

News from the Hill

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MAYORAL ELECTIONS

The Mayoral Election for Blue Mountains City Council was held at the Council meeting on Tuesday 15 September 2015.

Cr Mark Greenhill was elected Mayor and Cr Chris Van der Kley was elected as the Deputy Mayor, both for a one year term.

BLUE MOUNTAINS AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

The awards recognise those local citizens who have a consistent record of excellence, who have made outstanding achievements in their field, and contributed in a significant way to our community. **Nominations are due Friday 27 November.**

Further information: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/australiadayawards

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As I embark on my **third term as Mayor**, I reflect on the many achievements of the Council and the community over the last year with pride.

The **two year anniversary of the October 2013 bushfires** has just passed, again marking the journey from the time of the fires, through the process of recovery, which continues for many of our bushfire affected residents.

As the **Local Recovery coordination** draws to a close in December, I would like to praise the work of everyone involved in the recovery efforts to date. Our combined efforts have helped to deliver the necessary support to those who experienced first-hand the single greatest challenge faced by the City and the Council, and better prepare us for any future natural disaster.

Recovery from major events such as bushfires can be complex and take time. Council acknowledges the recovery process is ongoing and will continue its support of bushfire affected residents every step of the way.

Looking to the year ahead, the Council will continue its collective efforts to deliver acceptable and affordable services to our community, make even further progress towards financial sustainability, and remain focused on **building a successful future for the City.**

I am pleased to say Council's overall **financial position and forecast is positive** as we continue to balance our budget every year and live within our means.

We are set to introduce a **new green bin service** for garden waste on 1 July 2016 to reduce waste to landfill at no additional cost to ratepayers. The **new resource recovery centre** at Blaxland Waste Management facility is close to completion. Also, the Council will fast track some **service improvements across the City** advancing \$1.295M of special rate variation funded projects in 2015-16, and we are developing plans for the **future redevelopment of Springwood Library** to attract grant funding. Council continues to show leadership in **fostering regional business and economic development** in the City.

I remain hopeful of reporting a favourable result of NSW Government approval of our final **draft Local Environment Plan** in the coming months.

There is no doubt the City is moving ahead and I am proud to lead a Council that has the **wellbeing of the community and environment** at the core of its charter.

Mark Greenhill, Mayor



PREPARING FOR A BUSH FIRE IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

There are four simple steps to help prepare yourself, your family and your community for the bush fire season.

1: DISCUSS with the people in your household what to do when a bush fire threatens your home. If you intend to leave early: what will be your signal to leave; where will you go; how will you get there; what will you take and what is your backup plan? If you intend to stay: who will stay, what equipment do you have; how you will cope and what is your backup plan?

2: PREPARE your home to make it as safe as possible during a bush fire. Do this by trimming overhanging branches; mow your lawn and remove the clippings; remove all flammable materials from around your home; clean gutters and remove all debris; have a garden hose handy that can reach around the house.

3: KNOW what the bush fire danger ratings and alert levels mean. Understand what the Fire Danger Rating meter indicates when the pointer changes from Low to Moderate through to Catastrophic and what each rating tells you. Once a bush fire has started, know the difference between the alert levels: Advice; Watch & Act; & Emergency Warning & what each alert means to you and your family.

4: KEEP important numbers and sources of information in your phone, tablet and computer. Bush Fire Information Line: **1800 679 737**; 'Fires Near Me' smart phone app; [facebook.com/nswrfs](https://www.facebook.com/nswrfs); twitter.com/nswrfs. If you see a fire call 000.



2. PREPARE



4. KEEP

For more information: contact the Blue Mountains Fire Control Centre: **4784 7444** or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement

Income and Expenses – General Fund

(\$000's)	Original Budget 2015/16	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 2015/16	Variations for this Sep Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs	Mar QBRs					
Income											
Rates and Annual Charges	61,378		294			61,672			61,672	15,525	
User Charges and Fees	17,308		26			17,334			17,334	4,465	
Interest and Investment Revenues	1,518		(18)			1,500	(490)		1,010	240	
Other Revenues	3,329		(163)			3,166	295		3,461	782	
Grants & Contributions - Operating	12,325					12,325	(220)		12,105	5,948	
Grants & Contributions - Capital	1,361	142				1,503			1,503	314	
Net gain from disposal of assets	243					243			243	299	
Share of Interests in Joint Ventures						-			-		
Total Income from Continuing Operations	97,461	142	139	-	-	97,742	(415)		97,327	27,573	
Expenses											
Employee Costs	47,456	212	129			47,797	141		47,938	11,443	
Borrowing Costs	3,826		(587)			3,239			3,239	809	
Materials & Contracts	19,164	1,015	217			20,396	130		20,526	4,630	
Depreciation	16,735					16,735			16,735	4,339	
Legal Costs	277					277			277	74	
Consultants	721	281				1,002			1,002	322	
Other Expenses	13,804	436	479			14,719	30		14,749	3,803	
Interest & Investment Losses						-			-		
Net Loss from disposal of assets						-			-		
Share of interests in Joint Ventures						-			-		
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	101,982	1,944	238	-	-	104,164	301		104,465	25,420	
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations	(4,521)	(1,802)	(99)	-	-	(6,422)	(716)		(7,138)	2,153	
Discontinued Operations - Surplus/(Deficit)						-			-		
Net Operating Result from All Operations	(4,521)	(1,802)	(99)	-	-	(6,422)	(716)		(7,138)	2,153	
Net Operating Result before Capital Items	(5,882)	(1,944)	(99)	-	-	(7,925)	(716)		(8,641)	1,839	



This was the forecast loss by Blue Mountains Council as at October 2015

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement

Income and Expenses – General Fund

(\$000's)	Original Budget 2015/16	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 2015/16	Variations for this Mar Qtr		Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs	Mar QBRs		Mar	Qtr			
Income												
Rates and Annual Charges	61,378		294				61,672				61,672	46,304
User Charges and Fees	17,308		30				17,338				17,338	14,768
Interest and Investment Revenues	1,518		(18)	(490)			1,010				1,010	747
Other Revenues	3,329		(138)	295	74		3,560	164			3,724	3,145
Grants & Contributions - Operating	12,325		(16)	(220)	38		12,127	420			12,547	11,286
Grants & Contributions - Capital	1,361	142	139		50		1,692	2,465			4,157	2,424
Net gain from disposal of assets	243						243				530	530
Share of Interests in Joint Ventures							-				-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	97,461	142	291	(415)	162	-	97,641	3,049			100,977	79,204
Expenses												
Employee Costs	47,456	212	(192)	141	642		48,259	321			48,580	35,369
Borrowing Costs	3,826		(447)		207		3,586	(79)			3,507	2,626
Materials & Contracts	19,164	1,538	234	130	246		21,312	719			21,995	15,498
Depreciation	16,735						16,735				16,735	12,551
Legal Costs	277						277				313	313
Consultants	721	281	9		143		1,154	222			1,376	970
Other Expenses	13,804	119	291	30			14,244	173			14,417	9,224
Interest & Investment Losses							-				-	-
Net Loss from disposal of assets							-				-	-
Share of interests in Joint Ventures							-				-	-
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	101,982	2,150	(105)	301	1,238	-	105,566	1,356			106,922	76,551
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations	(4,521)	(2,008)	396	(716)	(1,076)	-	(7,925)	1,693			(5,945)	2,653
Discontinued Operations - Surplus/(Deficit)							-				-	-
Net Operating Result from All Operations	(4,521)	(2,008)	396	(716)	(1,076)	-	(7,925)	1,693			(5,945)	2,653
Net Operating Result before Capital Items	(5,882)	(2,150)	257	(716)	(1,126)	-	(9,617)	(772)			(10,102)	229



This is the current forecast loss by Blue Mountains Council