



## Special Budgetary Meeting Minutes

15 June 2017

Council Chambers, Bundaberg

10.00 am

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### **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 DJ Batt, Cr JA Peters and Cr PR Heuser.

### **Officers:**

Mr SD Johnston, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr SJ Randle, General Manager Organisational Services  
Mr AW Fulton, General Manager Infrastructure & Planning  
Mr GJ Steele, General Manager Community & Environment  
Mrs WE Saunders, Executive Services Co-ordinator  
Mrs MT Jenner, Executive Assistant to the Councillors

### **Invocation:**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Pastor Errol Buckle (Honorary Chaplain) gave a short address and lead this Special Budgetary Meeting of Council in prayer.



## Minutes

15 June 2017

<b>Item Number:</b> T1	<b>File Number:</b> .	<b>Part:</b> CONFIDENTIAL
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### Portfolio:

Organisational Services

### Subject:

2017/2018 Budget

### Resolutions

#### 1978

#### 1. **ADOPTION OF THE 2017/2018 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Cr HL Blackburn moved:-

**That In accordance with Section 197A of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the 2017/2018 Operational Plan (as detailed on the 48 pages appended to this report) – be adopted.**

Seconded by Cr SA Rowleson.

There being no discussion on this item - the Motion was put and carried unanimously

#### 1979

#### 2. **RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE 2017/2018 BUDGET REPORT**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That the 2017/2018 Budget Report be received.**

Seconded by Cr WA Honor .

The Motion was put - and carried unanimously without debate.

**Cr JM Dempsey said at this point he would like to speak to the Budget Statement:-**

*Adopting the annual Budget is an extremely exciting time not only for the Council but also our great community.*

*Council budgets are premised on community consultation and designed on community expectation.*

*Community consultation through our Community Reference Groups have been extremely beneficial while documents including our recently updated 5 year Corporate Plan, our long term vision captured in the Bundaberg Region 2031 report and Council's Economic Development Plan provide key information.*

*When you view these future focused reports in tandem with community expectation for Council to maintain the standard of services already supplied across numerous operational areas, you begin to appreciate the spread of financial engagement required through Council's annual budget.*

*Today ladies and gentlemen, I can announce that Council's 2017-2018 budget comprises a combined capital and recurrent expenditure of 250.6 million dollars.*

*Council anticipates ending the next financial year with an operating surplus of \$7 million and Community assets with a net value of \$1.884 billion.*

*To gather the resources to fund Council programs the average urban residential general and utility rates will increase by 3.45%. This average is inclusive of general, water, waste and sewerage charges.*

*Council is tasked with substantially funding the huge cost of sewerage infrastructure through ratepayer generated revenue. Gone are the days of government support for this essential infrastructure.*

*I must mention that in addition to building a major facility at Rubyanna, Council is also aware that a significant amount of its existing infrastructure is under some duress for maintenance or significant upgrading. Resources need to be accrued to facilitate that maintenance. Thankfully new technology is playing a major role in allowing a very cost effective means of re-sleeving water and wastewater infrastructure.*

***In relation to Discounts***

*All discounts and concessions will continue. Early payment and pensioner discounts amount to \$8.3 million from our rates levy.*

***Waste and Recycling Vouchers***

*Council will introduce a flexible and cost saving voucher system. Each ratepayer will receive two vouchers that entitles the holder to access local waste facilities at times of their choosing throughout the year.*

***Record Capital Works Program***

*It is incumbent on Council to maintain the momentum it has established over the past 12 months.*

***Our record \$130 million dollar Capital Works budget will see:***

*\$32 million invested in sewerage*

*\$24 million in road infrastructure*

*\$22 million in major projects such as Rubyanna and the CBD revitalisation*

*\$6 million will be invested in stormwater drainage to address the many legacy drainage issues existing across our region*

### **Turning to Community Revitalisation and Future Planning**

*\$8 million will be invested in the first stage of the CBD revitalisation. This is our shopping heart which encompasses our financial and services sectors. We have a beautiful city centre and Council, in conjunction with all stakeholders, will strive to put a new shine on a true diamond.*

*Smart City technology will also be to the fore with a major facelift planned for the Burnett Heads CBD. Council is seeking grant funds of almost \$5 million to undertake this important work. Burnett Heads is an emerging community with the Port, State Development Area and Mon Repos key factors in the economic future of the Bundaberg Region.*

*Council's substantial investment in Clean Energy will continue with solar initiatives on all new infrastructure and installation of charging ports for electric cars at locations like the Multiplex and Childers.*

### **Major Projects**

*Work will continue into this new budget year in finalising work on Stage 2 of the Bundaberg Multiplex and the 71 million dollar Rubyanna Wastewater Treatment Plant. Both these projects represent economic drivers for the Bundaberg Region with local contractors heavily involved in both projects. The ongoing economic value of the Multiplex as a major events venue and of Rubyanna as a catalyst for development demonstrate the value of these projects to the Bundaberg Region. More than \$100 million has been invested - mainly by Council - in these two projects.*

### **Parks, Gardens and Pathways**

*More than 6.2 million dollars will be invested across Parks, Gardens and Pathways to provide recreational opportunities and promote a healthy lifestyle across the Bundaberg Region. Council will continue its investment in open spaces which this year will see the development of several off leash dog areas to cater to community lifestyle needs. Major improvements are also underway at the Botanic Gardens and I am delighted to see one million dollars being invested in providing an entrance statement to showcase East Bundaberg tourist attractions.*

### **Community and Environment Charge**

*Our residents are being asked to support a new initiative of Council with the introduction of a 25 dollar half yearly charge.*

*The funding will continue our growth and protect our enviable lifestyle. The positive gains of the last 12 months must be continued to meet community expectation and take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise.*

*The Bundaberg Region encompasses some of the most magnificent natural assets of any region along the Queensland coastline.*

*Our community is growing and along with that growth are expressed aspirations to enjoy more and improved facilities.*

*Council recognises that securing our natural assets and developing community assets outside the scope of the annual budget requires additional unallocated resources.*

*It is imperative that we commence to fund environmental challenges such as the impact of invasive weeds and pest plants or the damage to our beaches and waterways through occurrences such as erosion. Having the capacity to engage with Clean Energy or Smart City technology and opportunities to improve our built environment is also an avenue of consideration for funding through this charge.*

*We need these funds to leverage opportunities as they arise in State or Federal Government Grants.*

*At \$50 per year the Community and Environment Charge is less than a dollar per week.*

**Debt situation**

*Council proposes to borrow 33.75 million dollars to fund major projects. Council has applied for grant funding to offset the need to borrow and if successful in the grant applications the scheduled borrowings will be significantly reduced. Council's current debt situation is slightly under \$53 million which is well within Council's financial capacity to manage when compared to Council's strong asset base of more than 1.8 billion dollars.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, as I draw towards the end of the budget presentation I would like to express my appreciation to our dedicated staff who worked through the budget process. I also thank the CEO and Senior officers for their professionalism and insight. Thank you also to my fellow Councillors for the endurance they have exhibited in the many long hours around the meeting table, the robust debate, the willingness to achieve consensus and ultimately the formation of the Budget.*

*In closing, I would like to make the following observation.*

*The Bundaberg Region is a fantastic location to live, work, play and invest.*

*Council is aware of its responsibility to its residents, to the direction we lead our community and the legacy we create.*

*Council is charged with identifying the opportunities essential for the Bundaberg Region to achieve its potential.*

*We have, at times, worn unwelcome tags. Well, we are bucking the trend.*

*Council simply seeks its fair share of the tax pie for the benefit of our residents and the growth of our region. Currently the Federal government takes 80 percent of taxes, the State 16 percent and Local Government – your Council – just 4 percent.*

*We continue to request partnerships with State and Federal Government but if those requests go unanswered we will not be deterred from the goals we must achieve.*

*There is a magnificent mood of optimism humming within this region.*

*Council has played a role in this as we seek to establish the framework that promotes investment and development.*

*The ball is rolling - the momentum and the confidence has been established.*

*We all have a stake in this magnificent region.*

*As a Council team, we will make it the best it can be.*

*I commend the Bundaberg Regional Council Budget 2017/2018 for adoption.*

**Cr JM Dempsey then moved:-**

**That Standing Orders be suspended to allow any Member of Council who wishes to make a comment on the Budgetary Statement to do so.**

**Seconded by Cr GR Barnes - and carried unanimously.**

- Cr JP Bartels spoke against the Budget;

Cr JM Dempsey then moved:-

**That Standing Orders be resumed.**

Seconded by Cr DJ Batt - and carried unanimously.

1980

3. **ADOPTION OF THE 2017/2018 Budget**

Cr JM Dempsey then moved:-

**That in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the 2017/2018 Budget, incorporating the Budgeted Financial Statements for 2017/2018 and the following 2 years forecast (as detailed on the 79 pages appended to this report) – be adopted.**

Seconded by Cr GR Barnes - and carried unanimously.

1981

4. **LONG TERM FINANCIAL FORECASTS**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with Section 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Long Term Financial Forecasts to 2026/2027 (pages 68 to 72 of the Budget) – be adopted.**

Seconded by Cr HL Blackburn - and carried unanimously.

1982

5. **DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with Section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that Council adopt the following differential general rate categories and descriptions (including minimum general rate and rate in the dollar) for the 2017/2018 financial year.**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RATE IN THE DOLLAR OF PROPERTY VALUE</b>	<b>MINIMUM GENERAL RATE</b>
<b>1 Urban Residential Land</b>	Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for urban residential purposes, other than land included in category 5.	1.2663	\$1,083
<b>2 Rural Residential Land</b>	Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for rural residential purposes.	1.0893	\$1,087
<b>3</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>4</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>5 Coastal Towns</b>	Land that: (a) is used, or has the potential to be used, for residential purposes; and (b) is located within the townships of Bargara, Burnett Heads, Buxton, Coonarr, Coral Cove, Elliott Heads, Innes Park, Moore Park Beach, Walkers Point, Winfield and Woodgate Beach; and (c) does not have frontage to the Pacific Ocean or frontage to a road which, in turn, has frontage to the Pacific Ocean.	1.0331	\$1,203
<b>6</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>7 Urban Oceanfront</b>	Land that: (a) is used, or has the potential to be used, for residential purposes; and (b) is located within the townships of Bargara, Burnett Heads, Coonarr, Coral Cove, Elliott Heads, Innes Park, Moore Park Beach, and Woodgate Beach; and (c) has frontage to the Pacific Ocean or has frontage to a road which, in turn, has frontage to the Pacific Ocean.	0.9734	\$1,363
<b>8</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>9 Agricultural Land</b>	Land that is used, or has the potential to be used, for agricultural purposes.	1.4899	\$1,203
<b>10</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>11</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>12 Bundaberg Commercial Land</b>	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.	2.3711	\$1,431
<b>13</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>14 Other Commercial Land</b>	Land located outside the area of Bundaberg City that is used, or has the potential to be used, for commercial purposes.	1.5352	\$1,431
<b>15 Major Shopping Centre</b>	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 20,000m <sup>2</sup> .	4.0600	\$581,426
<b>16 Industrial Land</b>	Land that is: (a) used, or has the potential to be used for industrial purposes; and (b) not included in category 18 or 19.	1.8124	\$1,738
<b>17</b>	Intentionally left blank.		
<b>18 Extractive / Transformers / Substations</b>	Land that is used, or has the potential to be used for extractive industry or transformers or substation purposes.	2.4291	\$2,725

<b>19 Heavy Industry</b>	Land that is used, or has the potential to be used for: (a) a sugar mill; (b) a co-generation plant; or (c) any heavy industrial purpose.	2.0928	\$116,401
<b>20 Other</b>	Land that is not included in any other rating category.	1.1695	\$1,087

Seconded by Cr SA Rowleson.

The Motion was put and carried by 10 votes to 1 vote.

**For**

Cr WR Trevor  
Cr WA Honor  
Cr HL Blackburn  
Cr GR Barnes  
Cr SA Rowleson  
Cr CR Sommerfeld  
Cr DJ Batt  
Cr JA Peters  
Cr PR Heuser  
Cr JM Dempsey

**Against**

Cr JP Bartels

**1983**

**6. SPECIAL RATES AND CHARGES FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

That in accordance with Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council levy a special charge to be known as the 'Special (Rural Fire Services) Charge' of \$30 on 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*. 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.

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*.

Seconded by Cr WA Honor - and carried unanimously.



1984

**7. UTILITY CHARGES FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with Section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopt the following Utility Charges.**

<b>Sewerage Charge</b>	
Per Pedestal (Residential only charged for 1 <sup>st</sup> pedestal)	\$726

<b>Water Access Charge</b>	
Water Vacant and Non-metered properties in water supply area	\$416
Water Access 20 Millimetre	\$416
Water Access 25 Millimetre	\$649
Water Access 32 Millimetre	\$936
Water Access 40 Millimetre	\$1,384
Water Access 50 Millimetre	\$2,122
Water Access 80 Millimetre	\$5,286
Water Access 100 Millimetre	\$8,255
Water Access 150 Millimetre	\$18,394
Non-Potable/Restrict Water Vacant & 20 Millimetre	\$333

<b>Water Consumption Charge</b>	
First Step up to 150Kls per half-year	\$1.16
Second Step over 150Kls per half-year	\$1.90
Non-potable up to 150Kls per half-year	\$0.93
Non-Potable over 150Kls per half-year	\$1.52

<b>Waste Collection Charge</b>	
<b>Residential Properties</b>	
240 litre refuse weekly/240 litre recycling fortnightly (minimum service)	\$342
<b>Additional Services</b>	
240 litre refuse weekly/240 litre recycling fortnightly	\$342
240 litre refuse weekly – only available if in receipt of a minimum service	\$247
240 litre recycling fortnightly – only available if in receipt of a minimum service	\$50
<b>Non-Residential Properties</b>	
240 litre refuse/240 litre recycling (minimum service)	\$342
240 litre refuse weekly service	\$247
240 litre recycling fortnightly service	\$95

<b>Trade Waste Utility Charge</b>				
<b>Trade Waste Connection/Capacity of Pre-treatment Device</b>	<b>Category 0 Minor &lt;=150 Kilolitres</b>	<b>Category 1 Low Strength &amp; Volume &lt;=500 Kilolitres</b>	<b>Category 2 Low Strength/ High Volume &gt;500 Kilolitres</b>	<b>Category 3 High Strength/Any Volume</b>
Nil Required or Best Practice	\$158	N/A	N/A	N/A
Best Practice <=1000 Litres	N/A	\$333	\$667	\$1,000
<=1000 Litres	N/A	\$667	\$1,000	\$1,333
<=1500 Litres	N/A	\$1,000	\$1,333	\$1,667
<=2000 Litres	N/A	\$1,333	\$1,667	\$2,000
<=2500 Litres	N/A	\$1,667	\$2,000	\$2,333
<=3000 Litres	N/A	\$2,000	\$2,333	\$2,667

Seconded by Cr JA Peters - and carried unanimously.

1985

8. **SEPARATE RATES AND CHARGES FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with Section 103 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy a separate charge of \$50 per rateable assessment for the purposes of assisting with the maintenance and improvements of community facilities, upgrades and enhancements of parks, reserves and natural areas within the Region.**

Seconded by Cr SA Rowleson.

The Motion was put and carried by 10 votes to 1 vote.

**For**

Cr WR Trevor  
Cr WA Honor  
Cr HL Blackburn  
Cr GR Barnes  
Cr SA Rowleson  
Cr CR Sommerfeld  
Cr DJ Batt  
Cr JA Peters  
Cr PR Heuser  
Cr JM Dempsey

**Against**

Cr JP Bartels

1986

9. **REBATES, CONCESSIONS AND DISCOUNTS FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* a discount of 10% of the current year's Council general rates is conditional on the payment of current rates, service charges and all arrears by the due date stated on the rate notice which is at least 30 clear days from the issue date of the rate notice.**

**In addition, a grace period of two (2) days will be allowed to provide for the receipt of payments made remotely to payment agencies. Proof of payment may be requested. Council's pension remission is not a payment and is therefore deducted from the general rate before discount is applied. The discount for the prompt payment of rates applies only to general rates levied by Council.**

**No discount shall apply for any other rate or charge levied by Council, including special rates and charges, separate and utility charges.**

Seconded by Cr PR Heuser - and carried unanimously.

1987

10. **DEBT POLICY FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Debt Policy for 2017/2018 (pages 56 and 57 of the Budget) – be adopted.**

Seconded by Cr HL Blackburn - and carried unanimously.

1988

11. **INVESTMENT POLICY FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with Section 191 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Investment Policy for 2017/2018 (pages 59 to 62 of the Budget) – be adopted.**

Seconded by Cr DJ Batt - and carried unanimously.

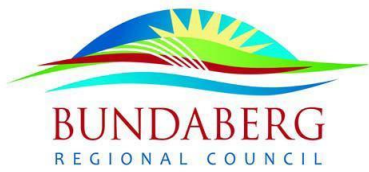
1989

12. **NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY FOR 2017/2018**

Cr JM Dempsey moved:-

**That in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the National Competition Policy for 2017/2018 (pages 63 to 66 of the Budget) – be adopted.**

Seconded by Cr SA Rowleson - and carried unanimously.



## Minutes

15 June 2017

<b>Item Number:</b> V1	<b>File Number:</b>	<b>Part:</b> Meeting Close
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**Subject:**

Meeting Close

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

Confirmed this twenty-seventh day of June 2017.

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MAYOR