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A full version of the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan & Budget can be viewed by visiting Council's website, www.dckem.sa.gov.au, or collecting a hard copy from the Council Office, 11 Railway Tce, Karoonda, during business hours.

District Council of
Karoonda East Murray

Annual Business Plan & Budget 2026/27 Summary



Message from the Mayor

As Mayor, I am pleased to present Council's 2026-27 Annual Business Plan & Budget. This plan sets out how we will continue delivering essential services, maintaining key infrastructure and investing in projects that support the liveability and long-term sustainability of our district.

The budget reflects Council's commitment to providing value for our community through ongoing investment in roads, community facilities, recreation assets and public spaces, while continuing to deliver the services our residents, businesses and visitors rely on every day.

In developing this budget, Council has remained focused on balancing community expectations with responsible financial management. We recognise the ongoing pressures facing our region and have worked to ensure our resources are directed towards projects and services that deliver lasting benefit for our district.

While challenges remain, there are many opportunities ahead. This budget provides a foundation for continued progress and demonstrates Council's commitment to supporting a vibrant, connected and resilient community.

I would like to thank my fellow Elected Members, Council staff and our outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon, for their contribution to the development of this budget. Their dedication and commitment have helped shape a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of our community. As Council enters an election year, this Annual Business Plan & Budget provides a strong foundation for the incoming Council and leadership team to continue delivering positive outcomes for our district.



Caroline Phillips
Mayor
District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Budget Snapshot 2026/7

The Annual Business Plan & Budget shapes how Council will provide services, undertake works and manage community assets. This year, it will deliver:

6.90%
Average rate increase

$2,570,000
Rates revenue

$198,000
Operating surplus

$6,621,000
Total revenue

$6,423,000
Operating expenditure

$3,400,000
Capital works expenditure



Rates

In setting rates for the 2026/27 financial year, Council has considered the objectives of its Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Rating Policy.

Council has adopted an average rate increase of 6.90%.

The minimum amount payable for any rateable property in the Council area has been set at $502.00

Payment of rates

The payment of all rates can be either by full payment or by quarterly instalments due and payable on the following dates:

1st payment: **29 September 2026**
2nd payment: **15 December 2026**
3rd payment: **15 March 2027**
4th payment: **15 June 2027**

The 2026/27 Annual Business Plan & Budget was endorsed at a Special Meeting of Council on 11 August 2026. The Plan was open for public consultation from 25 June 2026 to 16 July 2026 and a total of 3 submissions were received.

Where will Council source funds?

GRANTS
$3,505,000
53% of budget

RATES
$2,570,000
38.8% of budget

STATUTORY CHARGES
$432,000
6.5% of budget

TOTAL INCOME: $6,621,000

INVESTMENT INCOME
$64,000
1% of budget

REIMBURSEMENTS
$36,000
0.5% of budget

OTHER INCOME
$14,000
0.2% of budget

Where will Council spend funds?

MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES
$2,459,000
38% of budget

DEPRECIATION
$2,326,000
36% of budget

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: $6,423,000

EMPLOYEE COSTS
$1,638,000
26% of budget

Where will Council spend its Capital Budget?

UNSEALED ROAD RENEWAL
$2,352,000
69.2% of budget

NEW PLANT & EQUIPMENT
$490,000
14.4% of budget

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES
$443,000
13% of budget

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: $3,400,000

KAROONDA UPGRADES
$100,000
2.9% of budget

CWMS
$15,000
0.4% of budget