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# LOWER OVERALL RATES CLAIMS HUNT

Gold Coast mayoral candidate, Ald Keith Hunt, claims that the plans he has in mind for a fully-sewered city will not lead to any excessive increases in the general rate.

Instead, he insists that in a condition of total sewerage, it would be more than likely that the overall rating on the Gold Coast would be lower than in most other cities.

In a statement released at the opening of his campaign, Ald Hunt announced a policy of giving every home on the Gold Coast a sewerage connection.

Asked where the money would come from, Ald Hunt said: "The Federal Government has promised full sewerage for every urban centre in Australia.

"Federal policy is to provide local authorities with financial aid to see this is done.

"I'm not suggesting that all we need do is call tenders and send the bills to Canberra.

"But working in with Canberra, I'm sure we can reach a formula to achieve total sewerage here to an acceptable timetable."

Ald Hunt said the money would come from loans and grants.

He denied that sewerage loans would impose a too heavy burden of redemption and interest payments on Gold Coast ratepayers.

He said: "If all the money had to be borrowed it might overweight the city's public debt.

"I would demand that a fair proportion of grant money be allocated.

Loans for some of the work need not prove a repayment embarrassment for taxpayers either now or in the future.

"Every new chain that's pulled becomes a source of added council revenue, so that a lot of sewerage spending is actually self-financing."

Explaining how Gold Coast rates might ultimately be lower than elsewhere, he said most cities up to now had had to bear the brunt of their sewerage expense and big debts had been incurred.

With access to grant money the Gold Coast could do better.

"If we get our sewerage on the cheap, this could keep the water and sewerage rate down to a level where it could more than compensate for any small increases in the general rate," he said.

Ald Hunt said that if he were Mayor, he would undertake during the term of the next council to see that all planning at

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## Bex speaks out

Here are mayoral candidate Cyril Bex's thoughts on some of the vital issues facing the Gold Coast City Council.

**High rise development on beachfronts:** "High rise development can't be avoided, but it shocks me the way it has been allowed along the beachfront at Surfers Paradise.

**City drainage:** "This must be solved before the cost soars above the \$12m quoted for the work at present."

**Caravan parks on the foreshores:** "Most councils throughout Australia are stopping camping on the foreshores. Good alternatives must be provided and large tracts of land set aside now as holiday camps."

**Education:** "Council should pressure the Government to establish Technical Colleges, a University College and Teacher's Training college here. It is absurd that apprentices have to visit Brisbane two days a week to get their training."

**Employment:** "Council's good work in fostering industry must be expanded so that employment will

