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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Fairer Rates Model Adopted by Council**

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has approved its budget for the 2021-22 financial year, including an \$8.5 million capital program that invests in the future of the municipality.

Council has also agreed to the adoption of a fairer rates model that will better meet the needs of the community and help put the Council on a sustainable financial footing.

General Manager Greg Ingham said: “The Council had faced significant challenges, including the financial impact of COVID-19, which have contributed to a projected operating loss of \$787,000 in the coming financial year.

Importantly, our Long Term Financial Plan provides a roadmap to deal with these challenges and get back on a path to sustainability.

I wish to thank Councillors for making the difficult but responsible decisions to ensure the Council can better meet the needs of residents into the future.

The Assessed Annual Value rates model that has been adopted is fairer, more equitable and reflects the growth in the region.

Under the old system a flat rate was applied to all residential properties in each town.

Moving to a system that is based on the value of individual properties means a significant number of residents will see a reduction in their rates, while others with high value properties will see their rates increase. Even where rates increase, however, they will still be in line with rates charged in neighboring municipalities.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council offers financial hardship assistance for individuals experiencing genuine and serious financial hardship. The Council also offers rates remissions for eligible concession card holders, as well as community groups.”

Mr Ingham said: “Capital works priorities had been guided by new asset management plans.

Projects include but are not limited to, \$1 million for road renewal projects across the municipality, \$1 million for Swansea main street footpath renewal, \$1 million for the Coles Bay foreshore walkway and \$1.5 million for works at The Gulch in Bicheno.”

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