



Special Budget Meeting Minutes

21 June 2019

Council Chambers, Bundaberg

10.00 am

Present:

Cr JM Dempsey (Mayor - Chairman), Cr WR Trevor OAM (Deputy Mayor), Cr JP Bartels, Cr WA Honor, Cr HL Blackburn, Cr GR Barnes, Cr SA Rowleson, Cr CR Sommerfeld, Cr SA Cooper, Cr JA Peters and Cr JD Learmonth

Leave of Absence: Nil

Officers:

Mr SD Johnston, Chief Executive Officer
Mr SJ Randle, General Manager Infrastructure
Mr GJ Steele, General Manager Community & Environment
Mrs AK Pafumi, General Manager Organisational Services
Mr B Artup, Executive Director Strategic Projects and Economic Development
Mr M Gorey, Executive Officer Communications
Mrs C Large, Acting Chief Legal Officer
Mrs WE Saunders, Executive Services Co-ordinator
Miss CE Dobbins, Executive Assistant/Researcher

Cr JM Dempsey acknowledged the traditional custodian owners of the land and their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Mayor also acknowledged those Australians who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

Declaration of Interests – Conflict of Interest/Material Personal Interest

Nil declared.



Minutes

21 June 2019

Item Number:	File Number:	Part:
T1	.	CONFIDENTIAL

Portfolio:

Organisational Services

Subject:

2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan

Confidential Reason:

Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 275(c) the local governments budget.

Resolutions

2341

1. ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

Pursuant to section 107A of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 169, 170 and 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council's Budget for the 2019/2020 financial year, incorporating:

- (a) The statement of income and expenditure for the financial year and the next two financial years, incorporating
 - i. the statement of estimated financial position (operations) for the previous financial year;
 - ii. the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget.
- (b) The statement of financial position for the financial year and the next two financial years, incorporating
 - i. the statement of estimated financial position for the previous financial year.
- (c) The statement of cash flow for the financial year and the next two financial years;
- (d) The statement of changes in equity for the financial year and the next two financial years;
- (e) The long-term financial forecast;
- (f) The relevant measures of financial sustainability;

- (g) Estimated Activity Statement for Business Activities to which Council applies Full Cost Pricing principles, including the estimated Community Service Obligations;**
- (h) The Revenue Statement; and**
- (i) The Revenue Policy (adopted by Council resolution on 23 April 2019).**

As tabled, be adopted.

Seconded by Cr SR Cooper.

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

Resolution

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

That standing orders be suspended to allow any Member of Council who wishes to make comment on the budget adoption to do so.

Seconded by Cr HL Blackburn.

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

Resolution

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

That standing orders be resumed.

Seconded by Cr GR Barnes.

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2342

2. DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

- (a) Pursuant to section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the categories into which rateable land is categorised, the description of those categories and, pursuant to sections 81(4) and 81(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the method by which land is to be identified and included in its appropriate category is as follows:**

Column 1 - Category (section 81)	Column 2 – Description (section 81)	Column 3 – Identification (sections 81(4) and 81(5))
1 - Urban Residential Land	<i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for urban residential purposes, other than land included in Category 5</i>	1001 - Vacant Land 1002 - Single Use Dwelling 1003 - Multi Unit Dwellings – Flats/Dual Occupancy 1006 - Outbuilding 1009 - Strata Title Residential Use 1021 - Residential Institution Non-Medical 1072 - Section 49-51 Valuation
2 - Rural Residential Land	<i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for rural residential purposes</i>	1003 - Multi Unit Dwellings – Flats/Dual Occupancy 1004 - Vacant Large Homesite 1005 - Dwelling Large Homesite 1006 - Outbuilding 1009 - Strata Title Residential Use 1021 - Residential Institution Non-Medical 1072 - Section 49-51 Valuation 1094 - Other Rural Land
5 - Coastal Towns	<i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for residential purposes and is located within the townships or areas of Bargara, Burnett Heads, Buxton, Coonarr, Coral Cove, Elliott Heads, Innes Park, Moore Park Beach, Walkers Point, Winfield and Woodgate Beach, and does not have frontage to the Pacific Ocean or frontage to a road which, in turn, has frontage to the Pacific Ocean.</i>	1001 - Vacant Land 1002 - Single Unit Dwelling 1003 - Multi-Unit Dwelling, Flats, Dual Occupancy 1004 - Vacant Large Homesite 1005 - Dwelling Large Homesite 1006 - Outbuildings 1009 - Strata Title Residential Use 1021 - Residential Institution – Non Medical 1072 - Section 49-51 Valuation
7 - Urban Oceanfront	<i>Land that is used, for residential purposes and is located within the townships or areas of Bargara, Burnett Heads, Coonarr, Coral Cove, Elliott Heads, Innes Park, Moore Park Beach, Winfield and Woodgate Beach, and has frontage to the Pacific Ocean, or has frontage to a road which, in turn, has frontage to the Pacific Ocean</i>	1001 - Vacant Land 1002 - Single Unit Dwelling 1003 - Multi Unit Dwelling, Flats, Dual Occupancy 1004 - Vacant Large Homesite 1005 - Dwelling Large Homesite 1006 - Outbuildings 1009 - Strata Title Residential Use 1021 - Residential Non-Medical 1072 - Section 49-51 Valuation

<p>9 - Agricultural Land</p>	<p><i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for agricultural purposes.</i></p>	<p>1060 - Sheep Grazing 1061 - Sheep Breeding 1064 - Cattle Grazing & Breeding 1065 - Cattle Breeding & Fattening 1066 - Cattle Fattening 1067 - Goats 1068 - Milk Quota 1069 - Milk No Quota 1070 - Cream 1071 - Oil Seeds 1073 - Grains 1074 - Turf Farms 1075 - Sugar Cane 1076 - Tobacco 1077 - Cotton 1078 - Rice 1079 - Orchards 1080 - Tropical Fruits 1081 - Pineapple 1082 - Vineyards 1083 - Small Crops & Fodder Irrigation 1084 - Small Crops & Fodder Non Irrigation 1085 - Pigs 1086 - Horses 1087 - Poultry 1088 - Forestry & Logs 1089 - Animals – Special 1090 - Stratum</p>
<p>12 - Bundaberg Commercial Land</p>	<p><i>Land located within the area of Bundaberg City that is used, or has the potential to be used, for commercial purposes, other than land included in Category 15.</i></p>	<p>1007 - Guest House/Private Hotel 1008 - Strata Title Non Residential Use 1010 - Combines Multi Dwelling & Shops 1011 - Shop Single 1012 - Shop Group (more than 6 shops) 1013 - Shopping Group (2 to 6 shops) 1014 - Shopping Main Retail (CBD) 1015 - Shopping Secondary (Fringe CBD) 1016 - Drive in Shopping Centre 1017 - Restaurant 1018 - Tourist Attraction 1020 - Marina 1022-1 - Car Park Commercial 1023 - Retail Warehouse 1024 - Sales Area (Outdoor) 1025 - Offices 1026 - Funeral Parlour 1027 - Private Hospital/Convalescent Home (Medical Private) 1028-1 - Warehouse & Bulk Stores 1030 - Service Station 1038 - Advertising Hoarding 1041 - Child Care excluding Kindergarten 1042 - Tavern/Hotel 1043 - Motel 1044 - Nursery (Plants) 1045 - Theatres and Cinemas 1046 - Drive-In Theatre 1047 - Club – Sport (run as a business) 1049 - Caravan Park 1053 - Employment Agency/Training 1054 - Marketplace</p>

<p>14 - Other Commercial Land</p>	<p><i>Land located outside the area of Bundaberg City that is used, or has the potential to be used, for commercial purposes.</i></p>	<p>1007 - Guest House/Private Hotel 1008 - Strata Title Non Residential Use 1010 - Combines Multi Dwelling & Shops 1011 - Shop Single 1012 - Shop Group (more than 6 shops) 1013 - Shopping Group (2 to 6 shops) 1014 - Shopping Main Retail (CBD) 1015 - Shopping Secondary (Fringe CBD) 1016 - Drive in Shopping Centre 1017 - Restaurant 1018 - Tourist Attraction 1020 - Marina 1022-1 - Car Park Commercial 1023 - Retail Warehouse 1024 - Sales Area (Outdoor) 1025 - Offices 1026 - Funeral Parlour 1027 - Private Hospital/Convalescent Home (Medical Private) 1028-1 - Warehouse & Bulk Stores 1030 - Service Station 1038 - Advertising Hoarding 1041 - Child Care excluding Kindergarten 1042 - Tavern/Hotel 1043 - Motel 1044 - Nursery (Plants) 1045 - Theatres and Cinemas 1046 - Drive-In Theatre 1047 - Club – Sport (run as a business) 1049 - Caravan Park 1053 - Employment Agency/Training 1054 - Marketplace</p>
<p>15 - Major Shopping Centre</p>	<p><i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used for the purposes of a shopping centre with a gross floor area of more than 20,000m2</i></p>	<p>1016-16 - Drive In Shopping Centre with more than 20,000 m2 gross floor area.</p>
<p>16 - Industrial Land</p>	<p><i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used for industrial purposes and which is not included in Category 18 or 19.</i></p>	<p>1028-2 - Warehouse & Bulk Stores 1029 - Transport Terminal 1031 - Oil/Fuel Depot and Refinery 1032 - Wharves, Jetties, Barge Landing 1033 - Outdoor Service Area 1034 - Cold Stores – Iceworks 1035 - General Industry 1036 - Light Industry 1037 - Noxious/Offence Industry 1039 - Harbour Industry 1091 - Transformers and Substations 1200 - Solar Farm</p>
<p>18 - Extractive Industry</p>	<p><i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for extractive industry</i></p>	<p>1040 - Extractive Industry</p>
<p>19 - Heavy Industry</p>	<p><i>Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for a sugar mill, co-generation plant or any heavy industrial purpose.</i></p>	<p>1251 - Co-generation plant 1252 - Sugar Cane/Sugar Mill 1253 - Heavy Industry Purpose</p>

<p>20 - Other Land</p>	<p><i>Land that is not included in any other rating category</i></p>	<p>1019 - Walkway 1022-2 - Car Parks – Ancillary Use 1050 - Other Clubs (Non Business) 1051 - Religious 1052 - Cemetery 1055 - Library 1056 - Showgrounds, Racecourse, Airfield 1057 - Parks, Gardens 1058 - Educational – including Kindergarten 1059 - Local Authority (secondary use only) 1092 - Defence Force Establishments 1095 - Reservoirs, Dams, Bores, Channels 1097 - Welfare Homes/ Institutions 1099 - Community Purposes 1100 - Driver Education Centre</p>
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(b) Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power, pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 81(4) and 81(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to identify the differential rating category to which each parcel of rateable land is included by using relevant land information from Council’s land record and any other information which identifies the use of rateable land.

(c) Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 80 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the differential general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category and, pursuant to section 77 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the minimum general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category, is as follows:

Category	Rate in the Dollar	Minimum Differential General Rate
1 Urban Residential Land	1.3167	\$1,127
2 Rural Residential Land	1.1327	\$1,131
5 Coastal Towns	1.0742	\$1,251
7 Urban Oceanfront	1.0121	\$1,418
9 Agricultural Land	1.5492	\$1,251
12 Bundaberg Commercial Land	2.4655	\$1,488
14 Other Commercial Land	1.5963	\$1,488
15 Major Shopping Centre	4.2217	\$604,574
16 Industrial Land	1.8845	\$1,807
18 Extractive Industry	2.5258	\$2,833
19 Heavy Industry	2.1762	\$121,035
20 Other Land	1.2160	\$1,131

Seconded by Cr HL Blackburn

The motion was put - and carried.

For

Cr WR Trevor
Cr WA Honor
Cr HL Blackburn
Cr GR Barnes
Cr SA Rowleson
Cr CR Sommerfeld
Cr SR Cooper
Cr JA Peters
Cr JD Learmonth
Cr JM Dempsey

Against

Cr JP Bartels

2343**3. SEPARATE CHARGE**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 103 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy a separate charge to be known as the Community and Environment Charge, in the sum of \$50 per rateable assessment, to be levied equally on all rateable land in the region as set out in the Revenue Statement, for the purposes of assisting with the maintenance and improvements of community facilities, upgrades and enhancements of parks, reserves and natural areas.

Seconded by Cr CR Sommerfeld

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2344**4. SPECIAL CHARGE**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

- (a) Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy a special charge, to be known as the “Rural Fire Services Special Charge” of \$30 on each rateable assessment in the local government area to which the overall plan applies, and as set out in the Revenue Policy. Multiple Charges will apply on one (1) rateable assessment if it comprises multiple rural fire brigade areas, with one (1) charge of \$30 per rural fire brigade area.

(b) The overall plan for the Rural Fire Services Special Charge is as follows:

- i. The special charge shall fund the ongoing provision and maintenance of rural firefighting equipment for the rural fire brigades that operate throughout Class E Levy areas under the *Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011*.**
- ii. The rateable land to which the plan applies is each rateable assessment in the local government area which is situated within a Class E Levy area under the *Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011*.**
- iii. The estimated cost of implementing the overall plan is \$391,500.**
- iv. The estimated time for implementing the overall plan is one (1) year.**

The rateable land or its occupier especially benefits from the service, facility or activity funded by the special charge because it funds the ongoing provision and maintenance of rural firefighting in the specific area in which the rateable land is situated.

Seconded by Cr WA Honor

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2345

5. WATER UTILITY CHARGES

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

(a) Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 99 and 101 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy water utility charges, for the supply of water services by Council, as follows:

i. Water access charge

<i>Water Access Charge Description</i>	<i>Potable Water Unrestricted Flow</i>	<i>Non-potable Water /Restricted Flow</i>
Vacant and non-metered	\$416	\$333
20mm meter connection	\$416	\$333
25mm meter connection	\$650	\$520
32mm meter connection	\$1,065	\$852
40mm meter connection	\$1,664	\$1,331
50mm meter connection	\$2,600	\$2,080

80mm meter connection	\$6,656	\$5,325
100mm meter connection	\$10,400	\$8,320
150mm meter connection	\$23,400	\$18,720

ii. Water consumption charge:

(1) Charge per Kilolitre

Step 1: \$1.16 per kilolitre – for the first 150 kilolitres of consumption per half year;

Step 2: \$1.90 per kilolitre – for each kilolitre of consumption above 150 kilolitres per half year.

(2) Charge per kilolitre for the Burnett Downs Yard water supply reticulation group or service area, Sylvan Woods non-potable supply:

Step 1: \$0.93 per kilolitre – for the first 150 kilolitres of consumption per half year;

Step 2: \$1.52 per kilolitre – for each kilolitre of consumption above 150 kilolitres per half year.

(b) The application of the above levied water charges be in accordance with the further detail provided in Council's Revenue Statement as contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan.

Seconded by Cr JP Bartels

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2346

6. SEWERAGE UTILITY CHARGES

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

(a) Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy sewerage utility charges for the supply of sewerage services by Council, as follows:

Sewerage Utility Charge: \$763

(b) The application of the above levied sewerage charges be in accordance with the further detail provided in Council's Revenue Statement as contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan.

Seconded by Cr WR Trevor

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2347

7. TRADE WASTE UTILITY CHARGES

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

(a) Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy trade waste utility charges, for the control and management of trade waste by Council, as follows:

Discharge Category	Description	Base Charge	Tier Charge (in addition to the Base Charge)
Category 1	Minor discharge with no pre-treatment or monitoring required.	\$243	N/A
Category 2	Compliant pre-treatment, or pre-treatment not required. Low risk with annual discharge generally less than 100kL.	\$414	N/A
Category 3	Low Strength/Risk discharge with pre-treatment, or pre-treatment not required. Annual discharge generally less than 500kL.	\$693	N/A
Category 4	Medium Strength/Risk discharge with pre-treatment required. Annual discharge generally less than 500kL.	\$1,205	Tier A \$513 Tier B \$1,025 Tier C \$1,538
Category 5	High Strength/Risk discharge with pre-treatment required, and/or annual discharge generally greater than 500kL.	\$3,097	Tier A \$1,025 Tier B \$2,050 Tier C \$3,075

Equivalent Arrestor Category	Description	Annual Charge
EAC 1	500 – 999L	\$1,128
EAC 2	1000 – 1999L	\$1,845
EAC 3	2000 – 3999L	\$3,075

(b) The application of the above levied trade waste utility charges be in accordance with the further detail provided in Council’s Revenue Statement as contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan.

Seconded by Cr JP Bartels

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2348

8. WASTE MANAGEMENT UTILITY CHARGES

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

(a) Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy waste management utility charges, for the supply of waste management services by Council, as follows:

Service level – Removal, transport and disposal of waste	2019/2020
Residential Properties	
240 litre refuse weekly / 240 litre recycling fortnightly (minimum service)	\$349
Additional Services	
240 litre refuse weekly / 240 litre recycling fortnightly	\$349
240 litre refuse weekly – only available if in receipt of a minimum service	\$252
240 litre recycling fortnightly – only available if in receipt of a minimum service	\$51
Non-Residential Properties	
240 litre refuse / 240 litre recycling (minimum service)	\$409
240 litre refuse weekly service	\$312
240 litre recycling fortnightly service	\$97

(b) The application of the above levied waste management charges be in accordance with the further detail provided in Council's Revenue Statement as contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan.

Seconded by Cr SA Rowleson

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2349

9. DISCOUNT

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

Pursuant to section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the differential general rates made and levied shall be subject to a discount of 10% of the current year's Council general rates, conditional on the payment of current rates, service charges and all arrears within 35 days of the date of issue of the rate notice, and as set out in the Revenue Statement contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan.

Seconded by Cr WA Honor

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2350

10. INTEREST

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

Pursuant to section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, compound interest on daily rests at the rate of 9.83% per annum will be charged for the financial year 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020, on all overdue rates or charges, calculated from the seventh day following the due date stated on the rate notice.

Seconded by Cr JD Learmonth

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2351**11. LEVY AND PAYMENT**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

- (a) Pursuant to section 107 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and section 114 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, Council's rates and charges, and the State Government's Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy be levied:
- for the half year 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 - in July/August 2019; and
 - for the half year 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 - in February/March 2020.
- (b) Pursuant to section 118 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that Council's rates and charges, and the State Government's Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy, be paid within 35 days of the date of issue of the rate notice.

Seconded by Cr HL Blackburn

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2352**12. RATES CONCESSIONS**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

Pursuant to section 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council grants concessions to Pensioners, all Rural Fire Brigades, all Men's Sheds and other ratepayers as set out in the Revenue Statement contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan, as follows:

- (a) Pensioners rebate of up to \$165 per annum on rates and charges for approved pensioners.
- (b) All Rural Fire Brigades full rebate for all rates and charges.
- (c) All Men's Sheds a rebate of up to \$1,700 per annum on rates and charges with the exception of water consumption.
- (d) Other ratepayers previously resolved as set out in the Revenue Statement contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan.

Seconded by Cr WA Honor

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2353

13. 2019/2020 DEBT POLICY

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

Pursuant to section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Debt Policy as contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan be adopted.

Seconded by Cr SR Cooper

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2354

14. CODE OF COMPETITIVE CONDUCT

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

(a) In accordance with Section 47(7) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolves to apply the Code of Competitive Conduct to the following business activities:

- i. the Bundaberg Airport; and**
- ii. Council's Holiday Parks.**

(b) In accordance with Section 47(8) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolves not to apply the Code of Competitive Conduct to:

- i. Its Roads activity – as it does not construct or maintain roads under competitive tender, nor does it undertake activities on a commercial basis or in competition with the private sector.**
- ii. Its Building Certification activity – as it does undertake activities within the meaning of Section 10 of the *Building Act 1975* on a commercial basis or in competition with the private sector.**

Seconded by Cr GR Barnes

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2355

15. **2019/2020 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

Pursuant to Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the 2019/2020 Operational Plan, as contained in the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Plan be adopted.

Seconded by Cr SA Rowleson

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

2356

16. **INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

That a document referred to in any part of this meeting's resolutions is incorporated by reference as if the document had been included in full.

Seconded by Cr WR Trevor

The motion was put - and carried unanimously.

The Mayor's Budget speech was delivered via video:-

When this Council was elected in 2016 we set about improving the Council budget, initiating measures to stimulate the local economy and build Australia's best regional community.

These things don't happen overnight and they don't happen in isolation.

They require planning, partnerships and commitment.

After much hard work the Bundaberg Region is now poised for an exciting new era.

Looking at the broader economy, unemployment is still high but trending downwards. Agriculture is diversifying and creating new markets. Advanced manufacturing shows the Bundaberg Region is a clever community.

Waste disposal vehicles are made here, cane harvesters, aeroplanes and much more.

Bundaberg Region people are innovative. All of us admire the enterprise and initiative of our entrepreneurs.

Council is leading the way through initiatives such as smart water meters. We introduced the Hinkler Innovation Series to share ideas from around the world and we are developing an open data policy to share information with the community and app developers.

We're connecting people with their local government and each other. New Council websites are being developed and the Bundaberg Now website will continue to provide a forum for community engagement and sharing information.

We still face many challenges but the building blocks are in place. Council is playing its part in this Budget through sound financial management and targeted spending to stimulate business.

Rate revenue will rise 1.8 per cent to a total of \$150.4 million. This is the lowest increase in the history of Bundaberg Regional Council.

Council recognises that cost of living pressures are a big issue for many people in our community, which is why we're adopting a minimal rate increase.

We are also extending the pensioner discount from \$140 to \$165 at an additional cost of \$259,000 to provide relief for 10,360 pensioner ratepayers.

The budget commits nearly \$108 million for capital projects, up from \$102 million in the current financial year.

This investment will build better roads and bridges, improve drainage, upgrade our parks and create more footpaths.

Almost every resident will see Council workers and contractors in their neighbourhood over the next 12 months, building Australia's best regional community.

Many of these projects are being funded through the State Government's Works for Queensland program. Others, such as the Gin Gin streetscape and Childers Pool upgrades, have received Federal Government support.

The Regional Deal offers promise of more partnerships between Federal, State and Local Government, similar to the Gin Gin Community Hub, which all three levels of government are funding.

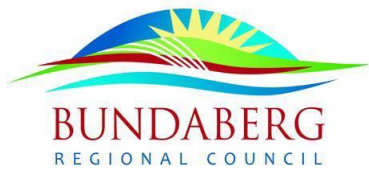
Council continues to support arts and culture, sport and recreation, waste disposal, environmental management, food health and more through ongoing operational funds. The total operational expenditure in 2019-20 is \$195 million.

Roads (\$27.8 million) and Water Services (\$23.4 million) account for nearly half of our projected capital spending.

There will be significant works such as Winfield Road bridge replacements and water treatment plant upgrades.

I'd like to thank Councillors for their collaborative approach to framing this year's Budget.

I also acknowledge our staff for their ongoing commitment to building Australia's best regional community.



Minutes

21 June 2019

Item Number: V1	File Number:	Part: Meeting Close
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Subject:

Meeting Close

There being no further business – the Mayor declared this Special Budget Meeting closed at 10.26 am.

Confirmed on 25 June 2019.

Mayor