Council adopted the 2014/2015 Annual Plan and Budget Estimates last week. This process is always a balancing act with Councillors and staff working very hard to achieve the smallest possible rate increase, while ensuring Council does not go into deficit. While the budget provides for a general rate increase of 2.63%, Council continues to offer a discount to those who choose to pay their rates by 29 August 2014, which is now 5%. Alternatively payments can be made in two instalments on 26 September 2014 and 23 January 2015. Full rates are due on 10 October 2014 if not paying by instalment or in the discount period. Council has achieved a balanced budget for the second time in five years despite difficult times for sections of our community and difficult budget implications from other tiers of government. This budget will help us continue to meet the current standards of services the community expects with continued investment in roads, footpaths, parks, childcare, tourism and many other areas. Key initiatives and highlights in the 2014/15 Annual Plan and Budget Estimates include:

- Waratah Wi Fi $5,000
- Sisters Beach Foreshore Erosion Protection Works $25,000
- Service level documentation $60,000
- Strategic Plan $70,000
- Hepples Road Upgrade $88,400
- Lowries/Blackfish Creek Bridge $140,000
- Cam River Reserve parking, boat ramp and toilet block upgrade $120,000
- Kerb & Channel Upgrades $233,700
- Bridge Barrier Upgrades $274,600
- Rural road reseals and resheeting $807,000
- Urban roads, footpaths, kerb and channelling $900,000

A copy of the Annual Plan and Budget Estimates is available in Council offices and online at www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/budget