If you would like to set up direct debit payments
• complete and return the direct debit payment form by 19 September 2014
• direct debit forms are available at [kingston.vic.gov.au/ratesdirectdebit](http://kingston.vic.gov.au/ratesdirectdebit) or 1300 653 356

For more information see the back page of your Rates Notice.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

ONLINE  BY MAIL  BY PHONE  IN PERSON

DIRECT DEBIT

CALCULATING WHAT YOU PAY
Council’s rates and charges budget is determined after working out the level of expenditure required to deliver on the Council Plan and estimating the revenue that will be raised from government grants, user fees and charges and other sources of income. The general rate in the dollar is then calculated by dividing the estimated rate revenue by the total value of all properties in Kingston.

To calculate how much you owe, we multiply the value of your property by the general rate in the dollar and then add the municipal charge and waste service charge that apply to all properties regardless of the property value.

WHAT THE CARBON TAX REPEAL MEANS TO YOUR RATES
In July, the Federal Government repealed the carbon tax. This has reduced our waste management costs and the savings will be passed onto rate payers. Council originally proposed a 4.25% increase in total rates and charges in its Draft Budget. As a result of the carbon tax repeal this was reduced by 0.19% to 4.06% in the Adopted Budget.

FIRE SERVICES LEVY
Council collects the Fire Services Levy on behalf of the state government. This charge replaces the former fire services component paid on property insurance premiums.

The municipality is divided with the northern half covered by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and the southern half covered by the Country Fire Brigade (CFA).

For more information about the Levy, please visit the State Government’s Fire Services Levy at [firelevy.vic.gov.au](http://firelevy.vic.gov.au)