



Hornsedale Switches On

The Hornsdale Wind Farm is officially “energised”. Page 7

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Council to spend \$5.6 million on Capital Projects

Highlights of the capital program

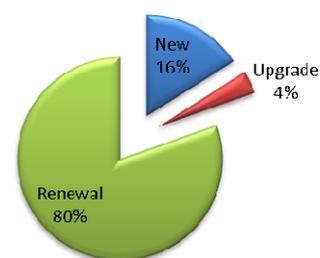
District Road Re-sheeting	\$1,427,600	Sealed Road Re-sealing	\$1,164,207
Kerbing	\$ 77,200	Footpaths	\$ 101,350
Laura Flood Mitigation	\$ 400,000	Drainage Works - Angas St, Spalding	\$ 50,000
Cemeteries	\$ 46,000	Gulnare Hall	\$ 14,000

The budget for 2016/17 comprised of a total expenditure of \$16.5 million with the Operating budget being \$10.9 million and the Capital Budget being \$5.6 million.

The budget expenditure of \$16.5 million is in line with the projections of the Long Term Financial Plan, which was reviewed early in the budget process to ensure all assumptions and revenue projections were all current.

Rates increased by 8% which is also in line with the Long Term Financial Plan, that when set several years ago projected higher than Consumer Price Index increases for a number of years to ensure the financial sustainability of Council.

Capital Works Split



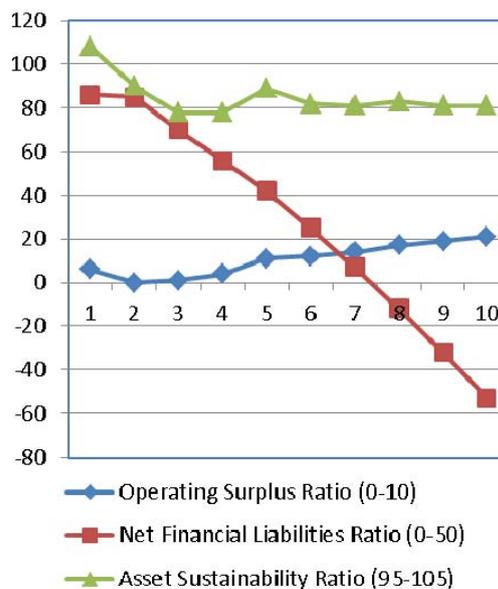
An issue Council faced in setting the rates was the 5% decrease in grant funding Council received from the Federal and State Governments. Council with this decrease in funding was looking at a 13% rate increase, a rate increase that was not acceptable to Council. To achieve the 8% increase Council has reviewed a number of services to decrease costs and deliver efficiencies by instigating new work procedures.

In reviewing these services Council has started a process that will continue to review all services that Council provide to the community which will give the ratepayer "value for their rate dollar".

Another important component of the budget was the management of Council assets. These include roads, halls, footpaths, kerbs, CWMS, or recreation facilities to name a few. The emphasis for Council in meeting long term asset replacement and financial strategy goals is on renewing assets at the end of their service life. There are several small new assets in the budget but other than major re-sheet and reseal of roads there are no building upgrades. The graph highlights the amount spent on renewal compared to new or upgraded assets.

To ensure financial sustainability Council focuses on 3 main financial indicators, these being; Operating Surplus, Net Financial Liabilities and Asset Sustainability. All of these financial indicators in this years budget are in line with predictions as the graph indicates.

Budget Financial Indicators 2016-2026



Neoen Hornsdale Wind Farm Community Fund Grants

Neoen Energy, proprietors of the Hornsdale Wind Farm recently allocated \$20,000 in its initial community project grants.

Funding was allocated to nine different projects, events or initiatives across the Council area. Successful applicants for the current round of funding are:

- Caltowie Hall and Progress Association \$2,500 toward a shade sail over the Caltowie playground
- Gladstone Community Development and Tourism Association \$1,500 toward replacement fencing at the former Gladstone High School Building
- Gladstone Ex Service Personnel Group \$2,500 toward a retaining wall at the Gladstone war monument
- Gladstone Hall Management Committee \$2,500 toward a solar energy installation
- Jamestown National Trust \$2,500 toward the repair and upgrade to the 1971 centenary sign
- Laura Memorial Civic Centre \$2,500 toward the installation of an air conditioning system
- Spalding District \$2,500 toward an extractor fan, oven and heat proof flooring at the Spalding District Hall
- Spalding Sports Association, \$1,000 toward the purchase of floor coverings for the Spalding Community Sporting Complex
- Stone Hut Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee \$2,500 toward the sanding of the Hall floor



Elected Member Contact Details

Elected Member contact details are available on Council's website www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Preliminary Notice 2017 Australia Day Awards

Now is the time to start thinking about individuals and organisations that have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service over a number of years, to a local community over and above the normal employment duties.

The Australia Day Awards offer an opportunity to recognize see these people and groups in three separate categories. Categories for the 2017 Australia Day Awards are:

Citizen of the Year

To be eligible the person must be an Australian Citizen

Young Citizen of the Year

To be eligible the person must be an Australian Citizen under 30 years of age on 26 January 2017

Community Event of the Year

This is presented to the person/group who has staged the most outstanding community event during the past year

Nominations are set to open later in the year, please check Council's website for dates for further details



Farewell to Emma Young — OPAL

Council recently bid farewell to the Manager of the OPAL Program Emma Young.

Emma has coordinated the program, which has been a shared service between the Northern Areas Council, District Council of Peterborough and the District Council of Mount Remarkable since 2011.

Council highly valued Emma's contribution toward the success of the program and wish her the very best in her new role as the Manager of the Primary Health Network for the Yorke and Mid North Region.

Local Councils—The Lean Machine

Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) CEO Matt Pinnegar said with households receiving their rates notices for 2016/17, it was important for ratepayers to know what they are getting for their money.

“Councils in South Australia manage around \$22 billion worth of public assets, while providing hundreds of services and facilities in their communities,” Mr Pinnegar said.

“These can include libraries, community centres, immunisation clinics, men’s sheds, footy ovals, community events, aged care services, swimming pools and much more.

“The days of the three R’s – roads, rates and rubbish – are long gone. The State Government is giving us more to do, and our communities are telling us they want and expect more, so councils are stepping in to meet these needs.”

Other council facilities and services can include caravan parks, cemeteries, coastal care, community buses, development and planning services, bushfire prevention, dog and cat management, disability services, economic development, place making, environmental programs, footpath maintenance, tourism information, museums, roads, netball and tennis courts, playgrounds, recycling facilities, skate parks, street lighting, and storm water drains.

Mr Pinnegar said that the goal of the campaign was to communicate that councils provide these services while taking less than 4% of the nation’s tax.

“80% of all tax paid in Australia goes to the Federal Government, and 16% of it goes to the states,” Mr Pinnegar said.

“We understand there’s some confusion around the funding received by councils – especially with more and more State Government taxes being included in council rates.

“The NRM Levy is an obvious example, and is clearly listed on rates notices, but there are others, such as the rapidly escalating Solid Waste Levy, Rubble Royalties, and Community Housing rebates, which are all paid by councils and ultimately their ratepayers.

“What people may not realise is that in South Australia, councils receive the lowest funding per capita of anywhere in Australia, the least amount of grants from their State Government, and an unfair share of local road funding from the Federal Government.

“We firmly believe local government is a lean machine – and the most efficient sector of government in Australia – given all we are able to deliver for our communities with less than 4% of national taxation.”



Fire Prevention

PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE ARE YOU PREPARED?

With the weather warming it's time to take a good look at your property and make sure you are prepared for the peak fire risk season.

Council's Fire Prevention Officer inspects properties in all townships within the Northern Areas Council District for fire hazards, to ensure that all properties are clear of flammable materials, including dead branches, shrubs and weeds, which are close to the home and insure that undergrowth including wild grasses is at a maximum height of 100mm (the old 4inches) to reduce fire hazards.

Tree branches over hanging the house and sheds must be removed and a wood pile must be at least 5 metres from the house or shed.

Non compliant properties at the time of inspection, will be issued with a Section 105F (Hazard Clearance Notice) under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* to reduce fire hazards on the property within the time specified on the notice.

Council's Fire Prevention Officer will re-inspect all properties, including those issued with a Sec.105F (Hazard Clearance Notice) to identify if the properties have been cleared of fire hazards, including re-growth.

If these properties are not cleared of identified hazards as per the notice at the time of re-inspection, Council's Fire Prevention Officer will arrange for hazard reduction work to be carried out at the owner's expense, and will be on-charged with any associated costs.

Landholders are asked to keep their property clear and free of fire hazards throughout the year, and particularly during the Fire Danger Season. Please remember that Bushfire Prevention is an **OBLIGATION OF ALL LANDOWNERS**, not an option.

Spring Preparation Checklist for townships

- Slash or mow long grass to a maximum height of 100mm (4") and remove cut material, (can be placed in a compost bin)
- Remove weeds around sheds and fences. There should be a 5 metre clearance around a shed.
- Cut back trees overhanging the roof of the house, sheds and garages
- Remove fallen branches and other debris.
- Do not have a creeper or vine growing on a poly rain water tank
- Check and service all of your mechanical equipment, including grass cutters, water pumps, sprinkler systems and extinguishers.
- Remove leaves and any dead weeds from gutters and consider gutter guard systems to help reduce the accumulated leaf litter.
- Review and update your Bushfire Action Plan.

Keep informed:

- CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au
- CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
- On local ABC radio, FIVEaa, or one of our other Emergency Broadcast Partner radio stations

Elector Representation Review

The Northern Areas Council is undertaking a review to determine whether a change of arrangements are required in respect to elector representation so as to ensure that the electors of the area being adequately and fairly represented.

Council initially prepared a Representation Options Paper which examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options available in regards to the composition and structure of Council, and the division of the Council area into wards.

A copy of the Representation Options Paper is available for download via Council's website, or a copy can be inspected and/or purchased at any of the Council offices (i.e. 94 Ayr Street, Jamestown; 14 Fifth Street, Gladstone; and/or 11 Main Street, Spalding).

Written submissions for the first stage of the review closed on 26th August 2016. The next stage for Council will be to review the submissions given, before undertaking further public consultation on the preferred option.

Information regarding the Elector Representation Review can be obtained by contacting the Chief Executive Officer on telephone 8664 1139 or emailing ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au.

Project Updates

Spalding Community Sporting Complex

After a lot of hard work, community fundraising and great anticipation, the Spalding Community Sporting Complex has opened to the community. Local sporting clubs wasted no time in putting the facility to use, with the BSR Football and Netball Clubs hosting their final three matches for the 2016 season at Spalding.

Construction was undertaken by McKenzie Homes, with the project overseen by Council's Manager or Regulatory Services, Alan Thomson. The facility features a new bar and kitchen area, a function room, a new sporting change room, new toilets and a new area for the Spalding Community Gym.

As part of the project, the sporting community of Spalding have sought to centralise sports to a single location, as a means of cost sharing across several sports, to create a more sustainable facility. The complex will initially be home to Football, Netball, Basketball, Community Gym and Cricket, with Tennis also to follow in the coming years.

The construction project, valued at \$590,000 was made possible through contributions from:

Office for Recreation and Sport

\$200,000 through the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program

Northern Areas Council

\$100,000 toward toilets

\$80,000 in earthworks

\$72,000 from the sale of the former Spalding Community Centre

Spalding Community

\$88,000 in cash contribution, with a loan for an additional \$50,000

Aside from the construction project, the community also contributed over \$40,000 in funding for the kitchen fit out, furniture, floor coverings and other items.



Jamestown Regional Sports Stadium "Big Shed" Canteen

Work has commenced on the construction of a canteen at the Jamestown Regional Sports Stadium, better known as "The Big Shed". The total project is valued at just over \$68,500, with completion earmarked to be completed in the latter stage of 2016.

The community were fortunate enough to be awarded \$20,000 as part of the fund my idea program following the 2015 Country Cabinet visit from the State Government to the Northern Areas Council.

Council assisted with the project through the provision of a sub base of approximately \$2,500, whilst the remaining \$46,000 has been contributed from various facility tenants.



Jamestown Swimming Pool Changing Room Upgrade

After much anticipation, the upgrade to the Jamestown Swimming Pool Changing Rooms has now been completed, in time for the upcoming swimming season.

The total project, valued at \$120,000 was made possible through a \$55,000 grant from the Government of South Australia, with the remaining funds contributed by the Jamestown Swimming Pool Management Committee through both a cash contribution of \$15,000 and a loan of \$50,000.



Community News

Hornsedale Wind Farm Switches On

The Hornsdale Wind Farm officially joined the national electricity grid on Thursday the 7th of July, when the wind farm's owner, French firm Neoen Energy hosted an energisation ceremony in conjunction with the project's construction partner Siemens.

The project, set in three stages is valued at approximately \$900 million. Stage one and two are currently underway, with Neoen working toward securing approvals for stage three. Energy generated from the wind farm, is to be used to power homes in the ACT via the national electricity grid.

Visitors to the ceremony included the French Ambassador to Australia Mr. Christophe Lecourtier, ACT Deputy Chief Minister Simon Corbell, South Australian Renewable Energy Minister Mr Ian Hunter, Neoen International CEO Xavier Barbaro and Siemens Australia Head of Energy Business David Pryke.

As part of the ceremony, the successful applicants for the 2015/16 Neoen Hornsdale Wind Farm Community Fund were announced, with \$20,000 in funding distributed to groups across the Council area. The fund is due to increase to \$40,000 for the 2016/17 financial year.



Special Guest, the French Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Mr Christophe Lecourtier



Mayor Denis Clark provided attendees with a Council perspective of the project



David Pryke, Simon Corbell, Ian Hunter and Xavier Barbaro jointly declare the Hornsdale Wind Farm "energised"

Community Budget News

Swimming Pools

As part of the 2016/17 budget, Council has committed \$33,650 in additional funding, to be spread across Swimming Pools at Gladstone, Jamestown and Spalding. Council has allocated the Funding to undertake necessary upgrades and assessments at each pool as part of its current five year Capital Works Program. Funding has been allocated to each pool for:



- Gladstone Pool: \$18,650 to both upgrade the emergency alarm system within the plant room and to undertake an audit of the plant room itself.
- Jamestown Pool: \$5,000 to complete an audit of the plant room.
- Spalding Pool: \$10,000 to undertake an audit of the plant room.

Council will utilise this information, as part of the development of its overall Asset Management Plan. This will allow for a greater level of sustainability at each pool, which have served as key community assets for many decades.



Community Grant Funding

As well as the above mentioned Neoen Energy Hornsdale Wind Farm Community Fund, the AGL Hallett Wind Farm Community Fund will also continue as in previous years. An allocation has also been approved by Council for a continuation of the Northern Areas Council Community Project Grants.

Receive your rates notices via email

Have your rates notice delivered to any device or computer. It is quick, easy and a secure way to view your rate notice.

Scan the QR code printed on your rates notice or go to www.nacouncil.formsport.com.au

Register your details (See "Steps to register" below) and the next rates notice will be conveniently delivered to your nominated email address.

Steps to register:

Step 1

- Complete the online registration form once you have scanned your QR code or have gone to www.nacouncil.formsport.com.au
- Click on the register tab in the top right hand corner
- Enter your name exactly as it appears on the rates notice, including spaces and symbols.
- Enter your assessment number and email address
- Choose a username, make it easy to remember so you can log in later.

Step 2

- Check your inbox. Click the link, it lasts for 48 hours.

Step 3

- Choose a password. Use this along with your username to log in.
- You will now receive notices in your inbox, and you can log in and view them online at any time.

For more information please contact Tanya Francis or Bernadette McCarthy on 8664 1139.

Public Question Time

Public Question Time is where a member of the community can appear at the Council meeting and ask a question to Council.

Questions can be in writing prior to the meeting so a researched answer can be provided. Alternatively it can be asked from the public gallery on the meeting day.

Single Farm Enterprise

Section 152 of the Local Government Act 1999 states that "if two or more pieces of rateable land within the area of the Council constitute a Single Farm Enterprise, only one fixed charge may be imposed against the whole of the land".

If you have purchased, sold, subdivided or amalgamated any land or changed your entity you will need to update your application form. Forms are available from the Jamestown, Gladstone and Spalding Offices and must be completed and returned by **5:00pm on Friday 30th June 2017**.

If the application form is not received by Council by the due date, no exemption will apply to the 2017/2018 financial year fixed charge component of your rates.

A majority of farming entities have already completed a form and are receiving a Single Farm Enterprise, and therefore a reduction on the fixed charge component of their rates.

For further information please contact Tanya Francis or Bernadette McCarthy at the Jamestown Office on 08 8664 1139.

Council Contacts

Dog Control Officer:

Garry Harris 0419 858 375

After Hours Emergency Only

Chief Executive Officer 0417 844 813
Manager Operational Services 0488 999 808
Manager Regulatory Services 0409 286 542
Maintenance Supervisor 0429 676 700
Manager Corporate Services 0429 640 361

Calendar of Council Meetings

Ordinary meetings of Council are held at venues across the Council area, on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 2pm.

The general public are always welcome to attend

Tue 20th September	Jamestown	2pm
Tue 18th October	To be confirmed	2pm
Tue 15th November	To be confirmed	2pm

Upcoming meeting dates and venues are:

For further meeting dates please visit

www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au



Principal Office—Jamestown
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
94 Ayr St, JAMESTOWN SA 5491
PO Box 120, JAMESTOWN SA 5491
Ph: (08) 8664 1139 Fx: (08) 8664 1085
Email: ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Gladstone Office
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Town Hall, Fifth Street
GLADSTONE SA 5473
Ph: (08) 8662 2018 Fx: (08) 8662 2394
Email: ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Spalding Office
Tuesday 10am-2pm
Thursday 9am-5pm
Town Hall, Main Street, SPALDING SA 5454
Ph: (08) 8845 2017 Fx: (08) 8845 2017
Email: ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au