

### **3. OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **3.1. RATES INCENTIVE FOR CONSERVATION POLICY**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Acting Chief Financial Officer
<b>MANAGER</b>	General Manager TC Jasper Corporate and Communities
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Corporate and Communities

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That:**

- 1. Council rescinds the existing Rates Incentive for Conservation Policy; and**
- 2. Council approves the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to undertake a review of the Rates Incentive for Conservation Policy for presentation to Council as part of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget development process.**

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Pursuant to Section 120-122, *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may grant concessions to ratepayers who satisfy eligibility criteria. Council currently offers a rates incentive for conservation as outlined in Council's Revenue Statement.

The Rates Incentive for Conservation Policy (the Policy) was first adopted prior to 2003, with a policy last adopted 23 February 2021. The Policy outlines the guidelines and level of assistance Council would grant to eligible ratepayers.

The Policy review was workshopped with Councillors on 4 March 2025, 18 March 2025 and 10 June 2025.

#### **PROPOSAL**

That Council rescinds the Rates Incentive for Conservation Policy.

Further, during the 2025-2026 financial year the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) undertake a review examining the objectives, application, financial and other implications that the Policy makes toward the achievement of Council's adopted Corporate and Operational Plan outcomes.

The results of the Policy review will be presented at Councillor workshops as part of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget development process.

#### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The rescinding of the Rates Incentive for Conservation Policy will result in a positive budget outcome, increasing General Rates Revenue by approximately \$32,000.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There may be a public perception risk that the withdrawal of this policy incentive is not consistent with Council's commitment to conservation measures.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

<b>Economic:</b>	The policies are reviewed to ensure they appropriately support the economic sustainability of Council as well as maintaining legislative compliance.
<b>Environmental:</b>	Nil
<b>Social:</b>	Nil

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

#### Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

**Goal 1** - *We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.*

**Goal 3** - *We will make sound financial decisions by ensuring robust strategic planning, financial management and reporting.*

### Operational Plan 2024-2025 Actions:

Legislative requirement.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

<b>Regulator</b>	Council has a number of statutory obligations detailed in numerous regulations and legislative Acts. Council also makes local laws to ensure that the Shire is well governed. In fulfilling its role as regulator, Council will utilise an outcomes-based approach that balances the needs of the community with social and natural justice.
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## CONSULTATION

<b>Internal:</b>	The Financial Services Team workshopped with Councillors on 4 March 2025, 18 March 2025 and 10 June 2025.
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**External:** Nil

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil