

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING`  
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,  
ON 5/04/22 AT 4.00PM**

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**Attendance**

Crs Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor - in the chair), Kiri Dicker, Jeff Johnson (via Zoom), Simon Chate, Eoin Johnston (via Zoom – joined at 4.06pm), Stephen McCarthy, Nigel Buchanan (via Zoom), Eva Ramsey (via Zoom – joined at 4.11pm), Phillip Meehan (via Zoom) and Rodney Bruem.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Director, Civil Services Director), Matthew Wood (Director, Planning and Environmental Health Division), Kelly Brown (Director, Corporate and Community Division), Linda Coulter (Manager Financial Services), Caroline Klose (Manager Communications and Customer Service) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were no people in the gallery at this time.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

In opening the meeting the Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

**1. Apologies**

Nil

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Deputations**

Nil

**4. Committee Reports**

**4.1 North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Jeff Johnson/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That Council endorses the draft NEWLOG budget for 2022/23, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Eoin Johnston and Cr Eva Ramsey

Cr Eoin Johnston joined the meeting via Zoom at 4.06pm

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**4.2     Fees and Charges - 2022/23**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Rodney Bruem)

That Council approves the inclusion of the schedule of fees and charges, as per Attachment 1 to this report, as part of the exhibition of the draft 2022/23 Operational Plan, including any amendments resulting from this meeting.

Cr Eva Ramsey joined the meeting via Zoom at 4.11pm

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.3     Airport - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Stephen McCarthy/Cr Rodney Bruem)

That Council approves the inclusion of the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, as per Attachments 1 and 2 to this report, in the draft 2022/23 to 2025/26 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.4     Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, as well as the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report, for the Water Operations, for exhibition in the draft 2022/23 to 2025/26 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Water Access Charge 20mm meter	216	224	3.7
Water Consumption under 350kl	2.43	2.52	3.7
Water Consumption over 350kl	3.65	3.78	3.7
Vacant Land Charge	216	224	3.7

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**4.5     Wastewater Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Simon Chate)

1. That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, as well as the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report, for the Wastewater Operations, for exhibition in the draft 2022/23 to 2025/26 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Charge Type	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	% Increase
Residential Availability Charge	1,037	1,037	0.0
Vacant Land Charge	783	783	0.0
Non Residential Usage Charge	2.64	2.64	0.0
Non Residential Access Charge	Variable based on meter size		
Recycled Water	80% of potable water step 1		

2. That Council receive an update report on the pricing of Council's recycled water, including options to increase usage.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.6     Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Stephen McCarthy/Cr Eoin Johnston)

1. That Council endorses the draft fees and charges and Landfill and Resource Management and Domestic Waste Management long term financial plans, as per the attachments to this report, for exhibition in the draft 2022/23 to 2025/26 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
2. That Council receive a briefing comparing the cost of Council staff providing the bin collection service compared to contractor provision of the service, along with an update on the Regional Waste Strategy. This briefing is to also include the history of Council not providing a kerbside pick-up.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**4.7     Plant Replacement Program - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Stephen McCarthy/Cr Phillip Meehan)

That Council approves the Plant Replacement Program, as per Attachment 1 and Tables Two, Three, Four and Five, of this report, for exhibition in the draft 2022/23 to 2025/26 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.8     Community Infrastructure - Recurrent Capital Projects**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Kiri Dicker)

1. That Council approves the inclusion of the recurrent capital expenditure priorities, as outlined in this report, in the draft 2022/23 to 2025/26 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, for public exhibition, subject to any amendments at this meeting.
2. That Council receive a report on options to fund the Lennox Head to Figtree Hill shared path project.
3. That Council receive a report on stormwater priorities, once investigations are completed into the recent storm event impacts.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Eoin Johnston/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That the current roads budget be amended to include Youngman Creek, through the deferral of Houghlahans Creek Road (\$130,000).

Cr Phillip Meehan left the meeting at 6.05pm

FOR VOTE - Cr Rodney Bruem, Cr Nigel Buchanan, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy and Cr Eva Ramsey

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan

Cr Stephen McCarthy left the meeting at 6.13pm

Cr Phillip Meehan returned to the meeting via Zoom at 6.13pm

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**4.9     Community Infrastructure - Non-recurrent Capital Projects**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That Council notes the contents of this update on non-recurrent community infrastructure projects.

Cr Rodney Bruem left the meeting at 6.14pm

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Rodney Bruem and Cr Stephen McCarthy

**4.10   General Fund - Long Term Financial Plan**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Phillip Meehan and seconded by Cr Eva Ramsey

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), as per Attachment 1 to this report, including any amendments arising from this meeting.
2. That Council include an amount of \$100,000 in the 2022/23 financial year, as a contribution to assist with securing grant funds for the restoration of koala habitat. This funding is to be sourced from the following reserves and is only to be expended if matching (or greater) grant funds are secured for koala habitat restoration works:
  - Financial Services – Legal / Audit / Other - \$25,000
  - Strategic Planning - \$50,000
  - Open Spaces – Vegetation Management - \$25,000

Cr Rodney Bruem returned to the meeting at 6.16pm

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Kiri Dicker and seconded by Cr Simon Chate

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), as per Attachment 1 to this report, including any amendments arising from this meeting.
2. That Council approves the payment of superannuation contributions for Councillors, with the draft LTFP to be amended to include those contributions.
3. That Council include an amount of \$100,000 in the 2022/23 financial year, as a contribution to assist with securing grant funds for the restoration of koala habitat. This funding is to be sourced from the following reserves and is only to be expended if matching (or greater) grant funds are secured for koala habitat restoration works:

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- Financial Services – Legal / Audit / Other - \$25,000
- Strategic Planning - \$50,000
- Open Spaces – Vegetation Management - \$25,000

The **Amendment** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Rodney Bruem, Cr Nigel Buchanan, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston and Cr Eva Ramsey

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Stephen McCarthy

The **Amendment** then became the **Motion** and was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Stephen McCarthy

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Kiri Dicker/Cr Simon Chate)

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), as per Attachment 1 to this report, including any amendments arising from this meeting.
2. That Council approves the payment of superannuation contributions for Councillors, with the draft LTFP to be amended to include those contributions.
3. That Council include an amount of \$100,000 in the 2022/23 financial year, as a contribution to assist with securing grant funds for the restoration of koala habitat. This funding is to be sourced from the following reserves and is only to be expended if matching (or greater) grant funds are secured for koala habitat restoration works:

- Financial Services – Legal / Audit / Other - \$25,000
- Strategic Planning - \$50,000
- Open Spaces – Vegetation Management - \$25,000

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Stephen McCarthy

Cr Simon Chate left the meeting at 6.29pm

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**4.11 Rating Structure - 2022/23**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Eva Ramsey)

1. That for the draft 2022/23 Operational Plan, Council approves the application of a base rating structure, which applies the following principles:
  - a) Marginally less than 50% of the rate income for the residential category of properties being generated from the base amount
  - b) Business, farmland and mining categories to have the same base amount as the residential base amount
  - c) A total of 19.20% income from the rate yield to be sourced from the business category properties
  - d) Farmland rate in the dollar is approximately 83% of the residential rate in the dollar
  - e) The mining category rate in the dollar to be set as the same rate as the business category (currently no mining category properties in the shire).
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to submit an application to IPART for an Additional Special Variation (ASV), for a total permanent rate increase of 2.0% (0.7% peg plus 1.3% ASV) to be approved for 2022/23.
3. The application is for a permanent special variation under section 508(2) of the Act.
4. An ASV application of 1.3% for 2022/23 would be expected to increase Council's rating income by \$346,000 for 2022/23 if the special variation is approved, with a cumulative impact on future years.
5. A special variation is required on the basis that the variation would reinstate the forecast rate income as per the Long Term Financial Plan exhibited and adopted as part of the 2021/22 Integrated Planning and Reporting process and would reinstate, in part, a level of capital road funding for 2022/23 and future years as exhibited and adopted for 2021/22.
6. Council has considered the impact on ratepayers and the community for 2022/23 and future years if the special variation is approved and considers that it is reasonable, recognising that the overall average residential rates and charges increase for 2022/23 is estimated at 1.5% as compared to 2021/22. Also, the revised rate peg of 2.0% is still well below CPI and reinstates service levels as previously exhibited.
7. That Council receive a briefing on rating structures.

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FOR VOTE - Cr Rodney Bruem, Cr Nigel Buchanan, Cr Sharon Cadwallader,  
Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Eva Ramsey  
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Simon Chate and Cr Stephen McCarthy

**MEETING CLOSURE**

6.54pm