

5.4 SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR WONGA BEACH CARAVAN PARK

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DEPARTMENT: Governance

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. adopts the new Schedule of Fees and Charges for Wonga Beach Caravan Park;**
- 2. delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to negotiate fees and charges where circumstances warrant and to make minor amendments to the schedule.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When the 2016-17 Schedule of Fees and Charges was adopted by Council, no changes were made to the Wonga Beach Caravan Park fees. A decision was made at that time that the Park fees would not be changed in the middle of the tourist season and that a proposal would be brought to Council when the peak season finished.

BACKGROUND

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

Following a review of similar caravan parks down the Queensland coast, in particular Far North Queensland, it was found that the average price is \$28.00 per night for a powered site. The majority of parks do not offer an off peak season rate and a decision has been made to recommend a flat rate all year round. The fees for unpowered sites have been removed as the Park has power available at all sites.

This new pricing structure will significantly simplify the fees and charges schedule, will be easier for the caretakers to administer, and will ensure that rates are competitive.

PROPOSAL

The attached schedule of Fees and Charges for Wonga Beach Caravan Park is presented to Council for adoption. It is recommended that the fees are as follows:

- a flat rate of \$30.00 per night (for up to two persons) to apply all year round, effectively removing the Peak and Off-Peak rates;
- a weekly rate of \$180.00 per week (for up to two persons) to apply all year round, effectively 'stay seven nights and only pay for six';
- a flat rate of \$5.00 for an additional person applies, to replace the differing rates for children and adults.
- children under three years of age to not incur a fee.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Fees and charges are an integral component of Council's revenue stream. Wherever possible Council aims to recover the cost of providing the service; in other cases Council subsidises the service in recognition of the broader community interest. The change in fee structure will be monitored to ensure Council's goal of achieving long term financial sustainability is achieved.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: A robust and competitive fee structure will ensure maximum utilization of council's facilities thus improving Council's long term sustainability.

Social: Appropriate fees will maximise use of the Caravan Park by tourists who contribute positively to social opportunities in the Shire.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 5 – Governance

5.2.1 - Provide Councillors and community with accurate, unbiased and factual reporting to enable accountable and transparent decision-making.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

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

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

Asset-Owner Meeting the responsibilities associated with owning or being the custodian of assets such as infrastructure.

CONSULTATION

Internal: General Manager Corporate Services
Manager Governance
Governance Officer

External: Benchmarking of similar Caravan Parks in Queensland
Wonga Beach Caravan Park Caretakers

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges – Wonga Beach Caravan Park

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL - Fees & Charges Schedule 2016 / 2017						
Description of Fee, Charge, Penalty plus conditions	GL Code	Unit	2015/16 Rate Including GST	2016/17 Rate including GST	Excluding GST	GST on Base Rate
GST Code						21
Parks & Recreation						
Caravan Park - Wonga Beach - POWERED SITE						
Per night: Up to 2 people	4150.0110.0117	Night	36.55	30.00	27.27	2.73
Per week: Up to 2 people	4150.0110.0117	Week	219.30	180.00	163.64	16.36
Additional Person - Per Night	4150.0110.0117	Night	8.60	5.00	4.55	0.45
Child under 3 years - NO CHARGE						