

3. DEBT GENERAL POLICY

Purpose

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.

Policy Content

The following sets out the Debt General Policy for the year ended 30 June 2023 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 requires 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 recurrent expenditure of Council.
6. 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 2032

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 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.

Related Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed whenever legislation changes, or annually if no changes have been required to be enacted, at the direction of the Chief Executive Officer.

Policy Details

Policy Name	Debt General Policy
Policy Number	3
Policy Version	8
Document Number	810030
Endorsed by	Chief Executive Officer
Policy Type	Statutory
Approval Authority	Council
Date Adopted	29/03/2022
Time Period	Annually
Review Date	01/03/2023
Policy Department	Finance and Corporate Services
Link to Corporate Plan	Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery
Revoked/Superseded	

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