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## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 5 June 2025

### Financial sustainability in focus for Council budget

Huon Valley Council has adopted its 2025-26 Annual Plan, Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan, at a Special Meeting of Council, underscoring its commitment to financial sustainability and community wellbeing.

“Financial sustainability is crucial as we manage key services and assets for residents, including roads, buildings and recreational facilities,” said Mayor Sally Doyle. “Our 2025-26 Budget builds on recent transformation and prioritisation of community engagement and innovative service delivery.”

Budget highlights:

- **Rates:** Council proposes a 6% rate increase for both 2025/26 and 2026/27, following a thorough review, to sustainably fund essential services and infrastructure upgrades.
- **Planning:** Implementation of the Liveability Framework will focus on community-driven planning, including completing major studies for Huonville, Cygnet, and rural areas in 2025-26.
- **Technology:** Continued upgrades to corporate systems (Finance and HR) and exploration of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence to improve service efficiency.
- **Capital works:** \$10.45 million will be invested in projects such as Mary Street safety upgrades stage 1 (\$1.5m), Huonville Town Hall redevelopment (\$1.3m), Huonville Childcare building planning (\$250k), and solar/thermal upgrades (\$187k).
- **Safer communities:** CCTV expansion and upgrades for Huonville, Cygnet and Geeveston
- **Smoother roads:** \$3.3 million for our Sealed Roads Program and \$1.1 million resheeting unsealed rural roads.
- **Waste fees:** Kerbside waste collection fees will rise due to increasing landfill, transport, and government levy costs; Council will seek to minimise the impact on residents.

“We remain dedicated to building a resilient, connected community through innovation, technology, and sustainable investment”. Mayor Doyle said.

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