



**AGENDA FOR ORDINARY MEETING
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BUNDABERG
ON MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM**

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9 General Business

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**Item****30 September 2019****Item Number:**

C1

File Number:

.

Part:

COUNCILLORS

Portfolio:

Councillors

Subject:

Declaration of Conflict/Material Personal Interests

Report Author:

Claire Dobbins, Executive Assistant/Researcher

Authorised by:

Stephen Johnston, Chief Executive Officer

Link to Corporate Plan:

Our People, Our Business - 3.2 Responsible governance with a customer-driven focus - 3.2.3 Administer statutory compliant governance operations incorporating insurance; risk management; property management and Council policies and procedures.

Background:**Declaration of Material Personal Interest on any item of business**

Pursuant to Section 175C of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a Councillor who has a material personal interest in an issue to be considered at a meeting of the local government, or any of its committees must –

- (a) inform the meeting of the Councillor's material personal interest in the matter; and
- (b) leave the meeting room (including any area set aside for the public), and stay out of the meeting room while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest on any item of business

Pursuant to Section 175E of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a Councillor who has a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the local government, or any of its committees must inform the meeting about the Councillor's conflict of interest in the matter. If a Councillor does not voluntarily leave the meeting room after declaring a conflict of interest, the remaining Councillors must decide whether the Councillor has a real or perceived conflict of interest in the matter and if so, whether the Councillor must leave the meeting or can stay and participate.

Associated Person/Organization:

Nil

Consultation:

All Councillors

Chief Legal Officer's Comments:

This process is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Policy Implications:

There appear to be no policy implications.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There appear to be no financial or resource implications.

Risk Management Implications:

There appears to be no risk management implications.

Communications Strategy:

Communications Team consulted.

Yes

No

Attachments:

Nil

Recommendation:

**Item****30 September 2019****Item Number:**

F1

File Number:

.

Part:

FINANCE

Portfolio:

Organisational Services

Subject:

Financial Summary as at 2 September 2019

Report Author:

Anthony Keleher, Acting General Manager

Authorised by:

Amanda Pafumi, General Manager Organisational Services

Link to Corporate Plan:

Our People, Our Business - 3.1 A sustainable financial position - 3.1.2 Apply responsible fiscal principles for sustainable financial management.

Background:

In accordance with section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* a financial report must be presented to Council on a monthly basis. The attached financial report contains the financial summary and associated commentary as at 2 September 2019

Associated Person/Organization:

Nil

Consultation:

Financial Services Team

Chief Legal Officer's Comments:

Pursuant to section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* the Local Government must prepare and the Chief Executive Officer must present, the financial report. The financial report must state the progress that has been made in relation to the Local Government's budget for the period of the financial year up to a day as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting is held.

Policy Implications:

There appear to be no policy implications.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There appear to be no financial or resource implications.

Risk Management Implications:

There appears to be no risk management implications.

Communications Strategy:

Communications Team consulted.

Yes

No

Attachments:

[↓1](#) Financial Summary as at 2 September 2019

Recommendation:

That the Financial Summary as at 2 September 2019 be noted by Council.

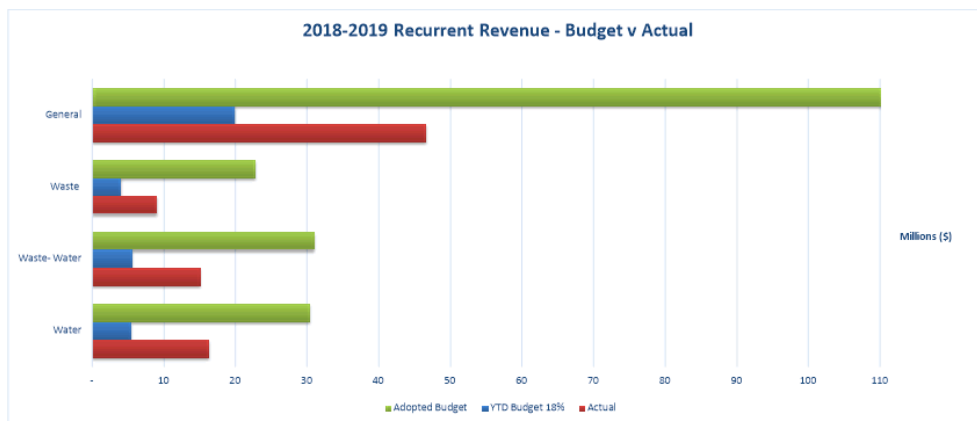
Financial Summary
as at 02 Sep 2019

Progress check - 18%	Council			General			Waste			Wastewater			Water		
	Actual YTD	Adopted Budget	% Act/ Bud	Actual YTD	Adopted Budget	% Act/ Bud	Actual YTD	Adopted Budget	% Act/ Bud	Actual YTD	Adopted Budget	% Act/ Bud	Actual YTD	Adopted Budget	% Act/ Bud
Recurrent Activities															
Revenue															
Rates and Utility Charges	81,787,200	159,069,780	51%	43,282,333	86,552,500	50%	7,782,050	15,243,500	51%	15,021,910	29,709,780	51%	15,680,907	27,564,000	57%
Less: Discounts and Pensioner Remissions	(3,078,334)	(8,708,900)	35%	(2,753,357)	(8,039,800)	34%	(110,809)	(227,800)	49%	(124,694)	(254,600)	49%	(89,474)	(186,900)	48%
	78,688,866	150,360,880	52%	40,528,976	78,512,700	52%	7,671,241	15,015,900	51%	14,897,216	29,455,180	51%	15,591,433	27,377,100	57%
Fees and Charges	5,453,733	28,430,039	19%	3,084,350	18,859,844	20%	1,243,081	6,995,405	18%	100,871	1,027,280	10%	425,431	1,577,510	27%
Interest Revenue	889,738	4,001,458	17%	218,370	1,478,500	15%	90,219	484,825	19%	98,240	555,631	18%	282,909	1,482,500	19%
Grants, Subsidies and Donations	2,260,522	12,191,642	19%	2,188,893	11,841,842	18%	71,829	350,000	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Developed Land Inventory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Recurrent Revenue	87,092,859	194,984,017	45%	46,620,589	110,692,686	42%	9,076,170	22,816,130	40%	15,096,327	31,038,091	49%	16,299,773	30,437,110	54%
Expenses															
Employee Costs	10,823,246	74,519,161	15%	8,305,946	58,681,694	14%	954,836	5,910,550	16%	862,910	5,084,006	17%	699,554	4,842,911	14%
Materials and Services	15,087,881	68,168,424	22%	11,129,783	39,340,624	28%	1,693,244	12,078,531	14%	991,565	7,774,774	13%	1,273,089	8,974,495	14%
Finance Costs	677,256	4,423,000	15%	216,188	1,581,593	14%	150,913	905,479	17%	282,157	1,692,942	17%	27,998	242,986	12%
Depreciation	7,941,379	47,848,274	17%	5,754,275	34,525,849	17%	283,727	1,702,363	17%	662,572	5,775,432	17%	940,805	5,644,830	17%
Total Recurrent Expenditure	34,529,542	194,758,859	18%	25,406,172	134,129,560	19%	3,082,720	20,596,923	15%	3,099,204	20,327,154	15%	2,941,446	19,705,222	15%
Operating Surplus	52,563,317	225,158		21,214,417	(23,436,874)		5,993,450	2,219,207		11,997,123	10,710,937		13,358,327	10,731,888	
Transfers to															
Restricted Capital Cash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NCP Transfers	-	-	-	(15,510,118)	-	-	492,655	-	6,857,177	-	6,857,177	-	8,160,286	-	8,160,286
Total Transfers	-	-	-	(15,510,118)	-	-	492,655	-	6,857,177	-	6,857,177	-	8,160,286	-	8,160,286
Movement in Unallocated Surplus	52,563,317	225,158		21,214,417	(7,926,756)		5,993,450	1,726,552		11,997,123	3,853,760		13,358,327	2,571,602	
Unallocated Surplus/(Deficit) brought forward	43,988,734	43,988,734		(7,665,433)	(7,665,433)		15,495,370	15,495,370		11,242,674	11,242,674		24,916,123	24,916,123	
Unallocated Surplus/(Deficit)	96,552,051	44,213,892		13,548,984	(15,592,189)		21,488,820	17,221,922		23,239,797	15,096,434		38,274,450	27,487,725	
Capital Activities															
Council's Capital Expenditure (Excludes Donated Assets)															
Council Expenditure on Non-Current Assets	6,640,605	111,807,842	6%	5,306,605	84,632,384	6%	517,139	5,428,206	10%	384,331	4,716,899	8%	432,530	17,030,353	3%
Loan Redemption	-	7,318,382	0%	-	4,321,833	0%	-	880,049	0%	-	2,018,214	0%	-	318,266	0%
Total Capital Expenditure	6,640,605	119,126,204	6%	5,306,605	88,954,217	6%	517,139	6,088,255	8%	384,331	6,735,113	6%	432,530	17,348,619	2%
Cash															
Opening balance	147,278,309	147,000,000													
Movement - increase/(decrease)	25,240,929	(43,032,101)													
Closing balance	172,519,238	103,967,899													

Further to the Financial Summary Report as at 2 September 2019, the following key features are highlighted.

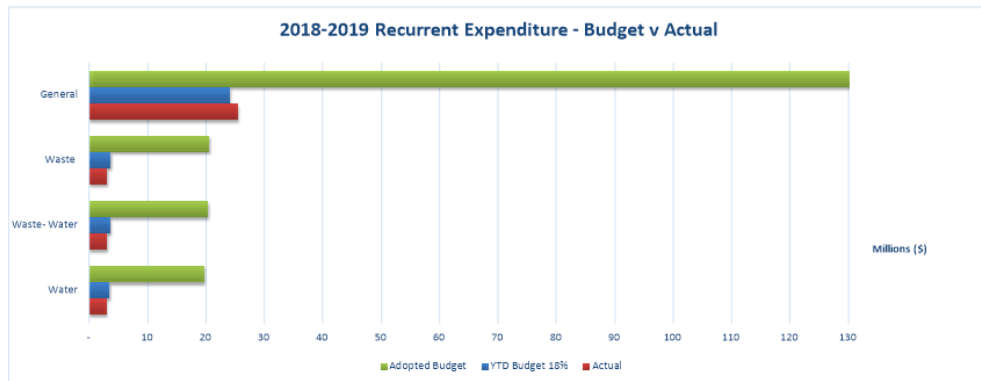
Recurrent Revenue

- Rates and Utility Charges for the first half year have been levied. Pensioner remissions for the period have been applied across the business units and discount on general rates will increase during early September as rate accounts are fully settled.
- Fees and charges are tracking on budget. Animal registration notices have been issued for the year and bulk water sales are higher than expected with the current dry conditions.
- Interest Revenue is tracking on budget. Councils investments are currently attracting very low rates, reflective of the current economic conditions.
- Grants, Subsidies and Donations are tracking on budget. Council has received its first quarter payment of the Financial Assistance Grant.



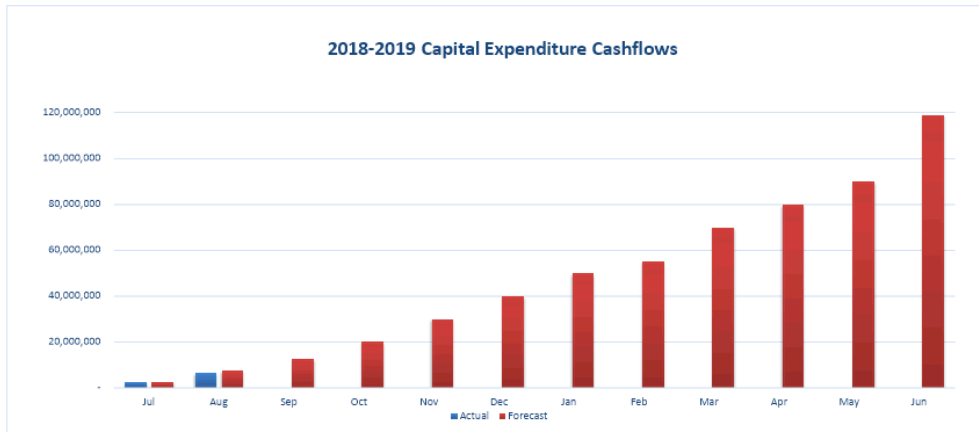
Recurrent Expenditure

- Employee Costs are slightly less than the year-to-date budget. This is primarily due to the workers compensation insurance not yet being due.
- Materials and Services are more than the year-to-date budget. In the general fund this is due to the prepayment of several licences and insurance premiums that fall due early in the financial year.
- Finance Costs are slightly less than the annual budget. Finance costs include a provision for bad debts which may be realised later in the financial year.



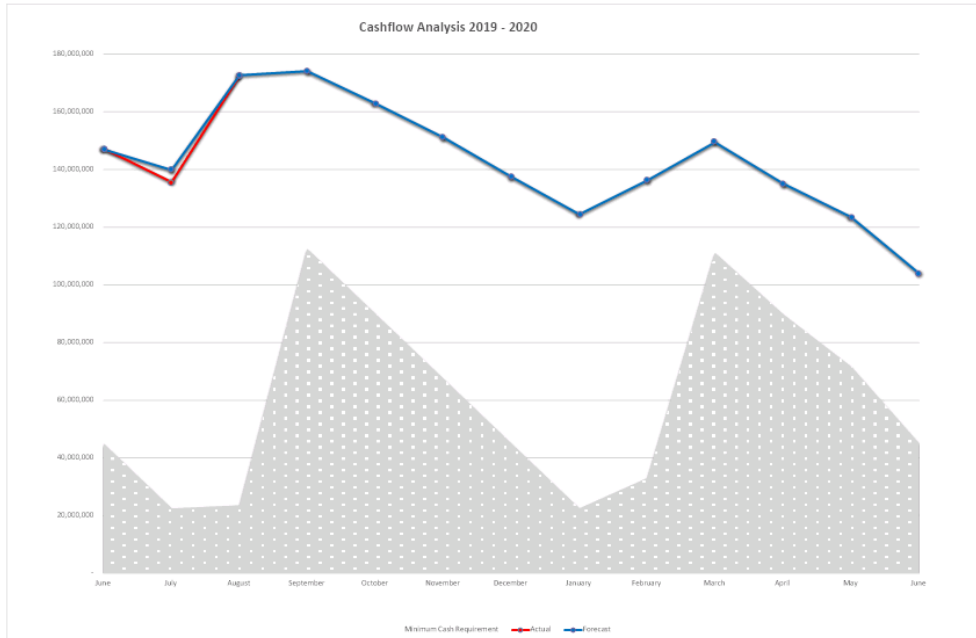
Capital Expenditure and Capital Grants

- Significant projects currently underway include the Elliott Heads Foreshore Redevelopment, Regional Aviation Precinct Development, Hughes Road Roundabout, Tirroan Road Realignment and Staff Relocation.
- Capital grants are on track with all milestones having been met and any variations to funding agreements approved. The final Burnett Heads CBD milestone payment has now been received, the final Multiplex claim has been submitted and the final Elliott Heads Foreshore claim will soon be submitted.



Cash

- The cash balance as at 2 September 2019 was \$172.5 million, an increase of \$37 million from the last report at 31 July 2019, reflecting the receipt of rates payments.
- No short-term liquidity issues are foreseeable.
- The forecast cash movement is shown below.

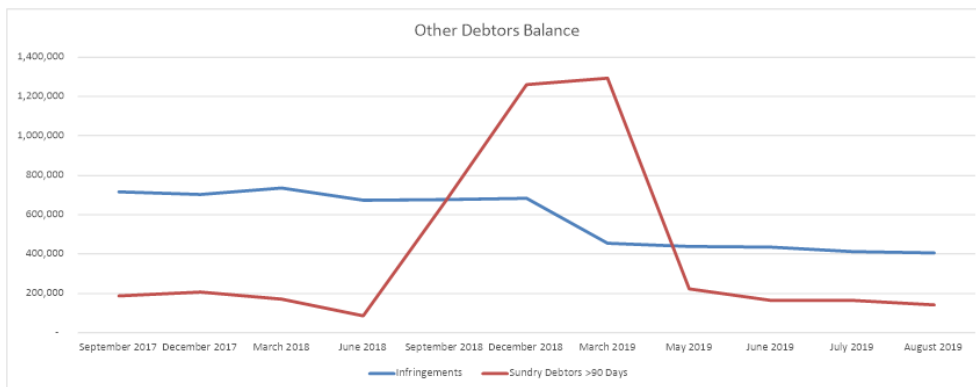


Rates Debtor

- Rates outstanding total \$40.6 million which is relative with the rate debt outstanding this time last year. This amount reflects the balance at the end of August and doesn't factor in payments received prior to the discount period ending in early September. Reminder notices have been issued with a due date of 24 September 2019.

Other Debtors

- Infringements outstanding total \$0.41 million with the number of infringements decreasing by 3% to 3,376. Infringements continue to be recovered via SPER. Council is considering the recommendations of an internal audit on infringement management and controls with a view to improving debt recovery of infringements issued.
- Sundry Debtors outstanding for more than 90 days total \$0.14 million across 59 accounts. The spike between June 2018 and March 2019 were grant claims associated with the Burnett Heads CBD project. These claims have now been paid.



**Item****30 September 2019****Item Number:**

G1

File Number:

.

Part:

GOVERNANCE

Portfolio:

Organisational Services

Subject:

Audit & Risk Committee Minutes

Report Author:

Nicole Miller, Executive Assistant

Authorised by:

Amanda Pafumi, General Manager Organisational Services

Link to Corporate Plan:

Our People, Our Business - 3.2 Responsible governance with a customer-driven focus - 3.2.3 Administer statutory compliant governance operations incorporating insurance; risk management; property management and Council policies and procedures.

Background:

The Audit and Risk Committee met 10 May 2019, and the minutes are attached for Council's information.

Associated Person/Organization:

Nil.

Consultation:

Representatives of Audit and Risk Committee.

Chief Legal Officer's Comments:

There appear to be no legal implications.

Policy Implications:

There appear to be no policy implications.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The annual budget provides for costs associated with the Committee of \$4,000 per year. This is comprised of the total remuneration for the external committee members.

Risk Management Implications:

The various audit issues identified will be addressed by Council.

Communications Strategy:

Communications Team consulted.

- Yes
- No

Attachments:

- [↓1](#) Audit & Risk Committee Minutes 10 May 2019

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 10 May 2019 be received and noted.



AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting held Tuesday 10 May 2019, commencing at 10 am
Council Committee Room, 1st Floor, 190 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg

Committee Attendance:

Bradley Grogan (Chair and External Representative)
Cr Helen Blackburn (Council Representative)
Cr Jack Dempsey (Mayor and Council Representative)

By Invitation:

Adam Wyatt, Acting General Manager Infrastructure
Amanda Pafumi, General Manager Organisational Services
Elda Fortune, Risk & Insurance Officer
Emma Edwards, Statutory Accounting Team Leader
John McMullen, IMS Team Leader
Marita Corbett, BDO Internal Auditor
Nicole Miller, Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)

By Invitation – Teleconference:

Allan Diano, Queensland Audit Office
Clayton Russell, Pitcher Partners

1. Welcome

Bradley Grogan welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted:

- Anthony Keleher, Chief Financial Officer;
- Debbie Rayner (External Representative);
- Gavin Steele, General Manager Community & Environment;
- Jason Evans, Pitcher Partners;
- Stephen Johnston, Chief Executive Officer;
- Stuart Randle, General Manager Infrastructure.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held 12 February 2019, be taken as read and confirmed.

4. Internal Quality Audit Reports

John McMullen provide an update as to the findings of the operational audit of Asignit and the status of outstanding corrective actions. The Annual Internal Quality Audit Plan 2019-2020 and Internal Quality Audit Strategic Audit Plan 2019-2022 were presented.

It was agreed that the information contained in the report be noted by the Committee and the Annual Internal Quality Audit Plan 2019-2020 and Internal Quality Audit Strategic Audit Plan 2019-2022 be endorsed by the committee.

John McMullen left the meeting at 10.15am.

Pitcher Partners entered 10.19am.

5. External Audit Update

Representative from Pitcher Partners and Queensland Audit Office presented the 2019 Interim report provided an update on the audit strategy and addressing any queries raised.

It was agreed that the information contained in the update, be noted by the Committee.

6. Assessment of Financial Information

Amanda Pafumi presented the below items, and addressed any queries raised:

- a) Financial Summary as at 1 April 2019, adopted by Council on 23 April 2019;
- b) Accounting issues position papers
 - Adoption of new & revised accounting standards as at 1 July 2019
 - Impact of transition to AASB 9 Financial Instruments as the date of implementation 1 July 2018
 - Infrastructure Charges
- c) Annual Asset Valuation Methodology Report

It was agreed that the information contained in the report's and positions papers, be noted by the committee.

Emma Edwards presented the 2018-2019 shell statements, and addressed any queries raised.

It was agreed that the information contained in the 2018-2019 Shell Financial Statement statements, be noted by the committee and feedback provided to the Chief Financial Officer as appropriate.

Pitcher Partners & Emma Edwards left meeting and Mitch Miller entered Meeting at 11am.

7. Assessment of Risks

Eida Fortune provided a risk management update noting the below, and addressed any queries raised:

- Operational Risk Registers;
- Operational Fraud & Corruption Risk Register;
- Corporate Fraud & Corruption Risk Register;
- Risk Matric & Risks by Category Report;
- Corporate & Operational High/Extreme Risks.

It was agreed that the information contained in the update be noted by the Committee.

8. Information Services Corrective Actions Update

Mitch Miller presented an update on the Internal Audit Corrective Actions relating to the Information Services branch.

It was agreed that the information contained in the update be noted by the Committee.

Mitch Miller left meeting at 11.18am

9. Internal Audit Reporting

Marita Corbett presented the internal audit quarterly report and the internal audit plan to 31 January 2020.

It was agreed that the information contained in the report be noted by the Committee and the internal audit plan to 31 January 2020 be endorsed by the committee.

10. Next Meeting – 4 September 2019

Meeting Closed 11.40am

B.V. 
Bradley Grogan
Committee Chair

**Item****30 September 2019****Item Number:**

G2

File Number:

.

Part:

GOVERNANCE

Portfolio:

Organisational Services

Subject:

Council Policy Review

Report Author:

Christine Large, Chief Legal Officer

Authorised by:

Amanda Pafumi, General Manager Organisational Services

Link to Corporate Plan:

Our People, Our Business - 3.2 Responsible governance with a customer-driven focus - 3.2.3 Administer statutory compliant governance operations incorporating insurance; risk management; property management and Council policies and procedures.

Background:

Earlier this year, Council adopted a Hardship Policy to facilitate a consistent approach to assist ratepayers who may experience difficulty paying their rates due to hardship.

Since its application, a number of ratepayers have accessed assistance under this Policy. A review has been undertaken and some changes applied to the policy:

- Minor wording and grammar changes across policy document.
- Section 2 – Addition of requirement to complete a budget planner via ASIC's Moneysmart website. This is a free budgeting tool and will assist ratepayers in managing their debts to Council and other entities. It will also help staff to apply consistent responses for applications made.
- Section 3 – Changes made to manage applicant expectations of what relief can be obtained.
- Section 6 – New section created regarding supporting documentation required from applicants. This will improve clarity for applicants as well as making assessment of applications easier for Council Revenue staff.
- Section 7 – Timeframes added to improve clarity, manage expectations and avoid further disputes.

The revised policy is provided for Council's approval.

Associated Person/Organization:

Not applicable.

Consultation:

All Councillors.

Chief Legal Officer's Comments:

The policies are in accordance with legislation and best practice guidelines.

Policy Implications:

The policies will be adopted and further implemented within Council.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There appear to be no financial or resource implications.

Risk Management Implications:

There appears to be no risk management implications.

Communications Strategy:

Communications Team consulted.

Yes

No

Attachments:

[↓1](#) Hardship Policy - Version 2

Recommendation:

That Council:

- 1. Rescind CP-3-043 Hardship Policy, version 1; and**
- 2. Adopt CP-3-043 Hardship Policy, version 2.**



Hardship Policy

HEAD OF POWER

Local Government Regulation 2012, part 10

INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate a consistent approach to assist ratepayers who may experience difficulty paying their rates due to hardship, and to encourage people experiencing hardship to access earlier support services.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all ratepayers of residential properties in the Bundaberg Regional Council area, where the property is their principal place of residence.

DEFINITIONS

Chronic Illness means an illness that is permanent or lasts longer than three (3) months.

Death of a Partner means the death of a member of a couple (married, registered relationship or defacto relationship).

Financial Hardship means an inability to meet basic requirements (including food, clothing, medicine, accommodation, and children's education). This hardship may occur as a result of chronic illness, long-term unemployment or costs and/or loss of income associated with the death of a partner.

Hardship means Financial Hardship or other hardship as defined.

Long-Term Unemployment means unemployed for over 12 weeks.

Property Owner means the 'owner of the land' as defined under the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Residential Property means property that has as its primary use, use for residential purposes as per Council's land use classification.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Background

Council will provide support to Property Owners who may be experiencing hardship and are unable to meet a realistic payment arrangement for the rates and charges levied against a property.

Where a Property Owner can show that maintaining a realistic payment arrangement would entail genuine hardship due to a loss the Property Owner has suffered, Council seeks to provide a framework for assistance deemed appropriate to the circumstances experienced.

Printed copies are considered uncontrolled. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version.

Policy No. CP-3-043

Adopted/Effective Date: 24/09/19 Version: 2

Responsible Department: Organisational Services

Page 1 of 4



Hardship Policy

Hardship relief provided under this policy does not forgo Council's normal debt recovery action, including Council's ability to sell land for arrears of rates.

Under section 120(1)(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant a concession if it is satisfied that "the payment of rates or charges will cause hardship to the land owner". Council has determined it will grant such a concession for rates and charges relief as set out in this policy.

2. Criteria for providing assistance

Council will only consider an application for rates and charges relief under this Policy on a residential property where:

- it is the Property Owner's principal place of residence;
- no commercial benefit is derived from the property;
- the Property Owner is unable to maintain payment arrangements in accordance with Council's Rates Recovery Policy;
- the Property Owner is experiencing genuine hardship such as:
 - less than two weeks of available funds equivalent to the maximum rate of income support payment provided by the Department of Human Services for Crisis Payments (evidence must be provided by the Department of Human Services); or
 - long term unemployment; or
 - suffering from a chronic or terminal illness which prevents them from seeking employment and reduces their income (evidence must be provided from medical practitioner or hospital facility); or
 - unexpected expenses incurred and reduction or loss of family income as a result of the death of a partner.
- An application is made to Council for the relief of rates and charges by the Property Owner;
- The application must demonstrate severe and/or unusual hardship' and
- The applicant will need to complete a budget planner as per ASIC's Moneysmart website <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-apps/budget-planner>. (except in the case of chronic or terminal illness)

3. Types of relief which may be applied

The Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, may grant relief under this policy to a Property Owner by one or more of the following:

- an agreed payment plan outside the current debt recovery action;
- subject to satisfactory completion of an agreed payment plan and/or repayment of all outstanding rates:
 - reimbursement of interest charges that have accrued prior to the completion of an agreed payment plan; and
 - withholding of further legal action and associated costs to recover outstanding rates and charges.
- Relief is also provided where a ratepayer experiences an undetectable and unexpected water leak as per Council's Water Leak Relief Policy.

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Policy No. CP-3-043

Adopted/Effective Date: 24/09/19 Version: 2

Responsible Department: Organisational Services

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Hardship Policy

4. Lodging a Request for Relief

The Property Owner must complete and submit an application form which will include details and proof of the cause of Hardship, and the actions which the Property Owner has taken to alleviate the situation and seek assistance.

5. Assessment and Approval of Application

Any application made for a rates and charges relief due to Hardship may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer, General Manager Organisational Services, Chief Financial Officer or Revenue Manager.

6. Supporting Documentation

The following documentation may be requested to assist Council when assessing the applicant's eligibility for hardship relief:

- Pay slips (two (2) recent pay slips);
- Tax Return (if self-employed);
- Centrelink statements;
- Employment separation certificate;
- Medical certificate and/or letter from medical practitioner or hospital facility;
- Property sales agency agreement (if you are intending to sell a property to repay your debt);
- Any written advice of current hardship arrangements with lenders/creditors;
- Budget planner from ASIC Moneysmart website;
- Written advice from superannuation fund advising of availability or non availability of funds for release.

7. Dispute or Failure to Comply

If a Property Owner:

- does not respond to Council's offer of relief within 20 business days of the date printed on the offer; or
- fails to wholly comply with Council's offer of relief; or
- fails to comply with the requirements of the agreed payment plan once entered into,

Council will continue with normal debt recovery action, including the application of interest, and legal charges where applicable.

However, prior to implementing debt recovery action, if the Property Owner is on a payment plan, Council will first liaise with the property owner to rectify the defaulted payments within ten (10) business days from notification of the breach. In the event that the applicant defaults on the agreed payment plan on two (2) occasions the plan will be cancelled and collection action will recommence.

If a Property Owner is unsatisfied with the outcome of their application under this policy, they may seek a review of the decision.

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Policy No. CP-3-043

Adopted/Effective Date: 24/09/19 Version: 2

Responsible Department: Organisational Services

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Hardship Policy

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Information Privacy Act 2009*
- Revenue Policy
- Revenue Statement

DOCUMENTS CONTROLS

Council will review this policy biennially or in response to changes in law or best practice.

POLICY OWNER

The Chief Financial Officer, Organisational Services is the responsible person for this policy.

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Responsible Department: Organisational Services

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**Item****30 September 2019****Item Number:**

O1

File Number:

.

Part:COMMUNITY & CULTURAL
SERVICES**Portfolio:**

Community & Environment

Subject:

Donation to Royal Flying Doctors Service

Report Author:

Gavin Steele, General Manager Community & Environment

Authorised by:

Gavin Steele, General Manager Community & Environment

Link to Corporate Plan:

Our Community - 1.2 Safe, active, vibrant and inclusive community - 1.2.3 Support and facilitate community programs, networks, projects and events that promote social connectedness; and active and healthy community life.

Background:

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in partnership with RACQ Lifelight Rescue are presently building a joint aero-medical base at the Bundaberg Region Aviation and Aerospace Precinct with this facility to be one of the largest regional aero-medical facilities in Australia.

Council undertook a \$5.68M capital project to develop Stage 3 of the Bundaberg Aviation and Aerospace Precinct with assistance from the Queensland State Government with a grant of \$1.993M through the 'Building Our Regions' Fund. The joint aero-medical facility will occupy two blocks created as part of this development with Council offering a 25 year lease to RFDS and Lifelight.

The development of the land to facilitate the aero-medical base has been completed and RFDS and Lifelight have awarded a contract to Hutchinson Builders to construct the facility. Works have recently commenced and are due to be completed in February 2020. RFDS and Lifelight were successful in gaining a Federal Government Grant through the Building Better Regions Fund of \$3M with both services required to contribute \$1.5M each of matching funding.

RFDS provides a valuable life-saving service to the Bundaberg and Wide Bay Region providing a regular patient transfer service between Bundaberg and Brisbane for those persons requiring treatment or suffering medical conditions that cannot be treated locally. The new base will provide an increased level of patient care and service and increased operational capacity.

Council presently provides a financial donation of \$50,000 per year to Lifeflight to support their helicopter rescue service locally and it is proposed that Council also consider providing a matching donation this financial year to RFDS of \$50,000 to assist with funding for the new aero-medical base.

It is also recommended that as part of future budget deliberations, consideration be given by Council to the provision of ongoing support to RFDS either through direct donation or waiving of fees for operations locally.

Associated Person/Organization:

Nil

Consultation:

Nil

Chief Legal Officer's Comments:

There appear to be no legal implications.

Policy Implications:

There appear to be no policy implications.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There is no provision in the current budget for this donation however it is proposed that the \$50,000 could be allocated from the Airport 2019/2020 operational Budget this year with a specific budget allocation considered in future years.

Risk Management Implications:

There appears to be no risk management implications.

Communications Strategy:

Communications Team consulted.

Yes

No

Attachments:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council

- 1. provide the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland Branch) with a financial donation of \$50,000 from the 2019/2020 Airport operational budget to assist with the funding required to construct a joint aero-medical base at the Bundaberg Aviation and Aerospace Precinct and,**
- 2. consider as part of future budget deliberations, ongoing support to RFDS either through direct donation or waiving of fees for operations locally.**