

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL (BUDGET) COUNCIL MEETING OF THE DOUGLAS SHIRE  
COUNCIL HELD AT THE DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 64-66 FRONT STREET,  
MOSSMAN ON TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2017, COMMENCING AT 10.00AM**

1. PRESENT

Cr Julia Leu (Mayor), Cr Abigail Noli (Deputy Mayor), Cr David Carey, Cr Michael Kerr, Cr Roy Zammataro, Linda Cardew (Chief Executive Officer), Darryl Crees (General Manager Corporate Services), Nicholas Wellwood (General Manager Operations), Joanne Jacobson (Manager Governance), John Rehn (Manager Finance and IT), Greg McLean (Communications and Events Officer), Mandy Boyle (Governance Officer), Fionnuala Blayney (Executive Assistant).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Leu acknowledged the Kuku Yalanji people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land and paid respect to their Elders both past and present and extended that respect to other Indigenous Australians present.

APOLOGIES

Nil.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST/MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

Nil.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

3.1. OPERATIONAL PLAN 2017 - 2018  
Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

**Moved** Cr Leu

**Seconded** Cr Zammataro

*“That Council adopts the Operational Plan 2017 - 2018.”*

**For:** Cr Leu, Cr Noli, Cr Kerr and Cr Zammataro

**Against:** Cr Carey

**Carried**

3.2. 2017/18 REVENUE GENERAL POLICY AND 2017/18 DEBT GENERAL  
POLICY  
Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Kerr

*“That Council adopts the:*

1. 2017/87 Revenue General Policy; and
2. 2017/18 Debt General Policy”

**Carried** Unanimously

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3.3. STRUCTURE OF GENERAL RATING CATEGORIES FOR 2017/18  
Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Kerr

*“That Council adopts the following categories and descriptions for the purpose of levying differential general rates for 2017/18:*

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 - Residential	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1 to \$250,000.
2 - Residential	Residential properties with a valuation from \$250,001 to \$500,000.
3 - Residential	Residential properties with a valuation from \$500,001 to \$1,000,000.
4 - Residential	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,000,001 to \$1,300,000.
5 - Residential	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,300,001 to \$2,000,000.
6 - Residential	Residential properties with a valuation greater than \$2,000,000.
7 - Residential	Residential properties not subject to banding.
8 - Residential	Residential properties that are building units.
9 - Residential	Multi Unit Dwellings (Flats).
10 - Residential	Residential land which is subject to Section 50 of the Land Valuation Act 2010.
11 - Commercial	Commercial properties that are used, or capable of being used, for commercial/industrial purposes in the localities of Cooya, Mossman and other localities to the north of Mossman (excluding those properties in Categories 13 and 14).
12 - Commercial	Commercial properties that are used, or capable of being used, for commercial/industrial purposes in the localities of Port Douglas, Craiglie and other localities to the south of Craiglie (excluding those properties in Categories 13 and 14).
13 - Commercial	Properties used by Not for Profit recreation, Sporting and Community Groups that are eligible for Rates Based Financial Assistance.
14 - Commercial	Shopping Centres with a secondary land use of Marina with a total area over 1.5ha.
15 - Rural Productive	All properties which are used predominately for Primary Production.
16 - All Other Land	All land which is not otherwise categorised.”

**Carried** Unanimously

3.4. MOWBRAY VALLEY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE  
Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

**Moved** Cr Kerr

**Seconded** Cr Noli

*That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.*

1. *The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:*
  - a. *The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - b. *The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - c. *The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$52,290.*

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- d. *The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2018.*
2. *All rateable land within the area delineated in orange on the map named Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade will specially benefit to the same extent from the purchase and maintenance of equipment by the Brigade in the current or future financial years because each such parcel is within the area for which the brigade is in charge of fire fighting and fire prevention under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990.*
3. *Council makes a special charge of \$40.00 per rateable assessment for the 2017/18 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.*
4. *The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget.*

**Carried** Unanimously

3.5. **DAINTREE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE**  
**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services**

**Moved** Cr Leu

**Seconded** Cr Carey

*"That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.*

1. *The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:*
  - a. *The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - b. *The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Daintree Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - c. *The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$1,870.*
  - d. *The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2018.*
2. *All rateable land within the area delineated in orange on the map named Daintree Rural Fire Brigade will specially benefit to the same extent from the purchase and maintenance of equipment by the Brigade in the current or future financial years because each such parcel is within the area for which the brigade is in charge of fire fighting and fire prevention under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990.*
3. *Council makes a special charge of \$15.00 per rateable assessment for the 2017/18 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.*
4. *The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget. "*

**Carried** Unanimously

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**3.6. THORNTON PEAK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE**  
**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services**

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Carey

*“That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.*

1. *The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:*
  - a. *The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - b. *The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - c. *The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$3,921.*
  - d. *The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2018.*
2. *All rateable land within the area delineated in orange on the map named Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade will specially benefit to the same extent from the purchase and maintenance of equipment by the Brigade in the current or future financial years because each such parcel is within the area for which the brigade is in charge of fire fighting and fire prevention under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990.*
3. *Council makes a special charge of \$8.00 per rateable assessment for the 2017/18 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.*
4. *The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget.”*

**Carried** Unanimously

**3.7. WONGA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE**  
**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services**

**Moved** Cr Leu

**Seconded** Cr Kerr

*“That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.*

1. *The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:*
  - a. *The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - b. *The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Wonga Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - c. *The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$50,840.*

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- d. *The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2018.*
2. *All rateable land within the area delineated in orange on the map named Wonga Rural Fire Brigade will specially benefit to the same extent from the purchase and maintenance of equipment by the Brigade in the current or future financial years because each such parcel is within the area for which the brigade is in charge of fire fighting and fire prevention under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990.*
3. *Council makes a special charge of \$35.00 per rateable assessment for the 2017/18 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.*
4. *The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget”*

**Carried** Unanimously

3.8. BLOOMFIELD RIVER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE  
Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Kerr

*“That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.*

1. *The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:*
  - a. *The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - b. *The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade.*
  - c. *The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$10,200.*
  - d. *The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2018.*
2. *All rateable land within the area delineated in orange on the map named Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade will specially benefit to the same extent from the purchase and maintenance of equipment by the Brigade in the current or future financial years because each such parcel is within the area for which the brigade is in charge of fire fighting and fire prevention under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990.*
3. *Council makes a special charge of \$25.00 per rateable assessment for the 2017/18 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.*
4. *The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget.”*

**Carried** Unanimously

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3.9. REFUSE - SPECIAL CHARGE

Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Zammataro

*That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the Special Refuse Charge, as follows:*

1. *That Council makes and levies a special charge on the land identified in this resolution for the purpose of contributing to the costs of operation and maintenance of the Cow Bay, Daintree, Killaloe and Ayton Transfer Stations.*
2. *The overall plan for the provision of the service be identified as follows:*

*Overall Plan for the Supply of the Service, Facility or Activity*

a) *Rateable Land to which the Special Charge Applies*

- i. *All land with improvements that does not receive the Council kerbside waste and/or recyclables collection service, where the occupier has been provided with an identification card to use the Daintree and Killaloe Transfer Stations free of charge.*
- ii. *All land with improvements north of the Daintree River that does not receive the Council kerbside waste and/or recyclables collection service, where the occupier has been provided with an identification card to use the Cow Bay and Ayton Transfer Stations free of charge.*

b) *Description of the Service, Facility or Activity*

*The special refuse charge is to be applied to a number of rateable parcels of land, with improvements, which are located outside Council's kerbside waste and recyclables collection service area or are inaccessible for the provision of the collection service.*

*Levied properties will be eligible to dispose of 1 x 240L wheelie bin of general waste, or equivalent, per unit levied per week at Council's Transfer Stations.*

*Properties holding Permits to Occupy on the South Arm and the Heads of Daintree River are excluded from this special refuse charge.*

*The occupiers of the subject land will have special access to the following Transfer Stations for free disposal of waste:*

- i. *Cow Bay Transfer Station*
- ii. *Daintree Transfer Station*
- iii. *Killaloe Transfer Station*
- iv. *Ayton Transfer Station*

c) *Estimated Cost for Implementing the Overall Plan*

*The estimated cost to Council of operating the Transfer Stations over the 2017/18 financial year is \$280,470 and the estimated revenue from gate fees for the same period is \$11,082, resulting in an anticipated net operating loss of \$269,388. The special refuse charge is to be levied to contribute to the cost of operation and*

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*maintenance of the Transfer Stations and will raise approximately \$102,764, which equates to less than 37% of the yearly operating cost.*

*d) Estimated Time for Implementing the Overall Plan*

*The special charge will apply for the 2017/18 financial year.*

3. *The occupiers of the land to which the special charge applies will have special access to the above mentioned Transfer Stations for the purpose of free disposal of waste.*
4. *For the 2017/18 financial year a special charge of \$175.98 per unit will be levied against each rateable assessment defined in clause 2(a), based on the improvements on the property as defined in the schedule below:*

	Type of Improvement	Unit
1.	<b>Hotels</b>	<b>10</b>
2.	<b>Cafes/Restaurants</b>	<b>5</b>
3.	<b>Take Away Food Outlets</b>	<b>2</b>
4.	<b>General store/shop</b>	<b>2</b>
5.	<b>School/kindergarten/childcare facility</b>	<b>1</b>
6.	<b>Residential dwelling, including Caretaker residence</b>	<b>1</b>
7.	<b>Caravan Park/camping Ground</b>	
	i. for every 5 sites or part thereof	<b>1</b>
8.	<b>Motel/Resort Accommodation</b>	
	i. for each unit with facilities to enable the preparation and/or cooking of food. (Examples of these facilities, which are not necessarily exhaustive, would be a combination of two or more of a sink, hotplates, microwave oven, oven etc.)	<b>1</b>
	ii. without facilities to enable the preparation and/or cooking of food - for every three units or part thereof	<b>1</b>
9.	<b>Holiday Cabins for every three cabins or part thereof</b>	<b>1</b>
10.	<b>Industrial/Commercial Premises (includes professional offices and industrial/commercial premises not otherwise specified in this schedule) each shop office</b>	<b>1</b>

**Carried** Unanimously

3.10. REVENUE STATEMENT AND RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Zammataro

1. *“That Council resolves pursuant to chapter 4, part 3 of the Local Government Act 2009 and chapter 5, part 2 division 3 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to adopt the attached Revenue Statement for the 2017/18 financial year.*

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2. *That Council resolves pursuant to chapter 4 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to adopt the recommendations contained in the attached Rates and Charges for the 2017/18 financial year, and included with the minutes.*

**Carried** Unanimously

3.11. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MAY 2017

**John Rehn, Manager Finance and IT**

**Moved** Cr Leu

**Seconded** Cr Noli

*“That Council notes the Financial Report for the period ended 31 May 2017.”*

**Carried** Unanimously

3.12. ANNUAL BUDGET 2017 - 2018

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services**

**Moved** Cr Leu

**Seconded** Cr Noli

**Mayoral Budget Address**

*In June 2014, I announced Council’s plan to achieve financial and community sustainability and a strategy to achieve a budget surplus within the shortest possible time.*

*The last 3 ½ years has been a remarkable journey and I can confidently say the new Douglas Council has been an outstanding success. We have delivered record capital works and community infrastructure, received well over \$50 million in grants and introduced new programs designed to strengthen our economy, protect our unique environment and benefit the community.*

*Financial sustainability is this Council’s top priority so future generations can enjoy the benefits of a strong and capable Douglas Shire and I’m very proud to say we are well on the way to a budget surplus in the next two years.*

*I am therefore very pleased to announce that Douglas Shire Council will deliver another record capital works program valued at almost \$20 million in 2017/18 and remains on track to achieve a budget surplus. This marks Council’s third consecutive record investment in capital works while maintaining a tight rein on costs.*

*Major capital works investments over the next 12 months includes more than \$10.6 million for water treatment infrastructure including the completion of the new Port Douglas reservoir (\$8.4 million), almost \$3.2 million for civil works, (including \$1.2 million for road reseals) and around \$2 million for sewerage upgrades.*

*Capital works projects scheduled for the new financial year include the completion of the spectacular Flagstaff Hill Walking Trail (\$260,000), an upgrade of the Diwan Sound Shell and cricket club shed (\$180,000) and a renewal of George Davis Park in Mossman (\$50,000).*

*Master Plans for the Mossman Pool Precinct, the proposed Fishermen’s Precinct on the Port Douglas Waterfront as well as Front St and Macrossan St Streetscape improvements will help reinvigorate our major public spaces.*

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*Significant investments in water and sewerage infrastructure in particular are required to improve the financial and environmental sustainability of our communities.*

*Due to underinvestment in our water and sewerage infrastructure prior to the establishment of the new Douglas Shire Council in 2014 this Council has had to bite the bullet and significantly invest in these assets.*

*This investment will greatly benefit our communities in future years as our more efficient and effective operations will not only bring about operational savings, but enable Council to significantly improve environmental outcomes for our communities.*

*We are the only local government in the world responsible for protecting two World Heritage-listed areas – the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest - and we intend to become world leaders in preserving our spectacular natural environment which in turn benefits our communities economically.*

*I'm very excited by the capital works priorities we have identified for the next 12 months and look forward to working with our communities including our very accomplished staff and local contractors to continue building for the future.*

### **RATES**

*The 3.9 per cent average increase for general rates and sewerage utility charges has enabled Council to invest in essential infrastructure while remaining on track to generate a budget surplus in the 2019/20 financial year.*

*The average Residential 1 Category weekly rates increase has been restricted to an additional \$2.03 per week which provides Council with the revenue required to fund our significant capital works investments and maintain and improve services for our communities.*

*Council will implement a more equitable pricing schedule for water access and usage to improve service and reliability.*

*Under the new pricing structure, Council will combine an access charge and a volume charge in the one notice to help cover the provision of new and future upgrades and the maintenance of assets for the production and delivery of water in the Douglas Shire.*

*The changes to the pricing structure would result in an average \$1.68 weekly increase for residential water use (based on an average of 300k annually) and access to deliver significant benefits for the resilience and sustainability of the Douglas Shire's water supply network.*

*To help achieve equity, Council is implementing a new schedule for water utility charges that is more reflective of the costs associated with providing these services.*

*This new schedule also rewards users who are more water-wise to further encourage our communities to remain vigilant in the water volumes they use as we have a limited supply in the Douglas Shire and we need to do more to reduce our consumption.*

*Despite these changes to water charges, the Douglas Shire remains one of the cheapest providers of water in Queensland.*

*By comparison, average residential water users in the Douglas Shire pay almost half of what is charged by councils in southeast Queensland.*

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*A further consideration in adopting the new water price schedule was Council's proposed investment in upgrading infrastructure to improve the quality of recycled water.*

*Council currently supplies approximately 500 megalitres of recycled water to local resort golf courses but our intention is to invest in further water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades to dramatically improve the quality of our recycled water so more businesses and residents can access it.*

*This will not only result in significantly improved outcomes for our environment, but will strengthen the resilience of our water network by reducing the volume of water we need to generate and give users access to cheaper recycled water.*

*Water access charges will be separated from the general rates notice and added to the water consumption bill issued three times a year.*

*By increasing the relevant utility service charges as opposed to a uniform rates increase across the board ensures equity to ratepayers and that ratepayers who do not receive these services are not subsidising those who do.*

*I am also pleased to announce Council's retention of the 40% general rates rebate for eligible pensioners, remission on general rates and sewerage charges for not-for-profit recreation, sporting and community groups and the continued removal of the cap on rates incentive for properties covered by a Nature Refuge Agreement. Council scrapped the credit card surcharge in January 2014, at its very first budget and will continue with this.*

### **BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

*I would like to highlight the following Council key projects and initiatives:*

#### **Council's budget ensures that all sectors of the local economy and our communities are supported**

*We are driving economic development by providing over \$19 million in capital works, including \$8.4 million for the new Port Douglas Water Reservoir. The capital works program will also provide work for local contractors, local people and provide additional jobs in the next 12 months.*

*More than \$790,000 will be distributed to local organisations, businesses and individuals, including more than \$480,000 for Tourism Port Douglas & Daintree (TPDD). Council's grants program includes the Community Support Program, the Business Development Fund, the Events Funding Program and the Regional Arts Development Fund.*

### **2017/18 SNAPSHOT OF KEY PROJECTS**

**DEGARRA (\$32,000)** - Maintenance to Zig Zag Track.

**CAPE TRIBULATION (\$100,000)** - Kulki National Park intersection works.

**DIWAN (\$180,000)** - Upgrade of Diwan Sound Shell and cricket club shed.

**DAINTREE (\$40,000)** - Road line remarking north of Daintree Ferry.

**DAINTREE GATEWAY (\$48,000)** - Installation of public toilet on north side of Daintree Ferry.

**DAINTREE FERRY (\$140,000)** - Online ticketing, automated toll booths and boom gates.

**UPPER DAINTREE (\$155,000)** - Two new culverts for Upper Daintree Road.

**WONGA BEACH (\$120,000)** - Construction of reception for Wonga Beach Caravan Park.

**NEWELL BEACH & SYNDICATE (115,000)** - Reseal of O'Donoghue & Newell Beach Roads.

**FINLAYVALE (\$250,000)** - Phase 1 implementation of water supply security.

**MOSSMAN (\$250,000)** - Mossman pool Master Plan, regrout tiles and repairs.

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**MOSSMAN (\$50,000)** - George Davis Park renewal.

**MOSSMAN & PORT DOUGLAS (\$100,000)** - Front & Macrossan Streetscape Master Plans.

**MOSSMAN (\$330,000)** – New footpath for Jack St & replacement of William St footpath.

**MOSSMAN GORGE (\$500,000)** – Upgrade of Rex Creek Intake.

**KILLALOE & COW BAY (\$106,000)** - Transfer station upgrade & signage.

**CRAIGLIE (\$8,400,000)** - Stage 1 construction of new Port Douglas reservoir.

**CRAIGLIE (\$60,000)** - Maintenance of Teamster's Park for RV parking.

**PORT DOUGLAS (\$40,000)** - Four Mile Beach disability ramp construction.

**PORT DOUGLAS (\$260,000)** - Extensions to Flagstaff Hill Walking Trail & flagstaff installation.

**PORT DOUGLAS (\$600,000)** - Sewer relining project and pump upgrade.

**PORT DOUGLAS WATERFRONT (\$155,000)** - Master Plan for Lot 96 & civil works.

**OAK BEACH (\$10,000)** - Stage 1 of Oak Beach revegetation.

**WANGETTI (\$25,000)** - Establishment of Wangetti Trail Working Group.

**OPERATIONAL PLAN INITIATIVES**

*Council will build on the progress of major projects including reinvigorating the Port Douglas Waterfront, releasing Stage 2 of the Mossman nursing home site for a retirement village and improving the resilience of our communities to adapt to climate change over the next 12 months.*

*The 2017/18 Operational Plan details the priority projects for Council over the next 12 months, with an emphasis on building on the success of major community initiatives.*

*This includes the development of a Master Plan for the Port Douglas Waterfront Precinct Strategy and securing the future of the marine industry, submitting the site of Stage 2 of the Mossman nursing home site to the market for sale and development and completing Stages 3 and 4 of a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy for the Douglas Shire.*

*Council has made huge inroads in the past three years on major projects including the Port Douglas Waterfront, the Mossman nursing home and preparing for the impacts of climate change on our communities.*

*Our local commercial fishermen now have a permanent home in the marina and Council intends to start civil works on this new precinct in the coming months.*

*We'll also be seeking a suitable developer to build a retirement village on the nursing home site while construction of the long-awaited nursing home continues.*

*Council's Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy will help determine what challenges our communities face in regards to climate change which is projected to severely impact future generations in the Douglas Shire due to rising sea levels in particular.*

*We'll also be launching new projects that benefit the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Douglas Shire.*

*Among these initiatives is the establishment of economic development taskforces as recommended in the Economic Development Strategy to identify priority actions and opportunities, as well as advocating Federal and State Governments for funding to establish a domestic violence refuge in the Douglas Shire.*

*We're also looking to install new welcome signage at Port Douglas, Mossman and Daintree Village and improve access to RV parking and black water dump spots to promote the Douglas Shire as an RV-friendly destination.*

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*Council is aiming to identify a suitable location to establish a Sister City relationship to further economic development opportunities and more than \$790,000 will be distributed to local organisations, businesses and individuals, including more than \$480,000 for Tourism Port Douglas & Daintree. Council's grants program includes the Community Support Program, the Business Development Fund, the Events Funding Program and the Regional Arts Development Fund.*

*Other projects identified in the Operational Plan include establishing a multi-agency taskforce to address abandoned vessels littering Dickson's Inlet, implementing an illegal camping action plan and illegal dumping strategy and conducting a waste audit.*

*Council will also develop Stage 1 of a Community Open Spaces strategy in 2017/18, develop a recycled water business case and investigate the implementation of smart water meters to help reduce water consumption.*

*The Community Open Spaces strategy will involve comprehensive community engagement to help Council identify the current and future needs and aspirations of our communities in regards to public spaces and how they can be best utilised.*

*Our waterwise initiatives include the development of a State Government-approved recycled water business case so we can move towards improving the quality of our treated water to household use standard and the completion of a water network analysis and implementation of a leak detection program to reduce our costs and improve our resilience.*

### **CONCLUSION**

*In conclusion, I believe today is again a celebration of an extraordinary combined effort of Councillors and staff over the last 3 ½ years. This budget further delivers with a significant number of new economic, community and environmental initiatives that are precisely designed to stimulate our economy, protect our unique environment and lifestyle that we all treasure.*

*The success of our council is due to an excellent partnership between Councillors, our CEO, the Executive Leadership Team and staff.*

*In closing, I would like to thank and express my sincerest appreciation to our CEO, Linda Cardew, Darryl Crees, John Rehn and the finance team, Nick Wellwood, Greg McLean and all staff who have contributed to the budget development process. I know this is an enormous collective effort, but particularly want to thank John Rehn, Darryl Crees and the finance team for their work.*

*Finally, I want to thank my fellow Councillors for their contributions towards this budget. Councillors, it is my pleasure to present the 2017/18 Douglas Shire Council Budget to you for adoption.*

*"That Council adopts the Annual Budget 2017 - 2018 as presented, including:*

- 1. Statement of Comprehensive Income*
- 2. Statement of Financial Position*
- 3. Statement of Cash Flows*
- 4. Statement of Changes in Equity*
- 5. Long Term Financial Forecast*

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL (BUDGET) COUNCIL MEETING OF THE DOUGLAS SHIRE  
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2017, COMMENCING AT 10.00AM**

6. *Measures of Financial Sustainability.*”

**Carried** Unanimously

3.13. AMENDMENTS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AUTHORISED  
DELEGATIONS – PLANNING  
**Mandy Boyle, Governance Officer**

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Kerr

*“That Council resolves to delegate, under section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009, the authority listed in the attachment to this report, to the Chief Executive Officer.”*

**Carried** Unanimously

**CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 10.46am

**CONFIRMED THIS DAY OF 2017**

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**MAYOR/CHAIR**