

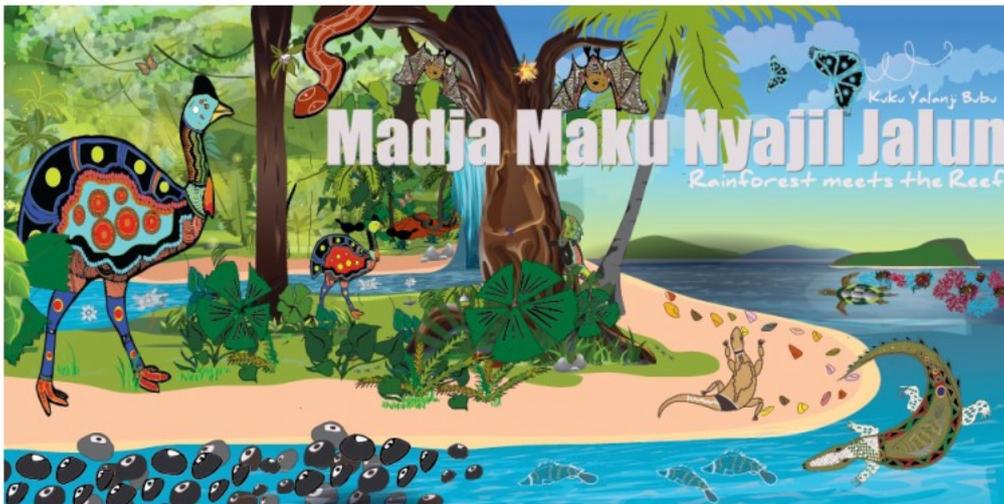
DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, 30 June 2020

ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE
ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING
ENGAGING, PLANNING, PARTNERING
CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES



Douglas Shire Council would like to show its appreciation by acknowledging local indigenous artists Lenice Schonenberger, Loretta Pierce (Lenoy) and Ronald Bamboo for providing the cover artwork entitled "**Daintree Ferry**"

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL
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Mayor Cr Kerr opened the Special Meeting by giving Notice that, in accordance with Section 277e of the Local Government Regulation 2012, this Special Meeting of Council will be closed to the public because of health and safety reasons associated with the public health emergency involving COVID-19.

Mayor Cr Kerr advised that the Council Meeting can be viewed via live stream on Council's website which will also be available to be watched at a later date; and that this Meeting is also being recorded and that the recordings will be posted onto Council's website along with the minutes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Kerr acknowledged the Kuku Yalanji people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which this Meeting is being held and paid respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extended that respect to other Indigenous Australians who may be listening or watching this morning.

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Cr Michael Kerr (Mayor), Cr Lisa Scomazzon (Deputy Mayor), Cr Peter McKeown, Cr Abigail Noli and Cr Roy Zammataro.

APOLOGIES

Nil

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Stoermer (Chief Executive Officer), Tara Killeen (Chief Financial Officer), Terry Farrelly (Manager People and Community Services), Juanita Holden (Manager Governance), Tom Volling (Senior Media and Communications Officer), Amy Mail (Media and Communications Officer) and Brenda Jang (Executive Assistant).

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST/MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

Nil

3. AGENDA ITEMS

3.1. ADOPTION OF DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Scomazzon

Seconded Cr McKeown

That Council resolves to:

1. *pursuant to section 81 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the categories in to which rateable land is categorised, the description of those categories and, pursuant to sections 81(4) and 81(5) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the method by which land is to be identified and included in its appropriate category is as follows:*

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CATEGORY 1 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1 to \$250,000.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land (excluding those included in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category 7);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

CATEGORY 2 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$250,001 to \$500,000.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land (excluding those included in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category 7);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

CATEGORY 3 – RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$500,001 to \$1,000,000.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land (excluding those included in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category 7);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

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CATEGORY 4 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1,000,001 to \$1,300,000.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land (excluding those included in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;*
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category 7);*
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 09 Group Titles;*
- 94 Vacant rural land.*

CATEGORY 5 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1,300,001 to \$2,000,000.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land (excluding those included in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;*
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category 7);*
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category 7 and commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 09 Group Titles;*
- 94 Vacant rural land.*

CATEGORY 6 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation greater than \$2,000,000.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land (excluding those included in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;*
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category 7 and those in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category 7);*
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category 7 and commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 09 Group Titles;*
- 94 Vacant rural land.*

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CATEGORY 7 - RESIDENTIAL

(i) Description

Properties (excluding those in categories 1 to 6) where that land's Planning Area is included in the 2018 Douglas Shire Planning Scheme Version 1.0. or the Integrated Resort Development Act 1987 (Mirage Port Douglas Scheme) as Low Density with a total land area over 10 Hectares or Residential 1 with a total land area over 0.5 Hectares or Residential 2 with a total land area over 3.5 Hectares or Residential 3 with a total land area over 0.5 Hectares or Tourist and Residential with a total land area over 0.5 Hectares or Community Facilities with a total land area over 1 Hectare.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 04 Large Homesite - Vacant Urban and Rural (excluding those in commercial categories 11 and 12);*
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in commercial categories 11 and 12); and*

(ii) Description

Properties (excluding those in categories 1 to 6) where that land's Planning Area is included in the 2018 Douglas Shire Planning Scheme Version 1.0. or the Integrated Resort Development Act 1987 (Mirage Port Douglas Scheme) as Residential 1 with a total land area over 5 Hectares or Residential 2 with a total land area over 3.5 Hectares or Residential 3 with a total land area over 1.5 Hectares or Tourist and Residential with a total land area over 0.5 Hectares or Community Facilities with a total land area over 1 Hectare.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use code would fall within this category:-

- 05 Large Homesite – Dwelling - Urban and Rural; and*

(iii) Description

As well as those properties used as Residential Institutions (non-medical care).

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use code would fall within this category:-

- 21 Residential Institutions (non-medical care);*

CATEGORY 8 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties that are used for residential purposes and the lot is part of a Community Title Scheme.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use code would fall within this category:-

- 08 Building Units*

CATEGORY 9 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties that are used for multi residential (flats) purposes.

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Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use code would fall within this category:-

03 Multi Unit Dwelling (Flats)

CATEGORY 10 - RESIDENTIAL

Description

Properties that comply with section 50 of the Land Valuation Act 2010.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use code would fall within this category:-

72 Residential land, which is subject to section 50 of the Land Valuation Act 2010.

CATEGORY 11 – COMMERCIAL

(i) Description

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 Commercial Categories 13 and 14).

Identification

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 07 Guest House/Private Hotel;
- 08 Building Units;
- 09 Group Titles;
- 10 Combined Multi Dwelling and Shop;
- 11 Shop - Single;
- 12 Shops - Shopping group (more than 6 shops);
- 13 Shopping group (2 to 6 shops);
- 14 Shops - Main Retail;
- 15 Shops - Secondary Retail;
- 16 Drive In Shopping Centres;
- 17 Restaurant;
- 18 Special Tourist Attraction;
- 19 Walkway;
- 20 Marina;
- 22 Car Park;
- 23 Retail Warehouse;
- 24 Sales Area Outdoor;
- 25 Offices;
- 26 Funeral Parlours;
- 27 Hospitals;
- Convallescent Homes (Medical Care) (Private);
- 28 Warehouses and Bulk Stores;
- 29 Transport Terminal;
- 30 Service Station;
- 31 Oil Depots and Refinery;
- 32 Wharves;
- 33 Builders Yard/Contractors Yard;
- 34 Cold Stores - Iceworks;
- 35 General Industry;
- 36 Light Industry;
- 37 Noxious/Offensive Industry;

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- 38 Advertising - Hoarding;
- 39 Harbour Industries;
- 40 Extractive;
- 41 Child Care;
- 42 Hotel/Tavern;
- 43 Motel;
- 44 Nurseries;
- 45 Theatres and Cinemas;
- 46 Drive-In Theatres;
- 47 Licensed Clubs;
- 48 Sports Clubs/Facilities;
- 49 Caravan Parks;
- 50 Other Clubs
Non-Business;
- 51 Religious;
- 52 Cemeteries (including Crematoria);
- 55 Library;
- 56 Showgrounds/Racecourses/Airfields;
- 57 Parks and Gardens;
- 58 Educational - including Kindergartens;
- 91 Transformers;
- 92 Defence Force establishments;
- 95 Reservoir, Dam, Bores;
- 96 Public Hospital;
- 97 Welfare Homes/Institutions;
- 99 Community Protection Centre.

(ii) Description

Also including the following properties where that land is included as Commercial and Industry Planning Areas in the 2018 Douglas Shire Planning Scheme Version 1.0.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land;
- 04 Large vacant urban land;
- 06 Outbuildings;
- 09 Group Titles;
- 72 Refer to section 50 of the Land Valuation Act 2010.

CATEGORY 12 - COMMERCIAL

(i) Description

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 Commercial Categories 13 and 14).

Identification

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 07 Guest House/Private Hotel;
- 08 Building Units;
- 09 Group Titles;
- 10 Combined Multi Dwelling and Shop;
- 11 Shop - Single;
- 12 Shops - Shopping group (more than 6 shops);

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- 13 *Shopping group (2 to 6 shops);*
- 14 *Shops - Main Retail;*
- 15 *Shops - Secondary Retail;*
- 16 *Drive In Shopping Centres;*
- 17 *Restaurant;*
- 18 *Special Tourist Attraction;*
- 19 *Walkway;*
- 20 *Marina;*
- 22 *Car Park;*
- 23 *Retail Warehouse;*
- 24 *Sales Area Outdoor;*
- 25 *Offices;*
- 26 *Funeral Parlours;*
- 27 *Hospitals;*
Convalescent Homes (Medical Care) (Private);
- 28 *Warehouses and Bulk Stores;*
- 29 *Transport Terminal;*
- 30 *Service Station;*
- 31 *Oil Depots and Refinery;*
- 32 *Wharves;*
- 33 *Builders Yard/Contractors Yard;*
- 34 *Cold Stores - Iceworks;*
- 35 *General Industry;*
- 36 *Light Industry;*
- 37 *Noxious/Offensive Industry;*
- 38 *Advertising - Hoarding;*
- 39 *Harbour Industries;*
- 40 *Extractive;*
- 41 *Child Care;*
- 42 *Hotel/Tavern;*
- 43 *Motel;*
- 44 *Nurseries;*
- 45 *Theatres and Cinemas;*
- 46 *Drive-In Theatres;*
- 47 *Licensed Clubs;*
- 48 *Sports Clubs/Facilities;*
- 49 *Caravan Parks;*
- 50 *Other Clubs*
Non-Business;
- 51 *Religious;*
- 52 *Cemeteries (including Crematoria);*
- 55 *Library;*
- 56 *Showgrounds/Racecourses/Airfields;*
- 57 *Parks and Gardens;*
- 58 *Educational - including Kindergartens;*
- 91 *Transformers;*
- 92 *Defence Force establishments;*
- 95 *Reservoir, Dam, Bores;*
- 96 *Public Hospital;*
- 97 *Welfare Homes/Institutions;*
- 99 *Community Protection Centre.*

(ii) Description

Also including the following properties where that land is included as Commercial and Industry Planning Areas in 2018 Douglas Shire Planning Scheme Version 1.0.

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Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 01 Vacant urban land;
- 04 Large vacant urban land;
- 06 Outbuildings;
- 09 Group Titles;
- 72 Refer to section 50 of the Land Valuation Act 2010.

CATEGORY 13 – COMMERCIAL (Properties used by Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups that are eligible for Rates Based Financial Assistance).

Description

Properties in this category must qualify for rate assistance under Council's Rates Rebate – Not for Profit Entities Policy.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Properties in this category are recipients of rate assistance under Council's Rates Rebate – Not for Profit Entities Policy.

CATEGORY 14 - COMMERCIAL (Shopping Centres with a secondary land use of Marina with a total area over 1.5ha.)

Description

All properties which are predominantly used or intended for use as a Shopping Centre and Marina which:

- (a) Have an area in excess of 1.5 ha; and
- (b) Contain a building or group of buildings comprising more than six shops.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use code would fall within this category:-

- 12 Shops - Shopping group (more than 6 shops).

CATEGORY 15 - RURAL PRODUCTIVE

Description

Properties which are used predominately for Primary Production.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Ordinarily properties with the following land use codes would fall within this category:-

- 60 Sheep Grazing - Dry;
- 61 Sheep Breeding;
- 64 Cattle Grazing - Breeding;
- 65 Cattle Breeding and Fattening;
- 66 Cattle Fattening;
- 67 Goats;
- 68 Milk - Quota;
- 69 Milk - No Quota;
- 70 Cream;
- 71 Oil Seeds;
- 73 Grains;
- 74 Turf Farms;
- 75 Sugar Cane;
- 76 Tobacco;

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- 77 Cotton;
- 78 Rice;
- 79 Orchards;
- 80 Tropical Fruits;
- 81 Pineapples;
- 82 Vineyards;
- 83 Small Crops and Fodder Irrigated;
- 84 Small Crops Fodder Non-irrigated;
- 85 Pigs;
- 86 Horses;
- 87 Poultry;
- 88 Forestry and Logs;
- 89 Animals Special;
- 93 Peanuts.

CATEGORY 16 - ALL OTHER LAND

Description

All land which is not otherwise categorised.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

2. Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power, pursuant to sections 81(4) and 81(5) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, to identify the rating category to which each parcel of rateable land belongs.

3. Pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 80 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the differential general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category and, pursuant to section 77 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the minimum general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category, is as follows:

Category	Rate in the Dollar		Minimum Differential General Rate	
1 - Residential	.751416	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,045
2 - Residential	.731094	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$2,108
3 - Residential	.673805	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$4,077
4 - Residential	.649478	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$7,446
5 - Residential	.558504	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$8,753
6 - Residential	.398230	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$11,491
7 - Residential	.831195	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,045
8 - Residential	1.418219	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,045
9 - Residential	1.014111	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,567

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Category	Rate in the Dollar		Minimum Differential General Rate	
	Rate	Unit	Minimum	Differential
10 - Residential	.751416	cents in the dollar	Minimum	Nil
11 - Commercial	1.089145	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,076
12 - Commercial	.892400	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,076
13 - Commercial	.799379	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,045
14 - Commercial	4.344162	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$304,204
15 - Rural Productive	1.185132	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,076
16 - All Other Land	.751416	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,045

4. Pursuant to section 116 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the amount of the differential general rate to be levied for the 2020/21 financial year on the categories of land identified in Column 1 of the table below, be limited to an amount no more than an amount equal to the amount of general rate levied on that land in the previous financial year increased by the percentage identified in Column 2 of the table below:

Column 1 Category	Column 2 Percentage Increase (i.e. "the cap")
Category 15 – Rural Productive	Twenty Percent (20%)

Carried Unanimously

- 3.2. MOWBRAY VALLEY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE 2020-2021
Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Noli

Seconded Cr Zammataro

That pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council make and levy a special charge (to be known as the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge) of \$50.00 (per assessment) on all rateable land to which the overall plan applies, to annually fund the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade.

1. *The overall plan for the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge is as follows:*
 - a. *the service, facility or activity for which the plan is made is the annual funding of the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade;*
 - b. *the rateable land to which the plan 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 \$7,351; and*
 - d. *the estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2021.*

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2. *The rateable land (or its occupier) within the area delineated in orange on the map named Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade specially benefits from the service, facility or activity funded by the special charge 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 Emergency Services Act 1990.*
3. *The special charge for the 2020/21 financial year is 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

- 3.3. DAINTREE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE 2020-2021
Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Scomazzon

Seconded Cr Noli

That pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council make and levy a special charge (to be known as the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge) of \$15.00 (per assessment) on all rateable land to which the overall plan applies, to annually fund the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade.

1. *The overall plan for the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge is as follows:*
 - a. *the service, facility or activity for which the plan is made is the annual funding of the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade;*
 - b. *the rateable land to which the plan applies is delineated in orange on the map named Daintree Rural Fire Brigade;*
 - c. *the estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$4,850; and*
 - d. *the estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2021.*
2. *All rateable land (or its occupier) within the area delineated in orange on the map named Daintree Rural Fire Brigade specially benefits from the service, facility or activity funded by the special charge 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 Emergency Services Act 1990.*
3. *The special charge for the 2020/21 financial year is 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

- 3.4. THORNTON PEAK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE 2020-2021
Tara Killeen, Chief Executive Officer

Moved Cr Noli

Seconded Cr Scomazzon

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That pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 Council make and levy a special charge (to be known as the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge) of \$8.00 (per assessment) on all rateable land to which the overall plan applies, to annually fund the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade

1. *The overall plan for the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge is as follows:
 - a. *the service, facility or activity for which the plan is made is the annual funding of the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade;*
 - b. *the rateable land to which the plan applies is delineated in orange on the map named Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade;*

the estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$5,179; and
 - c. *the estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2021.**
2. *All rateable land (or its occupier) within the area delineated in orange on the map named Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade specially benefits from the service, facility or activity funded by the special charge 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 Emergency Services Act 1990.*
3. *The special charge for the 2020/21 financial year is 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

- 3.5. WONGA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE 2020-2021
Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Zammataro **Seconded** Cr Scmazzon

That pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council make and levy a special charge (to be known as the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge) of \$35.00 (per assessment) on all rateable land to which the overall plan applies, to annually fund the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade.

1. *The overall plan for the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge is as follows:
 - a. *the service, facility or activity for which the plan is made is the annual funding of the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade;*
 - b. *the rateable land to which the plan applies is delineated in orange on the map named Wonga Rural Fire Brigade;*
 - c. *the estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$45,412; and*
 - d. *the estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2021.**
2. *All rateable land (or its occupier) within the area delineated in orange on the map named Wonga Rural Fire Brigade specially benefits from the service, facility or activity funded*

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by the special charge 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 Emergency Services Act 1990.

3. *The special charge for the 2020/21 financial year is 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

3.6. BLOOMFIELD RIVER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE 2020-2021

Tara Killeen, Chief Executive Officer

Moved Cr McKeown

Seconded Cr Scmazzon

That pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 Council, make and levy a special charge (to be known as the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge) of \$25.00 (per assessment) on all rateable land to which the overall plan applies, to annually fund the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade.

1. *The overall plan for the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge is as follows:*
 - a. *the service, facility or activity for which the plan is made is the annual funding of the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade;*
 - b. *the rateable land to which the plan 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 \$9,900; and*
 - d. *the estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2021.*
2. *All rateable land (or its occupier) within the area delineated in orange on the map named Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade specially benefits from the service, facility or activity funded by the special charge 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 Emergency Services Act 1990.*
3. *The special charge for the 2020/21 financial year is 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

3.7. REFUSE - SPECIAL CHARGE 2020-2021

Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Zammataro

Seconded Cr Noli

That pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 Council make and levy a special charge (to be known as the

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Special Refuse Charge) of \$197.50, on the rateable 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, as follows:

1. *The overall plan for the special charge is as follows:*

a) *The Service, Facility or Activity for which the plan is made:*

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*

b) *The rateable land to which the plan applies is:*

- 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.*

c) *Estimated Cost of carrying out the Overall Plan is:*

The estimated cost to Council of operating the Transfer Stations over the 2020/21 financial year is \$344,000 and the estimated revenue from gate fees for the same period is \$18,950, resulting in an anticipated net operating loss of \$325,050. The special refuse charge is to be levied to contribute to the cost of operation and maintenance of the Transfer Stations and will raise approximately \$124,228 which equates to approximately 36% of the yearly operating cost.

d) *Estimated Time for carrying out the Overall Plan is 1 year ending on 30 June 2021.*

2. *For the 2020/21 financial year a special charge of \$197.50 per unit will be levied against each rateable assessment defined in clause 1(b), based on the improvements on the property as defined in the schedule below:*

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Type of Improvement		Unit
1.	Hotels	10
2.	Cafes/Restaurants	5
3.	Take Away Food Outlets	2
4.	General store/shop	2
5.	School/kindergarten/childcare facility	1
6.	Residential dwelling, including Caretaker residence	1
7.	Caravan Park/camping Ground	
	i. for every 5 sites or part thereof	1
8.	Motel/Resort Accommodation	
	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.)	1
	ii. without facilities to enable the preparation and/or cooking of food - for every three units or part thereof	1
9.	Holiday Cabins for every three cabins or part thereof	1
10.	Industrial/Commercial Premises (includes professional offices and industrial/commercial premises not otherwise specified in this schedule) each shop office	1

Carried Unanimously

3.8. UTILITY CHARGES AND ASSOCIATED RATING MATTERS 2020-2021
Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Scomazzon

Seconded Cr McKeown

That:

1. *Cleansing Utility Charges (Waste Management):*

Pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 99 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council make and levy cleansing utility charges, for the supply of waste management services by the Council, as follows:

(a) *DOMESTIC*

(i) *A Domestic Cleansing Charge, for the purpose of removal and disposal of refuse for the 2020/21 financial year be set at an amount of \$494.70 per service and applied in accordance with the following schedule:-*

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<i>Type of Improvement</i>	<i>No. of Services</i>
<i>Residence</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Flats (each domicile)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Strata Title Units</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Boarding House/Guest House/Hostel for each four (4) persons able to be accommodated or part thereof</i>	<i>1</i>

- (ii) *A minimum charge of one service to apply on all improved properties for refuse removal and disposal and that a minimum of one annual charge of one service be made and levied on each separate occupancy (whether occupied or vacant) within the Council solid waste area of coverage and that such charge shall apply whether or not a service is rendered, save and except that where land is for the first time built on during the year the charge shall be made from the date the structure is ready for occupancy, calculated proportionately for the unexpired part of the year.*
- (iii) *Ratepayers may apply for an additional cleansing service and each additional service approved will attract the standard domestic cleansing charge.*
- (iv) *Ratepayers may apply for an additional recycling only cleansing service and each additional recycling only service approved will attract half of the standard domestic cleansing charge. Each additional recycling only cleansing service will entitle the property to an additional recycling bin for fortnightly servicing, or equivalent.*
- (v) *That for the purpose of calculating utility charges, the term "Strata Title Unit" is deemed to be each lot created pursuant to the provisions of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997.*

(b) **COMMERCIAL**

This includes all land that has driveway access to the roadway on which the collection vehicle travels in the course of carrying out refuse/recycling collection on behalf of Council. The basis of assessing such charges whether such land is rateable or not shall be as follows:-

- (i) *In the area where the services are provided by Council's day labour force/contractor and whether or not a recycling service has been introduced, a charge of \$494.70 per annum for a weekly refuse removal service for each separate occupancy is to apply.*
- (ii) *In the area where the services are provided by Council's day labour force/contractor and whether or not a recycling service has been introduced, a charge of \$494.70 per unit for a weekly refuse removal service. Application of the charge is to be in accordance with the schedule below:*
- (iii) *Commercial properties may apply for an additional recycling only cleansing service and each additional recycling only service approved will attract half of the standard commercial cleansing charge. Each additional recycling only cleansing service will entitle the property to an additional recycling bin for fortnightly servicing, or equivalent.*

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Type of Improvement		Minimum Number Of Cleansing Service Units
1.	Caretakers/Managers Accommodation Each	1
2.	Schools (Pre-Schools)	
	- Mossman State High School	30
	- Mossman State Primary School	15
	- Mossman State Pre-School	5
	- Daintree State School	1
	- Miallo State School	1
	- Port Douglas State School	4
	- St Augustine's School	6
	- Wonga State School	6
3.	Industrial/Commercial Premises (includes professional offices and industrial/commercial premises not otherwise specified in this schedule) each shop office	1
4.	Hotels	10
5.	Cafes/Restaurants	2
6.	Take Away Food Outlets	2
7.	Caterer's Premises	3
8.	Grocery/Convenience Store/Supermarkets	
	Supermarkets	4
9.	Halls	1
10.	Churches (including Church Hall)	1
11.	Mossman Hospital	36
12.	Day Care Centre	3
13.	Kindergartens	1
14.	Sporting Clubs	3
15.	Motel/Resort Accommodation	
	i) 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.)	1
	ii) Without facilities to enable the preparation and/or cooking of food - for every three units or part thereof	1
16.	Holiday Cabins For every three cabins or part thereof	1
17.	Marinas	
	i) up to fifty berths for every two berths	1
	ii) for every additional five berths in excess of fifty berths	1

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18.	Fire Stations, Ambulance Centres, Police Stations, Court Houses	
	i) Station or Centre	1
	ii) Each Officer's residence (where jointly rated with i) above)	1
19.	Post Offices	1
20.	Wrecking Yards	2
21.	Mossman Central Mill	10
22	Mini Storage Units (per whole shed)	1

(c) *ALL CATEGORIES*

- (i) *That for the purpose of calculating utility charges, the term "Strata Title Unit" is deemed to be each lot created pursuant to the provisions of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997.*
- (ii) *Any property which has more than one prescribed occupation may receive a combination of charges to reflect the varying uses.*

2. *Sewerage Utility Charges:*

Pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 99 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council make and levy sewerage utility charges, for the supply of sewerage services by the Council, as follows:

Sewerage charges shall be made for the cost of supplying a service for the removal of sewage for the 2020/21 financial year in accordance with the following:-

(a) *RESIDENTIAL and "ALL OTHER LAND" (excluding Commercial and Rural Productive)*

- (i) *A standard charge of \$930.76 to be applied for each residence, each flat and each strata title unit.*
- (ii) *A charge of \$741.06 to be applied to each vacant allotment.*
- (iii) *A standard commercial charge per Water Closet (W.C.) will apply to properties where strata title units have pedestals/urinals servicing common property.*

(b) *COMMERCIAL*

A standard charge of \$796.30 per W.C. to be applied in accordance with the following:-

- (i) *In respect of seweraged premises designed or used as boarding houses, hostels, guest houses, hotels or motels or designed or used for commercial, manufacturing, repairing, servicing, building and like industries, erected on one allotment of land, a separate charge for each W.C.*
- (ii) *In respect of seweraged premises designed or used as boarding houses, hostels, guest houses, hotels or motels or designed or used for commercial, manufacturing, repairing, servicing, building and like industries, erected over two or more allotments of land, a separate charge for each W.C.*
- (iii) *In respect of seweraged premises designed or used as boarding houses, hostels, guest houses, hotels or motels or designed or used for commercial, manufacturing,*

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repairing, servicing, building and like industries, which are not connected to a sewer main, but in respect of which the Council is prepared to accept sewage, a charge shall be made in accordance with the applicable basis set out in subclause (i & ii) hereof. A minimum of 1 W.C shall apply.

- (iv) In respect of any structure, building or improvement on land exempt from rating under section 93 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 73 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 excluding however, places of worship, a charge in accordance with the applicable basis set out in sub-clause (i) to (iii) hereof shall be levied on the person or body, or Commonwealth or State Department at whose request the structure, building or improvement was provided with sewerage.*
 - (v) In respect of places of public worship and nursing homes listed under section 73 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 a charge of 50% of the standard charge for each W.C., with the total charge being rounded up to the next full charge.*
 - (vi) In respect of caravan parks connected to sewer mains, a charge of 25% of the standard charge for each caravan, each tent site and each cabin without facilities, and 50% of the standard charge for each fully self-contained cabin (FSC) shall apply with the total charge being rounded up to the next full charge.*
 - (vii) In respect of vacant land where Council is prepared to accept sewage, a standard charge equivalent to one W.C. per allotment shall apply.*
 - (viii) Each residence, each flat, each strata title unit that has for the purposes of differential rating been categorised as co-existing with a commercial category a standard charge equivalent to one W.C. per improvement shall apply.*
 - (ix) The rating on the basis set out above to be charged from the date on which sewer connections are completed to the premises concerned. In the case of vacant land, or in the case where an owner or occupier refuses or delays permission to enter his land to complete connections, the rating be charged from the date on which connections would have been made if there was a building or improvement on the land or if the owner or occupier had not refused or delayed permission. In all those cases where the sewer connection is completed or would have been completed (as the case may be) after 1 July 2020 the rate shall be apportioned.*
 - (x) Each 1.8m of urinal or part thereof shall be deemed to be a W.C.*
 - (xi) Each three individual wall hung urinals or part thereof shall be deemed to be a W.C.*
 - (xii) Each pedestal shall be deemed to be a W.C.*
- (c) RURAL PRODUCTIVE**

A standard charge of \$930.76 to be applied in accordance with the following:-

- (i) In respect of all sewered premises designed or used for rural productive purposes, a standard charge per W.C. shall apply.*
- (ii) In addition, where a residential improvement co-exists, the standard sewerage charge shall apply for each barrack, each residence, each flat, and each strata title unit and vacant allotment where Council is prepared to accept sewage.*

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(d) *ALL CATEGORIES*

In respect of sewerage for all properties the following shall apply:-

- (i) Subject to sub-clause (ii), properties and/or improvements capable of being connected to the scheme will be charged in accordance with the charges set out above.*
- (ii) Council reserves the right to exempt certain properties from sewerage charges if such properties as defined by Council are not, in Council's opinion, capable of being connected within the foreseeable future.*
- (iii) That for the purpose of calculating utility charges, the term "Strata Title Unit" is deemed to be each lot created pursuant to the provisions of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997.*
- (iv) Any property which has more than one prescribed occupation may receive a combination of charges to reflect the varying uses.*

3. Water Utility Charges:

A. Pursuant to section 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 99 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council make and levy water utility charges, for the supply of water services by the Council, as follows:

Water Charges shall be made for the purpose of supplying water for the 2020/21 financial year on the following basis:-

(a) *RESIDENTIAL and "ALL OTHER LAND" (excluding Commercial and Rural Productive)*

- (i) An access charge of \$342.72 shall be applied for each barrack, each residence, each flat, each strata title unit and each vacant allotment.*
- (ii) In respect of all properties and/or premises at which a water meter is installed on the water service connection to such property and/or premises, water usage shall be charged at the rate of \$1.52 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.*

(b) *COMMERCIAL*

(i) An Access Charge of \$342.72 shall be applied in accordance with the following:-

- For each vacant allotment, each shop, each office, each school, each hotel, each motel, each club, each hospital and each other commercial/industrial improvement not otherwise specified.*
- In respect of hotels and motels, one additional access charge shall apply for every three rooms or part thereof, provided for accommodation.*
- In respect of caravan parks, one additional access charge shall apply for every three accommodation units and every six tent/van sites or part thereof.*
- For each residence, each flat, each strata title unit co-existing with commercial/industrial improvements.*

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- (ii) *Where water is supplied through a water meter, which is not a trial water meter, all water consumed will be charged at the rate of \$1.63 per kilolitre for all water passing through the meter within the water year.*

(c) **RURAL PRODUCTIVE**

- (i) *An access charge of \$342.72 to be applied in accordance with the following:-*

- *For each barrack, each residence, each flat, each strata title unit.*
- *For each vacant allotment with a water meter connected.*
- *For each rural productive improvement with a water meter connected.*

- (ii) *In respect of all properties and/or premises at which a water meter is installed on the water service connection to such property and/or premises, water usage shall be charged at the rate of \$1.52 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.*

(d) **UNTREATED WATER SCHEME RESIDENTIAL**

Properties identified under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, receiving an untreated water supply the following shall apply:

- (i) *An access charge of \$342.72 to be applied in accordance with the following:-*

- *For each barrack, each residence, each flat, each strata title unit.*
- *For each vacant allotment with a water meter connected.*
- *For each rural productive improvement with a water meter connected.*

- (ii) *In respect of all properties and/or premises at which a water meter is installed on the water service connection to such property and/or premises, water usage shall be charged at the rate of \$1.23 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.*

(e) **UNTREATED WATER SCHEME COMMERCIAL**

Commercial properties identified under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, receiving an untreated water supply the following shall apply:

- (i) *An access charge of \$342.72 to be applied in accordance with the following:-*

- *For each commercial/industrial improvement*

- (ii) *In respect of all properties and/or premises at which a water meter is installed on the water service connection to such property and/or premises, water usage shall be charged at the rate of \$1.32 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.*

(f) **ALL CATEGORIES**

In respect of all properties, the following shall apply:

- (i) *In respect of newly subdivided vacant land, water charges shall be levied proportionately for the unexpired part of the year from the date the plan of*

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subdivision is registered at the Titles Office or from the date of connection of water to the subject land, whichever date shall be the earlier.

- (ii) In respect of improvements erected during the year, water charges shall be levied proportionately for the unexpired part of the year from the date the improvement is ready for occupation, or from the date of connection of water to the subject land, whichever date shall be the earlier.*
- (iii) Where residential type improvements share a meter with commercial improvements and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines land use code for that assessment is commercial, water usage charges will be levied at the commercial rate.*
- (iv) Where improvements are of a joint nature, water usage charges will be calculated using the water usage rate applicable to the category on which general rates are levied or would be levied if the property were rateable.*
- (v) Meters shall be read on a rotational basis three times each year.*
- (vi) For the purpose of charging water usage charges for water meters read after 1 July 2020 the charge made shall be at the rate specified for the 2020/21 financial year.*
- (vii) That for the purpose of calculating utility charges, the term "Strata Title Unit" is deemed to be each lot created pursuant to the provisions of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997.*
- (viii) Any property which has more than one prescribed occupation may receive a combination of charges to reflect the varying uses.*

B. Pursuant to section 102(2) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a water meter is taken to have been read during the period that starts 2 weeks before, and ends 2 weeks after, the day on which the meter is actually read.

4. Interest:

Pursuant to section 133 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, interest at the rate of eight point five three percent (8.53%) per annum compounding daily is to be charged on all overdue rates or charges.

5. Levy and Payment:

- (a) Pursuant to section 107 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and section 114 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, Council's rates and charges (with the exception of Water Utility Charges), and the State Government's Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy be levied:
 - for the half year 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 - in July/August 2020; and*
 - for the half year 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 - in January/February 2021.**
- (b) Water Utility Charges (Access and Water Usage Charges) imposed for the 2020/21 financial year will be issued three times a year.*
- (c) Pursuant to section 118 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, that Council's rates and charges, and the State Government's Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy, be paid within 35 days of the date of the issue of the rate notice.*

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6. Rates Concessions:

- (a) Pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a rebate of 40% on the differential general rate, to a maximum of \$1,350.00 per annum be granted to all ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission.
- (b) Pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a remission will be extended to retirement villages (as classified under Land Use Code 21), where a legal entity separate to the residents is the owner and the pensioners are responsible for paying the rates, to the extent that residents of the village are pensioners. A pensioner remission will then apply based on the number of dwellings occupied by pensioners as a percentage of the total number of dwellings in the village.
- (c) Pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a remission will be extended to Not for Profit entities where Council may provide up to 100% concession of the general rate and up to 50% of sewerage charges for organisations that comply with the requirements as set out in Council's Rates rebate – Not for Profit Entities policy. This rebate is not available on vacant land.
- (d) Pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a remission will be extended to rates incentive for conservation under the Rates Incentive for Conservation policy, where:
 - i. Properties where more than 50% of the total area of the property is covered by a Nature Refuge Agreement under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 or the Voluntary Declarations under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 are entitled to 50% of the general rate.
 - ii. Properties where less than 50% of the total area of the property is covered by a Nature Refuge Agreement under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 or the Voluntary Declarations under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 are entitled to 35% of the general rate.
- (e) Pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a remission will be extended to rates rebate for permits to occupy land on Daintree river where a rates rebate of 50% of the general rate will only apply on rateable land on the banks of the South Arm and the Heads of the Daintree River that is occupied by holders of Permits to Occupy (fishing huts) which have been issued by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

7. Rates Discounts:

Pursuant to section 130 of the Local Government Regulation, Council has determined that due to Covid-19 a discount of one point two percent (1.2%) will apply to general rates only for the financial year ended 30 June 2021, where they are paid by the due date.

Comment

Refer to Revenue Statement for Financial year 2020-2021 for detailed information regarding concessions and discounts.

Carried Unanimously

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3.9. STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION 2019-2020
Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Scomazzon

Seconded Cr Zammataro

That:

1. *Pursuant to section 205 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the Statement of the Financial Operations and Financial Position of the Council in respect of the 2019/20 financial year ("the Statement of Estimated Financial Position") be received and its contents noted.*
2. *The Financial Report for the period ended 31 May 2020 be noted.*

Carried Unanimously

3.10. ANNUAL BUDGET 2020-2021
Tara Killeen, Chief Financial Officer

Moved Cr Kerr

Seconded Cr Scomazzon

That pursuant to section 107A of the Local Government Act 2009 and sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's Budget for the 2020/21 financial year, incorporating:

- I. The statement of income and expenditure;*
- II. The statement of financial position;*
- III. The statement of cash flow;*
- IV. The statement of changes in equity;*
- V. The long-term financial forecast;*
- VI. The relevant measures of financial sustainability;*
- VII. Budgeted sources and application of Capital Funding;*
- VIII. Budgeted movement in Reserves;*
- IX. Budgeted rates and utilities charges;*
- X. Capital works program;*
- XI. The total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget;*
- XII. The revenue statement; and*
- XIII. The revenue policy (adopted by Council resolution on 26 May 2020), as tabled,*

be adopted.

Mayor's Budget Speech

I would like to start by again thanking you Miss Killeen and your team of course, for the work you have all completed on this very difficult budget. There is an incredible amount of time and effort that goes into these budget reports and the acknowledgement of that work to the whole team is paramount.

I am proud to table this Council's first budget since being elected, with the people of Douglas Shire voting to steer the region in a new direction.

What I believe is a responsible direction of increased transparency, sensible investment and a need to strengthen the shires economy. All things we can look forward to seeing this term.

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COVID-19 lockdown restrictions may have depleted our local economy, but I am determined to build resilience in the face of adversity.

For the past six years, this Council has followed a plan of financial sustainability by driving towards a budget surplus - a dubious goal that unfortunately fell well short.

Douglas Shire is as vulnerable as it is beautiful. Whether it is any of the recent natural disasters, or a global pandemic, our entire region buckles when our tourism sector falters.

Businesses shut their doors, unemployment escalates and people leave the region.

Economists are predicting that up to 1,547 jobs and \$150 million could be lost from our local economy by the time they crunch the numbers for the June quarter in coming days.

Now is the time for sensible policy and investment to build our resistance to outside influences. I believe we can do this by growing our rate base, diversifying industries and exploring revenue raising opportunities. This Budget is the start of that process.

Over the next 12 months, Council will deliver its largest ever budgeted capital works program with a focus on renewing and upgrading critical infrastructure as we build our way out of Covid-19 and expect this to grow as further grant funding becomes available.

A total of just over \$21 million worth of investment will see \$12.5m spent on civil works projects such as roads, footpaths, bridges and drains, and a further \$5m pumped into improving the Shire's water and wastewater infrastructure.

It is clear that this Council has an important role to play in keeping our local economy moving and this program lets us focus on providing essential services to our community.

Council will also dedicate \$1.4m on public spaces and sporting infrastructure.

While we have prioritised investment in essential infrastructure, we have made sure there is a collection of projects that our community can also be proud of.

You can also expect to see more workers on the ground with extra funds allocated for the outdoor crews to get the important tasks done.

Offering the required level of service, along with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council's financial position is now expected to be pushed back to a \$3.7 million operating deficit. But now is not a time for this Council to be chasing a quick surplus with unreasonable rate rises. Now is a time for creating jobs, repairing infrastructure and ensuring our economy becomes stronger through progress.

Council will do this while finding alternative revenue streams, to ensure ratepayers do not continue to wear this burden over the next many years.

We are facing uncharted territory but we are committed to getting the Shire back on track through growth and diversity, rather than cutbacks and reductions.

This responsible budget keeps Council financially viable without imposing any unreasonable increases and most importantly whilst stimulating the economy.

As promised in this budget, the general rates and utilities have been capped at the CPI level of 2.2% and as a Covid assistance offer; we will introduce a 1.2% general rates discount for those who pay their rates before the due date. This added discount will keep an estimated \$140,000 in the pockets of rate payers.

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I have also asked officers to bring a further report back to Council to assist those rural properties that have been required to receive 20% capped increase due to the inconsistent land valuations that have previously occurred.

Over the next 12 months, we will continue to explore revenue-raising opportunities and fully investigate how rates are calculated across the shire to ensure that in the future years we bring back fairness and balance to all ratepayers.

For: Cr Kerr, Cr Scmazzon, Cr McKeown

Against: Cr Noli, Cr Zammataro

Carried

CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10.28 am.

CONFIRMED THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY 2020



.....
MAYOR/CHAIR