

Have your say



An online survey is open from Wednesday 27 May to Sunday 14 June on Participate Hepburn.



A hard copy submission form is available to download online or collect from Council hubs and libraries.



Community members can register to present to Councillors at a public hearing on Wednesday 24 June. Register via Participate Hepburn or fill out a form in-person at Council hubs and libraries.

Scan the QR code for more information or visit www.participate.hepburn.vic.gov.au/budget



Contact us

Daylesford

Cnr Duke and Albert streets

Creswick Hub

68 Albert Street

The Warehouse – Clunes

36 Fraser Street

The Mechanics Trentham

66 High Street

PO Box 21 Daylesford Victoria 3460

T 03 5348 2306

E shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au

W www.hepburn.vic.gov.au



Draft 2026/27 Budget



Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL

At a glance

Council has endorsed the release of the draft 2026/27 Budget for public exhibition. The draft Budget is disciplined, financially responsible and responds to external cost pressures.

✓ Aligned with Financial Vision

Council's draft 2026/27 Budget has been developed in line with the adopted Financial Vision and Financial Plan 2025–2035. This budget is focused on long-term sustainability.

✓ Financial health

Council has budgeted a minor operating surplus, with a positive unrestricted cash position of \$705,000. This is a positive trend and an improvement on prior financial years.

There are no new borrowings.

✓ Rate cap

The Victorian Government rate cap of 2.75 per cent has been applied.

✓ Cash managed responsibly

Council also has all its reserves 'cash backed' (available and on hand). This is good financial management, and not something that is legislatively required.

✓ Investment in projects

There will be small investments in key projects next year to improve community engagement and customer service. Council will also review the Financial Plan 2025–2035 and alternative revenue sources.

✓ Reduction in waste charge

The average waste charge will reduce from \$610 to \$540.

✓ Capital works program

A \$10.5 million capital works program is planned, funded by Council reserves and grants. The program prioritises asset renewal and current project completion over new assets. Funding includes \$2.8 million from grants and contributions. \$4.83 million will be spent on our local roads.

✓ The future

The draft Budget relies heavily on Council's own resourcing and limited revenue streams. A lack of support from state and federal governments over the last decade has meant councils are facing unreasonable cost pressures.

Council will continue to monitor and review its financial performance.



Mayor, Cr Tony Clark

"We're focused on getting back to basics, being community-focused and prioritising what our Shire needs. Many households are making difficult financial decisions, and we recognise the importance of balancing our financial responsibilities with empathy and understanding."