Budget 2020/2021

Connect Mount Alexander

Together we thrive

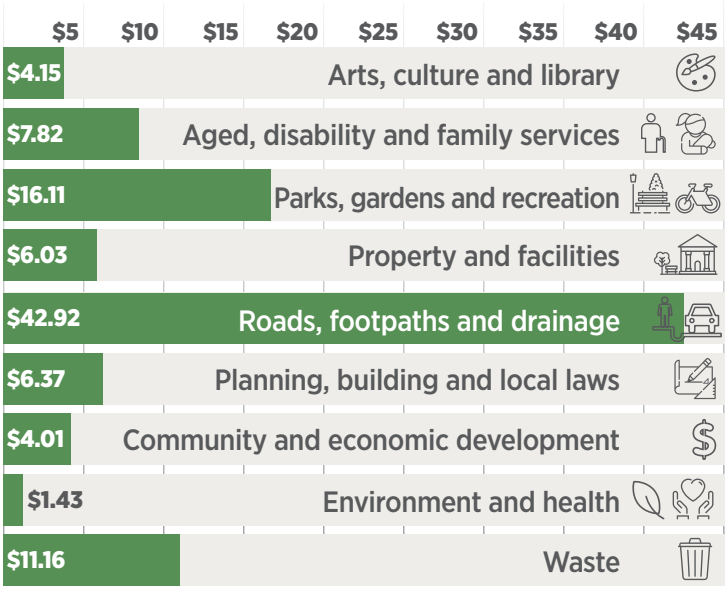
Council adopted its Budget 2020/2021 on 18 August 2020. The $45.9 million budget aims to maintain and improve infrastructure, and deliver important projects and services. This year we incorporated a range of projects to specifically help respond to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our budget includes an increase to the average rates income of 2% under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System, as we continue to review processes to work more efficiently and advocate for funding. Kerbside bin collection charges increased by an average of 3% per property. This equates to about a $13 increase for small bins and a $19 increase for larger bins.

What the budget includes

The budget includes provision for more than 100 essential services. These include the management of local roads, bridges and drains; collection of rubbish and recycling; delivery of maternal and child health programs; the provision of aged care, disability services and youth programs; maintenance and improvement of play spaces and public parks and gardens; and so much more. The budget also includes a small number of new initiatives and a mix of capital works.

Council spending per $100



Key projects and programs

The budget also includes a number of new and continuing initiatives to help fulfil our vision of an innovative, creative and connected community such as:

Delivery of the **supported playgroups** program **($67,300)**, delivery of programs for **young people** and quality **aged care** and **disability services** **($2.4 million)**. We are investing in **community lunches** in Maldon, Newstead and Castlemaine **($20,000)** and supporting Section 86 Committees to help them maintain **community sporting reserves and facilities** **($100,000)**. We will also start stage one of the rejuvenation of the **Maldon town centre**, thanks to a State Government grant **($3.0 million)**.

Our response to COVID-19

Among a number of initiatives, we will increase our investment in tourism marketing and promotion, waive a number of registration and permit fees for businesses, develop an online platform for our creative and artistic industries, and implement a Social and Economic Recovery Plan and COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy.

Capital works

We have allocated $11.74 million towards capital projects. Major projects include:

Roads – $2.95 million includes stage 1 of works on the Muckleford-Castlemaine Road, along with road resealing and gravel road resheeting.

Bridges – $2.12 million for design and construction of several bridges and culverts which includes the Eagles Road bridge at Harcourt and two bridges on Campbells Creek-Fryers Road.

Walking and cycling – $895,000 towards footpaths throughout the shire, along with a road crossing in Chewton town centre.

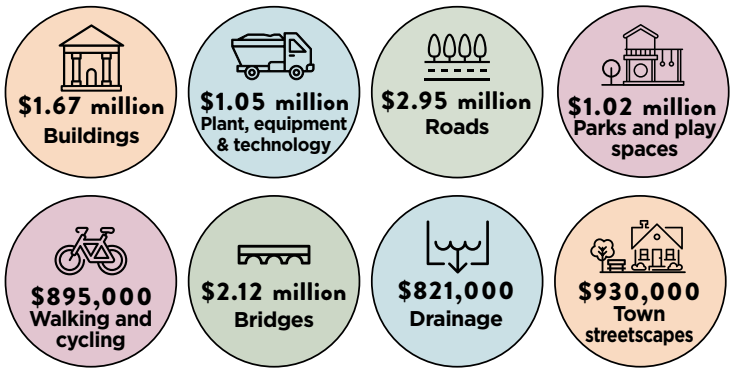
Drains – $821,000 to improve drainage at Saint Street in Castlemaine and funds to finalise designs and approvals for the Campbells Creek and Castlemaine levee bank project.

Parks and play spaces – $1.02 million includes revitalisation of Norwood Hill Recreation Reserve in Castlemaine and the Stanley Park North play space in Harcourt.

Buildings - $1.67 million to improve community facilities, which includes female friendly change facilities at the Harcourt Recreation Reserve and funds to increase accessibility at Baringhup Hall and renew recreation facilities in Guildford, Taradale and Castlemaine.

Streetscapes – $930,000 which includes streetscape works in Taradale, Elphinstone and Campbells Creek (subject to $300,000 government funding).

Major capital works



Read the budget at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/budget.

Civic Centre
Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd Sts
P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 5471 1700
e info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
w www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL