# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL (BUDGET) COUNCIL MEETING OF THE DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT THE DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 64-66 FRONT STREET, MOSSMAN ON TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 2016, COMMENCING AT 12.00PM

#### 1. PRESENT

Cr Julia Leu (Mayor), Cr Abigail Noli (Deputy Mayor), Cr David Carey, Cr Michael Kerr, Cr Roy Zammataro, Linda Cardew (Chief Executive Officer), Darryl Crees (General Manager Corporate Services), Paul Hoye (General Manager Operations), Joanne Jacobson (Manager Governance), John Rehn (Manager Finance and IT), Kerrie Hawkes (Executive Officer), Greg McLean (Communications and Events Officer), Nicole Barton (Mayoral and Councillor Support Officer) and Nevinia Davenport (Executive Assistant).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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

#### **APOLOGIES**

Nil.

#### 2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST/MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

Nil.

#### 3. AGENDA ITEMS

#### 3.1. OPERATIONAL PLAN 2016 - 2017

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

Moved Cr Kerr

**Seconded** Cr Zammataro

**Carried** unanimously.

# 3.02. 2016/17 REVENUE GENERAL POLICY AND 2016/17 DEBT GENERAL POLICY

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Carey

"That Council adopts the:

- 1. 2016/17 Revenue General Policy; and
- 2. 2016/17 Debt General Policy"

**Carried** unanimously.

<sup>&</sup>quot;That Council adopts the Operational Plan 2016 - 2017."

#### 3.03. RATES BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GENERAL POLICY

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

**Moved** Cr Carey

**Seconded** Cr Kerr

"That Council adopts the Rates Based Financial Assistance General Policy."

**Carried** unanimously.

#### 3.04. STRUCTURE OF GENERAL RATING CATEGORIES FOR 2016/17

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

**Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Zammataro

"That Council adopts the following categories and descriptions for the purpose of levying differential general rates for 2016/17:

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

**Carried** unanimously.

### 3.05. MOWBRAY VALLEY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

**Moved** Cr Kerr

**Seconded** Cr Carey

That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the 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 \$22,140.
  - d. The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2017.
- 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 2016/17 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.
- 4. The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Mowbray Valley Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget."

Carried unanimously.

#### 3.06. DAINTREE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

Moved Cr Leu

Seconded Cr Noli

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

- 1. The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:
  - a. The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade.
  - b. The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Daintree Rural Fire Brigade.
  - c. The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$1,970.

- d. The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2017.
- 2. All rateable land within the area delineated in orange on the map named Daintree Rural Fire Brigade will specially benefit to the same extent from the purchase and maintenance of equipment by the Brigade in the current or future financial years because each such parcel is within the area for which the brigade is in charge of fire fighting and fire prevention under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990.
- 3. Council makes a special charge of \$15.00 per rateable assessment for the 2016/17 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.
- 4. The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Daintree Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget."

**Carried** unanimously.

### 3.07. THORNTON PEAK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

#### **Moved** Cr Noli

**Seconded** Cr Kerr

"That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the 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 \$33,061.
  - d. The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2017.
- 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 2016/17 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.
- 4. The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Thornton Peak Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget."

#### Carried unanimously.

#### 3.08. WONGA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE - SPECIAL CHARGE

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

#### **Moved** Cr Leu

**Seconded** Cr Carey

"That Council levies a special charge in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be known as the 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 \$40,800.
  - d. The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2017.
- 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 2016/17 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.
- 4. The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Wonga Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget."

Carried unanimously.

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

#### **Moved** Cr Noli

Seconded Cr Leu

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

- 1. The overall plan for this special charge is as follows:
  - a. The service, facility or activity the subject of the special charge is the annual funding of the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade.
  - b. The rateable land to which the special charge applies is delineated in orange on the map named Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade.
  - c. The estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan is \$9,200.

- d. The estimated time for carrying out the overall plan is one (1) year ending on 30 June 2017.
- 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 2016/17 financial year to be levied by two half year levies.
- 4. The entire budgeted revenue shall be remitted to the Bloomfield River Rural Fire Brigade to be expended in accordance with their budget."

**Carried** unanimously.

#### 3.10. REFUSE - SPECIAL CHARGE

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

#### Moved Cr Noli

#### Seconded Cr Kerr

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

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

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

- a. Rateable Land to which the Special Charge Applies
  - i. All land with improvements that does not receive the Council kerbside waste and/or recyclables collection service, where the occupier has been provided with an identification card to use the Daintree and Killaloe Transfer Stations free of charge.
  - ii. All land with improvements north of the Daintree River that does not receive the Council kerbside waste and/or recyclables collection service, where the occupier has been provided with an identification card to use the Cow Bay and Ayton Transfer Stations free of charge.
- b. Description of the Service, Facility or Activity

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

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

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

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

- i. Cow Bay Transfer Station
- ii. Daintree Transfer Station
- iii. Killaloe Transfer Station
- iv. Ayton Transfer Station
- c. Estimated Cost for Implementing the Overall Plan

The estimated cost to Council of operating the Transfer Stations over the 2016/17 financial year is \$302,500 and the estimated revenue from gate fees for the same period is \$20,384, resulting in an anticipated net operating loss of \$282,116. 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 \$98,221, which equates to less than 33% of the yearly operating cost.

d. Estimated Time for Implementing the Overall Plan

The special charge will apply for the 2016/17 financial year.

- 3. The occupiers of the land to which the special charge applies will have special access to the above mentioned Transfer Stations for the purpose of free disposal of waste.
- **4.** For the 2016/17 financial year a special charge of \$169.36 per unit will be levied against each rateable assessment defined in clause 2(a), based on the improvements on the property as defined in the schedule below:

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

**Carried** unanimously.

# 3.11. REVENUE STATEMENT AND RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

### **Moved** Cr Carey

Seconded Cr Leu

- 1. "That Council resolves pursuant to chapter 4, part 3 of the Local Government Act 2009 and chapter 5, part 2 division 3 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to adopt the attached Revenue Statement for the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2. That Council resolves pursuant to chapter 4 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to adopt the recommendations contained in the attached Rates and Charges for the 2016/17 financial year, and included with the minutes."

Carried unanimously.

#### 3.12. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MAY 2016

John Rehn, Manager Finance and IT

Moved Cr Leu

**Seconded** Cr Carey

"That Council notes the Financial Report for the period ended 31 May 2016."

**Carried** unanimously.

#### 3.13. ANNUAL BUDGET 2016 - 2017

**Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services** 

Moved Cr Leu

Seconded Cr Noli

#### **MAYORAL BUDGET ADDRESS**

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

The last 2 ½ years has been a remarkable journey and I can confidently say the new Douglas Council has been an outstanding success. We have delivered record capital works and community infrastructure, received well over \$40 million in grants and introduced new programs designed to strengthen our economy, protect our unique environment and benefit the community.

Today, it my pleasure to present Douglas Shire Council's budget for 2016-17 – one that again delivers a record capital works program, important community infrastructure, some exciting new economic, environmental and community initiatives, alongside our existing programs.

This budget is fiscally responsible, and we remain on track with our plan to achieve a balanced budget by 2019-20.

Record capital works investment on vital infrastructure assets and innovative new projects are the hallmark of this budget, with almost \$15 million allocated for throughout the Douglas Shire over the next 12 months. It represents Council's biggest annual investment in capital works excluding National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding.

We're making sure we can sustain our communities by investing in vital infrastructure projects and building on our economic capabilities.

A highlight of the capital works program will be the commencement of the new Port Douglas reservoir. Water security is a top infrastructure priority and I am delighted that both the LNP and ALP have pledged \$6.7 million to the project, alongside the State Government funding of \$5 million. This reduces the burden on ratepayers and ensures critical infrastructure is delivered.

This is a budget that addresses the need to invest in our essential roads, rubbish, water and sewerage infrastructure requirements whilst laying the foundations for our future with innovative new projects A special emphasis on new sustainability initiatives, continuing economic and community projects across the Shire will stimulate the Douglas economy, provide employment opportunities and enhance our environmental sustainability.

#### **RATES AND CHARGES**

Council's continued focus on financial sustainability ensured more than 78% of properties in the Douglas Shire have been limited to an average 3.9 per cent rates increase, or less, well below forecasts.

For an average residential assessment in Category 1, with all utility charges and services, this increase will be \$91.01 per year or \$45.51 per half year rate notice. This increase equates to \$1.75 per week.

The adjustment of rates categories has also assisted in smoothing the impact of recent land valuations increases of 8% across the Shire.

Today, Council has also adopted the fees and charges with a modest increase of 2.9%, compared to 3.6% last year. A number of charges have been reduced or remain the same as last year.

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

#### **BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

I would like to highlight the following Council initiatives:

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

We are driving economic development by providing just under \$15 million in capital works, including \$5 million for the commencement of the new Port Douglas reservoir. The capital works program will also provide work for local contractors, local people and provide additional jobs in the next 12 months.

More than \$811,000 is allocated to local community organisations and tourism promotion. This budget boosts funding to Tourism Port Douglas Daintree (TPDD) by 5% to \$474,045. We are supporting our community events by providing funding of more than \$182,000 cash and in-kind to sponsor major events and stimulate economic prosperity generating millions of dollars for the overall economy.

This includes funding for Carnivale, Port Shorts Film Festival, Taste Port Douglas, Coral Coast Triathlon, RRR Mountain Bike Challenge, Ironman, Mossman Show, New Year Eve in Port Douglas, Mossman Community Christmas, The Great Barrier Reef Marathon and the Crocodile Trophy.

Almost \$150,000 will be distributed to local organisations, businesses and individuals through council's grants program which includes the Community Support Program, the Business Development Fund, the Events Funding Program and the Regional Arts Development Fund.

#### This budget directly supports our communities

Ongoing support and funding is provided for the Mossman District Nursing Home Precinct, for the construction of improved access to the Yalanji cemetery, and the preparation a functional brief for a domestic violence facility.

Council will launch a Sports Expo and we are continuing the Active Games in the Park program which is a free community activity in Mossman and Port Douglas along with many community activities that are delivered with council support, such as NAIDOC week, Seniors week, ANZAC commemorations and Remembrance Day.

As in previous years, 2016-17 will see all sectors of the community benefitting from major and important initiatives including the adoption of the 10 year Douglas Shire Planning scheme, the development of strategies and plans for economic development, sustainability, water security, recreational vehicles and community public spaces.

The economic development strategy, the RV strategy and the Teamsters are all exciting opportunities to identify opportunities and enhance our natural and built environment. Council will also conduct a Community Access Audit to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act and Australian Standards.

#### Improving our Environmental Performance

A special emphasis on new sustainability initiatives will enhance our environmental sustainability.

#### **Environment:**

- Adopting new Planning Scheme Conduct community consultation on new Douglas Shire Planning Scheme that implements responsible environmental practices.
- **Developing Sustainability Strategy** Incorporate targets for reducing Council's carbon footprint.
- **Encouraging recycling** Construct and commission additional public place recycling bins and conduct audits to confirm recycling rates.
- Improving resource recovery Implement Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan to increase landfill diversion rates of 20 per cent recorded at transfer stations.
- Reducing disposable plastic bag usage Implement opportunities to remove disposable plastic bag usage in Douglas Shire as part of the Keep Paradise Plastic Free campaign.
- **Protecting cassowaries** Increase Local Laws presence and undertake education campaign in relation to dog control and cassowaries north of the Daintree River.

#### Sustainability:

Assessing customer satisfaction levels – Conduct Customer Satisfaction
 Assessment to identify benchmarks across the range of Council services.

- Identifying Land Management Plans Determine freehold land assets currently surplus to Council requirements.
- Undertaking assessment of stormwater assets Undertake documented condition assessment of all stormwater assets and develop rectification plan including timeframes.
- Streamlining service provision Review community awareness of Port Douglas Community Hub and develop a plan to streamline service provision and improve community usage.
- Reviewing Disaster Management sub-plans Increase proficiencies in communications, hazard mitigation and warnings processes.
- Implementing a fleet maintenance system Develop a fleet maintenance system that records maintenance completed and predicts future maintenance requirements.
- Completing the Local Government Infrastructure Plan Adopt a plan that can be effective applied to commercial and residential developments in the Douglas Shire.

#### CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

This year's capital works program, is the largest on record in the Douglas Shire (excluding last year's record NDRRA works) at almost \$15 million.

Highlights of the 2016/17 Capital Works Program include:

\$5 million for Phase 1 of the new Port Douglas reservoir;

\$2.615 million for wastewater upgrades;

\$2.55 million for road, bridge and footpath renewals;

\$1.557 million for additional water infrastructure upgrades;

\$422,000 for upgrades to the Bloomfield Track;

\$250,000 for Stage 3 of the Daintree Gateway;

\$150,000 for the Flagstaff Hill Walking Trail;

\$100,000 to upgrade Macrossan St; and

\$100,000 for a new Mowbray River fishing platform.

Other features of the 2016/17 Capital Works Program include funding for disability access to Four Mile Beach, installation of street art in Port Douglas and Mossman, feasibility and design for a transfer station at Cape Tribulation and investigations into a new walking and bike trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I will now make some closing remarks.

I believe today is again a celebration of an extraordinary combined effort of Councillors and staff over the last 2 ½ years. This budget further delivers with a significant number of new economic, community and environmental initiatives that are precisely designed to stimulate our economy, protect our unique environment and lifestyle that we all treasure.

The success of our council is due to an excellent partnership between Councillors and staff. Part of our culture is that we are a team and it is of course due to our diligent and hardworking staff, led by our CEO, Linda Cardew.

In closing, I would like to thank and express my sincerest appreciation to our CEO, Linda Cardew, Darryl Crees, John Rehn and the finance team, Paul Hoye, Greg McLean and all staff who have contributed to the budget development process. Finally, I want to thank all my fellow Councillors for their substantial contributions towards this budget. It is an absolute pleasure to work with you all in what I believe will be a momentous 2<sup>nd</sup> term of the New Douglas Council.

Councillors, it is my pleasure to present the 2016-2017 Douglas Shire Council Budget to you for adoption."

"That Council adopts the Annual Budget 2016 - 2017 as presented, including:

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

Carried unanimously.

#### **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 12.28pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 19TH DAY OF JULY 2016

MAYOR/CHAIR