



MEDIA RELEASE

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Proud to offer unique services and low rates

The Huon Valley Council takes great pride in its unique offering of community services.

It is one of few councils in Tasmania to run two medical practices and childcare services across multiple townships. In addition, its rate levels are amongst the lowest in Tasmania – the average rates for Huon Valley Council ranks 26 of the 29 councils.

The medical services in Geeveston and in Dover as well as its childcare services in Dover, Geeveston and Huonville set the Council apart from most other councils.

Mayor Bec Enders said in recent times Council has been questioned about high employee costs.

“When employee costs are measured as a percentage of revenue, they are the highest in the State. But the matter is not straight forward. Any analysis of employee costs cannot be done in isolation. Employee costs are an outcome of the range of services, and the level of service provided.

“It also needs to be stated that Council’s practice of levying low rates in comparison to other councils, also impacts upon the calculation of the employee cost percentage. If the rate revenue figure was higher then the employee cost percentage would be less.

Mayor Enders said Council’s budgetary imbalance needs to be addressed by considering the services community wishes council to provide.

She said the results from the 2019 Community Satisfaction Survey showed a good level of satisfaction among residents, with a score of 6.99 achieved out of a possible 10 for overall satisfaction with Council.

Communications & Media Officer

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"We are keen to find out on a much deeper level how residents feel about the communities in which they live and what their needs and priorities are for now and the future.

"We are currently collecting views from the community through our Living in the Huon Valley Community Survey. The survey is the first step in the development of a new community vision which aims to set the foundation for understanding broadly what our community will need over a 30-year horizon.

"This is a big picture visionary piece for where our community wants to be over that time. We will be engaging with our community as this work progresses."

Mayor Enders said these views were important because they offer us a resident opinion as a base to inform, monitor and evaluate strategic planning and advocacy.

"By understanding our community on a deeper level helps us inform our community planning and advocacy work and provides us with a deep and representative understanding of the community's values, experiences and needs across our region."

Mayor Enders said Council's Annual Plan for 2021/22 includes an action to undertake a review of service delivery models to inform the development of the financial plan.

"Council is mindful and careful in containing its costs, including salaries and wages and it has a long track record of keeping rate increases to a minimum.

"An analysis of Council's employee costs must consider the type of business Council is, rather than simply examining employee costs in isolation.

The survey can be found here: <https://p8er5x0wrlo.typeform.com/to/fAa3yidj>

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