



PRESS RELEASE

10 July 2015

Wagait Shire pleased to keep rates low

The President of the Wagait Shire Council confirmed that council has been able to keep the general rates increase to a minimum this new financial year.

President Peter Clee said that “The new, CEO Deborah Allen and the whole of Council has worked very hard to limit the increase in general rates for the 2015 / 16 financial year to just \$45 per annum”

“Wagait Shire has always had a policy of rating on the basis of a flat rate per block and the new rate for 2015 / 16 will be \$560 per annum. I believe that Wagait Shire Council is most certainly sustainable in the long term whilst still able to maintain the lowest rates in the Northern Territory” “Details are available in the Wagait Shire Plan 2015 – 16 which is available on the council web site ”

President Clee said that “the rates for 2015 / 16 were kept to a minimum by maintaining tight control on anticipated expenditure” “Council had discussed the full introduction of councillor allowances last year. Councillor allowances are set down in the legislation but have never been paid to our councillors “ . “However, it was felt that council could not afford to pay full allowances at this time.”

Some new initiatives have been included in the proposed budget including the establishment of a local UHF radio communications network to assist local communications in times of emergencies and to allow emergency organisations to communicate on a local level”. “Council already has satellite phones to communicate externally.”

“Another initiative is the introduction of CCTV and some other measures in order to protect and secure council assets” “The councils aging computer system will also receive an upgrade this year.”

During the first half of 2015 a vocal community meeting was held in relation to an issue with unrestrained and feral dogs roaming the community. It was reported by the community that these animals were causing a general nuisance to residents. Council has resolved to introduce a program for companion animal registration and to investigate a longer term animal control program. This year will see the establishment of an animal registration system, in addition to the introduction of By-Laws for uncontrolled animals. It is hoped that we may also see the voluntary introduction of microchips for animals.

The Companion Animal Management Program is a long term initiative of council in response to resident concerns. A small levy of \$50.00 per block will be imposed in addition to the general rates to partly fund this program. It is hoped that eventually the program may become self funding.

Additional information from

Wagait Shire Council President - Peter Clee on 0418894404