

## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, April 16, 2020

### Council proposes hardship policy in response to COVID-19 pandemic

Waratah-Wynyard Council has recommended a range of hardship measures in its proposed Financial Hardship Policy to be considered at the April Council meeting.

The Policy recognises there are cases of genuine financial hardship requiring respect and compassion in special circumstances and provides a suite of temporary measures to assist those in the community in meeting their financial obligations to Council throughout the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Some members of our community will experience financial hardship due to the restrictions imposed on the community in response to the crisis,” Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh said.

“We are all in this together, so whatever we can do as a Council to help alleviate some of the financial pain associated with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, we will.”

Under the Proposed Financial Hardship Policy, those suffering serious and genuine hardship will be able to enter a special payment arrangement or apply for the postponement of debt. Legal action on outstanding debts has been temporarily put on hold and the policy also details an ability for customers to apply to the General Manager to waive fees and charges.

The policy will also extend the 20/21 rates and charges first instalment date and extend the early payment discount.

The proposed Policy is temporary in nature and recommended to be in place until October 31, 2020. Council at that time will review the policy for its ongoing appropriateness.

Council will also consider a range of other support and stimulus initiatives at the April Council meeting in a report detailing Council’s current response to COVID 19.

The full report is an attachment to the April Council Meeting Agenda and can be found at [www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=566](http://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=566)

**Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Thursday, April 16, 2020.**