



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
AGENDA**

**TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CIVIC CENTRE
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE**

On 17 July 2019

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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S/1. MAYOR'S 2019/20 BUDGET

S/1.1. MAYOR'S 2019/2020 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

The Mayor presenting an Overview Report on Council's 2019-20 Budget.

Recommendation:

That Council receive the Mayor's Budget Overview Report.

Overview:

It is my privilege to present the 2019/2020 budget.

Our focus for 2019/2020 is on partnerships. Partnering with community groups, industry, other levels of government and our community to deliver the best outcomes for our community now and into the future.

This years budget continues to deliver upon my election promises to my community, to continue to:

- seek fair and equitable state and federal government funding to support our community
- build upon our partnerships with community and sporting groups through financial and in-kind support
- encourage and promote new and existing business and industrial development within our region to promote growth and create employment opportunities within our region.

Council welcomes the continued support of the Commonwealth, with the distribution of the Financial Assistance Grant. Each year the Financial Assistance Grant is distributed to the 77 local governing bodies within Queensland. Council's 2018/2019 allocation of \$7.5million will be increased in 2019/2020 by CPI and an adjustment for population. \$2.2million of the Federal Assistance Grant is specifically to be used for roads. We acknowledge and appreciate this support from the Federal Government in the provision of services to our community.

The capital works delivery program supported by both State and Federal Governments benefited this year through our strategy to seek specific funding for our capital project expenditure through a focused Grants Specialist position within Council. The continued investment by the other tiers of government, in our region, this year will contribute \$6.9million to the planned delivery of key capital projects including (but not limited to):

- \$1.06million to the \$3million continuation of the Gladstone Waste-Water Biosolids treatment facility
- \$181,000 towards the \$363,000 sealing of unsealed sections of Lowmead Road
- Dart's Creek Road Sealing of unsealed sections

- John Clifford Way – Sealing of unsealed sections
- Baffle Creek Crossing on Gorge Road Lowmead bridge replacement
- Hobble Creek Bridge, Lowmead bridge replacement
- Captain Cook Drive asphalt footpath (1770 marina to depot)
- Witney Street pedestrian refuge island
- \$750,000 for the Goondoon Street Pavement renewal
- \$300,000 Roads to Recovery funding for the \$640,000 Mount Larcom King George street pavement upgrade
- \$20,000 towards the replacement of SES vehicles

The Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct is Council's signature strategic project that will see the delivery of a human and social service hub to address current and future needs for the region. Total project funding of \$16 million has been secured for Stage 1 of the project which will see the delivery of an entrance road, stormwater, 4 buildings and a landscaped parkland to be enjoyed by the whole community. On-site works are due to commence in the second half of 2019.

As we continue to embrace our vision to Connect, Innovate and Diversify, funds have been allocated to continue with three other key strategic projects – the design of the Boyne Tannum Aquatic Recreation Centre, the Gladstone Coal Exporters Sports Complex (Marley Brown) and the Harbour Arbour. These three strategic projects provide a vessel to promote our region, in partnership with our community, industry and other tiers of government to ensure that the region remains a great place to work, live and play.

\$250,000 has been allocated to continue planning for the Boyne Tannum Aquatic Recreation Centre. This project continues to examine the suitability of sites within the Boyne Island Tannum Sands area, facility components, capital and whole of life costs and the impacts (positive and negative) such a facility may have to the immediate and surrounding areas within the Region.

A further \$250,000 has been allocated to continue with the development a Master Plan for the Gladstone Coal Exporters Sports Complex (Marley Brown Oval), off Harvey Road in Gladstone. A key component of the master plan is the development of a multi-purpose sports and events complex that can be utilised all year round and with the capacity and facilities to host national, state and local sporting matches.

Funds have also been allocated to progress concept designs of the Harbour Arbour. The Arbour is to be innovative, unique and sustainable, create a vibrant streetscape and encourage pedestrian movement to and from the waterfront.

In partnership with our local business Council has entered into a special charge agreement with the body corporate to facilitate the upgrade of the Gladstone City Plaza Forecourt at 100 Goondoon Street Gladstone. This redevelopment will see a key location within the CBD revitalised providing the opportunity to activate the area by creating an inviting destination.

Our focus on the economic development of our region is supported this year by bringing in-house focused resources. Council has clear economic objectives to facilitate sustainable, financially and environmentally responsible initiatives that will advance economic development in the Gladstone Region, for the community. Our Economic Development Specialist will continue to implement the Economic Development Strategy, collaborating with key business and industry leaders to attract and sustain investment in our region. The continuation of our investment in the Infrastructure Incentive Program provides incentives by way of discounted levied charges for specifically eligible developments that will

deliver economic development and growth outcomes that align with Council's Economic Development Strategy and Planning Scheme.

In 2019/2020 we will continue to invest in improving asset management practices, with a strong focus on engaging with stakeholders, building staff capability and identifying opportunities to reduce cost to serve. We are already starting to see the benefits of improved asset management, as we move to more proactive maintenance in the water and wastewater fields. For every maintenance activity that we can shift from reactive to planned, we will reduce overall maintenance costs. We will also be revisiting our asset growth models, with a strong focus on how we can work with the community to reduce costs.

We have been successful in obtaining a grant to undertake coastal hazard adaptation assessments across the region. This work will help us and the community to better understand the impact of climate change on our coastal communities and allow us to start planning for future generations.

The introduction of the Queensland Government new waste management and resource recovery strategy underpinned by a waste levy to be introduced from 1 July 2019 has, in conjunction with our overall commitment to reviewing and improving processes for the reduction of waste, instigated a full review of the cost of the provision of waste services to our region.

The review, which included operational costs and the cost of additional environmental protection provisions, established that an increase in waste fees and charges is required. In recognition of the potential impact of the increase, we will phase in the additional cost over three years for residential waste. However, increased commercial waste fees will not be phased in.

The Queensland Government waste levy seeks to:

- encourage resource recovery and recycling
- discourage landfill disposal
- provide funding for programs to promote resource recovery and better waste management practices
- secure and increase the quantity of recyclable materials captured for processing
- facilitate industry investment in resource recovery initiatives.

Councils will be required to collect the levy on behalf of the State Government. The State Government levy on general waste going to landfill is \$75 per tonne. The waste levy does not apply on recyclable materials and is to have no direct impact on households. The State Government will provide Council with an annual advance payment to ensure that the waste levy will have no direct impact on households.

The 2019/2020 Capital expenditure of \$74 million includes:

- \$732,000 Capital Parks Projects
- \$1.574million on bridge upgrades, renewals and replacements
- \$1.879 million on footpath and cycle upgrades
- \$14.982 million on capital roads projects – with \$2.9 million funded by state and commonwealth grants and subsidies
- \$685,000 on Cemetery expansion and upgrades
- \$20.4million on upgrades to waste water (sewerage) infrastructure
- \$8.26 million on upgrades to water supply infrastructure

Borrowings

Council is proud to declare that for the seventh consecutive year we have drawn down no new borrowings. Our focus on reducing existing debt with no new borrowings has seen interest bearing debt decline to \$105.2m by June 2020, a reduction of \$50.3m over the current term.

Council will take a holistic treasury management focus with borrowings minimised through a working capital facility with Queensland Treasury in future financial years; with it expected that this facility will not be required until June 2024 based on current modelling.

The resultant debt ratio equivalent is 4.8% of physical assets, by the end of 2019/2020.

Concessions and remissions

In recognition of the unique needs of pensioners and to encourage our pensioners to continue to be independent and live in their own home we offer eligible pensioners a remission of 50% of the differential general rate to a maximum of \$295. The maximum pensioner remission limit has been increased to \$295 from \$290 last year. The State Government pensioner concession provides for a maximum of \$200. We have close over 2,800 pensioners receiving a remission of their Council rates.

Rates and Utility Charges

When looking at the average residential ratepayer in Gladstone, the increase will be 2.39% in 2019/2020, across all services, this is above the current CPI (Brisbane) of 1.5% (LGAQ Cost Index 2019 – 2.0%):

| | 19/20 | 18/19 | Movement |
|-------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Average Valuation | \$112,163 | \$112,163 | Nil |
| General Rate | \$1,587.71 | \$1,557.51 | 1.94% |
| Water Access | \$490.00 | \$480.00 | 2.08% |
| Sewerage | \$750.00 | \$735.00 | 2.04% |
| Waste | \$345.50 | \$326.50 | 5.82% |
| Gross Rates | \$3,173.21 | \$3,099.01 | 2.39% |
| Discount | -\$317.32 | -\$309.90 | |
| Net Rates | \$2,855.89 | \$2,789.11 | 2.39% |

Water and sewerage charges differ across the various schemes of Boyne Island / Tannum Sands, Calliope, Agnes Water / Seventeen Seventy and Miriam Vale / Bororen.

The gross value of rates and charges proposed to be levied in 2019/2020 totals \$151.89m compared to \$146.85m from the prior budget, exclusive of waste disposal fees and water consumption charges; this represents a total increase of 3.44%.

General Rates

A 2% increase has been applied to the total general rate revenue for 2019/2020. As a Council we have debated against any rate increase. Our economy cannot support excessive and unsustainable rate rises. We have worked extremely hard to reduce expenditure and implement efficiencies. We acknowledge and expect to continue to identify and implement efficiencies and innovation to reduce costs.

The increase in the overall total general rate revenue is reflected in the Local Government Cost Index. *“The LGAQ Council Cost index (CCI) provides a measure of the average cost increases experienced by councils across the state for the previous year. A comparable average revenue increase will be necessary to maintain current levels of service before provision for growth, irregular maintenance and capital replacement.”*

While the total general rate revenue has increased by a total of 2%, different rate categories will be impacted differently. 3,389 of the levied general rates accounts are still subject to rate capping from previous years. Essentially this means that the general rates levy will increase by the amount of the cap for those properties.

Refuse Charges

Whilst Councils underlying waste service costs, excluding recycling, increased in line with CPI, the associated costs of waste disposal and recycling component has had significant cost pressures applied during the past financial year with an additional \$600,000 cost being incurred to ensure that our recyclable service continues uninterrupted.

Whilst all options are being looked at with respect to recycling and waste service options in future years, it has been necessary to pass through this cost in this budget along with additional costs associated with waste disposal at our landfills and transfer stations ensuring that these sites operate in accord with all relevant environmental obligations.

The refuse charges across the region will increase to \$345.50 per annum, an increase of \$19, for a standard 240 litre weekly waste service, and a 240 litre fortnightly recycling service. This charge applies to all premises receiving a domestic waste and recycling service.

Sewerage Services

As we continue to transition to the equalised price of sewerage services across the region the domestic sewerage charges for the 2019/2020 financial year will increase by \$14 for Boyne Island, Tannum Sands and Calliope and \$17 for Agnes Water/1770.

| Sewer area | 2018/2019 | 2019/2020 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Boyne Island, Tannum Sands and Calliope | 758.00 | 773.00 |
| Gladstone | 735.00 | 750.00 |
| Agnes Water / 1770 | 901.00 | 919.00 |

Water Availability and consumption charges

| Scheme | 2018/2019 | 2019/2020 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Lake Awoonga | 480.00 | 490.00 |
| Miriam Vale and Bororen* | 538.00 | 538.00 |
| Agnes Water* | 538.00 | 538.00 |

| Scheme | Consumption Charge |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Lake Awoonga | 1.83 |
| Miriam Vale and Bororen | 3.73 |
| Agnes Water | 3.81 |

The consumption charge for those connected to the Miriam Vale / Bororen schemes, will be increased from \$3.69 per kiloliter to \$3.73 and the Agnes Water / Seventeen Seventy Scheme will increase from \$3.74 to \$3.81.

The consumption charge for Lake Awoonga treated water will increase by 3c per kilolitre to \$1.83 per kilolitre, in accordance with the expected overall cost per kilolitre of water purchased from Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB).

Conclusion

While our overall focus for the 2019/2020 budget and operational plan is on partnerships, this budget is overwhelmingly focused on renewing, rebuilding and maintaining our roads, water, waste water and waste infrastructure to support the efficient, environmentally responsible and cost effective delivery of services to our community.

Attachments:

Nil.

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Mayor Matthew Burnett.

S/1.2. REVENUE STATEMENT

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1, CM28.2

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to allow Council to consider the revised Revenue Statement to support the 2019/2020 Budget.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council, in accordance with section 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

1. Repeal P-2018-14 Revenue Statement Policy as Attachment 1; and
2. Adopt P-2019-13 Revenue Statement Policy as Attachment 2.

Background:

Under section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council's budget for each financial year must include the adoption of a revenue statement. The revenue statement sets out an explanation that outlines and explains the revenue raising measures to be adopted in the budget.

Consideration:

Some amendments have been made to this policy and Attachment 3 provides a version highlighting the changes.

The main changes include:

- Changes to relevant dates;
- Deletion of related documents no longer relevant, and inclusion of other relevant documents;
- Inclusion of definition of Predominant Use, to assist when determining rating category for General Rates;
- Inclusion of a new table setting out the General Rating Categories, plus a new grouping, used for capping;
- Inclusion examples of what would constitute loss of capping and what would not;
- Inclusion of a statement regarding NCP for Strategic Port Land;
- Update of the amounts to be raised and charged under the Special Charge for Curtis Island Sewerage Infrastructure;
- Inclusion of Council auditing Commercial premises to ensure they have waste services;
- Changing of "access" to "availability" for water and sewer, to dispel confusion in relation to the charge being applicable;
- Inclusion of a definition of Used for Charitable Purposes, as included in the Properties exempt from General and Differential Rates policy;

- Updating of instalment calculation to include any availability charges that may be levied six-monthly; and
- Acknowledgment that a CSO is the difference between full cost and the fee levied.

Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

The Revenue Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. A legal review has been undertaken by King and Company.

Attachments:

1. P-2018-14 Revenue Statement Policy
2. P-2019-13 Revenue Statement Policy
3. P-2019-13 Revenue Statement Policy - tracked changes

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Manager Governance / Manager Revenue Services.

S/1.3. LONG-TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report seeks the adoption of the Long-Term Financial Forecast, for the 10 years through to 30 June 2029, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Long-Term Financial Forecast in accordance with section 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Background:

Council's annual budget for a financial year must include a long-term financial forecast. Section 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* sets out what the forecast must include, being:

- income;
- expenditure;
- the value of assets, liabilities and equity.

The Long Term Financial Plan (or forecast as it is referred to in legislation) is an integral part of the local government planning framework. The forecast is informed by not only the Gladstone Region Community Plan and the Gladstone Regional Council Corporate Plan 2018-2023, but also the latest information available at the time of preparation with respect to:

- master planning documents, inclusive of the Gladstone Region Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan and Sport and Recreation Plan;
- infrastructure schedules (Local Government Infrastructure Plans) included within the Our Place Our Plan Gladstone Regional Council Planning Scheme;
- latest population growth estimates from relevant sources;
- most recent estimates of development activity; and
- Asset Management Plans for the various classes of assets.

Consideration:

It is the intent that this Long-Term Financial Forecast will be a dynamic document with all revenue and expenditure drivers and asset involvement assumptions reviewed regularly.

Legislatively the review period is annually, however in practice that frequency will be more often to ensure currency.

A number of key revenue and expenditure drivers have been identified by the best estimate of officers, with these assumptions having been used in the development of the 10

year forecast. Whilst these broad assumptions give some indication of what may happen over the coming ten years, they remain flexible.

The forecast becomes a guide for Council in future years, with the forecast not replacing the requirement to consider each annual budget in detail. Departing from the forecast assumptions, where appropriately considered, to settle on an acceptable budget position for the region as a whole, will be at the prerogative of Council.

Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

The Long-Term Financial Forecast has been prepared on the basis of a number of individual master plans and assessment management plans, all of which have been subject to individual consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The Long-Term Financial Forecast details the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, and statement of changes in equity.

Attachments:

1. Long-Term Financial Forecast

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.4. DEBT POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1, CM28.2

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Debt Policy for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council, in accordance with section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

1. Repeal P-2018-15 Debt Policy as Attachment 1; and
2. Adopt P-2019-17 Debt Policy provided as Attachment 2.

Background:

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to review its Debt Policy annually.

Debt is only used for capital purposes. The term of the debt is matched, as best as possible, to the life of the asset up to the maximum term imposed by Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC). Borrowings usually have terms of 9, 12 or 15 years. Occasionally, for major capital projects, debt will be borrowed over a maximum term of 20 years.

The level of borrowings drawn each financial year is carefully monitored through long term financial modelling to ensure affordability. A number of financial measures are utilised to assess sustainability, including those mandated by legislation. In addition to internal assessments, Council is required to submit an annual application to the State Government, which includes the long-term financial forecast, to gain approval for all planned borrowings. The external debt assessments focus on the macro view of Council's ability to repay debt.

However, Council manages debt at a more detailed funding level internally, further ensuring the financial sustainability of borrowing decisions. Council seeks to minimise general rates as a funding source to repay debt, preferring to rely on specific revenue sources (water charges, sewerage charges) that are matched to the infrastructure being constructed.

Each year there is an amount of general borrowings that relies on the general rate as a funding source, but this is kept to a minimum.

Council when looking at managing its debt takes a holistic approach with respect to the management of both debt and also cash holdings (investments), and seeks to minimise the net interest cost to Council by focusing on cash management and ensuring the Long Term Financial Plan position is optimised to minimise the holding cost of debt.

Consideration:

All borrowing metrics established by the QTC and Department of Local Government and Planning, including interest coverage ratio and net financial liabilities, are within benchmarks for the forecast period.

Attachment 2 provides a version of the proposed policy with attachment 3 outlining the tracked changes from the current policy.

Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

The Debt Policy has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Attachments:

1. P-2018-15 Debt Policy
2. P-2019-17 Debt Policy
3. P-2019-17 Debt Policy – tracked changes.

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.5. PROJECTED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR END 30 JUNE 2020

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report seeks the adoption of the projected financial statements for year ending 30 June 2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the projected financial statements attached for the year ending 30 June 2020 in accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, noting the contents of the Balance Sheet include the statement of estimated financial position for the previous 2018/2019 financial year in accordance with section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Attachments:

1. Projected Financial Statements for year end 30 June 2020

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.6. RATE PAYMENT PERIOD AND DISCOUNTS

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report seeks the adoption of rate payment periods and discounts.

Officer's Recommendation:

That:

1. In accordance with section 107 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and section 114 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, Council's rates and charges outlined below will be levied on an annual basis in August/September:
 - general rates;
 - special rates and charges;
 - waste cleansing charges;
 - water charges;
 - sewerage charges.
 - Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy.
2. In accordance with section 107 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council rates and charges will be levied on a bi-annual basis in July/August/September and January/February/March:
 - trade waste charges;
3. In accordance with section 118 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council determines that the following rates and charges shall be payable within sixty (60) days of the issue of the rate notice:
 - general rates;
 - special rates and charges;
 - waste cleansing charges;
 - sewerage charges;
 - water charges;
 - trade waste charges; and
 - Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy.
4. In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a discount of 10% will be allowed if payment is made in full within the discount period of the initial thirty (30) days of the date of issue of the rate notices and a discount of 5% will be allowed if payment is made in full within the discount period after the initial thirty (30) day period but before sixty (60) days of the date of issue of the rate notice, for the following rates and charges:
 - general rates;
 - waste cleansing charges;
 - sewerage charges;
 - trade waste charges; and

- water availability (fixed costs component) charges.
5. No discount will be offered in respect of the following rates and charges:
 - special rates and charges;
 - water consumption charges; and
 - Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy.
 6. In accordance with section 129 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, ratepayers will be afforded the opportunity to pay their annual rate account by instalments in accordance with the conditions outlined in section 6.10.2 of P-2019-13 Revenue Statement.
 7. In accordance with section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, any rates or charges remaining outstanding from the date on which they become overdue will thereafter bear interest at the rate of 9.83% per annum, compounding daily.

Attachments:

Nil

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.7. DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report seeks the adoption of differential general rates.

Officer's Recommendation:

That:

1. In accordance with Section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:
 - a. The categories into which rateable land is categorised and the description of each of those categories for 2019/2020 financial year is set out in section 6.2.2 of P-2019-13 Revenue Statement; and
 - b. Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to identify the rating category to which each parcel of rateable land belongs, as set out in section 6.2.2 of P-2019-13 Revenue Statement.
2. In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Sections 77, 80, and 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* ("Regulation"), the following differential general rates be made and levied for the 2019/2020 financial year:
 - a. For properties within Category 1: 1.41670¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,010.00 and Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 110% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
 - b. For properties within Category 2: 0.56865¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$7,089.00 and Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 110% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
 - c. For properties within Category 3: 1.07728¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,010.00 and Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 110% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
 - d. For properties within Category 4: 1.41670¢ rate in the dollar;
 - e. For properties within Category 5: 1.31478¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,010.00;
 - f. For properties within Category 6: 3.25052¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,010.00 Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed

110% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;

- g. For properties within Category 7: 5.63738¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,220.00 Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 110% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
- h. For properties within Category 8: 2.65467¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,561.00; Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 110% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
- i. For properties within Category 9: 2.96977¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,112.00; Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 115% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
- j. For properties within Category 10: 2.12670¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$30,600.00;
- k. For properties within Category 11: 3.41088¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$105,926.00;
- l. For properties within Category 12: 3.82194¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$111,203.00;
- m. For properties within Category 13: 7.73262¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$306,000.00;
- n. For properties within Category 14: 15.03482¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$95,398.00;
- o. For properties within Category 15: 94.28574¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$364,854.00;
- p. For properties within Category 16: 5.67371¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,112.00; Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 115% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
- q. For properties within Category 17: 13.73124¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$2,567.00; Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 150% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
- r. For properties within Category 18: 13.73124¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$2,567.00 Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 150% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
- s. For properties within Category 19: 11.30750¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,112.00; Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 150% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;

- t. for properties within Category 20: 11.62698¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$2,567.00; Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 150% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year;
- u. For properties within Category 21: 16.87488¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,112.00;
- v. For properties within Category 22: 6.03228¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$69,051.00;
- w. For properties within Category 23: 2.37301¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$1,112.00; Regulation section 116 shall apply with the amount so levied not to exceed 115% of the corresponding annual amount levied as the differential general rate in the 2018/2019 financial year; and
- x. For properties within Category 24: 71.01342¢ rate in the dollar, with a minimum rate of \$3,832,344.00.

Attachments:

Nil

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.8. PENSIONER REMISSION**Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk****Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019****File Ref: FM6.1, CM28.2****Purpose:**

This report seeks the resolution of P-2019-10 Pensioner Remission policy, to apply to the 2019/2020 financial year.

Officer's Recommendation:

That in accordance with section 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and the requirements of Councils Pensioner Remission Policy, a rebate of the differential general rate of 50% up to a maximum \$295 per annum be granted to all ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission.

Background:

Under section 120(1)(a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may grant a concession if it is satisfied that "the land is owned or occupied by a pensioner".

Consideration:

The concession / remission encourages pensioners to be independent and continue to live in their own home where possible.

Under Council's Pensioner Remission Policy, eligible pensioners will receive 50% of the Differential General Rate up to a maximum of \$295. This is in addition to the 20% of the gross rates and charges up to a maximum of \$200 available under the Queensland State Government Pension Rebate.

The State Government Rebate is available to those persons who hold a Pensioner Concession Card or a Department of Veterans' Affairs Health Card for all conditions (Gold Card). Similarly to the State Government Scheme, Council's policy requires the pensioner to be the owner and resident of the property. Furthermore, the proportion of benefit for the Council remission will be granted in accordance with that of the State Government Scheme.

Financial and Resource Implications:

For the period 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Total Council remission granted: | \$ 848,294.36 |
| Reversals of Council remission due to sale of properties: | \$ 35,685.41 |
| Total cost to Council 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019: | \$ 812,608.95 |

Attachments:

Nil

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.9. WASTE CLEANSING CHARGES

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report seeks the adoption of waste cleansing charges for 2019/2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the following utility charges be made and levied for the 2019/2020 financial year:

1. Domestic Refuse - Wheeled Bin Collection Normal Collection Day:
 - an annual charge of \$345.50 will be levied for each domestic premises in the designated waste collection area. A domestic bin service provides for the removal from the premises of a weekly 240 litre wheeled cart of refuse and a fortnightly service of a 240 litre wheeled cart of recyclables;
 - optional 240 litre cart of refuse collected and disposed of weekly and one 340 litre wheeled cart of recyclables collected and processed fortnightly shall be \$371.40;
 - optional 140 litre cart of refuse collected and disposed of weekly and one 240 litre wheeled cart of recyclables collected and processed fortnightly shall be \$324.90;
 - optional 140 litre cart of refuse collected and disposed of weekly and one 340 litre wheeled cart of recyclables collected and processed fortnightly shall be \$345.50;
 - additional 2nd 240 litre wheeled cart of refuse collected and disposed of weekly carried out in conjunction with the 1st domestic service shall be \$226.50;
 - additional 2nd 240 litre wheeled cart of recyclables collected and processed fortnightly in conjunction with the 1st domestic service shall be \$119.00;
 - additional 2nd 340 litre wheeled cart of recyclables collected and processed fortnightly in conjunction with the 1st domestic service shall be \$187.30.

2. Commercial Refuse - Wheeled Bin Collection Normal Collection Day:
 - optional annual charge will be levied for each premises in the designated waste collection area, which charge will be \$614.60 per Commercial Bin Unit included in the Nominated Bin Unit, for the purpose of providing for the removal from the premises weekly Commercial Refuse and fortnightly Commercial Recycling;
 - optional annual charge will be levied for each premises in the designated waste collection area, which charge will be \$691.50 per Commercial Bin Unit included in the Nominated Bin Unit, for the purpose of providing for the removal from the premises weekly Commercial Refuse and fortnightly Commercial Recycling based on a 340 litre wheeled cart of recyclables;
 - additional 2nd 240 litre wheeled cart of refuse collected and disposed of weekly carried out in conjunction with the 1st commercial service shall be \$456.00;

- additional 2nd 240 litre wheeled cart of recyclables collected and processed fortnightly in conjunction with the 1st commercial service shall be \$226.50;
 - additional 2nd 340 litre wheeled cart of recyclables collected and processed fortnightly in conjunction with the 1st commercial service shall be \$330.00.
3. Bulk Refuse:
In cases where the Owner/Occupier of any multi residential (over 6 units) premises has entered into a contract with a Waste Service Provider for a Bulk Bin service for the whole of the period from 1 July 2019 to the next succeeding June 30, which has sufficient capacity to contain all refuse likely to be generated in or on such premises then the charges specified in clause 2 shall be waived.
 4. Waste Service Contribution for Facing Island and Curtis Island (Waste Transfer Service):
An annual charge of \$345.50 for each premises situated on Facing Island or Curtis Island, for the purpose of providing the Facing Island (including Gatcombe Head) or Curtis Island Waste Transfer Service.
 5. New / Additional Service:
The commencement date for application of charges with respect to new and / or additional services will be the earliest of either the plumbing approval or delivery of refuse bins.

Attachments:

Nil.

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.10. WATER CHARGES**Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk****Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019****File Ref: FM6.1****Purpose:**

This report seeks the adoption of water charges for 2019/2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 4, Part 7 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy the following utility charges for the 2019/2020 financial year:

1. Fixed Cost Component - Standard Service:

| Water Service Size | Lake Awoonga Treated Water Scheme | Miriam Vale & Bororen Treated Water Schemes | Agnes Water / Seventeen Seventy Treated Water Scheme |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Vacant | \$ 490 | \$ 538 | \$ 538 |
| 20mm | \$ 490 | \$ 538 | \$ 538 |
| 20mm (sub-meter) | \$ 368 | \$ 404 | \$ 404 |
| 25mm (domestic) | \$ 490 | \$ 538 | \$ 538 |
| 25mm (commercial) | \$ 764 | \$ 839 | \$ 839 |
| 32mm | \$ 1,254 | \$ 1,377 | \$ 1,377 |
| 40mm | \$ 1,960 | \$ 2,152 | \$ 2,152 |
| 50mm | \$ 3,063 | \$ 3,363 | \$ 3,363 |
| 80mm | \$ 7,840 | \$ 8,608 | \$ 8,608 |
| 100mm | \$ 12,250 | \$ 13,450 | \$ 13,450 |
| 150mm | \$ 27,563 | \$ 30,263 | \$ 30,263 |
| 150mm (Rail Corridor Land) | \$ 55,517 | \$ 60,955 | \$ 60,955 |
| 200mm | \$ 49,000 | \$ 53,800 | \$ 53,800 |
| 250mm | \$ 76,563 | \$ 84,063 | \$ 84,063 |
| 300mm | \$ 110,250 | \$ 121,050 | \$ 121,050 |
| 375mm | \$ 172,264 | | |

2. Consumption Charge per Kilolitre by Supply Type and Water Scheme:

| Scheme | \$ per Kilolitre |
|--|-------------------------|
| Lake Awoonga Treated Water Scheme | 1.83 |
| Miriam Vale & Bororen Treated Water Schemes | 3.73 |
| Agnes Water / Seventeen Seventy Treated Water Scheme | 3.81 |

- a. In determining water consumption charges, based on the above unit rates, Council will apply section 102 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to calculating water consumption charges against land or premises for which consumption charges were made and levied, so that:

- regardless of whether the meter reading for the second half of the 2018/2019 financial year occurs before the end of that financial year or after the beginning of the 2019/2020 financial year, the consumption charge for that half year is calculated in accordance with the relevant basis of charge in Council's rating resolution for the 2018/2019 financial year; and
 - regardless of whether the meter reading for the second half of the 2019/2020 financial year occurs before the end of that financial year or after the beginning of the 2020/2021 financial year, the consumption charge for that half year is calculated in accordance with the relevant basis of consumption charge for the 2019/2020 financial year.
- b. Council will apply section 102(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to the reading of water meters so that if a meter is due to be read on a particular day (e.g. the last day of a half year) to enable Council to calculate a consumption charge to be levied, the meter will be deemed read on that particular day if it is read within 2 weeks before the day or 2 weeks after the day.
- c. The commencing water meter reading for a consumption charge cycle is the reading last recorded in a biannual charge cycle, or, in the case of a new meter connection, the reading recorded on the day of connection.
3. The Beecher/Burua and Tuckers Road Constant Flow Water System:
For those properties connected to the constant flow water scheme, the rate is determined based on the charges below and the flow rate permitted by the valve installed on each connection. This will determine the amount of kilolitres charged for those unmetered services.
- Fixed or Access Charge \$490.00 per connection
 - Consumption Charge \$2.01 per kilolitre

Attachments:

Nil.

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.11. SEWERAGE CHARGES**Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk****Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019****File Ref: FM6.1****Purpose:**

This report seeks the adoption of sewerage charges for 2019/2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the following utility charges be made and levied for the 2019/2020 financial year:

1. Sewerage Unit Classifications:

Sewerage charges in the urban areas of Gladstone, Boyne Island, Tannum Sands, Calliope, Agnes Water, and Seventeen Seventy are levied on a "per unit" basis with the number of units allocated to particular land uses, dependent on expected demand:

| No. | Category | Unit |
|-----|---|------|
| 1 | Each vacant allotment located within the declared sewerage area. | 7 |
| 2 | Each single unit dwelling constructed on an allotment and located within the declared sewerage area. | 10 |
| 3 | First Connection - each commercial, industrial premises connected to the scheme including accommodation units and caravan parks. | 10 |
| 4 | Additional Connections - each commercial, industrial premises connected to the scheme including accommodation units and caravan parks, for each additional pedestal or metre of urinal, as assessed by Council's Plumbing Inspectors. | 7 |

2. Unit Charge:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Urban Sewerage Scheme - Gladstone | \$75.00 per unit |
| Urban Sewerage Scheme - Boyne Island, Tannum Sands, and Calliope | \$77.30 per unit |
| Urban Sewerage Scheme - Agnes Water / Seventeen Seventy | \$91.90 per unit |

- The sewerage charge levied in respect of the Boyne Aluminium Smelter be \$120,588.00 being the equivalent of 156 standard dwellings which has been assessed on actual usage.
- The sewerage charge levied in respect of the NRG Power Station, located at Lot 1 CP 818823 Parish Auckland be \$6,750.00 being 20 units at a rate of \$337.50.

3. Yarwun Industrial Area:

The following charges be imposed in respect of the Yarwun Industrial Area:

Sewerage Charge:

| | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------|
| a. | ORICA Chemical Plant | \$129,559 |
| b. | Transpacific Plant | \$34,840 |
| c. | Comalco Refinery | \$716,081 |

Trade Waste Charge:

| | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------|
| a. | ORICA Chemical Plant | \$291,883 |
|----|----------------------|-----------|

4. Curtis Island Sewerage Scheme:

The following volumetric (consumption) charges be imposed in respect of the Curtis Island Sewerage Scheme, in accordance with the principles identified in the respective Service and Special Charge Agreements:

| | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| a. | Australia Pacific LNG | 109.360 cents per kilolitre of wastewater discharged from the LNG facility. |
| b. | Queensland Curtis LNG | 109.360 cents per kilolitre of wastewater discharged from the LNG facility. |
| c. | GLNG | 109.360 cents per kilolitre of wastewater discharged from the LNG facility. |

Attachments:

Nil.

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.12. SPECIAL CHARGES

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report seeks the adoption of special charges for 2019/2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That:

1. In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and pursuant to a service and special charge agreement made with each of Australia Pacific LNG (Shared Facilities) Pty Limited (APLNG); QCLNG Land Pty Ltd (QCLNG), and GLNG Operations Pty Ltd (GLNG), Council will levy a special charge "Curtis Island Sewerage Infrastructure Special Charge" on the following rateable land parcels at Curtis Island:
 - a) Lot 3 on SP228454, Lot 3 SP235971, Lease A SP 252872, and Lease B SP252872 (APLNG Land);
 - b) Lot 2 on SP228185, and Lot 2 on SP228454 (QCLNG Land); and
 - c) Lot 1 on SP235007 (GLNG Land).
2. In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Council levy the Curtis Island Sewerage Infrastructure Special Charges for 2019/2020 as:
 - APLNG land - \$1,950,470.00 per annum;
 - QCLNG land - \$4,996,229.78 per annum;
 - GLNG land - \$981,082.89 per annum.
3. The purpose of the special charge is to reimburse Council the cost it incurs in operating its Curtis Island wastewater collection and reticulation infrastructure (the Wastewater Infrastructure) to provide a wastewater disposal and processing service (the Wastewater Service) for the special benefit of those land parcels, each of which is used for operations that especially contribute to the need for the service activity. Council created the collection and reticulation infrastructure pursuant to common use infrastructure agreement, dated 24 August 2011 with Gladstone Area Water Board and APLNG.
4. The Overall Plan for the service to which the special charge applies, is as follows:
 - a) Council will operate the Wastewater Infrastructure to service the liquefied natural gas (LNG) production, storage, and distribution facilities (the LNG Facilities) that APLNG, QCLNG, and GLNG operate upon the land parcels.
 - b) Council will recoup, pursuant to the service and special charge agreements, its operating and capital costs associated with operating the Wastewater Infrastructure.
 - c) The estimated cost of operating the Wastewater Infrastructure over a 25-year period and recovering capital costs in accordance with the service and special charge agreements is \$129.887 million in current terms.

- d) The estimated time for implementing the overall plan is 25 years, expiring on 30 June 2039.
- 5. The Annual Implementation Plan for the 2019/2020 financial year is that Council will operate the Wastewater Infrastructure to service the LNG Facilities, and will apply the special charge revenue, which it estimates at \$7,927,782.67, against the operating cost it incurs.

The LNG Facilities land to be levied with the special charge especially benefits from the Wastewater Service because:

- a) operations upon each LNG Facility consume significant volumes of water and produce significant volumes of wastewater;
- b) it was necessary for Council to construct and commission the Wastewater Infrastructure (pursuant to the common use infrastructure agreement) to enable APLNG, QCLNG and GLNG to construct and operate the LNG Facilities; and
- c) the LNG Facilities cannot operate without the Wastewater Service.

Attachments:

Nil

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.13. FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report seeks the adoption of fees and charges for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the 2019/2020 Schedule of Fees and Charges provided as Attachment 1, to be effective from 17 July 2019, noting the Waste Fees and Charges commenced 1 July 2019 in accord with resolution G/19/3826.

Background:

The fees and charges have been reviewed and collated as part of the budget development process for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Fees and Charges have been determined in line with the principles documented in Council's Revenue Policy (P-2019-12), and dependent on the type of goods or services provided, are a mixture of both:

- commercial and cost recovery fees; and
- subsidised fees that are reflective of the inherent community service value of the goods and services provided so that charging a cost reflective fee would discourage such use or service.

Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

All Council departments and Councillors have been consulted in the development of the fees and charges for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Financial and Resource Implications:

Levying fees and charges in line with Council's Revenue Policy will enable Council to maintain financial viability and ensure that there is an appropriate recognition of the cost provision of Council services, and recovery through relevant fees and charges where appropriate.

Attachments:

1. 2019/2020 Schedule of Fees and Charges

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk.

S/1.14. OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET ADOPTION

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Special Budget Meeting Date: 17 July 2019

File Ref: FM6.1

Purpose:

This report recommends the adoption of Council's Operational Plan and Gladstone Regional Council budget for 2019/2020.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopts its annual Operational Plan for the 2019/2020 financial year (in accordance with section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*) and, pursuant to section 107A of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 169 and 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, adopt Council's Budget for the 2019/2020 financial year **as attached**, noting its formulation has incorporated:

- i. The statement of financial position;
- ii. The statements of cash flow;
- iii. The statements of income and expenditure;
- iv. The statements of changes in equity;
- v. The long-term financial forecast;
- vi. The revenue statement;
- vii. The revenue policy (adopted by Council resolution on 18 June 2019);
- viii. The relevant measures of financial sustainability; and
- ix. 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.

Background:

Council is required to develop an Operational Plan that provides the "doing link" between the strategic direction of the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 and the provision of budgetary amounts in Council's budget for the delivery of services.

The Operational Plan identifies what services are necessary to be provided to deliver on the vision and objectives contained in the Gladstone Regional Council Corporate Plan 2018-2023 adopted on 3 July 2018.

Consideration:

The attached Operational Plan provides for the delivery of services in 2019/2020 and identifies:

- what services will be delivered;
- how these programs link with the Corporate Plan 2018-2023; and
- how progress of each of the services is to be measured, with respect to the delivery of that service in line with the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

The 2019/2020 Operational Plan was formulated on a collaborative basis utilising content from the 2018-2023 Corporate Plan and considering the status of planned 2018/2019 actions. Consideration was given to each items' relevance to the Corporate Plan Strategic Goals, and achievability within resource and budget constraints. Content was refined to ensure items are both robust and measurable.

Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

The operational plan forms a fundamental driver for policy to ensure that Council policies are aligned with the organisational strategic direction.

Financial and Resource Implications:

In accordance with Section 169(8)(b) "*the budget must be consistent with...its annual operational plan.*" This proposed operational plan is consistent with the proposed budget to be adopted.

Attachments:

1. Operational Plan / Budget 2019/2020

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: General Manager Finance, Governance and Risk / General Manager Strategy and Transformation.

ATTACHMENTS