

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

260618/4 RESOLVED (Cr Humphrys/Simpson)

That Items 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9 and 14.10 be determined without debate.

FOR VOTE - All Council members voted unanimously.

14 MATTERS FOR DETERMINATION

14.1 DRAFT REVISED DELIVERY PROGRAM 2017/2021, DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2018/19 (INCLUDING FINANCIAL ESTIMATES), DRAFT REVENUE POLICY 2018/2019, DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2018/2028)**Responsible Officer:**

Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager)

RECOMMENDATION

Recommended that:

1. Council adopt the Revised Delivery Program 2017/2021, Operational Plan 2018/2019 (including Financial Estimates 2018/2022), Revenue Policy 2018/2019 and Long Term Financial Plan 2018/2028, including the following amendment;
 - the NRLX Agents Business Usage Fee be set at \$0.75/head.
2. In respect to the general land rates contained in the 2018/2019 Draft Revenue Policy, Council in accordance with Sections 535 & 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* make the following General Rates for the 2018/2019 financial year.
 - a) Residential – a base amount of \$310.00 yielding 31.99% of the general rate income for this rating category plus an ad valorem rate of \$0.00528.
 - b) Rural Residential – a base amount of \$260.00 yielding 30.58% of the general rate income for this rating sub-category plus an ad valorem rate of \$0.00369.
 - c) Business – a base amount of \$360.00 yielding 12.60% of the general rate income for this rating category plus an ad valorem rate of \$0.01560.
 - d) Farmland – a base amount of \$360.00 yielding 22.41% of the general rate income for this rating category plus an ad valorem rate of \$0.00392.

3. In respect of annual charges and user charges for Waste Management, Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Services Management Charges, in accordance with Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council make these charges as detailed in the 2018/2019 Revenue Policy to apply for the 2018/2019 financial year.

260618/5 RESOLVED (Cr Mustow /Cr Simpson)

That the above recommendation be adopted.

FOR VOTE - All Council members voted unanimously.

Executive Summary

At the 15 May 2018 Ordinary Meeting Council endorsed the Draft Delivery Program, Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates) and the Draft Revenue Policy for public exhibition purposes.

This report provides information regarding public submissions received by Council during the exhibition period. It also provides details of some minor changes made to the 2018/2019 Draft Financial Estimates, Draft Revenue Policy 2018/2019 and Draft Delivery Program 2017/2022.

In addition to these reports a draft long-term financial plan has been prepared and is recommended for adoption by Council.

Community Strategic Plan Links

Making Council Great

CS2 Great Support

CS2.14 Provide efficient, effective and highly valued financial services to the organisation.

Budget Implications

As outlined in the report

Report

The Draft Revised Delivery Program, Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates) and the Draft Revenue Policy were placed on public exhibition following the 15 May Ordinary Meeting for public exhibition purposes. The exhibition period closed at 5.00pm on Tuesday, 19 June 2018.

Council received one submission during the exhibition period regarding fee changes at the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange which has been provided to Councillors for their consideration.

Council's Long Term Financial Plan 2018/2028 has been reviewed as part of the development of the Operational Plan 2018/2019 (including Financial Estimates 2018/2022).

There have been some minor changes made to the 2018/2019 Financial Estimates as follows:

- Interest expenses have been increased in line with the adjustments made to Council's reserve funds from the March Quarterly Budget Review by \$400.
- A transfer to reserve of \$5,072 for an unexpended employment grant which will not be spent until next financial year.
- An increase of \$20,627 in Richmond Valley Council's contribution to the Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library due to a miss calculation of required contributions.
- An increase in the capital expenditure budget for Bora Ridge Landfill Capping of \$642,467 funded from Waste Reserves.

The end result of these changes is a decrease in the unrestricted cash surplus; this surplus was predicted at \$131,643 but is now a predicted surplus of \$105,544.

The result of the changes to Councils' contribution to the Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library has had a carry through effect to the other three years of financial estimates. For the 2019/2020 financial year the unrestricted cash surplus has decreased from \$114,052 to \$102,525. In the 2020/2021 financial year the unrestricted cash surplus had decreased from \$4,371 to as deficit of \$5,456. In the 2021/2022 financial year the unrestricted cash surplus has decreased from \$120,582 to \$115,555. As it can be seen the unrestricted cash surpluses predicted are not substantial, these are calculated on an estimated rate peg increase of 2.5% annually. For Council to continue to deliver at the current service levels and to remain financially sustainable in the long term another Special Rate Variation needs to be considered.

There have been some minor changes made to Council's Revenue Policy for the 2018/2019 financial year as follows:

Statutory Changes

- On page 23 Companion Animal Registration Fees were updated in-line with Council Circular 18-16 received on 7 June 2018.

Other Changes

- On page 61, the Alfresco Footpath Dining Fees have been removed from the Revenue Policy; these fees were highlighted for removal in the original Draft Revenue Policy.

There have been some minor changes made to Council's Revised Delivery Program 2017/2021 as follows:

- Capital Works program tables have been rolled forward to include the Council's Capital Works program for the period 2018/2022 in accordance with the Long Term Financial Plan 2018/2028.
- Signature Projects updated in line with the Capital Works Program for 2018/2022.

Consultation

Council advertised the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2017/2021, Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates 2018/2022) and Draft Revenue Policy 2018/2019 for a minimum 28 days closing at 5.00pm Tuesday, 19 June 2018 calling for submission from the public.

Advertising included coverage in the Richmond River Express Examiner, the June RVC Valley Views newsletter which is delivered into all post boxes in the LGA, Community radio interviews and notification of proposed fee changes to the over 900 stakeholders on the NRLX database.

Meetings have been held with the President and Vice President of the Casino Auctioneers Association to discuss the proposed fee changes at the NRLX. A submission was made which has been provided to Councillors for their consideration.

Copies of the draft documents were made available on Council's website and available for viewing at both Council's Casino and Evans Head offices and the Casino library.

Conclusion

After the exhibition period call for submissions from the public, Council received one submission. Some minor adjustments have been made to the Operational Plan Financial Estimates 2018/2019 and Revised Delivery Program 2017/2021 as detailed in the report.

Subject to Council's consideration of the one submission, it is recommended that Council adopt the draft plans as presented with this report.

Attachment(s)

Included in Appendix:

1. Draft Revised Delivery Program 2017/2021
Draft Operational Plan 2018/2019

Draft Operational Plan 2018/2019 (including financial estimates 2018/2022)
Draft Revenue Policy 2018/2019
Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2018/2028.