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Council's budget plan

ARMIDALE Dumaresq Council's *Draft Management Plan and Budget 2010-13* will be placed on display from Monday, May 3, with residents having until Monday, May 31 to make a submission.

The Council's general manager Shane Burns said the \$41.5 million Management Plan and Budget represented the council's key management document for the next 12 months, and provided the framework for the Council's operations and expenditure

"This year's management plan and budget shows an excellent result for the council with the continuance of quality services and planned budget surplus, including depreciation of assets, in excess of \$3.633 million," Mr Burns said.

"The council has, and will continue to implement IT and productivity initiatives, and we are starting to see the benefits gained being reflected in council's bottom line.

"The investment the council made a number of years ago in a new IT and communications systems and employing *Review Today* to conduct an independent report into the future economic sustainability of the council is paying off.

"The councillors and staff have worked

financial challenges and solutions contained within the *Review Today* report and this budget is indicative of the resulting stronger position for the council."

At a glance, the *Draft Management Plan and Budget 2010-13* plans to spend over \$7 million in capital projects which includes \$3.07 million to roads, bridges, cycleways; \$1 million on a new two-way radio system and plant to improve operational efficiencies; \$1,211,500 to sewer and water infrastructure; \$700,000 for the Armidale Airport runway lighting upgrade; \$552,100 on civic and recreation, and \$171,013 on library purchases.

To fund these allocations, the council is proposing to increase general rates by the 2.6 per cent permissible under the State Government rate pegging scheme; increase sewer pricing for residential and commercial charges by 2.6 per cent; increase waste charges

by 2.6 per cent; increase cemetery fees by 5 per cent; and increasing parks and reserves user charges by an average 2 per cent.

Water pricing will be increased by 20 per cent across the full suite of user charges, although the access charge will drop slightly.

"In recent years the State Government has sent a very clear message to Local Government that we need to be moving towards applying best practice guidelines," Mr Burns said.

"To this end, we are required to now provide a sustainable and self-funding user-pays water and sewerage operation.

"What this means is that the State Government is now requiring that 75 per cent of the cost of providing a sustainable, public water service is met from the water usage component of revenue."

The 20 per cent increase is in line with

the five year water pricing strategy communicated to the public and adopted by Council last year, will see the average residential water user bill increase by \$1.30 per week or around \$17.00 per quarter.

Residents who make a submission to the *Draft Management Plan and Budget 2010-13* will be given the opportunity to speak at their submissions at a special councillors' workshop to be held in early June.

FILE LANDFILL

Tenders are invited for Operations at the Landfill Facility for a period of two years commencing 1 September 2010. For more information which is available at www.armidale.nesac. Document is available at the Service Centre, 100-102, 104-106, 108-110, 112-114, 116-118, 120-122, 124-126, 128-130, 132-134, 136-138, 140-142, 144-146, 148-150, 152-154, 156-158, 160-162, 164-166, 168-170, 172-174, 176-178, 180-182, 184-186, 188-190, 192-194, 196-198, 200-202, 204-206, 208-210, 212-214, 216-218, 220-222, 224-226, 228-230, 232-234, 236-238, 240-242, 244-246, 248-250, 252-254, 256-258, 260-262, 264-266, 268-270, 272-274, 276-278, 280-282, 284-286, 288-290, 292-294, 296-298, 300-302, 304-306, 308-310, 312-314, 316-318, 320-322, 324-326, 328-330, 332-334, 336-338, 340-342, 344-346, 348-350, 352-354, 356-358, 360-362, 364-366, 368-370, 372-374, 376-378, 380-382, 384-386, 388-390, 392-394, 396-398, 400-402, 404-406, 408-410, 412-414, 416-418, 420-422, 424-426, 428-430, 432-434, 436-438, 440-442, 444-446, 448-450, 452-454, 456-458, 460-462, 464-466, 468-470, 472-474, 476-478, 480-482, 484-486, 488-490, 492-494, 496-498, 500-502, 504-506, 508-510, 512-514, 516-518, 520-522, 524-526, 528-530, 532-534, 536-538, 540-542, 544-546, 548-550, 552-554, 556-558, 560-562, 564-566, 568-570, 572-574, 576-578, 580-582, 584-586, 588-590, 592-594, 596-598, 600-602, 604-606, 608-610, 612-614, 616-618, 620-622, 624-626, 628-630, 632-634, 636-638, 640-642, 644-646, 648-650, 652-654, 656-658, 660-662, 664-666, 668-670, 672-674, 676-678, 680-682, 684-686, 688-690, 692-694, 696-698, 700-702, 704-706, 708-710, 712-714, 716-718, 720-722, 724-726, 728-730, 732-734, 736-738, 740-742, 744-746, 748-750, 752-754, 756-758, 760-762, 764-766, 768-770, 772-774, 776-778, 780-782, 784-786, 788-790, 792-794, 796-798, 800-802, 804-806, 808-810, 812-814, 816-818, 820-822, 824-826, 828-830, 832-834, 836-838, 840-842, 844-846, 848-850, 852-854, 856-858, 860-862, 864-866, 868-870, 872-874, 876-878, 880-882, 884-886, 888-890, 892-894, 896-898, 900-902, 904-906, 908-910, 912-914, 916-918, 920-922, 924-926, 928-930, 932-934, 936-938, 940-942, 944-946, 948-950, 952-954, 956-958, 960-962, 964-966, 968-970, 972-974, 976-978, 980-982, 984-986, 988-990, 992-994, 996-998, 1000-1002, 1004-1006, 1008-1010, 1012-1014, 1016-1018, 1020-1022, 1024-1026, 1028-1030, 1032-1034, 1036-1038, 1040-1042, 1044-1046, 1048-1050, 1052-1054, 1056-1058, 1060-1062, 1064-1066, 1068-1070, 1072-1074, 1076-1078, 1080-1082, 1084-1086, 1088-1090, 1092-1094, 1096-1098, 1100-1102, 1104-1106, 1108-1110, 1112-1114, 1116-1118, 1120-1122, 1124-1126, 1128-1130, 1132-1134, 1136-1138, 1140-1142, 1144-1146, 1148-1150, 1152-1154, 1156-1158, 1160-1162, 1164-1166, 1168-1170, 1172-1174, 1176-1178, 1180-1182, 1184-1186, 1188-1190, 1192-1194, 1196-1198, 1200-1202, 1204-1206, 1208-1210, 1212-1214, 1216-1218, 1220-1222, 1224-1226, 1228-1230, 1232-1234, 1236-1238, 1240-1242, 1244-1246, 1248-1250, 1252-1254, 1256-1258, 1260-1262, 1264-1266, 1268-1270, 1272-1274, 1276-1278, 1280-1282, 1284-1286, 1288-1290, 1292-1294, 1296-1298, 1300-1302, 1304-1306, 1308-1310, 1312-1314, 1316-1318, 1320-1322, 1324-1326, 1328-1330, 1332-1334, 1336-1338, 1340-1342, 1344-1346, 1348-1350, 1352-1354, 1356-1358, 1360-1362, 1364-1366, 1368-1370, 1372-1374, 1376-1378, 1380-1382, 1384-1386, 1388-1390, 1392-1394, 1396-1398, 1400-1402, 1404-1406, 1408-1410, 1412-1414, 1416-1418, 1420-1422, 1424-1426, 1428-1430, 1432-1434, 1436-1438, 1440-1442, 1444-1446, 1448-1450, 1452-1454, 1456-1458, 1460-1462, 1464-1466, 1468-1470, 1472-1474, 1476-1478, 1480-1482, 1484-1486, 1488-1490, 1492-1494, 1496-1498, 1500-1502, 1504-1506, 1508-1510, 1512-1514, 1516-1518, 1520-1522, 1524-1526, 1528-1530, 1532-1534, 1536-1538, 1540-1542, 1544-1546, 1548-1550, 1552-1554, 1556-1558, 1560-1562, 1564-1566, 1568-1570, 1572-1574, 1576-1578, 1580-1582, 1584-1586, 1588-1590, 1592-1594, 1596-1598, 1600-1602, 1604-1606, 1608-1610, 1612-1614, 1616-1618, 1620-1622, 1624-1626, 1628-1630, 1632-1634, 1636-1638, 1640-1642, 1644-1646, 1648-1650, 1652-1654, 1656-1658, 1660-1662, 1664-1666, 1668-1670, 1672-1674, 1676-1678, 1680-1682, 1684-1686, 1688-1690, 1692-1694, 1696-1698, 1700-1702, 1704-1706, 1708-1710, 1712-1714, 1716-1718, 1720-1722, 1724-1726, 1728-1730, 1732-1734, 1736-1738, 1740-1742, 1744-1746, 1748-1750, 1752-1754, 1756-1758, 1760-1762, 1764-1766, 1768-1770, 1772-1774, 1776-1778, 1780-1782, 1784-1786, 1788-1790, 1792-1794, 1796-1798, 1800-1802, 1804-1806, 1808-1810, 1812-1814, 1816-1818, 1820-1822, 1824-1826, 1828-1830, 1832-1834, 1836-1838, 1840-1842, 1844-1846, 1848-1850, 1852-1854, 1856-1858, 1860-1862, 1864-1866, 1868-1870, 1872-1874, 1876-1878, 1880-1882, 1884-1886, 1888-1890, 1892-1894, 1896-1898, 1900-1902, 1904-1906, 1908-1910, 1912-1914, 1916-1918, 1920-1922, 1924-1926, 1928-1930, 1932-1934, 1936-1938, 1940-1942, 1944-1946, 1948-1950, 1952-1954, 1956-1958, 1960-1962, 1964-1966, 1968-1970, 1972-1974, 1976-1978, 1980-1982, 1984-1986, 1988-1990, 1992-1994, 1996-1998, 2000-2002, 2004-2006, 2008-2010.