



Rate hike to fund square

By JESSICA WHITING

COUNCIL: Town Hall is forging ahead with major projects in its 2010-11 draft budget, with more money for the Victoria Square redevelopment, parklands projects and an affordable housing development.

The council says a proposed rate increase of 5.3 per cent – or \$72 for the average property – will generate \$79.5 million.

Major spending under the \$83 million capital program includes:

- \$11.5 million for the Victoria Square upgrade;
- \$6.1 million to start remediation works at the Sturt St Affordable Housing project site;

- \$1.8 million to help complete works for the Victoria Park community park;

- \$1.3 million to start works in the Rundle Mall Master Plan, and;

- \$400,000 to extend the Park Lands Trail through Bonython Park.

New projects include two more managed taxi ranks (\$175,000) and seed funding for new outdoor markets (\$30,000).

Fees for reserved parking in UParks will increase by 4.1 per cent, with an average rise in short-term charges of less than \$1.

North Adelaide Golf Course fees will increase on average by 5.3 per cent, while Aquatic Centre members face a 5.1 per cent fee hike, with

casual entry rates set to rise by 4.2 per cent.

Lord Mayor **Stephen Yarwood** said it was important that the council put money on the table for Victoria Square to help attract other funding.

A council spokeswoman said the total spend for 2011-12 was still being finalised. The forecast total expenditure for 2010-11 is \$219 million.

The council forecasts a surplus of \$12 million and borrowings of \$64 million at the end of June 2012.

Elected members are expected to approve the draft budget for community consultation at a meeting on Thursday, May 5.