

# AROUND THE BAY

## HOBSONS BAY WARD NEWS

HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL



### Cherry Lake Ward

Altona, Altona North, Brooklyn, Seaholme



**Cr Tony Briffa JP**

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**Deputy Mayor Cr Sandra Wilson**

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### Strand Ward

Newport, Spotswood, South Kingsville, Williamstown



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**Cr Peter Hemphill**

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**Cr Jonathon Marsden**

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### Wetlands Ward

Altona Meadows, Laverton, Seabrook



**Mayor Cr Colleen Gates**

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**Cr Michael Grech**

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## BUDGET 2020-21

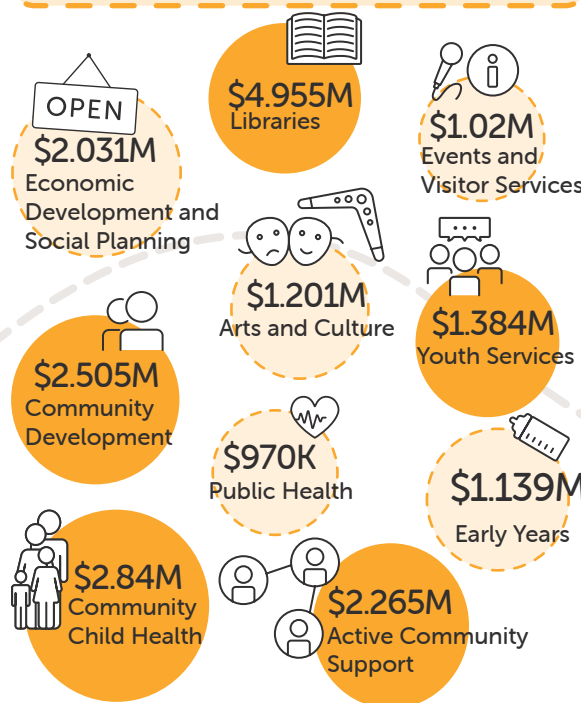
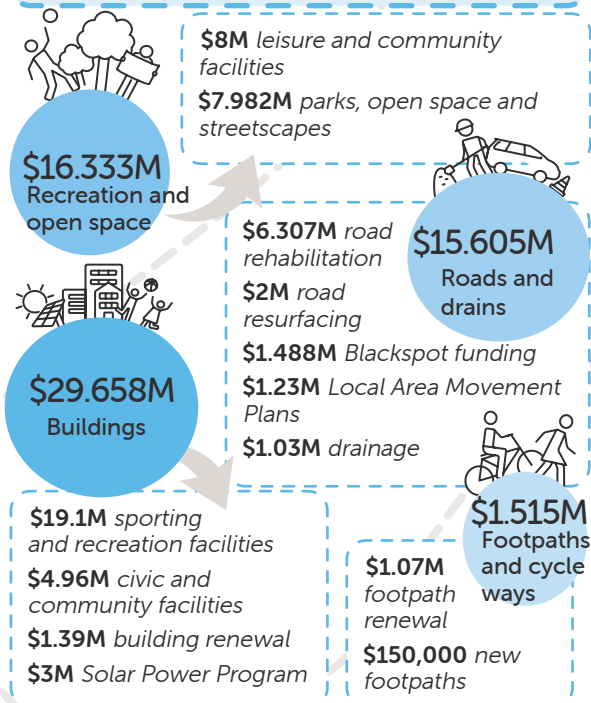
Hobsons Bay City Council has adopted its Annual Budget for 2020-21. Council listened and responded to feedback and has reshaped the Annual Budget 2020-21 to provide targeted support for the Hobsons Bay community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It features \$5.2 million in relief for our community, comprised of a \$3 million Community Support Package, \$2.2 million in rates relief, while also funding more than 100 vital community services and capital works improvements across Hobsons Bay.

### Capital Works

The **\$67.566** million capital works program is the highest investment Council has ever committed for infrastructure projects and aims to strengthen our local economy, support local jobs and provide infrastructure that our community can enjoy and expects.

### Community services

Council has remained committed to maintaining essential services and support but has needed to adapt in order to meet state and federal government requirements. Our budget will include ongoing delivery of more than 100 vital community services including:



### Community Support Package 3

The budget will include a third Community Support Package featuring \$3 million to support businesses and the community as they rebuild and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The package includes:

#### Residents

- COVID-19 Recovery Grants worth \$500,000 has been added to Council's existing Annual Community Grants Programs, totalling \$1 million in grant funding available for the community
- incentives to use Council venues including the Williamstown Town Hall and Altona Theatre
- 'loan to own' libraries iPads program
- programs to support local connections and celebration

#### Businesses

- waiving of food registrations, health registrations, footpath trading permits and planning permit fees for local businesses for 2020-21. Businesses will still need to renew their registrations but no payment of fees will be required
- suspension of paid parking in Nelson Place until 31 December. Customers of businesses at Williamstown Beach will also be provided dedicated permits from vendors for free parking

#### Sporting clubs and community groups

- automatic waiving of summer sports ground rentals.
- strategic planning support to help build strong and sustainable clubs
- sports pavilion cleaning program
- waiving of food and health registration, permit fees where applicable.

To view the 2020-21 Budget, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/budget](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/budget)

### Rates adjustment

The budget applies a 2 per cent rate increase in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System. While this would normally generate additional revenue of approximately \$2 million, we are implementing a rate adjustment to redirect approximately \$2.2 million in funds back to ratepayers. The adjustment is automatic and no additional paperwork is required. This means rates notices for 2020-21, when compared to the previous year, will on average decrease by:

- 0.17 per cent for residential properties
- 0.31 per cent for vacant residential properties
- 1.91 per cent for commercial properties

- 0.02 per cent for industrial properties
- 0.27 per cent for recreational properties

These rate decreases may include a rebate of \$200 and \$900 for eligible commercial and industrial properties, respectively. We are also providing a further \$25 to existing pensioner rebates.

### Financial hardship

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can apply for financial assistance. Council's Financial Hardship Policy has various options available from rate deferrals through to waivers. Apply at [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance) or call 1300 179 944.

### Hobsons Bay Community has Heart

Council has developed Hobsons Bay Community has Heart – a program that will support people in need while empowering the community to also reach out and help others. Within the program is the Community Connector, which links people in need with a wide range of services, including food, medications, access to masks, social activities, employment information, CALD support, counselling, domestic violence support, aged care, family and library services.

Visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hobsonsbaycommunityhasheart](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hobsonsbaycommunityhasheart) for more information.