



A **SPECIAL (BUDGET) MEETING** of the Douglas Shire Council will be held on **FRIDAY 27 JUNE 2014 at 10.00a.m.** at the Council Chambers, 64-66 Front Street, Mossman, and the attendance of each Councillor is requested.

### **AGENDA**

#### **'ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY'**

*'I would like to acknowledge the Kuku Yalanji people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who are present.'*

- ***Attendance and Apologies***
- ***Conflict of Interest / Material Personal Interest***
- ***Mayor's Budget Address***
- ***Agenda Items as Listed***

Linda Cardew  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL (BUDGET) MEETING**

**27 JUNE 2014**

**10.00A.M.**

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OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014 – 2015  
Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That Council adopt the Operational Plan 2014 – 2015.**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires the preparation and adoption of an Operational Plan for each financial year and Council's budget must be consistent with the Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

The Operational Plan is formulated to identify and determine what actions are to be undertaken during the period 01 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 in order to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan 2014 - 2019. The Operational Plan includes ongoing activities and major initiatives, with associated resource requirements, performance indicators, timeframes and responsible officers.

**PROPOSAL:**

That the Operational Plan be adopted by Council to set the direction for Council operations for the 2014/15 financial year.

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

The Operational Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The budget has been prepared to ensure that appropriate resources are available to deliver the activities and initiatives detailed in the Operational Plan.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

Quarterly reporting to Council on the implementation of the Plan will enable senior management, the Mayor and Councillors to closely monitor progress.

**INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Consultation has occurred with all sections of Council.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Separate Attachment - Operational Plan 2014 – 2015

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2014/15 REVENUE POLICY  
Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council adopt:**

- **2014/15 Revenue Policy; and**
- **2014/15 Debt Policy; and**
- **Reserves Policy**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In accordance with the requirements of *the Local Government Act* and *Local Government Regulation* Council is required to adopt a Revenue Policy.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Revenue Policy is a strategic document that sets out the principles used by Council for:

- The levying of rates and charges
- Granting concessions for rates and charges
- Recovering overdue rates and charges
- The establishment of cost-recovery methods (fees)

The Policy also addresses:

- The purpose of concessions
- The extent to which physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development are to be funded by charges for the development

The Debt Policy provides Council with a debt management strategy based on sound financial management guidelines and has been developed in conjunction with Council's long term financial forecast.

The Reserves Policy is an accounting policy for the establishment and use of reserves in line with Council's Budget and Operational Plan.

**PROPOSAL:**

The 2014/15 Revenue Policy, 2014/15 Debt Policy and the Reserves Policy are presented to Council for adoption.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – 2014/15 Revenue Policy

Attachment 2 – 2014/15 Debt Policy

Attachment 3 – Reserves Policy

**Attachment 1:****DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL****General Policy****2014/15 REVENUE POLICY**

**Intent** To set out the principles used by Council in 2014/15 for:

- ◆ The levying of rates and charges
- ◆ Granting concessions for rates and charges
- ◆ Recovering overdue rates and charges
- ◆ The establishment of cost-recovery methods (fees)

This policy also addresses:

- ◆ The purpose of concessions
- ◆ The extent to which physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development are to be funded by charges for the development

**Scope** This policy applies to Douglas Shire Council.

**REFERENCE****Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2009*  
*Local Government Regulation 2012*

**PROVISIONS****1. The Levying of Rates and Charges**

In levying rates and charges the following principles will be applied:

- ◆ Consider the level of revenue that can be achieved from direct user charges, grants and subsidies, contributions and other sources.
- ◆ Consider the level of the cost of maintaining existing facilities and necessary services and the need for additional facilities and services.
- ◆ Make clear what is Council's and each ratepayer's responsibility to the rating system.
- ◆ Timing the levy of rates to ensure a sustainable cash flow for the operation of Council and to spread the cost to the ratepayer over the financial year.
- ◆ Equity through flexible payment arrangements.
- ◆ Transparency in the making of rates and charges.
- ◆ Having in place a rating regime that is simple and inexpensive to administer.
- ◆ Flexibility to take account of changes to the local economy.

Council will distribute the rates burden by use of differential rating categories with banding applied in relevant residential rating categories. Council will consider the lowest and highest rating outcomes for each differential category.

Council will separate categories for Strata Title Units and Flats. These categories will enable Council to make strategic decisions as to the appropriate level of revenue required from these two differential categories.

Council may consider levying special and separate rates and charges when appropriate, to recover the costs associated with a particular service, project or facility that provides direct or additional benefit to the ratepayers or class of ratepayer.

## **2. Concessions for Rates and Charges**

In considering the application of concessions, Council will be guided by the principles of:

- ◆ The same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances.
- ◆ Transparency by making clear the requirements necessary to receive concessions.
- ◆ Flexibility to allow Council to respond to local economic issues.

Council may give consideration to granting a concession to a class of landowner without the need for an individual application (*s122 (4) of the Local Government Regulation 2012*).

## **3. Recovery of Overdue Rates and Charges**

Council will exercise its rate recovery powers in order to reduce the overall rate burden on ratepayers. It will be guided by the principles of:

- ◆ Transparency by making clear the obligations of ratepayers and the processes used by Council in assisting them to meet their financial obligations.
- ◆ Making the processes used to recover outstanding rates and charges clear, simple to administer and cost effective.
- ◆ Equity by having regard to providing the same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances.
- ◆ Flexibility by responding where necessary to changes in the local economy.

Council will charge interest on all overdue rates and charges.

Council's Debt Recovery Policy sets out the detail of the processes used to recover outstanding rates and charges.

## **4. The establishment of cost-recovery methods**

*Section 97 of the Local Government Act 2009* allows Council to set cost-recovery fees.

Council recognises the validity of fully imposing the user pays principle for its cost-recovery fees, unless the imposition of the fee is contrary to its express social, economic, environmental and other corporate goals. This is considered to be the most equitable and effective revenue approach and is founded on the basis that the rating base cannot subsidise the specific users or clients of Council's regulatory products and services.

However, in setting its cost-recovery fees, Council will be cognisant of the requirement that such a fee must not be more than the cost to Council of providing the service or taking the action to which the fee applies.

## **5. The purpose of concessions**

Statutory provision exists for Council to rebate or defer rates in certain circumstances. In considering the application of concessions, Council will be guided by the principles set out in section 2 above.

## **6. The extent to which physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development are to be funded by charges for the development**

Council requires developers to pay reasonable and relevant contributions towards the cost of physical and social infrastructure required to support the development. Specific charges are detailed in the policies and other material supporting Councils' town planning schemes.

**This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.**

**General Manager Responsible for Review:**

**General Manager Corporate Services**

**ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 24 JANUARY 2014**

**CURRENT ADOPTION:**

**DUE FOR REVISION:**

**REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:**

**Attachment 2:****DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL****General Policy****2014/15 DEBT POLICY**

**Intent** To provide Council with a debt management strategy based on sound financial management guidelines.

**Scope** This policy applies to all borrowings of Douglas Shire Council.

**REFERENCE****Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2009*  
*Local Government Regulation 2012*

**PROVISIONS**

The following sets out the Debt Policy for the year ended 30 June 2015 as required by Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**Principles**

1. Council aims to finance capital works and new assets to the greatest extent possible from revenue, grants and subsidies or any specific reserves primarily established to fund capital works.
2. It is Council's intention to fully fund depreciation (when possible) which is a significant source of funding.
3. Long term borrowings for capital works and new assets should be limited, where possible, to assets that will provide an intergenerational benefit.
4. Council will review the projected ratios of interest and redemption as a percentage of rates revenue to set a target range.
5. Council will not use long-term debt to finance operating activities or re-current expenditure of Council.
6. The repayment period for new borrowings will be set at 10 years or less, except in the case of borrowings for major long-life infrastructure assets or for capital works which have been levied to ratepayers as a special charge, where a repayment period will be determined on a case by case basis.
7. Detailed capital works and asset acquisition programs for the next 10 years together with the 10 year financial forecast will provide the basis for the determination of funding options.

**Borrowings for the ten years ending June 2025**

At this stage, Council's 10 year financial forecast does not include any planned borrowings, however this will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The amount projected to be outstanding at 30 June 2015 is \$2,118,409. The repayment term of existing and new borrowings will be in accordance with the repayment schedule relevant to each loan.

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**This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.**

**General Manager Responsible for Review:**

**General Manager Corporate Services**

**ADOPTED:**

**DUE FOR REVISION:**

**REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:**

**Attachment 3:****DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL****General Policy****RESERVES POLICY**

**Intent** To establish an accounting policy for reserves for Douglas Shire Council in line with Council's Budget and Operational Plan.

**Scope** This policy applies to the Douglas Shire Council budget and audited financial statements.

**REFERENCE****Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2009*  
*Local Government Regulation 2012*

**PROVISIONS**

The purpose of creating reserves is to provide a source of funds for anticipated future capital works projects and any operational expenditure related to the associated reserve. The amount in each reserve relates to an anticipated future requirement which is not currently a liability.

Each reserve approved by Council must have the following identified:

- The name of the reserve;
- The purpose of the reserve;
- The source of funds of the new reserve;
- The use of funds in the reserve;

Once the new reserve has been approved, appropriate funds must be debited against retained funds and credited against the new reserve.

In accordance with this policy, transfers to and from a reserve can only be made by Council resolution or by inclusion in Council's annual budget. Transfers to and from reserves must be made for the stated purpose of the reserve, as outlined in this policy.

All reserves are to be cash backed. Cash representing the reserves will be held in Council's operating bank account or authorised investment.

If the purpose for which the reserve was created no longer exists, Council may close the reserve. In the event that this occurs, the funds held in the reserve must be credited to retained funds.

The utilisation of reserve funds for capital funding purposes will be managed via the Capital Works Program Source of Funds. The utilisation of reserve funds for operational purposes will be managed through the operational budget.

This policy provides for the establishment of the following reserves (refer Appendix A for more details):

- Constrained works reserve
- Daintree Ferry reserve
- Public art reserve



**This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.**

**General Manager Responsible for Review:**

**General Manager Corporate Services**

**ADOPTED:**

**DUE FOR REVISION:**

**REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:**

## APPENDIX A

The following reserves have been established by Council:-

### Constrained Works Reserve

**Introduction:**

State/Federal grants and developer contributions are constrained for the purpose of ensuring that funds are available for capital works projects such as roadways, drainage and parks etc.

**Source of Funds:**

This capital reserve sources funds from developer contributions, state and federal grants and other sources which have been provided for the purpose of funding specific capital expenditure.

**Use of Funds:**

The funds held in this reserve will be utilised through infrastructure works for the identified purpose.

**Officer responsible for reserve:**      **General Manager Operations**

### Daintree Ferry Reserve

**Introduction:**

The purpose of this reserve is to constrain revenue generated from Daintree Ferry operations to ensure that future capital and operational expenditure will be funded.

**Source of Funds:**

At the end of each financial year, Council will transfer the net operating position of the Daintree Ferry operations into this reserve.

**Use of Funds:**

Funds in the reserve will be used to cover any costs associated with providing the Daintree Ferry Service.

Further details are available in Council's Daintree Ferry Revenue Policy.

**Officer responsible for reserve:**      **General Manager Operations**

### Public Art Reserve

**Introduction:**

The purpose of this reserve is to build up a public art "bank" to support streams of the public art program and all ancillary costs.

**Source of Funds:**

Funds allocated to this reserve will be as determined by Council.

**Use of Funds:**

Funds from this reserve will be used on public art projects and associated ancillary costs.

**Officer responsible for reserve:**      **General Manager Corporate Services**

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b>  <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>3</b>
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## STRUCTURE OF GENERAL RATING CATEGORIES FOR 2014/15

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following categories and descriptions for the purpose of levying differential general rates for 2014/15:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>
• Residential A -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1 to \$490,000.
• Residential B -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$490,001 to \$735,000.
• Residential C -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$735,001 to \$975,000.
• Residential D -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$975,001 to \$1,220,000.
• Residential E -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,220,001 to \$1,465,000.
• Residential F -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,465,001 to \$1,710,000.
• Residential G -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,710,001 to \$1,955,000.
• Residential H -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,955,001 to \$2,200,000.
• Residential I -	Residential properties with a valuation greater than \$2,200,000.
• Residential J -	Residential properties not subject to banding.
• Residential K -	Residential properties that are building units.
• Residential L -	Multi Unit Dwellings (Flats).
• Residential M -	Residential land which is subject to section 50 of the <i>Land Valuation Act 2010</i> .
• Residential Q -	Land situated at the South Arm and the Heads of the Daintree River that has a land use code of 0600 and is held as a Permit to Occupy.
• Commercial E -	Commercial properties not included in Commercial Categories F & H.
• Commercial F -	Properties used by Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups that are eligible for Rates Based Financial Assistance.
• Commercial H -	Shopping Centres with a secondary land use of Marina with a total area over 5ha.
• Rural Productive -	All properties which are used predominantly for Primary Production.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 80 and 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the categories and descriptions for the purpose of levying differential general rates are submitted to Council for adoption for the 2014/15 rating year.

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b> <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>4.1</b>
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**MOWBRAY VALLEY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE – SPECIAL CHARGE**

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

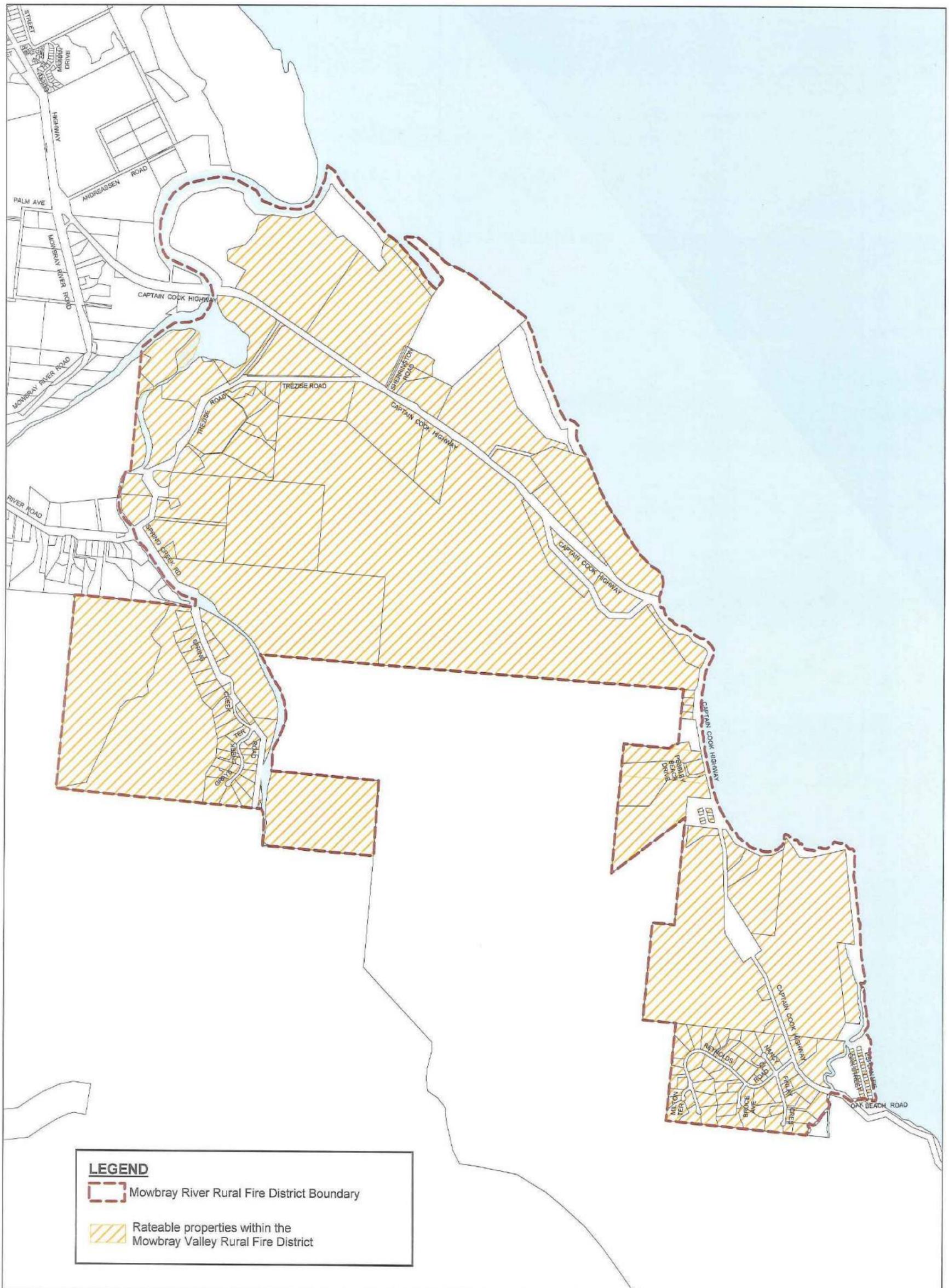
**That Council levy a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to be known as the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.**

- 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 \$151,900.**
  - (d) The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2015.**
- 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 2014/15 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.**

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**ATTACHMENT:**

- 1. Map identifying parcels.**



**LEGEND**

-  Mowbray River Rural Fire District Boundary
-  Rateable properties within the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire District

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File: G:\City Development\City Development Mgt\Projects\Rates\_RuralCategories\MowbrayRuralFire\_Budget.WOR

**CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MOWBRAY VALLEY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**  
**RATEABLE PROPERTIES WITHIN**  
 Map Scale - 1:22,500

Author: RJB  
 Date: 8/05/2009  
 Revision



**Plan No. 1**  
 Sheet 1 of 1

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b>  <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>4.2</b>
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**DAINTREE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE – SPECIAL CHARGE**

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council levy 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.**

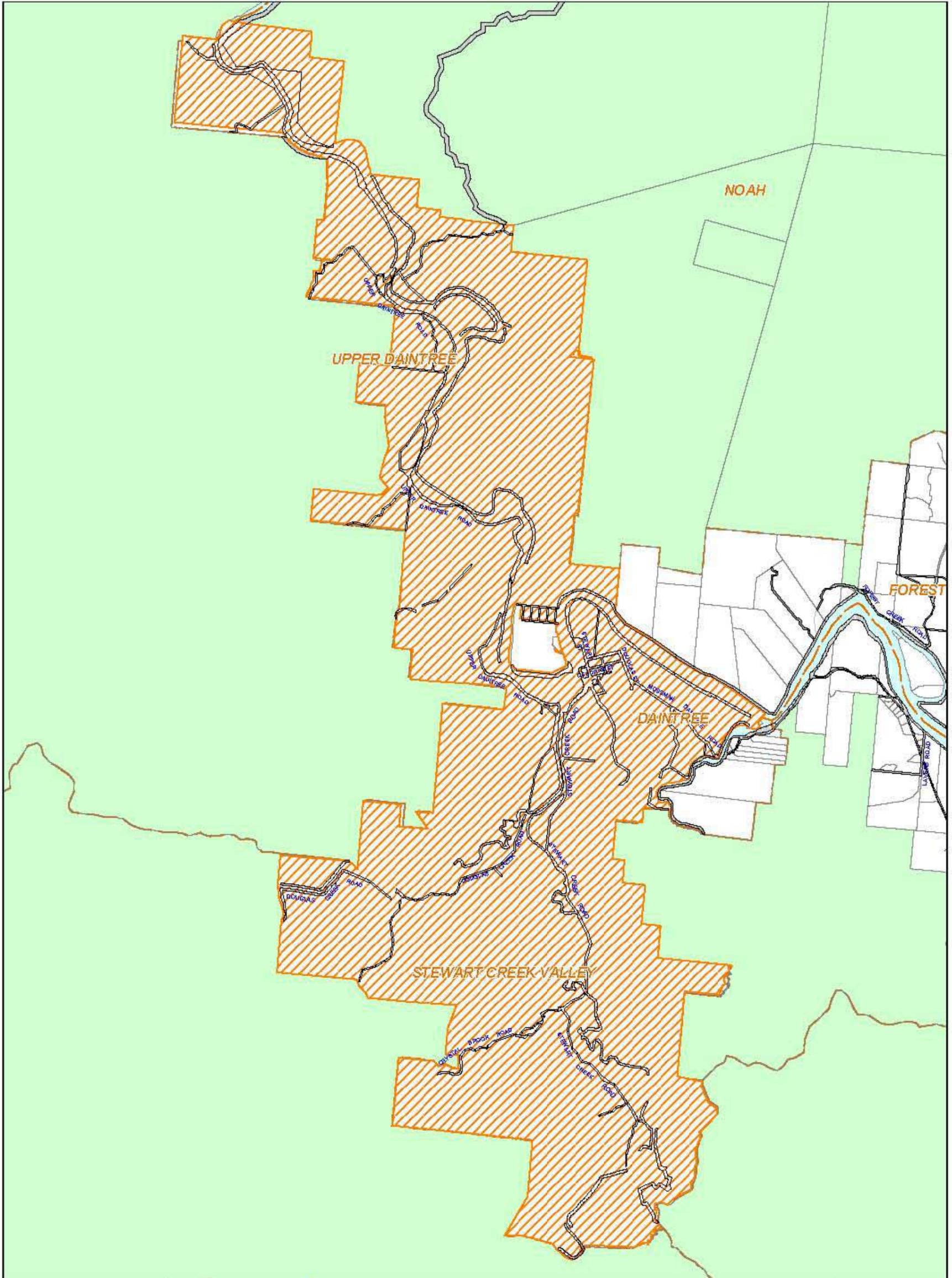
- 1. The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:**
  - (a) The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade.**
  - (b) The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Daintree Rural Fire Brigade.**
  - (c) The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$4,170.**
  - (d) The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2015.**
- 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 \$25.00 per rateable assessment for the 2014/15 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.**

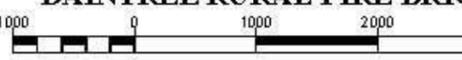
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**ATTACHMENT:**

- 1. Map identifying parcels.**

Attachment No. 1



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<p>File: Finance\Project&amp;Rural Fire Brigade\Daintree</p>		<p>Author: NB</p>	<p>Date: 25/5/2009</p>	

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b> <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>4.3</b>
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**THORNTON PEAK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE – SPECIAL CHARGE**

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

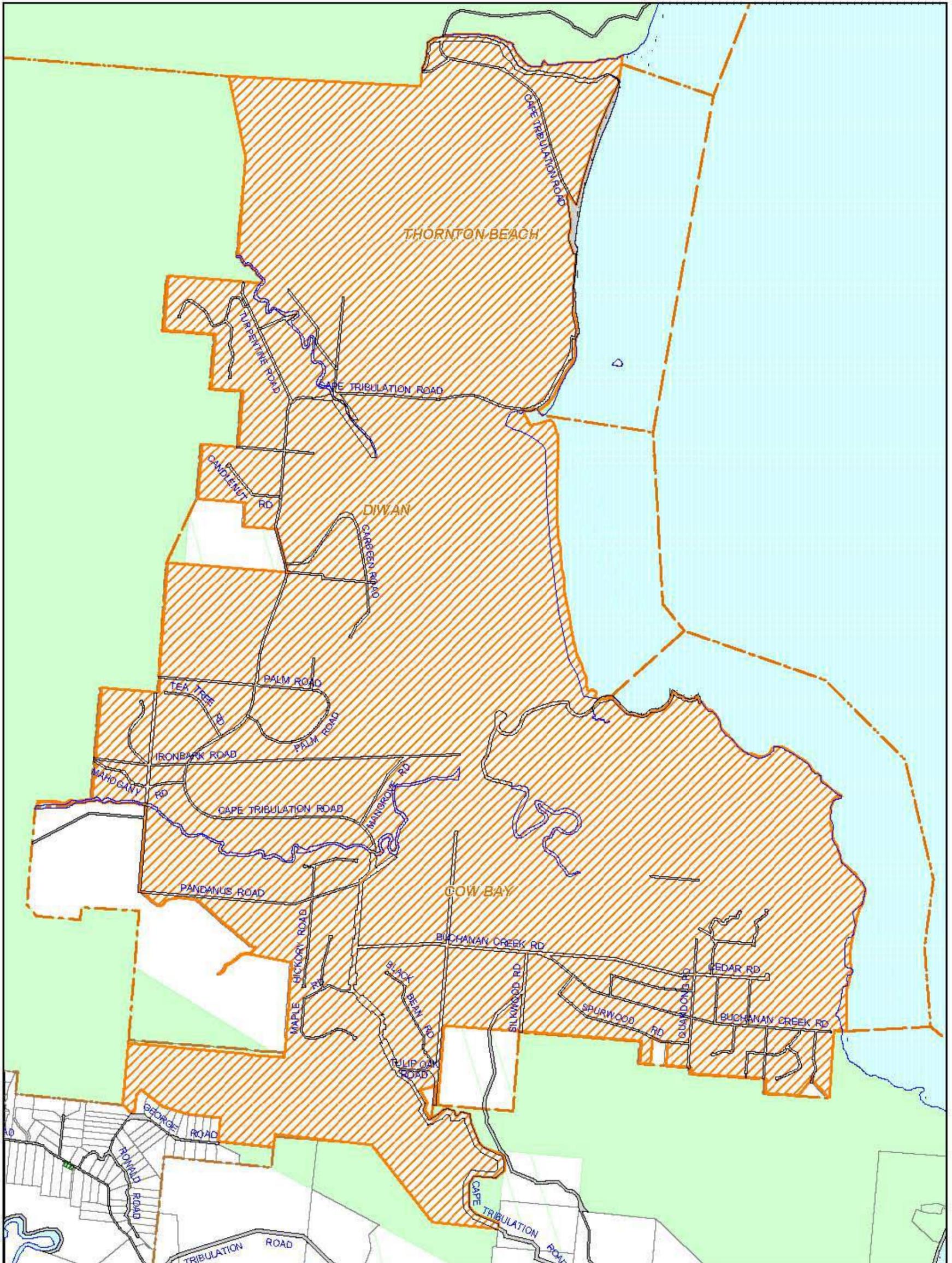
**That Council levy a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to be known as the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.**

- 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 \$5,666.**
  - (d) The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2015.**
- 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 2014/15 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.**

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**ATTACHMENT:**

- 1. Map identifying parcels.**



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<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b>  <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>4.4</b>
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**WONGA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE – SPECIAL CHARGE**

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

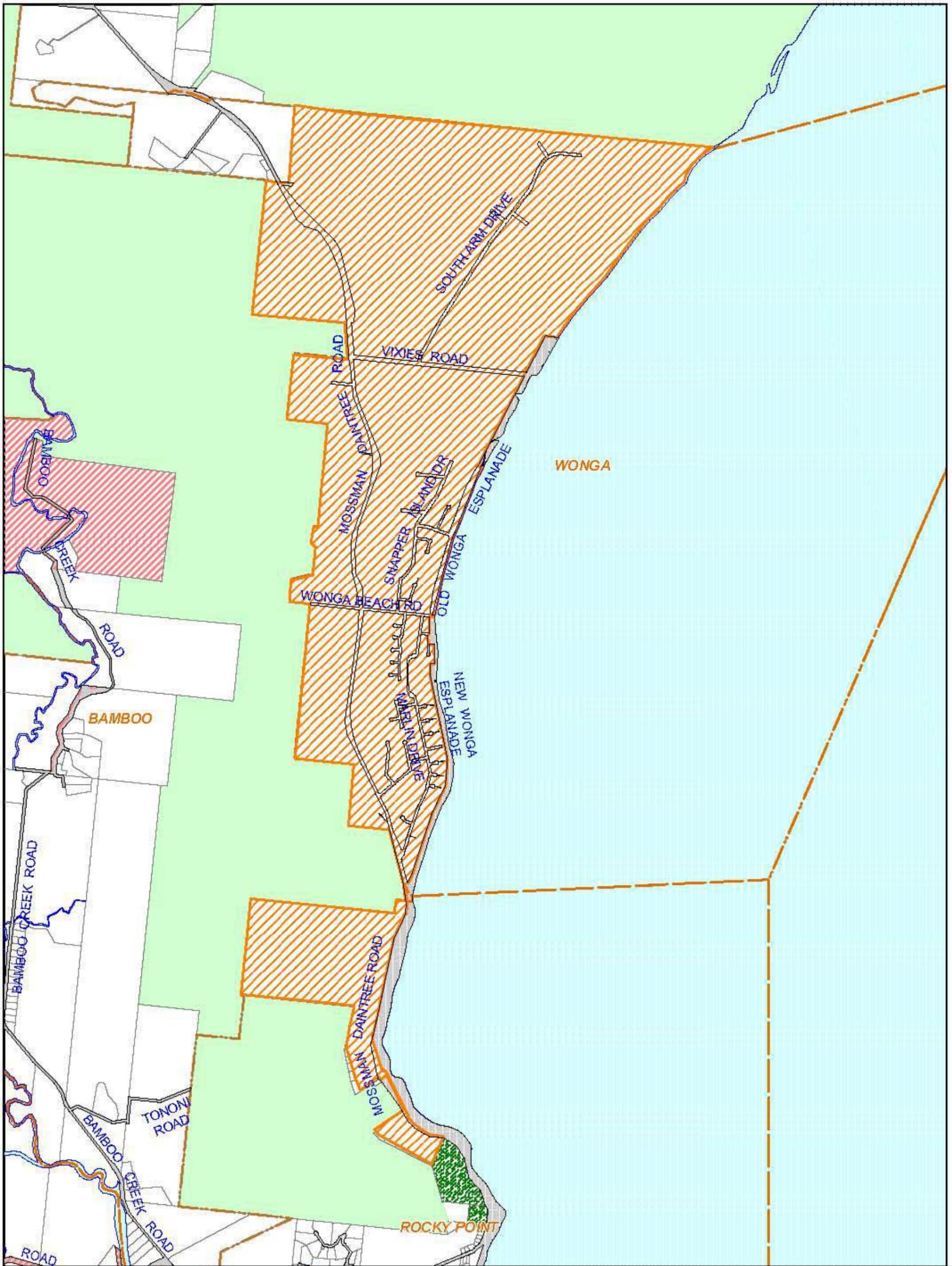
**That Council levy a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to be known as the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.**

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 \$125,133.**
  - (d) **The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2015.**
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 2014/15 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.**

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**ATTACHMENT:**

1. **Map identifying parcels.**



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**CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL  
 WONGA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**

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Scale 1:25,000



**Plan No.**  
 Sheet 1 of 1

File: ...Finance\Projects\Rural Fire Brigade\Wonga

Author: NB Date: 25/5/2009

Revision

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b>  <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>4.5</b>
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**BLOOMFIELD RIVER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE – SPECIAL CHARGE**

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

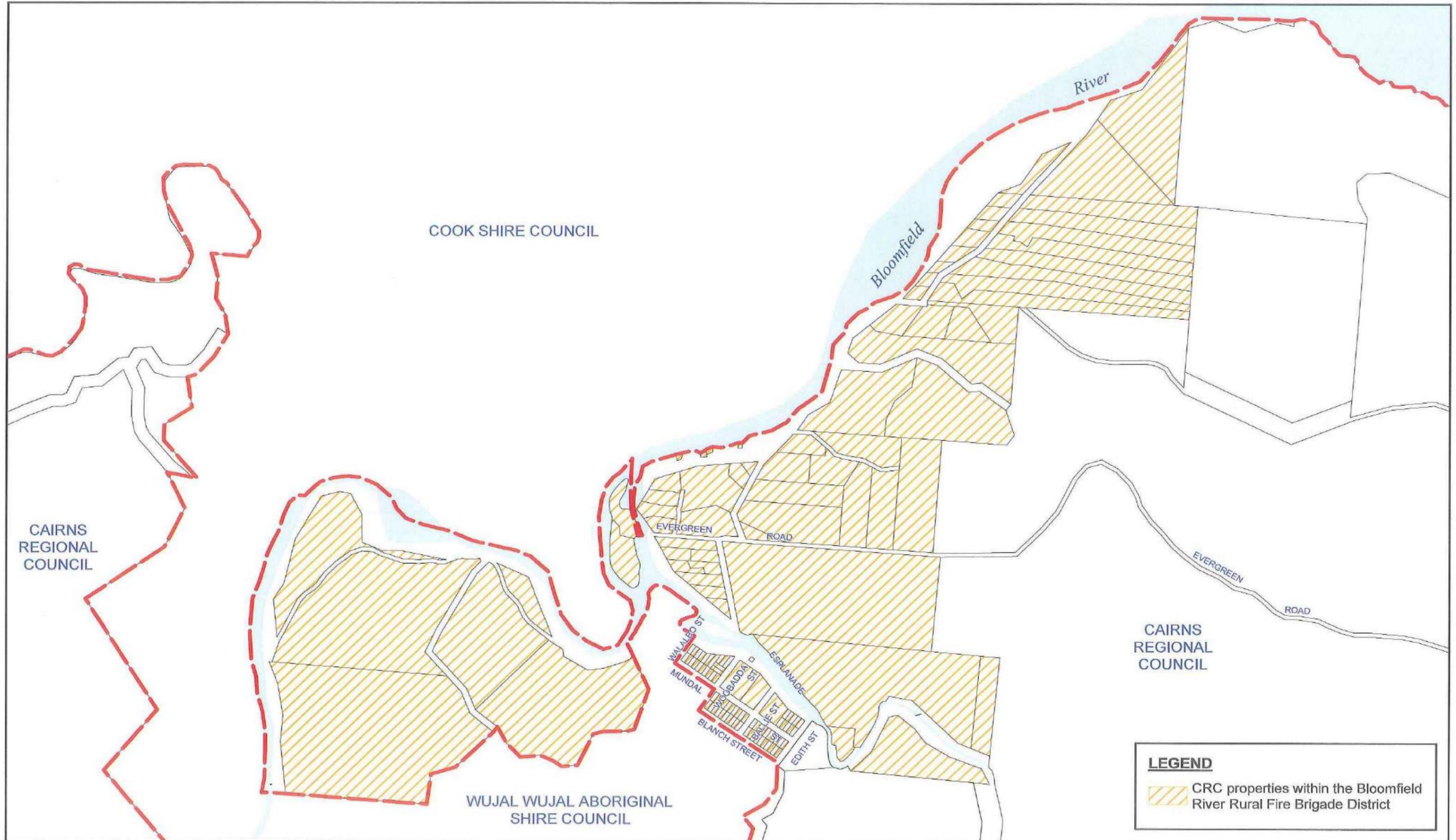
**That Council levy a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to be known as the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade Special Charge.**

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 \$25,100.**
  - (d) **The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2015.**
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 2014/15 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.**

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**ATTACHMENT:**

1. **Map identifying parcels.**



**LEGEND**

 CRC properties within the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade District

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**DO NOT SCALE**

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File: G:\City Development\City Development Mgt\Projects\Rate\_Fire Levy\BloomfieldRiverRuralFire.WOR



**CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL  
 BLOOMFIELD RIVER, DEGARRA  
 BLOOMFIELD RIVER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**

Map Scale - 1:17,500

Author: RJB Date: 19/05/2011

Revision



Plan No.1  
 Sheet 1 of 1

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b>  <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>5</b>
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**REFUSE - SPECIAL CHARGE**

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council levy 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 north of Ellis Beach that does not receive the Council kerbside waste and 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 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, within the area north of Ellis Beach, which do not currently receive the Council kerbside waste and recyclables collection service. This excludes properties holding Permits to Occupy on the South Arm and the Heads of Daintree River.**

**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 above mentioned Transfer Stations over the 2014/15 financial year is \$262,188 and the estimated revenue from gate fees for the same period is \$124,320, resulting in an anticipated net operating loss of \$137,868. 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 \$53,336, which equates to less than 21% of the yearly operating cost.

**d) Estimated Time for Implementing the Overall Plan**

The special charge will apply for the 2014/15 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. A special charge of \$156.87 is hereby made to apply equally to each rateable assessment defined in clause 2(a) for the 2014/15 financial year.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to gain Council's approval for the special refuse charge that is to be applied to a number of properties, with improvements, within the area north of Ellis Beach which do not currently receive the Council collection service. This excludes the properties holding Permits to Occupy on the South Arm and the Heads of Daintree River.

Section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires a Council resolution to levy the special charge and identify the land and the overall plan for the supply of service.

**BACKGROUND:**

A Special Refuse Charge is to be made and levied to contribute to the cost of the operation and maintenance of Transfer Stations. This includes the upgrade of the Transfer Stations to the required licence standards, the upgrade of site signage, the provision of designated disposal points, site safety barriers and road markings, site security and external barrier requirements. The owners of the land identified will have special access to the disposal facilities on the basis that they are located outside the current Council collected kerbside service area.

All property owners/occupiers north of Ellis Beach that are to be levied will be provided with written notification from Council advising them of the continuation of the special charge and the special access that will be granted to them at the Transfer Stations.

An identification card is issued to the property owners/occupiers on an annual basis for presentation at the Transfer Stations for the purposes of identifying themselves to the facility operators for the disposal of their solid wastes in reference to the special charge applied.

**PROPOSAL:**

To levy a special charge on the land identified in the recommendation for the purpose of contributing to the costs of operation and maintenance of the Cow Bay, Daintree, Killaloe and Ayton Transfer Stations.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

It is estimated that the special charge will contribute \$53,336 (on an annual basis) towards the cost of operation and maintenance of the Transfer Stations. This contribution is towards the net loss of \$137,868 (on an annual basis) for the operation and maintenance of the facilities.

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b> <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>6</b>
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REVENUE STATEMENT AND RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2014/15  
FINANCIAL YEAR

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council resolve 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 2014/15 financial year.
2. That Council resolve pursuant to chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to adopt the recommendations contained in the attached Rates and Charges for the 2014/15 financial year, and included with the minutes.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Revenue Statement for the 2014/15 financial year
- Rates & Charges for the 2014/15 financial year

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**DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL**


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**REVENUE STATEMENT FOR THE 2014/15 FINANCIAL YEAR**
**1. INTRODUCTION**

This revenue statement is produced in accordance with section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 169 and 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**2. DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATING**
**2.1 – Differential General Rating – General Comments**

Council has decided that in accordance with section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, differential general rates will be levied on all rateable land in the Council area. In Council's opinion, differential general rating enables there to be a more equitable relationship between revenue raised from particular land and the circumstances relevant to that land, than would be the case under a standard rating system where rates are levied at a single rate in the dollar on all rateable land.

In determining its differential rating system, Council's objective is to ensure the fair and consistent application of lawful rating and charging principles, without bias, taking account of all relevant considerations and disregarding irrelevancies such as the perceived personal wealth of individual ratepayers or ratepayer classes.

In summary, the differential rating categories have been determined having regard to matters such as:

- Land use;
- Availability of services;
- Consumption of services;
- Valuation; and
- Income producing capacity of land.

**2.2 – Summary of Differential General Rating Categories & Descriptions** (refer to Schedule 1 for the full list of categories, descriptions and identification for each category)

*The following categories and descriptions are to be used for rating purposes for all rateable properties:*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
Residential A -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1 to \$490,000.
Residential B -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$490,001 to \$735,000.
Residential C -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$735,001 to \$975,000.
Residential D -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$975,001 to \$1,220,000.
Residential E -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,220,001 to \$1,465,000.
Residential F -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,465,001 to \$1,710,000.
Residential G -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,710,001 to \$1,955,000.
Residential H -	Residential properties with a valuation from \$1,955,001 to \$2,200,000.
Residential I -	Residential properties with a valuation greater than \$2,200,000.
Residential J -	Residential properties not subject to banding.
Residential K -	Residential properties that are building units.
Residential L -	Multi Unit Dwellings (Flats).
Residential M -	Residential land which is subject to section 50 of the <i>Land Valuation Act 2010</i> .

Residential Q -	Land situated at the South Arm and the Heads of the Daintree River that has a land use code of 0600 and is held as a Permit to Occupy.
Commercial E -	Commercial properties not included in Commercial Categories F & H.
Commercial F -	Properties used by Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups that are eligible for Rates Based Financial Assistance.
Commercial H -	Shopping Centres with a secondary land use of Marina with a total area over 5ha.
Rural Productive -	All properties which are used predominantly for Primary Production.

Council delegates to the chief executive officer (CEO) the power to determine which category a particular rateable assessment should be allocated into. In this regard, the CEO will be guided by the list of land use codes set out in Schedule 1.

Further information that the CEO may utilize in this regard includes:

- The land use codes as adopted by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for formulating Local Authority valuations;
- The current Planning Areas in the Douglas Shire Planning Scheme 2008 and the Integrated Resort Development Act 1987 (Mirage Port Douglas Scheme);
- Other such criteria as outlined within this statement and existing as at 1 July 2014.

The definitions of rateable and non-rateable land are outlined in section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 73 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and are attached as Schedule 2.

### 2.3 – Limiting the increase in rates and charges

For the 2014/15 financial year, Council will not be passing any resolution (pursuant to section 116 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*) limiting the increase in rates or charges.

## 3. CALCULATION OF LEVIES

### 3.1 PROVISIONS

- Differential General Rates will apply based on categories.
- Minimum general rates will apply.
- There will be no “rate capping” (see section 2.3 above).

### 3.2 APPLICATION OF GENERAL RATES BY CATEGORY

#### (a) RESIDENTIAL

Category A	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category B	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category C	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category D	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category E	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category F	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.

Category G	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category H	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category I	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category J	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category K	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category L	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category M	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with no minimum, as required under section 50 of the <i>Land Valuation Act 2010</i> .
Category Q	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.

(b) COMMERCIAL

Category E	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category F	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.
Category H	A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.

(c) RURAL PRODUCTIVE

A single rate in the dollar to apply to all properties included in this category with a set minimum.

#### 4. ISSUE OF NOTICES

The issuing of rate notices and the payment of rates is closely linked to interest charged on overdue rates.

- Notices for the 2014/15 financial year will be issued half-yearly, with water usage notices being issued three times during the year.
- The due date for payment is defined as being at least thirty-one (31) days but not more than thirty-five (35) days from the date of issue of the rate notice.
- Interest will be charged at the rate of 11% per annum calculated at compound interest at daily rests on all rates and charges which remain outstanding after expiration of the due date for payment.

## 5. REMISSIONS AND CONCESSIONS

### 5.1 LODGEMENT OF APPLICATIONS

- (a) All applications for remission must be in writing on the prescribed form and contain a declaration as to the accuracy of the information contained therein.
- (b) Applications in respect of a new financial year should be submitted before the commencement of each rating period. New applications for remission received within three (3) months of the commencement of a rating period will be accepted for consideration provided the applicant meets all the criteria as at the commencement of the rating period and such remission will be effective from the beginning of that rating period and not applied retrospectively to previous rating periods. Furthermore, if an applicant meets all the criteria on multiple properties for the full rating period, remission will be applicable to one property only. Depending on the lateness of the application and processing times, the applicant may be required to pay the rates in full by the due date to ensure that interest does not apply. In such cases a credit for the amount of the remission will be placed on the applicant's rate file.
- (c) Once an application for remission is approved it shall remain in force from year to year without further renewal whilst the applicant remains owner/occupier of the property in question.
- (d) Where an applicant's circumstances alter it is incumbent upon the applicant to notify Council. Council will conduct periodic audits to verify current entitlements.

### 5.2 PENSIONER REMISSION

- (a) The rebate will be up to 40% of the General Rate to a maximum of \$1,350.00 per annum.
- (b) The upper limit of total remission will not exceed 5% of Council's total net general rates at which point the 40% remission is to be reduced on a pro rata basis.
- (c) Remission will apply for the full rating period (presently six months) for which the remission has been granted whether the ratepayer remains the registered owner or not.
- (d) The following guidelines apply in respect of persons applying for pensioner remission:
  - i. The applicant(s) must be the sole owner(s) of the property in respect of which remission is sought or be Life tenant(s) under a Will with responsibility to pay all rates and charges.
  - ii. Such property must be their principal place of residence.
  - iii. The applicant(s) must be the holder(s) of one of the following Queensland cards:
    - Centrelink, Pension Concession Card.
    - Department of Veterans' Affairs, Pension Concession Card.
    - Department of Veterans' Affairs, Repatriation Health Card. (Full Conditions only)
  - iv. If a pensioner becomes the owner of a new property, they must make application for remission in respect of that property.

- v. Such remission of rates will only apply if the applicant(s) pay their rates or make an attempt to pay their rates prior to the end of the financial year for which remission is granted. An attempt to pay shall be shown by part payments being made and a payment plan with Council being entered into. Remission of rates for the first rates issue of a financial year will be granted subject to rates from that issue being paid in full prior to the end of that financial year.
- (e) Recognising that many pensioners reside some or all of the time in hospitals, nursing homes, or with family or friends for ill health reasons, the residence may be regarded as the 'principal place of residence' if it is not occupied on a paid tenancy basis during the absence of the approved pensioner owner(s).
- (f) Where a pensioner is receiving Council pensioner remission in respect of a property owned by that person and the person dies, Council remission will cease at the end of the rating period in which records obtained from the Department of Social Security for entitlement purposes do not match Council's Records. When the property title is transferred under a will to a beneficiary who qualifies for Council pensioner remission, that person will be granted Council remission retrospectively to the beginning of the rating period, provided the pensioner would also have conformed with all the relevant criteria at the commencement of such rating period.

Pensioners may be entitled to a State Government subsidy (currently 20%, up to a maximum of \$200.00 per property per annum). Where the State Government subsidy applies, Council will remit the appropriate amount off the rate notice and claim reimbursement from the State Government.

To be eligible for the subsidy a pensioner is required to complete an initial application form including a declaration, or if already registered with Council that person's eligibility status will continue. Once registered, no further application is required each year, unless the ratepayer's pensioner or eligibility status changes.

Provisions of this aspect of the policy may change from time to time depending on the policies of the Government of the time. Guidelines currently applicable are available on request from Council.

### 5.3 RETIREMENT VILLAGE REMISSIONS

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. Thirty days prior to the commencement of any rating period the owner of the land shall lodge an application for remission in the following form:

- (a) There shall be a Declaration by the owner that pensioners resident in the complex will be given the benefit of the remission.
- (b) A list of all residents in the village and an indication as to which of those residents are pensioners.
- (c) Where residents are pensioners, their pension number.
- (d) A declaration from residents or their legal representatives (where they were residents) that they received the benefit of the remission in the prior year.

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.

#### 5.4 RATES BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This policy allows Council to consider applications for remission of general rates and sewerage charges from Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups.

To qualify for assistance, the constitution of these organisations must clearly state prohibitions on any member of the organisation making a private profit or gain, either from ongoing operations of the organisation or as a result of distribution of assets if the organisation is wound up.

Those not for profit organisations that are not already receiving Rates Based Financial Assistance and believe that they may be eligible should contact Council. New applications must be received prior to 31 May each year.

#### 5.5 RATES INCENTIVE FOR CONSERVATION POLICY

##### (a) Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish the process for affording rates incentives to landholders that enter into a Conservation Agreement for a Nature Refuge under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

##### (b) Scope

This policy applies to all land within the Council boundaries.

##### (c) Reference

*Nature Conservation Act 1992*

Where this policy is inconsistent with a previously published policy, procedure or requirement, this policy shall prevail.

##### (d) Definitions

Critical Habitat – (as per the meaning under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*).

##### (e) Policy

- i. The owner enters into an agreement preserving/conserving flora and fauna on a rateable property within the boundaries of the Council. This agreement must be bound to the property title, in perpetuity, by a Conservation Agreement for a Nature Refuge under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
- ii. The rates incentive is proportionately attributed to that area of land included in an agreement.
- iii. The rates incentive will be credited to the recipient's rates notice prior to being issued.
- iv. Refund Rules;
  - 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* are entitled to 50% of the general rate.
  - 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* are entitled to 35% of the general rate.
- v. Any benefit provided to a landholder through the Rates Incentive for Conservation Program must be repaid to Council if the declaration of the Nature Refuge to which it relates is revoked in accordance with Section 50 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
- vi. If rates are not paid in full prior to the end of a financial year, future rates incentives will not apply until all outstanding rates are paid.

## 6. SPECIAL CHARGES

### 6.1 RURAL FIRE BRIGADES

A special charge will be levied on all rateable land within the Wonga, Thornton Peak, Daintree, Mowbray Valley and Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigades areas (identified by the Rural Fire Service of Queensland).

Each parcel of rateable land will specially benefit to the same extent from the purchase and maintenance of equipment by each Rural Fire 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.

The quantum of the special charge is Wonga Rural Fire Brigade - \$35.00, Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade - \$8.00, Daintree Rural Fire Brigade - \$25.00, Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade - \$40.00 and Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade - \$25.00 per rateable assessment. Revenue raised from this special charge will assist with the purchase and maintenance of equipment in the current or future financial years.

The levy will form part of the half yearly rates levy issued twice yearly.

### 6.2 REFUSE DISPOSAL

A special charge of \$156.87 will be levied on each rateable assessment with improvements north of Ellis Beach (excluding properties holding Permits to Occupy on the South Arm and the Heads of the Daintree River) that do not receive the Council kerbside waste and recyclables collection service, where the occupier has been provided with an identification card to use the Cow Bay, Daintree, Killaloe and Ayton Transfer Stations free of charge for waste.

The special charge represents a contribution towards the costs associated with funding the provision, operation and maintenance of landfill refuse disposal sites including transfer stations available for general public use.

Each occupier of rateable land will specially benefit from the use of landfill and transfer stations that are available.

The levy will form part of the half yearly rates levy issued twice yearly.

## 7. UTILITY CHARGES

### 7.1 WATER – POTABLE

#### (a) RESIDENTIAL

All properties in this class of consumer receiving water from the following Water Supply Schemes and Catchments:-

Dagmar Heights;  
Daintree;  
Mossman/Port Douglas;  
Whyanbeel; and other groundwater and run off river sources, shall be levied the following charges:-

- An access charge for all residential type improvements.
- Water usage charged at a prescribed rate.
- Water usage charges levied three times during the year.

In circumstances where improvements are built over the boundary line of two allotments, the total land area of both allotments is less than 1190m<sup>2</sup> and the ratepayer proves to Council that this is the case, Council shall levy utility charges as if it were one property.

Financial assistance is available to offset water usage costs for users of Home Dialysis Equipment. Written applications must be submitted to Council for approval.

(b) COMMERCIAL

All properties in this class of consumer regardless of supply scheme shall be levied the following charges:-

- An access charge per improvement.
- Water usage charged at a prescribed rate.
- Water usage charges levied three times during the year.

In circumstances where commercial/industrial improvements are built over the boundary line of two allotments and the ratepayer proves to Council that this is the case, Council shall levy utility charges as if it were one property.

(c) RURAL PRODUCTIVE

All properties in this class of consumer receiving water from the following Water Supply Schemes and Catchments:-

Dagmar Heights;  
Daintree;  
Mossman/Port Douglas;  
Whyanbeel; and other groundwater and run off river sources, shall be levied the following charges:

- An access charge for all residential type improvements.
- An access charge for all rural productive improvements with water connected.
- Water usage charged at a prescribed rate.
- Water usage charges levied three times during the year.

(d) ALL CATEGORIES

For Residential, Commercial and Rural Productive 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 was rateable.

Meters shall be read on a rotational basis, three times each year.

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.

For Residential and Commercial properties, where improvements are built on one parcel of land any adjoining parcels with the same owners shall be rated separately for utility charges.

Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups that are recipients of Rates Based Financial Assistance will be charged for all water usage at a rate equivalent to the residential charge per kilolitre.

## 7.2 SEWERAGE

### (a) RESIDENTIAL

A base charge will be levied for each vacant allotment, residence, flat and each strata-title unit where Council is prepared to accept sewage.

In circumstances where improvements are built over the boundary line of two allotments, the total land area of both allotments is less than 1190m<sup>2</sup> and the ratepayer proves to Council that this is the case, Council shall levy utility charges as if it were one property.

In circumstances where pedestals/urinals are built on common property associated with Strata Title units a standard commercial charge per water closet (W.C.) will apply.

### (b) COMMERCIAL

To be charged per water closet (W.C.).

### (c) RURAL PRODUCTIVE

- i. A base charge will be levied for all residency type improvements.
- ii. A charge per water closet (W.C.) will apply for all rural productive improvements connected to the sewer.

## 7.3 CLEANSING

### (a) DOMESTIC CLEANSING CHARGE

A base charge will be levied for all residency type improvements.

### (b) COMMERCIAL CLEANSING CHARGE

All properties north of Ellis Beach are to be charged in accordance with the adopted schedule (refer Rates and Charges).

## 8. FEES AND CHARGES

### 8.1 GENERAL COMMENTS

Pricing is an issue that is of growing interest to both Council and its constituency, with calls for greater reliance on user fees and charges and less reliance on rates levied. The need to balance these considerations with the community service obligations of Council means that the issue of pricing may not be a particularly easy one.

In general, the application of the "user pays" principle is the most acceptable methodology for applying a charge for services provided by Council. It permits a choice that can be exercised by constituents and allows increases or supports reductions in consumption in accordance with the particular preferences and tastes of the individual user. As well, equity benefits are paramount because those who do not use a particular service are not required to pay part of the cost of its supply.

Council may decide to provide subsidised services in certain instances to various disadvantaged groups and may relax or reduce user fees in those cases. Decisions to subsidise these community groups will be explicit both in terms of the groups to be subsidised and the level of subsidy to be provided.

Council's adopted Fees and Charges Schedule includes cost-recovery fees.

## 8.2. COST-RECOVERY FEES

Pursuant to section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council may fix a cost-recovery fee for any of the following:-

- (a) An application for, or the issue of, an approval, consent, licence, permission, registration or other authority under a "Local Government Act" (this term is defined in the Schedule to the *Local Government Act 2009*);
- (b) Recording a change of ownership of land;
- (c) Giving information kept under a Local Government Act;
- (d) Seizing property or animals under a Local Government Act; or
- (e) Performing a function other than one mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d), imposed upon Council under the Building Act 1975 or the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002.

The cost recovery fees will not exceed the cost to Council of providing the service or taking the action for which each fee is charged.

## 9. POLICY FOR RATING EXEMPTIONS and ASSISTANCE

Upon receipt of a written submission Council shall:

- (a) Decide if the land is rateable land after considering section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.
- (b) If the land is rateable land, consider if the land is exempt under section 73 of *Local Government Regulation 2012* or entitled to Rates Based Financial Assistance (refer 5.4).
- (c) If the land is still considered rateable after due consideration to the above, Council may grant financial relief under section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 4 Part 10 of *Local Government Regulation 2012* by way of a concession after considering the following:-
  - i. A local government may grant the concession only by-
    - A resolution granting the concession to a stated rate payer; or
    - if the resolution is a rebate of all or part of the rates or charges, or an agreement to defer payment of rates or charges, by a resolution granting the concession to a rate payer who is a member of a stated class of rate payers.
  - ii. However, the only circumstances or factors justifying the exercise of the power are –
    - the land is owned or occupied by a pensioner; or
    - the land is owned by -
      - an entity whose objects do not include making a profit; or
      - an entity that provides assistance or encouragement for arts or cultural development; or
    - the payment of the rates or charges will cause the owner of land hardship; or
    - the concession will encourage the economic development of all or part of the local government area; or
    - the concession will encourage land that is of cultural, environmental, historic, heritage or scientific significance to the local government area to be preserved, restored or maintained; or
    - the land is used exclusively for the purpose of a single dwelling house or farming and could be used for another purpose, including, for example, a commercial or industrial purpose; or

- the land is subject to a GHG (greenhouse gas) tenure, mining tenement or petroleum tenure; or
  - the land is part of a parcel of land (a parcel) that has been subdivided and –
    - the person who subdivided the parcel is the owner of the land; and
    - the land is not developed land.
- (d) Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups may make application for financial relief or remission to be known as Rates Based Financial Assistance in accordance with the Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy. Refer to Remissions and Concessions.

## 10. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of making, levying and imposing rates and charges the terms Wonga, Thornton Peak, Daintree, Mowbray Valley and Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade Districts will be the areas clearly defined on those maps, the originals of which are held by Council.

- (a) For the purpose of calculating sewerage rates and charges for Commercial and Rural Productive properties:-
- i. each 1.8m of urinal or part thereof shall be deemed to be a W.C.
  - ii. each three individual wall hung urinals or part thereof shall be deemed to be a W.C.
  - iii. each pedestal shall be deemed to be a W.C.
- (b) For the purposes of charging water usage charges for water meters read after 1 July 2014, the charge made shall be at the rate specified for the 2014/15 financial year.

For the purposes of charging water usage charges for water meters read after 1 July 2015, the charge made shall be at the rate specified for the 2015/16 financial year.

- (c) For the purposes 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*".

## 11. SCHEDULE 1 - LAND USE CATEGORIES

**Note:** The Planning Areas in the Douglas Shire Planning Scheme 2008 and the Integrated Resort Development Act 1987 (Mirage Port Douglas Scheme) may be a factor in determining the rating categories for Land Use Codes 01, 04, 06, 09, and 72.

### 11.1 RESIDENTIAL

#### CATEGORY A

##### Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1 to \$490,000.

##### 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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY B**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$490,001 to \$735,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY C**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$735,001 to \$975,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY D**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$975,001 to \$1,220,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY E**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1,220,001 to \$1,465,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY F**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1,465,001 to \$1,710,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY G**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1,710,001 to \$1,955,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY H**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation from \$1,955,001 to \$2,200,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY I**Description

Properties used, or capable of being used, for residential purposes with a valuation greater than \$2,200,000.

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 category E);
- 02 Residential single unit dwelling - urban and rural;
- 04 Large homesite - vacant urban and rural (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 05 Large homesite - dwelling - urban and rural; (excluding those in category J);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in category J and those in commercial category E);
- 09 Group Titles;
- 94 Vacant rural land.

**CATEGORY J**(i) Description

Properties (excluding those in categories A to I) where that land's Planning Area is included in the Douglas Shire Planning Scheme 2008 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 category E);
- 06 Outbuildings (excluding those in commercial category E); and

(ii) Description

Properties (excluding those in categories A to I) where that land's Planning Area is included in the Douglas Shire Planning Scheme 2008 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 K**

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 L**

Description

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

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 M**

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 Q**

Description

Properties that are Permits to Occupy and are situated at the South Arm and the Heads of the Daintree River.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

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

06 Outbuildings

## 11.2 COMMERCIAL

**CATEGORY E** (Suburban Commercial)(i) Description

Properties that are used, or capable of being used, for commercial/industrial purposes (excluding those in Commercial Categories F and H).

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;
- 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 Sub-Regional Centre, District Centre, Local Centre, Commercial and Industry Planning Areas within Cairns Plan 2009 or Commercial and Industry Planning Areas in 2006 Douglas Shire Planning Scheme.

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 F** (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 Based Financial Assistance Policy.

Identification (as determined by the CEO)

Properties in this category are recipients of rate assistance under Council's Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy.

**CATEGORY H** (Shopping Centres with a secondary land use of Marina with a total area over 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 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).

### 11.3 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;
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.

## 12. SCHEDULE 2 - RATEABLE AND NON RATEABLE LAND DEFINITIONS

***Rateable land is any land or building unit, in the local government area, that is not exempt from rates.***

***The following land is exempt from rates-***

- (a) *unallocated State land within the meaning of the Land Act;*
- (b) *land that is occupied by the State or a government entity, unless*
  - (i) *the government entity is a GOC or its subsidiary (within the meaning of the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993) and the government entity is not exempt from paying rates;*
  - or*
  - (ii) *the land is leased to the State or a government entity by someone who is not the State or a government entity;*
- (c) *land in a state forest or timber reserve, other than land occupied under-*
  - (i) *an occupation permit or stock grazing permit under the Forestry Act;*
  - (ii) *a lease under the Land Act;*
- (d) *Aboriginal land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 or Torres Strait Islander land under the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991, other than a part of the land that is used for commercial or residential purposes;*
- (e) *the following land under the Transport Infrastructure Act -*
  - (i) *strategic port land that is occupied by a port authority, the State, or a government entity;*
  - (ii) *strategic port land that is occupied by a wholly owned subsidiary of a port authority, and is used in connection with the Cairns International Airport or Mackay Airport*
  - (iii) *existing or new rail corridor land;*
  - (iv) *commercial corridor land that is not subject to a lease;*
- (f) *airport land, within the meaning of the Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Act 2008, that is used for a runway, taxiway, apron, road, vacant land, buffer zone or grass verge;*
- (g) *land that is owned or held by a local government unless the land is leased by the local government to someone other than another local government;*

- (h) *land that is-*
  - (i) *primarily used for show grounds or horse racing; and*
  - (ii) *exempted from rating by resolution of a local government;*
- (i) *land that is exempted from rating, by resolution of a local government, for charitable purposes;*
- (j) *land that is exempted from rating under-*
  - (i) *another Act; or*
  - (ii) *a regulation, for religious, charitable, educational or other public purposes.*

***The following land is included in (j) (ii) above;***

- (a) *land owned by a religious entity if the land is less than 20ha and is used for 1 or more of the following purposes -*
  - (i) *religious purposes, including, for example, public worship;*
  - (ii) *the provision of education, health or community services including facilities for aged persons and persons with disabilities;*
  - (iii) *the administration of the religious entity;*
  - (iv) *housing incidental to a purpose mentioned in subparagraph (i) to (iii);*
- (b) *land vested in, or placed under the management and control of, a person under an Act for-*
  - (i) *a public purpose that is a recreational or sporting purpose; or*
  - (ii) *charitable purposes;*
- (c) *land used for the purposes of a public hospital if-*
  - (i) *the public hospital is-*
    - (A) *part of a private hospital complex; or*
    - (B) *a private and public hospital complex; and*
  - (ii) *the land used for the purpose is more than 2ha and is separated from the rest of the complex;*
- (d) *land owned by a community organisation if the land is less 20ha and is used for providing the following-*
  - (i) *accommodation associated with the protection of children;*
  - (ii) *accommodation for students;*
  - (iii) *educational, training or information services aimed at improving labour market participation or leisure opportunities;*
- (e) *land used for a cemetery;*

◆◆◆◆◆

## RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2014/15 FINANCIAL YEAR

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the decision by Council to adopt Differential General Rates for the 2014/15 financial year and following the adoption of its Revenue Statement, Council resolves as follows in respect of Rates and Charges for the 2014/15 financial year:

#### A. DIFFERENTIAL RATE

- 1) That by virtue of the provisions of section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 80 and 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that the Differential General Rate and minimum rate for each category be as follows:

Residential A	.723128	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$863.00
Residential B	.681002	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$3,544.00
Residential C	.637266	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$5,006.00
Residential D	.586745	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$6,214.00
Residential E	.535967	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$7,159.00
Residential F	.492462	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$7,852.00
Residential G	.449903	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$8,422.00
Residential H	.404942	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$8,796.00
Residential I	.362279	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$8,909.00
Residential J	.723128	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$863.00
Residential K	1.319078	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$863.00
Residential L	.883684	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$1,294.00
Residential M	.723128	cents in the dollar	Minimum	Nil
Residential Q	.723128	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$508.00
Commercial E	.980329	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$889.00
Commercial F	.723128	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$863.00
Commercial H	5.996400	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$250,902.00
Rural Productive	1.318958	cents in the dollar	Minimum	\$889.00

- 2) That pursuant to the provisions of section 88 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* the following statement be included in the information which will accompany the rates notice:

- (a) If you consider that as at the date of the issue of the Notice, your land should, having regard to the description adopted by Council, have been included in another of the Categories listed in the booklet accompanying this Rates Notice you may object against the categorisation of your land by posting to or lodging with the Douglas Shire Council, PO Box 723, Mossman Qld 4873, a Notice of Objection in the prescribed form within thirty (30) days of the date of issue of the Rates Notice (the form is available at Council's Office at Front Street Mossman and on Council's website).
- (b) The only grounds on which you may so object are that your land should, having regard to the description adopted by Council, have been included in some other Category.

- (c) The posting to or lodging of a Notice of Objection with Council shall not in the meantime interfere with or affect the levy and recovery of the Rates referred to in this Rates Notice.
- (d) If, because of your Notice of Objection, the land is included in another Category, an adjustment of the amount of Rates levied or, as the case may be, the amount of Rates paid shall be made.
- (e) The Category in which your land is included was identified by Council.
- (f) The Categories of rateable land and the descriptions by which your land is categorised are contained in Council's Revenue Statement and are also contained in the information which accompanies your rates notice.

### **B. MINIMUM GENERAL RATE**

- 3) That pursuant to section 77 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the minimums for each category appear in section A (1). In addition, no minimum will apply to land to which section 50 of the *Land Valuation Act 2010* applies.

### **C. SPECIAL RATES & CHARGES**

- 4) That pursuant to sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council has resolved to raise and levy the following special charges:-

#### **RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**

The amounts set out below to be levied on each rateable assessment identified by maps marked Wonga Rural Fire Brigade, Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade, Daintree Rural Fire Brigade, Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade and Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade:-

Wonga Rural Fire Brigade	\$35.00
Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade	\$8.00
Daintree Rural Fire Brigade	\$25.00
Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade	\$40.00
Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade	\$25.00

#### **REFUSE CHARGE**

An amount of \$156.87 to be levied on each rateable assessment with improvements north of Ellis Beach that does not receive Council's Refuse Collection Service.

### **D. UTILITY CHARGES**

- 5) That pursuant to sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and chapter 4, part 7 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council has resolved to raise and levy the following utility charges:-

**CLEANSING****(a) DOMESTIC**

- (i) A Domestic Cleansing Charge, for the purpose of removal and disposal of refuse for the 2014/15 financial year be set at an amount of \$365.19 per service and applied in accordance with the following schedule:-

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

- (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.

**(b) COMMERCIAL (Properties north of Ellis Beach)**

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 \$365.19 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 \$365.19 per unit for a weekly refuse removal service. Application of the charge is to be in accordance with the schedule below:

<b>Type of Improvement</b>		<b>Minimum Number Of Cleansing Service Units</b>
1.	<b>Caretakers/Managers Accommodation</b> Each	1
2.	<b>Schools (Pre-Schools)</b>	
	- Mossman State High School	20
	- 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.	<b>Industrial/Commercial Premises</b> (includes professional offices and industrial/commercial premises not otherwise specified in this schedule) each shop office	1
4.	<b>Hotels</b>	10
5.	<b>Cafes/Restaurants</b>	2
6.	<b>Take Away Food Outlets</b>	2
7.	<b>Caterer's Premises</b>	3
8.	<b>Grocery/Convenience Store/Supermarkets</b>	
	8.1 SUPERMARKETS Supermarkets	4
	8.2 GENERAL STORES Welcomemart Front Street Foodstore Johnston Road Store Four Mile Beach Mini Market Foodtown Food Store	2
	8.3 CONVENIENCE STORES Port Douglas General Store Newell Store Marano's Daintree	1
9.	<b>Halls</b>	1
10.	<b>Churches</b> (including Church Hall)	1
11.	<b>Mossman Hospital</b>	36
12.	<b>Day Care Centre</b>	3
13.	<b>Kindergartens</b>	1
14.	<b>Sporting Clubs</b>	3
15.	<b>Motel/Resort Accommodation</b>	
	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.	<b>Holiday Cabins</b> For every three cabins or part thereof	1

<u>Type of Improvement</u>		<u>Minimum Number Of Cleansing Service Units</u>
17.	<b>Marinas</b>	
	i) up to fifty berths for every two berths	1
	ii) for every additional five berths in excess of fifty berths	1
18.	<b>Fire Stations, Ambulance Centres, Police Stations, Court Houses</b>	
	i) Station or Centre	1
	ii) Each Officer's residence (where jointly rated with i) above)	1
19.	<b>Post Offices</b>	1
20.	<b>Wrecking Yards</b>	2
21.	<b>Mossman Central Mill</b>	10

## **SEWERAGE**

Sewerage charges shall be made for the cost of supplying a service for the removal of sewage for the 2014/15 financial year in accordance with the following:-

### **(a) RESIDENTIAL**

- (i) A standard charge of \$762.41 to be applied in accordance with the following:-
- For each residence, each flat and each strata title unit.
  - For each residence and/or each flat erected over two allotments of land with a total land area of less than 1190m<sup>2</sup> where Council is prepared to accept sewage.
- (ii) A charge of \$606.98 to be applied to each vacant allotment.
- (iii) A standard commercial charge per W.C. will apply to properties where strata title units have pedestals/urinals servicing common property.

### **(b) COMMERCIAL**

A standard charge of \$652.28 per W.C. to be applied in accordance with the following:-

- (i) In respect of sewerer 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 sewerer 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 sewerer 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, 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.

- (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 subclause (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 2014 the rate shall be apportioned.

**(c) RURAL PRODUCTIVE**

A standard charge of \$762.41 to be applied in accordance with the following:-

- (i) In respect of all sewerred 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.

**(d) ALL CATEGORIES**

In respect of sewerage for Residential, Commercial and Rural Productive 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.

**WATER CHARGES – POTABLE**

Water Charges shall be made for the purpose of supplying water for the 2014/15 financial year on the following basis:-

**(a) RESIDENTIAL**

- (i) An access charge of \$254.69 shall be applied in accordance with the following:-
  - For each barrack, each residence, each flat, each strata title unit and each vacant allotment categorised as residential.
  - For each residence and/or each flat erected over two allotments of land with a total land area less than 1190m<sup>2</sup>.
- (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 \$1.15 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.

**(b) COMMERCIAL**

- (i) An Access Charge of \$254.69 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.
- (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 \$1.22 per kilolitre for all water passing through the meter within the water year.

**(c) RURAL PRODUCTIVE**

- (i) An access charge of \$254.69 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 \$1.15 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.

**(d) ALL CATEGORIES**

In respect of Residential, Commercial and Rural Productive 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 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) Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups that are recipients of Rates Based Financial Assistance will be charged for all water usage at \$1.15 per kilolitre.

- (vi) Meters shall be read on a rotational basis three times each year.
- (vii) Accounts for water usage will be issued three times during the year.

#### **E. ISSUE OF RATE NOTICES**

- 6) (a) That all Rates and Charges made, levied and imposed for the 2014/15 financial year (other than Water Usage Charges – Potable) will be issued twice a year for the periods ending 31st December 2014 and 30th June 2015 respectively.
- (b) That Water Usage Charges – Potable imposed for the 2014/15 financial year will be issued three times a year and that Council adopts section 102(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to assist it levying these particular charges.
- (c) The due date for payment is defined as being at least thirty-one (31) days but not more than thirty-five (35) from the date of issue of the rate notice.

#### **F. INTEREST**

- 7) That pursuant to section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, interest will be charged at the rate of 11% per annum calculated at compound interest on daily rests, on all rates and charges which remain unpaid after the expiration of the due date for payment.

#### **G. DEFERRAL OF LIABILITY**

- 8) (a) That pursuant to section 125 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the amount of premium for Council agreeing to enter into arrangements to defer the payment of rates and charges is the amount equivalent to the amount of interest that would have been raised if the arrangement had not been entered into.
- (b) That a premium for allowing pensioners to accumulate rates be set at equal to the amount of interest that would have been raised if such arrangement had not been approved.

#### **H. DEFINITIONS**

- 9) (a) That for the purpose of calculation of sewerage rates and charges for Commercial properties:-
  - (i) Each 1.8m of urinal or part thereof shall be deemed to be a W.C.
  - (ii) Each three individual wall hung urinals or part thereof shall be deemed to be a W.C.
  - (iii) Each pedestal shall be deemed to be a W.C.
- (b) For the purpose of charging water usage charges for water meters read after 1 July 2014 the charge made shall be at the rate specified for the 2014/15 financial year.

- (c) 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>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b>  <b>24 JANUARY 2014</b>	<b>7</b>
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## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 MAY 2014

Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council notes the Financial Report for the period ended 31 May 2014.**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The attached Financial Report details the progress of the 2013/14 budget for the five months ending 30 May 2014 and provides a statement of estimated financial position for the current financial year.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In accordance with section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* the Chief Executive Officer must present to Council a financial report which states the progress that has been made in relation to the current financial year's budget. This report must be presented to Council on a monthly basis and cover the period up to a day as near as practicable to the end of the preceding month.

Additionally section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires the Chief Executive Officer to present to the annual budget meeting a statement of estimated financial position. The attached monthly report provides the expected financial position for the financial year ending 30 June 2014 based on the budget adopted by Council in January 2014.

### **COMMENT:**

The 2013/14 annual budget was adopted on 24 January 2014 and the attached report details progress against budget for the five months ending 31 May 2014. In reviewing this Financial Report the following should be noted:

- This report is not a statement of Council's full financial position, as such information cannot be provided until the final division of assets and liabilities between Cairns Regional Council and Douglas has been reflected in the opening balances of Council's general ledger.
- As financial trends were not available when compiling the budget, each budget item was divided evenly over the six month budget period. The receipt of revenue and application of expenditure does not necessarily occur in such a linear fashion and therefore when compared to budget a number of variations arise.
- Variations of note include:

- Less than anticipated revenue due to the change of government policy regarding the advance payment of the Financial Assistance Grant.
- less than anticipated expenditure on materials and services (although there are significant committals which will reduce this variation once the materials and services have been expensed).
- Depreciation expense has been accrued based on budget forecasts, as the asset register has been transferred from Cairns Regional Council and work has commenced on the fair value adjustment process.

Total operating revenue at the end of May was slightly under budget whereas operating expenditure was also under budget. As a result, the Financial Report shows an operating deficit of \$1,413,301 which is \$1,200,912 ahead of budget predictions.

**PROPOSAL:**

The Financial Report for the period ending 31 May 2014 be received and noted by Council.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Financial Report as at the end of May 2014.

<b>Douglas Shire Council</b>	<b>Douglas</b>	<b>Douglas</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Douglas</b>	<b>Actual as % of</b>
<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>Actual YTD '14</b>	<b>Budget YTD '14</b>		<b>Budget 13/14</b>	<b>Budget 13/14</b>
For the month of <b>MAY 2014</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>					
Net rates and utility charges	10,884,829	11,055,245	(170,416)	13,264,243	82%
Fees and charges	1,264,257	1,211,586	52,671	1,452,812	87%
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	145,640	377,090	(231,450)	452,504	32%
Interest received	300,146	262,975	37,171	315,578	95%
Other recurrent income	360,229	395,200	(34,971)	474,219	76%
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>12,955,102</b>	<b>13,302,096</b>	<b>(346,994)</b>	<b>15,959,356</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
Employee benefits	4,327,604	4,790,018	462,414	5,602,697	77%
Materials and services	5,376,089	6,490,585	1,114,496	7,788,593	69%
Depreciation	3,627,875	3,700,290	72,415	4,440,344	82%
Finance costs	55,848	22,500	(33,348)	27,000	207%
Other payments	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Total Recurrent Expenses</b>	<b>13,387,416</b>	<b>15,003,393</b>	<b>1,615,977</b>	<b>17,858,634</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Result from ordinary activities</b>	<b>(432,317)</b>	<b>(1,701,297)</b>	<b>1,268,980</b>	<b>(1,899,278)</b>	<b>23%</b>
De-Amalgamation costs post Jan 1	980,987	912,915	(68,072)	1,095,500	90%
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>(1,413,301)</b>	<b>(2,614,212)</b>	<b>1,200,912</b>	<b>(2,994,778)</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Capital revenue</b>					
Capital Grants and Subsidies	175,524	2,774,345	(2,598,821)	3,329,197	5%
Capital Contributions	-	84,735	(84,735)	101,667	0%
<b>Total capital revenue</b>	<b>175,524</b>	<b>2,859,080</b>	<b>(2,683,556)</b>	<b>3,430,864</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(1,237,777)</b>	<b>244,868</b>	<b>(1,482,645)</b>	<b>436,086</b>	<b>-284%</b>
<b>Capital expenses</b>					
Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	0%
Capital expenses	408,287	5,011,250	4,602,963	6,013,500	7%
<b>Total capital expenses</b>	<b>408,287</b>	<b>5,011,250</b>	<b>4,602,963</b>	<b>6,013,500</b>	<b>7%</b>

<b>SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING</b> <b>27 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>8</b>
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ANNUAL BUDGET 2014 - 2015  
Darryl Crees – General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council adopt the Annual Budget 2014 - 2015 as presented, including:**

- a. Statement of Comprehensive Income**
- b. Statement of Financial Position**
- c. Statement of Cash Flows**
- d. Statement of Changes in Equity**
- e. Long-term Financial Forecast**
- f. Measures of Financial Sustainability**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Council is required to adopt an annual budget for each financial year and also determine the rates and charges to be levied for the same period. The Annual Budget 2014 – 2015 presented to Council has been prepared in collaboration with all Councillors.

This budget is based on sound financial sustainability principles and employs a strategy to return Council's operating result to a balanced budget within the shortest reasonable period.

**BACKGROUND:**

The *Local Government Act 2009* requires Council to resolve the rates and charges to be levied for each financial year (section 94(2)) and adopt an annual budget before 01 August each year (section 107A).

Previous reports included in this agenda identify the rates and charges to be levied for the period 01 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

**PROPOSAL:**

The Annual Budget 2014 – 2015 including all legislative requirements as defined by section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* is presented for adoption.

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

The budget has been prepared to ensure that appropriate resources are available to deliver the activities and initiatives detailed in the Operational Plan 2014 – 2015 which has been developed based on the objectives of the Corporate Plan 2014 – 2019.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

In accordance with Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, monthly financial statements will be prepared and presented to Council which will state the progress that has been made against the budget.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

The inherent risk in delivering Council operations is the absence of historical data and trends available as this organisation has only been established since 1 January 2014. To mitigate this risk progress against budget will be actively monitored by the management team and reported on a monthly basis to Council.

**INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

A number of workshops have been held over the preceding months ensuring full collaboration between all Councillors and senior staff in the preparation of the budget. Relevant staff from all areas of Council have also been consulted during the budget preparation process.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Separate Attachment - Annual Budget 2014 - 2015