



MEDIA RELEASE

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Budget strikes the right balance

Huon Valley Council last night passed its 2024-25 Budget, delivering on its long-term financial plan to prioritise investment in core services.

"The Council is working hard to deliver core services to our community, while also getting back onto a strong and sustainable financial footing," Mayor Sally Doyle said.

"As part of our long-term plan, we are committed to reaching a stable base for rate increases, so that our community can plan their own budgets with confidence.

"With prudent budget management, we have delivered a budget position that has allowed us to reduce the forecast rate increase of eight per cent, to seven per cent this year.

"This will mean an increase of \$100 in the general rate for an average ratepayer, instead of \$115.

"We understand that any increase is difficult, and that is why we are committed to delivering on our long-term financial plan.

"We will continue to do everything we can to find savings, big and small, to ensure we can best serve and support our community, particularly given the current cost of living challenges.

"Additionally, we must ensure that we listen to and act on the needs of our community.

"That's why this Budget will deliver improvements to planning processes, road safety, emergency management, and front-line service delivery.



"This Budget strikes the right balance between securing the long-term financial stability of council, while ensuring every dollar is spent on measures that our ratepayers want."

As part of long-term financial plans, the Council has taken the decision to disband the Economic Development Unit and the two positions within it.

Chief Executive Officer Lachlan Kranz said it was a difficult decision.

"The pathway to financial stability will not be easy, but it is critical that the council manages its budget responsibly and in a way that prioritises the needs of ratepayers," Mr Kranz said.

"We thank the staff for their support of the community and will continue to engage with stakeholders on a new way of working together and delivering economic opportunities for our community."

For more information: Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300