

City Views

CITY OF  Armadale

VOLUME 5
AUGUST 2006

2006/07 Budget fuels growth



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City's growth to continue

The City has maintained its commitment to the growth of Armadale as a regional centre through its 2006/07 Budget.

The Budget aims to reach a balance between maintaining existing services and developing new projects. This will build on the unprecedented activity of the last financial year as the City's planning finally starts to take effect.

The 2006/07 Budget represents another step in Council's recently revised 15 Year Financial Plan.

It requires a moderate but necessary rate increase of 7.2 per cent, factoring in inflation and an allowance for growth initiatives. This amounts to an average household increase of around \$53 a year, or \$1.02 a week.

This rate increase compares favourably to the 6.7 per cent inflationary factor as measured by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) for our industry. WALGA's local government cost index factor of 6.7 per cent assesses inflation on the kinds of goods and services councils buy, rather than the household spending calculated in the general CPI, of 4.2 per cent. Council costs are severely impacted by the significant increase in prices for petroleum products and building materials over the last 12 months.

Some rural ratepayers will face additional rate increases, due to the effect of the annual revaluation conducted by the State Government Valuer General's Office. Of the City's 217 rural landowners, around half face increases of 7.2 per cent or less while the remaining half face increases of more than 7.2 per cent.



Under the 2006/07 Budget, rubbish collection charges will rise 5.8 per cent, from \$156 to \$165, taking into account inflation and an increase in State Government landfill levies of \$3 a tonne.

The Fire and Emergency Service Authority's Emergency Services Levy, which Council levies and collects on the State Government's behalf, will on average increase by around \$2.80 a household.

The success of the trial Townscape Amenity Service, which enhances the presentation and amenity of central business districts, industrial areas and major shopping areas, means the service will continue in 2006/07. As such, business owners will pay for the service via a separate specified area rate, the amount depending on the individual business property valuation.

Pensioner and seniors **rebate**

If you owned and occupied your house as at 1 July 2006 and are currently in receipt of a:

- pensioner payment from Centrelink or Veterans Affairs and a Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink, or
- Seniors Card issued by the Office of Seniors Affairs and a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, or
- Seniors Card only

then, you may be entitled to claim a rebate and/or a deferment on your current rates. Contact the City's Rates Department on 9399 0164 to find out more.

How is the \$40 million cash Budget spent?

- Transport (roads, drains and footpaths)
- Recreation and culture (aquatic centres, parks, events and libraries)
- Community amenity (town planning, rubbish collection and public toilets)
- Education and welfare (community development activities for seniors, youth and indigenous people)
- Law, order and public safety (fire and emergency services, animal control and community safety)
- Governance (Policy development, finance, administration, citizenship and Councillor services)
- Economic services (building control, tourism and economic development)
- Health (immunisation, health inspections and noise control)
- General purpose funding (rates, grants and interest on investments)
- Other property services (engineering plant and equipment)

Mayor's Message



Budget time provides an excellent opportunity to look into the future and shape our vision of a vibrant Armadale.

I believe the 2006/07 Budget will help us achieve this vision – not only by funding new projects but also by using our funds to attract support from other sectors.

In fact, this Budget has been specially crafted to ensure ratepayers get more return for their rates dollars.

By carefully targeting the allocation of our funds, we can ensure every dollar we spend attracts further investment from the State Government, Federal Government and private investors.

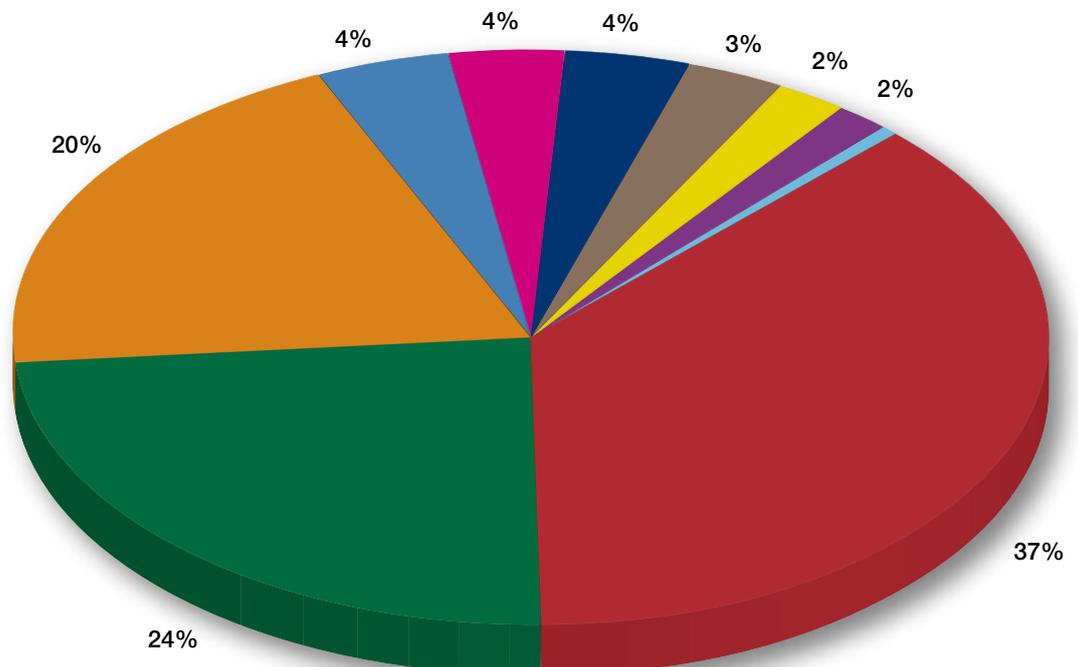
We have seen some outstanding examples of this over the last year when Council worked with important partners like the Armadale Redevelopment Authority (ARA), our local, State and Federal parliamentarians and private enterprises like ING, Stockland, Satterley and Westzone.

Some other smaller projects to stem from those strong working relationships have included the Roleystone Shopping Centre, the Kelmscott Village Redevelopment and the approval of a new West Armadale Shopping Centre.

This year we can expect to see still more exciting developments right across the City of Armadale as business confidence continues to grow and the early planning work of Council and the ARA begins to take shape.

Working together, we can continue to realise our vision for our vibrant and growing district well into the future.

Cr Linton Reynolds, AM JP
City of Armadale Mayor



2006/07 BUDGET



A snapshot of projects funded in 2006/07

\$8.5 million will be spent on improving the region's transport infrastructure by maintaining and improving our roads, car parks, drainage, bus shelters and roundabouts.

\$3.9 million will be spent on maintaining and improving our parks and reserves.

\$3.5 million will be spent on waste management and reduction which will include a weekly waste collection, fortnightly recycling collection as well as two green waste and one junk verge collections a year.

\$2.3 million will be spent on the City's public buildings, of this \$1.4 million will be set aside to maintain existing assets, and \$900,000 for improvement works.

\$486,000 will be spent on the City's footpaths and bikeways, with 5.4 km of extensions to the network.

\$304,000 will be spent on a range of community and cultural events aimed at fostering a sense of community pride and bringing the community together.

\$94,000 will be spent on lighting upgrades at various sporting facilities, while \$40,000 is earmarked for the resurfacing of the Roleystone tennis courts.

\$60,000 will be spent on tree planting and tree replacement.

\$50,000 will be spent on play equipment in line with the City's Playground Strategy.

\$42,000 will be combined with grant funding to facilitate a range of community safety initiatives.

A Smarter Way to Pay

Residents seeking to better manage their household budget when their rates bill arrives can now take advantage of a Smarter Way to Pay.

A Smarter Way to Pay was introduced by Council as a no fuss way to pay rates over a 12 month period via direct debit, on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis from April to March.

There are no administration fees or penalty interest for ratepayers who adopt the payment method.

City of Armadale residents who register to pay their rates by direct debit before the due date of 22 September 2006 have a chance to win one of four \$500 cash prizes courtesy of the City of Armadale.

To take advantage of this Smarter Way to Pay, contact the City's Rates Department on 9399 0164 to arrange for an application form to be posted or visit the City of Armadale's Administration Centre at 7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale to complete an application form.

Spring Family Bushwalks

The onset of spring heralds an explosion of colour in Armadale bushland as the annual wildflower season commences. Experience the dazzling colour and intricate designs of these flowers by taking part in the City of Armadale's Spring Family Bushwalks during September on the dates below. The walks will introduce people of all ages to the wonders of Armadale bushland. Bring along sturdy walking shoes, drinking water and sun protection and enjoy this colourful show of nature. For more information contact the City of Armadale on 9399 0187.



Time	Date	Location
8.30am-11am	Sunday 10 September 2006	Bungendore Park Djiba Walk
8.30am-11am	Sunday 24 September 2006	Churchman Bushland Walk
8.30am-11am	Sunday 8 October 2006	Armadale Settlers Common Walk
8.30am-11am	Sunday 22 October 2006	Walk the Wungong

NAIDOC

Despite gloomy weather, City of Armadale NAIDOC activities held on 4 July attracted good crowds and a flurry of activity.

The National Aboriginal and Islanders Day of Celebration kicked off at the City of Armadale Administration Centre with a Welcome to Country, speeches by Mayor Linton Reynolds and Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan and a flag raising ceremony.



Festivities continued with the presentation of certificates celebrating the achievements of Year 11 and 12 Indigenous students.

Then it was off to Rushton Park where residents were treated to some kangaroo stew and a range of activities such as face painting, circus performances, yarning and damper making competitions.

Your Local Libraries

Did you know that over 20,000 people visit one of the City's three libraries every month? In addition to the thousands of books, CDs, DVDs and magazines on offer the libraries also boast a jam packed Calendar of Events. Check out these exciting activities for starters!

Children's Book Week

Monday 21 August to Friday 25 August, all libraries

Special guest authors will visit the libraries during Children's Book Week.

Creepy Creatures

2pm-3pm, Wednesday 4 October, Kelmscott Library

Children will create spooky spider gloves and spiders in cobwebs.

Spooky Stories

2pm-3pm, Tuesday 10 October, Westfield Library

Storyteller Grant Cottrell will creep kids out with some creepy creature and ghost stories. Afterwards they'll make some gruesome spider biscuits!

Go Batty

10am-11am, Friday 13 October, Armadale Library

Children will have fun making bats and everything to do with bats!

Armadale Library

7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale
Tel: 9399 0125

Kelmscott Library

2800 Albany Highway, Kelmscott
Tel: 9390 5506

Westfield Library

76 Champion Drive, Seville Grove
Tel: 9497 2622

ENVIRONMENT

Top tips for reducing wood smoke

Smoke from wood fires is a pollutant that can cause health problems, be a nuisance to neighbours and create a severe haze during times of atmospheric inversion.

When using a wood heater you can minimise unsightly smoke haze and wood smoke pollution by following a few simple steps.

- Clean your chimney regularly and make sure wood is dry.
- Ensure the fire is as hot as possible before loading on larger logs.
- Start your fire with dry kindling and ensure the air control is fully open.
- Make sure you don't choke the fire by overloading it with large logs. An efficient fire should have bright swirling flames and red glowing embers.
- Once the fire is established and burning properly, take the trouble to check your chimney. There shouldn't be significant smoke emissions. If there are, open the airflow a little.

Cleaning up building sites

The City of Armadale reminds builders to put their rubbish in the bin.

The City's local laws require that builders use rubbish bins on construction sites to prevent unsightly, and sometimes dangerous, rubbish.

Such information is made clear in all building licences issued. However, some builders are choosing to ignore this requirement.

Failure to meet the requirement will first result in a warning, then an infringement notice imposing a \$250 penalty or prosecution.

By simply putting building rubbish in the bin, builders can help ensure Armadale remains an attractive place to live, work and visit.



Before – this double brick and tile home was extremely hot in summer and cold in winter

The Green House

Armadale residents can now see how easy it is to retrofit poorly designed homes to make them more environmentally friendly, thanks to the opening of the Green House in Maddington.

The Green House is a Switch Your Thinking Project designed to showcase sustainable housing from an energy, water and waste perspective.

The Green House is a double brick and tile home representative of many in the region and was built with little consideration given to environmental factors. As a result, the house was extremely hot in summer and very cold in winter.

But now that local contractors have retrofitted the home under the Switch Your Thinking Project, residents can see how easy, cheap and attractive it can be to achieve a sustainable energy and water efficient retrofit.

Consideration has been given to the orientation of the lot and the existing layout of the house, with a focus on improving comfort levels and minimising the need for additional heating and cooling.

Water and energy conservation are also strong focuses of the project, with energy efficient and water saving technologies ranging from compact fluorescent down lights to grey-water recycling and sub-strata irrigation.

The Green House will be open to the public on Saturday's from 11am to 4pm and Wednesday's from 1pm to 5pm. Viewing at other times can be arranged by contacting Regional Greenhouse Coordinator, Jason Menzies on 9391 6032.

Switch Your Thinking is supported by the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells and the Shire of Jarrahdale Serpentine.



After – the newly retrofitted Green House is water and energy efficient

Mayor promotes Armadale



City of Armadale Mayor Linton Reynolds seized the opportunity to promote Armadale's investment potential at the prestigious Australian Financial Review 'Developing Australia's Regions' summit in Sydney.

The high profile event held on 18 and 19 July attracted government and key industry representatives from across the country.

Cr Reynolds made an informative presentation on Armadale's success, before participating in a panel discussion on the subject 'Successful Regional Areas: Strategies that Deliver'.

During his presentation, Cr Reynolds tracked Armadale's incredible rate of progress and the benefits of following a strategic vision.

He also pointed to the success of the City's partnership with the State Government through the Armadale Redevelopment Authority.

The Mayor also used the summit to highlight the growth potential of fringe metropolitan areas – areas that are often forgotten behind metropolitan centres and regional areas.

Residents can read the paper by accessing the City's web site at www.armadale.wa.gov.au and following the 'Investing in the City' link.

Useful Council Numbers

City of Armadale Administration Office
Tel: 9399 0111
Fax: 9399 0184

Email: info@armadale.wa.gov.au
 Address: 7 Orchard Avenue,
 Armadale WA 6112
 Opening hours: Monday to Friday
 8.15am to 4.45pm

City of Armadale newsletter

The *City Views* provides residents with information about Council policies, services, activities and community events. We welcome your articles and suggestions.

Next deadline: 8 September 2006
 Email: Catherine Halsall at
chalsall@armadale.wa.gov.au
 Tel: 9399 0634 Fax: 9399 0184

Published by the Armadale City Council,
 Locked Bag 2, Armadale WA 6992

This newsletter is printed on environmentally friendly paper

Tourism boost

Tourism in Armadale is set for a huge boost, thanks to the Armadale Visitor Centre's new booking system.

The Book Easy system allows people to choose from a host of tourism services available in the Armadale area, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the internet.

Anyone with web access can simply log onto the system and book services such as accommodation, tours and activities. They can check the type, availability and price of the services on offer.

The system is linked to a state-wide tourism program that will ensure Armadale tourism operators gain unprecedented exposure to potential customers.

City of Armadale Mayor Linton Reynolds said the system was part of the City's move to progress visitor servicing in Armadale, now that it had taken over the Visitor Centre.

The online booking system can be accessed through the Armadale Visitor Centre's web site www.visitarmadale.com.au

Councillor Contact List

Heron Ward



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Minnawarra Ward



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Cr Bob Tizard
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Palomino Ward



Cr Jim Everts
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Cr Graham Wallace
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River Ward



Cr Ruth Butterfield
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Cr Henry Zelones JP
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YOUR COUNCIL

Developers contribute

North Forrestdale residents can look forward to stylish new infrastructure thanks to a City of Armadale developer contribution scheme.

The contribution scheme will require developers to pay into a fund which will go towards projects like the relocation of powerlines, widening of roads, setting aside of wetland areas for conservation and the provision of a community centre.

The scheme provides a legal mechanism for major infrastructure projects to be funded, without adding a burden to ratepayers living in other areas.

By spreading the burden of costs in this way, the City can ensure new subdivisions in North Forrestdale become residential



Stockland's new Vertu Estate in North Forrestdale

estates of much higher quality than that which could have been achieved by individual landholders.

The City will now forward the scheme to the WA Planning Commission for final approval.

Australian Technical College

The Armadale campus of the region's new Australian Technical College will take its first intake of Year 11 students on 1 February 2007.

The college aims to supply industry with the most highly skilled, motivated and job-ready students to satisfy the market's need for employees while providing students with a full educational and vocational experience.

The critical skills shortage has been the catalyst for this innovative program and will allow students to steer their education into the highly lucrative building and construction, and automotive and motor trades with an assured pathway to a job at the end of their course.

The \$20 million Armadale-Gosnells College is one of 24 across the nation and just two in Western Australia. Federal Minister for Vocational and Technical Education, Gary Hardgrave, announced that the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells won the highly competitive bid for the College in September last year.

The Australian Technical College will

operate from two campuses – one in the Armadale CBD that will focus on grooming students for the building and construction industry trades and a second in Maddington that will focus on the automotive trades.

Enrolments for the initial student intake will take place during Term 3 and 4 this year and will include a select group of 45 students for each campus.

Further details about information sessions, entry requirements and opportunities for industry sponsorship and support will soon be available at www.atcperth.edu.au



City of Armadale Council and Committee Meetings

August, September and October meeting cycles are displayed below. All meetings are held in the City of Armadale's Administration Centre, 7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale and are open to the public.

August 2006

Mon 28 Aug	7pm	Technical Services Committee
Tues 29 Aug	7pm	Community Services Committee

September 2006

Mon 4 Sept	7pm	Ordinary Council
Mon 11 Sept	7pm	City Strategy Committee
Tues 12 Sept	7pm	Development Services Committee
Mon 18 Sept	7pm	Ordinary Council
Mon 25 Sept	7pm	Technical Services Committee
Tues 26 Sept	7pm	Community Services Committee

October 2006

Tues 3 Oct	7pm	Ordinary Council
Mon 9 Oct	7pm	City Strategy Committee
Tues 10 Oct	7pm	Development Services Committee
Mon 16 Oct	7pm	Ordinary Council
Mon 23 Oct	7pm	Technical Services Committee
Tues 24 Oct	7pm	Community Services Committee