

Fact Sheet 7: Life without Service Plus

What happens if we don't want to support Service Plus?

If the community clearly prefers to reject **Service Plus** Council will need to take steps to balance the budget. This will mean that:

1. Rates will increase by about 25% over the next 7 years
and
2. Expenditure on services will be cut by an average of 10% or \$10 million per annum.

In other words, rates will rise but there will be less service.

Will all services be affected if we don't support Service Plus?

No. **Some services that have their own sources of income will continue.** These include:

- Child care centres
- Cemetery services
- Parking services
- Affordable housing
- Waste services

All other services which are dependent to some degree on rates **are at risk of being deleted or reduced in output at some time in the next five years. Inefficiencies will arise** as Council will still need to maintain its corporate overheads despite the reduction in service output.

Will there be job losses if Service Plus isn't supported?

Yes. We would expect to see **jobs at Waverley Council reduced by up to 10%**, although everything would be done to delay this for as long as possible.

Will there be other negative effects if we don't support Service Plus?

Yes. **The cost of services in the future will rise faster than it would if we invest now in Service Plus.** The vast majority of expenditures in **Service Plus** will eventually be inevitable. Some are even long overdue, like investments in renewal of vital infrastructure and assets. Waverley Council has been investing more and more in these services in recent years but there is still more investment needed. **The more we delay these extra investments, the more they will eventually cost and the quicker we will slip away from the vision.**

If services cuts are necessary who will make the final decision?

Council will make this decision. They will take into account both the community's preferences for services that should be retained as priorities and the need wherever possible to minimise risk and exposure to long run cost increases, recognising that these risks and costs will be inevitable.

How might our quality of life be affected without Service Plus?

Without Service Plus, Waverley will not be the Waverley we know. We will move away from the vision. And it will cost us more down the track to achieve it.

Here's some examples of how service loss will affect our lives.

<i>The vision for Waverley in reverse</i>		
We cut back expenditure in ...	What happens?	How does the vision fade?
... assets like roads and footpaths	Social isolation is significantly increased for the aged as they are too concerned to leave home for fear of falling over on poor pavements.	We are safe? No.
... lifeguard hours	We experience increases in beach accidents or drownings due to reduced coverage at beaches and an inability of the volunteer surf life saving community to make up the gap.	
... activity programs for young people and grants for community youth groups	Kids have nothing productive to do, resulting in an increase in social disturbances.	
... place management and ranger services	We experience increased fear from and exposure to anti-social behaviour, particularly at night, and increased graffiti and vandalism, due to reduced place management and regulatory presence.	
... ATSI forums and other multicultural committees and events	We see slowed or halted efforts towards inclusiveness and reduced recognition of indigenous cultural heritage, health and community cohesion.	We are reconciled with and value our indigenous past? No.
... family day care services	Young families are forced to move away from the area.	Connections within families and between generations can remain unbroken? No.
... services for seniors and library services	The aged experience reduced levels of fitness and alertness and earlier onset of fragility due to decline or cessation of services for seniors like exercise classes and home library services.	We are inspired and able to renew our physical and spiritual wellbeing? No.
... active recreation facilities	We see lower rates of community health and wellbeing. Recreation and sporting groups get frustrated and go elsewhere.	
... place management and ranger services	The places we meet fail to function as a ground upon which to establish social connections. Visitors become unwelcome and we become more insular, unfriendly and closed.	Everyone is welcomed to participate positively in community life? No.
... services for the disadvantaged	Vulnerable groups are marginalised due to cut backs in services such as the Waverley Community Living Program and programs for other groups such as the aged and multicultural groups.	
... grants for artists, writers, musicians and film makers	Facilities for cultural expression, like the Bondi Pavilion become moribund due to Council's inability to maintain the building and equipment and to support users financially. Programs like the Bondi Wave cease.	We can express our essential selves through our traditions, our arts, our cultures, and our lifestyles? No.
... grants for surf clubs	The strong surf culture in Waverley, a key force for social cohesion and our outdoors lifestyle, declines as surf clubs struggle to accommodate membership expansion with decline in financial support from Council.	
... support services for the aged	Dignity of independence for the aged is reduced due to decline in services like meals on wheels, home shopping and transport assistance for visits to doctors.	We act together as a compassionate society? No.
... events	We forget ourselves and our community character as a tolerant and even mutually appreciative mixture of the privileged and not so privileged, the genteel and the bohemian. Gentrification reduces instead of enhances us as a community because Council has no capacity to run inclusive events, facilities and places which keep alive and celebrate difference.	
... outreach services for the homeless	Increasing anti-social behaviour arising from failure of Council to work with other agencies to support the homeless hardens us into seeking facile exclusionist solutions to these problems.	

The vision for Waverley in reverse

We cut back expenditure in ...	What happens?	How does the vision fade?
... cleaning and greening	The most visited parklands and villages look almost constantly grotty and unkempt due to Council's inability to keep up with greenspace maintenance when demand for use is escalating.	The beauty of our beaches, cliffs and coastal lands endures? No.
... bush care support	Coastal reserves go into decline as a viable habitat for local flora and fauna as weeds take over and park and open space enhancement projects at fail to commence.	
... coastal infrastructure	The Waverley Cemetery landscape which is a huge history book of ourselves etched on open space, crumbles and services for farewells, celebration of our lives, and connection with those we've lost, decline.	
... staff in development assessment	Development approval times slow.	The architectural landscape is cared for and developed at a human scale and design is sensitive to the natural historical and social contexts? No.
... legal fees	Council's ability to contest development applications that are detrimental to the landscape or to community preferences about appropriate land use and scale of development will be removed completely. The character of the suburbs, villages and town centres completely changes with history being lost and large scale development taking over.	
... traffic planning	Because Council hasn't taken leadership in resolving transport problems, there are so many cars that no-one who really needs to travel by car can park within cooee of our services.	Vital services are fully accessible? No.
... parking staff hours	Increases in car ownership lead to gross over-consumption of parking space and attendant social aggravation due to Council's inability to implement programs for better and fairer sharing of limited road space, especially in residential areas.	Scarce resources are conserved and fairly shared? No.
... social and affordable housing programs	Those in housing need to wait years longer for help due to Council's inability to raise funds for and/or efficiently administer housing stock and access.	
... water conservation programs	Water resources are not conserved due to a reduction in Council's leadership role in encouraging the community to retrofit water conservation measures to their homes and to a reduction in our ability to fund further water conservation measures in Council owned assets and parks.	
... place management and parking planning	Businesses go into decline due to poor place management, poor management of transport and parking space allocation, dirty and poorly maintained streets, ill-designed architecture, slow response times by Rangers, stagnant re-development or decline of events programs, festivals and markets.	Local economic prosperity provides opportunity for all? No.
... environmental management	We lose some of the gains made in natural resource management and ecosystem protection because of staff losses and attendant inability to supervise project delivery for resource reclamation works and maintenance of green spaces. We fail completely to deal with greenhouse gas reduction due to an inability to reorganise and upskill staff to engage with government, the business sector and the community to install economically beneficial energy generation projects.	As a local community we have the courage to take a leading place in achieving the environmental aims of a global society? No.
... long term integrated community, environmental, asset and financial planning	We lose the faith of a great community, which clearly values the chance to shape their life and wants Council to show leadership in long term planning, by failing to employ high calibre staff capable of developing integrated plans for their future and organising funds and people for efficient delivery of services.	We are confident our leaders will reflect thoughtfully on our views and best interests when making decisions for our future? No.
... customer service and communications	We fail to communicate to residents and businesses the things they need to know to be able participate effectively in decision making and we disappoint customers with excessive response times to their requests.	