

<b>COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING</b>  <b>15 MAY 2015</b>	<b>3.2</b>
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**SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR  
DARRYL CREES: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES #454616**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

- **adopts the Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2015/16 Financial Year**
- **delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to negotiate fees and charges where circumstances warrant and to make minor amendments to the schedule.**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The schedule of fees and charges developed for the 2015/16 financial year strives to achieve an equitable “user pays” system for services provided that will continue to assist Council in becoming a long term, financially sustainable organisation.

The increase to the majority of fees and charges has been contained to 3.60% (subject to rounding). However there has been a number of fee increases above this threshold where the increase was required to recoup the cost of the Council delivering that particular service or the introduction of a new service. At the same time reduction in various fees have been realised, where processes have been amended to attain greater efficiencies in service delivery.

**BACKGROUND:**

In conjunction with the annual budget preparations, Council is required to adopt a schedule of fees and charges to be applied for each financial year. Although the schedule is adopted for the full year, should circumstances warrant new fees can be introduced or fees amended throughout the year.

**COMMENT:**

The 2015/16 Schedule of Fees and Charges has been developed based on the fundamental principle of financial sustainability and ensuring the actual quantum of fees imposed more accurately represents the cost to Council of providing the applicable service. This approach is consistent with a “user pays” system and reduces the cross subsidisation of providing services from other revenue streams or other customers.

Wherever possible an increase in fees and charges has been restrained to 3.60% (subject to rounding). However to ensure that the current charging regime is more aligned to a “user pays” system, some fees have been increased over this threshold and/or fee calculation has been redesigned to provide greater equity. Similarly there has also been a reduction in various fees and the attached schedule details the schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2015/16 financial year.

**PROPOSAL:**

The schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2015/16 financial year is presented to Council for adoption.

**CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE:**

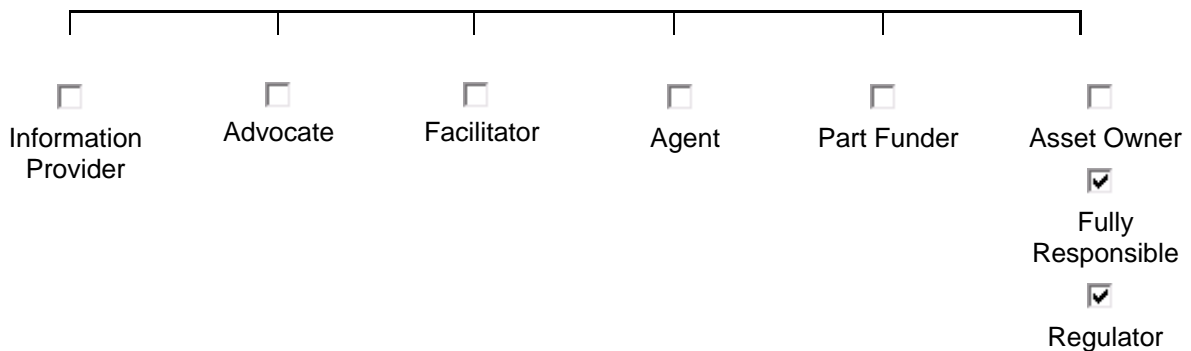
This report has been prepared in accordance with the Corporate Plan 2014 – 2019:

*Theme 5 Governance Goal 2 – To demonstrate leadership in local government through sound, transparent, accountable and equitable decision making.*

**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:



**Fully Responsible:** Funding the full cost of a program or activity.

**Regulator:** Meeting the responsibilities associated with regulating activities through legislation or local law.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Fees and charges are an integral component of Council's revenue stream. Wherever possible Council aims to recover the cost of providing the service. In other cases Council subsidises the service in recognition of the broader community interest. Increases and decreases in the level of fees over the previous year are balanced against Council's goal of achieving long term financial sustainability.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

Obtaining appropriate fees for services provided will assist Council in its long term objective of delivering balanced budgets and mitigate the risk of financial constraints restricting capacity on Council operations.

**INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Relevant officers, including management staff have been involved in the review of the schedule of fees and charges and the proposed schedule has been subject of workshops with Councillors.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Schedule of Fees and Charges 2015/16