



## MINUTES SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

**19 JUNE 2023**

### COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM

PRESENT: Cr B Manning (Chairperson)  
 Cr R Coghlan  
 Cr A Eden  
 Cr T James  
 Cr B Moller  
 Cr M O'Halloran  
 Cr B Olds  
 Cr R Pyne  
 Cr K Vallely  
 Cr C Zeiger

#### OFFICERS:

M Martin	Chief Executive Officer
C Posgate	Director People & Organisational Performance
E Johnson	Director Planning Growth & Sustainability
M Wuth	Director Cairns Infrastructure & Assets
D Puia	Director Lifestyle & Community
L Whitton	Chief Financial Officer
N Masasso	Director Economic Development & Advocacy
S Stephen	Associate Director Engineering Services
T Curcuruto	Executive Manager Strategic Asset Management & Planning
J Ritchie	Executive Manager Finance
A Combe	Executive Manager Marketing & Communications
P Rogato	Media Coordinator
A Turnbull	Executive Officer
S Godkin	Minute Secretary

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## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## PURPOSE OF MEETING

To consider the matters listed on the agenda.

## MAYORS BUDGET ADDRESS



I deliver the Cairns Regional Council's Budget for the 2023/24 financial year.

This will be the last time I will do so.

And I do most certainly understand the cost of living pressures faced in the current environment.

This is the most challenging Budget in my time at Council, which responds to some unique and challenging economic conditions.

Over the last 11 years, Council has delivered successive low-rate Budgets.

I made it clear when elected Mayor in 2012, the new Council philosophy meant any rate increase must be kept at, or below, CPI.

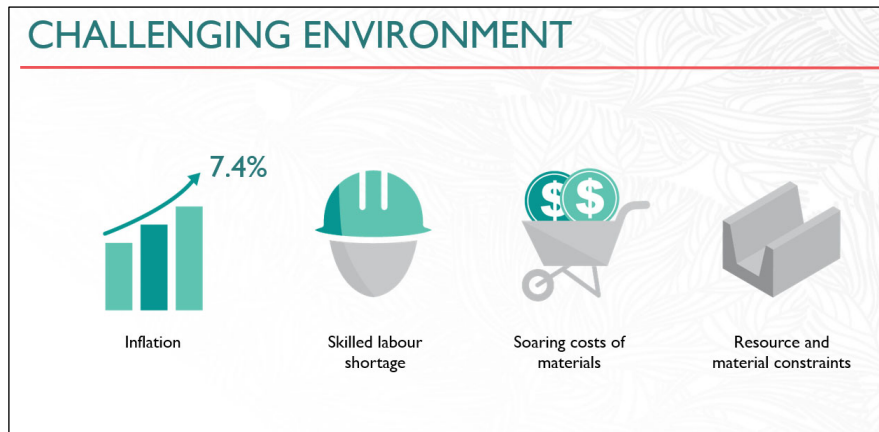
We have delivered on this promise in this year's Budget.

It is a practical Budget that focuses on the renewal, upgrade and the provision of targeted infrastructure and sets out a fiscally responsible plan to maintain service levels and absorb the impacts of rising costs as much as possible.

Targeted investment in the suburbs and priority spending on critical infrastructure ensures Council is delivering value for money for Cairns ratepayers.

In delivering last year's Budget, I spoke of the challenges related to the pandemic, and how the region's tourism and hospitality industries were bruised and battered from COVID-related health restrictions.

I also spoke with optimism about the reopening of borders and travel.



However, I flagged the emergence of new challenges, namely inflationary pressures, a tight labour market, and resourcing and supply chain restrictions.

These challenges have shaped Council's 2023/24 Budget, as have the principles and core values outlined in the Corporate Plan.

This five-year plan provides a blueprint for Council to achieve a sustainable future for our region, and guides the strategies, plans and policies to achieve that goal.

The Local Government principals – including transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; good governance; and sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure – play a role in everything that Council does.

This is a given, which our residents are entitled to expect at every turn.

Simply, if those principals are embraced, then we give ourselves the best chance of getting the right outcome for our community.



### **The city and environment**

A walk around our city clearly illustrates that it is one of the best kept cities in Australia.

As I walk the streets, I often get comments from locals and visitors, as I am sure my fellow Councillors do, on just how good our city looks.

This is not something that happens by accident, nor is it something that will happen by accident. It takes effort, and our dedicated workforce take great pride in what they do to make this happen.

Council remains committed to making Cairns a safe, sustainable and connected place that supports our enviable lifestyle.

In today's Budget, we have made a further commitment to maintaining the amenity of our city through additional resources.

Notably, there is a modest provision for a dedicated team that will respond to urgent clean up issues in the CBD, as well as some more daily pressure cleaning.

This is a relatively small commitment that will deliver great results.

As a tourist centre which adjoins two World Heritage-listed natural wonders – the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics rainforest – we are obligated to ensure we present ourselves in the best possible light.

We also have to continue optimising visitation and tourism opportunities by improving what we can offer.

For example, completing the Esplanade Dining Precinct was an important part of this process, delivering a new and attractive precinct as part of the CBD.

Council made the decision to complete these works while our city was impacted by COVID-19; the alternative was to wait until the pandemic was over.

It is all about timing, and we got the timing right. This proved to be the right decision.



Progressing the Cairns Gallery Precinct is also a part of increasing our offerings, and this year we have allocated funds to complete the refurbishment of the former Mulgrave Shire Office to create a gallery.

Council will need to keep talking to governments, both State and Federal, to continue progression of the Gallery Precinct, so as to discern our city and First Nations culture, and achieve our goal of becoming the Arts Capital of Northern Australia.

There is more work to do, not just in the CBD but also the suburbs, and this Budget goes some way to delivering on those needs.

### **Prudent management**

In considering this year's Budget, we have been mindful of the rising cost of delivering essential services.

Council continues to face the same inflationary challenges as everyone else, including cost pressures, supply chain issues and skilled labour shortages.

For example, we have registered a 30% increase in the cost associated with the construction of concrete paths and procurement of stormwater pipes and other associated prefabricated concrete products; price rises of over 40% for topsoils and sands; and electricity price rises close to 20%.

We also needed to budget for cost increases in bitumen works of 15%; a 20% cost escalation in fuel; and an 8% rise for waste collection services.

It has been a difficult process to achieve the outcome we are here to vote on today – many hours were spent deliberating, debating and formulating this Budget, and I thank the Councillors who did actively engage in this process, your input has been invaluable.

Maintaining service standards is a high priority.

We have looked carefully at our Capital Works program and considered which projects were absolutely necessary; those that could be deferred; where reduced scope was needed; and made the most of funding opportunities to maximise outcomes.



For example, Council advocated and was successful in securing State Government funding to assist with the development of Kenrick Park in Gordonvale and the establishment of the Trinity Beach Community Activity Space – a total of \$3.93 million and on a 50/50 basis.

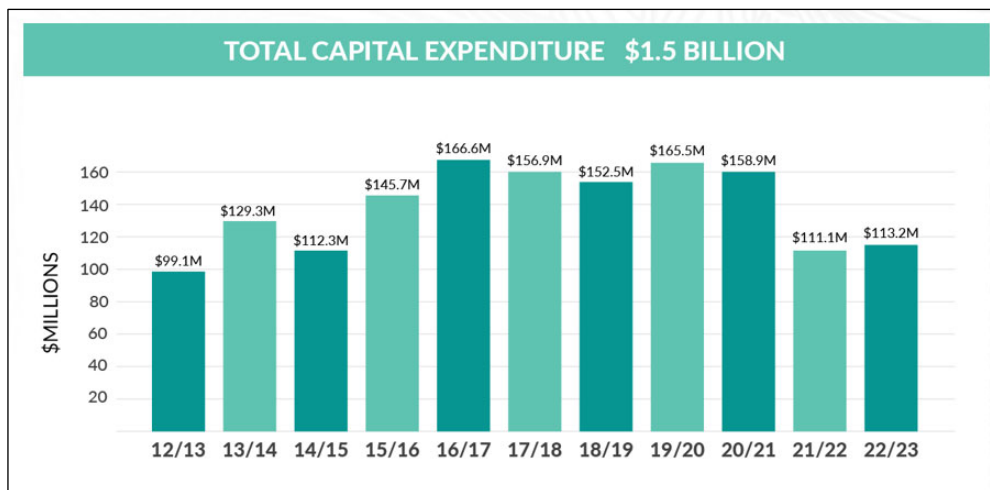
Both projects have been identified as being critical to the community, and by leveraging funding, Council can deliver them at less cost to ratepayers.

This methodology is very much in line with this Council's approach to the prudent and fiscally responsible management of the city's resources.

We have \$2.1 billion worth of infrastructure mapped out over the next 10 years and a robust long-term financial plan, demonstrating a commitment to sound financial management.

### Impact on the community

Council has committed approximately \$165 million in its Capital Works program, which has a clear focus on renewal and upgrades, and keeping with the mantra of maintaining our service levels.



It also means that our Capital Works program has, since I have been Mayor, delivered more than \$1.5 billion of community infrastructure, which has provided much-needed sports, recreational, cultural, road, water and waste facilities across the Cairns local government area.

In that time, we have delivered key projects, including:

- The Cairns Performing Arts Centre
- Munro Martin Parklands redevelopment
- Tobruk Memorial Pool redevelopment
- Cairns Esplanade Dining Precinct
- Machans Beach rock wall
- Graeme Haussmann bridge on Collins Ave, Edge Hill
- Airport connector – extension of Lake St to Airport Ave
- The Botanic Gardens Conservatory
- The Walker Road Sporting Precinct in Edmonton.

All these projects add to the liveability of our city and drive economic growth.

We should be particularly proud of this result as we have achieved this without the same level of government support that has been afforded to other regions.

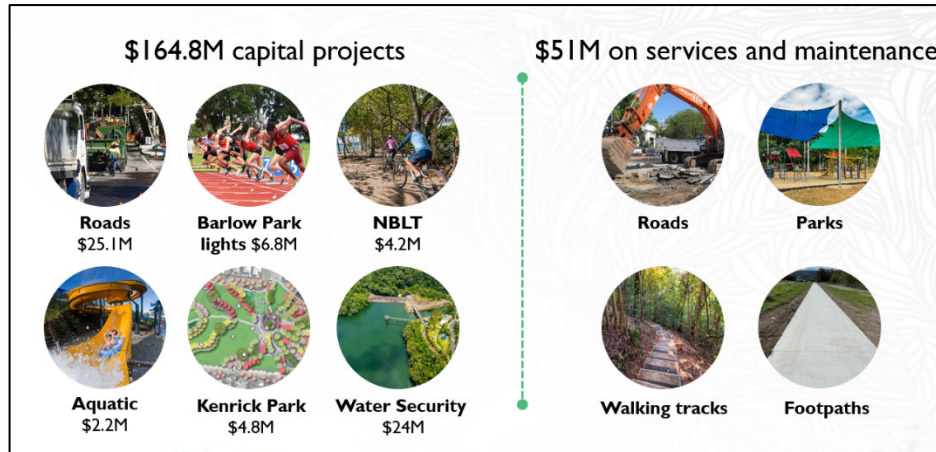
In brief, this year's Capital Works program includes, but is not limited to:

- \$29.5 million on the wastewater network
- \$53 million for water infrastructure
- \$25.1 million on improvements to the road and drainage network, and
- \$38.9 million for community, sport and cultural projects.

We know that Council's Budget has a significant effect on the local economy.

Not only is Council one of the city's largest employers, but an analysis of the 2021/22 financial year shows that \$338 million, or 88% of total Council expenditure, was spent with local businesses, which supported 3,600 jobs.





As a result of this year's Budget, the community will see targeted investment across the suburbs of Cairns through projects such as the Redlynch Skate Park refresh, Earlville Tennis Club upgrade, and Kenrick Park redevelopment in Gordonvale.

In addition to the Capital Works program, the annual maintenance budget will consume \$51 million this year on approximately 640 parks and nature areas; 1,360 kilometres of roads; 1,705 kilometres of kerb and channelling; 630 kilometres of sealed footpaths; 150 kilometres of on-road cycle lanes; 840 litter bins; and 85 public toilet blocks.

There is also a \$1.3 million budgeted investment to support and attract major events to the region, such as Reef to Reef; a South Sydney Rabbitohs NRL premiership match; and Ironman Cairns, which we hosted just yesterday.

These events not only provide locals access to high-quality performers and sports, but they also provide a significant boost to the economy.

### “The New World”

There are a lot of reasons to feel a sense of optimism for the future of our city.

Cairns has seen steady economic growth since 2020, with the region's gross regional product sitting above \$10.2 billion.

Jobs growth has also been steady since 2015, while international migration and visitors are on the way back.

It is an optimism that is shared with investors – the development and rejuvenation of world-class hotels, demand for residential development, and the city's growing reputation as a major event and sports destination attest to that.

Our position as a strategic port has resulted in significant Federal and State Government funding being directed towards our marine precinct and naval assets.

This has also led to Cairns being named as a potential partner for a future PNG / Pasifika NRL team – something that may have seemed like a pipedream just a few years ago, but today is being seriously considered at the highest levels of government and the NRL.

Council is working to foster conditions for a diversified and resilient economy that backs innovation, growth and jobs.

We have iconic world heritage natural assets, we are home to two of the world's oldest living cultures (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander), have an international airport, world-class hotels, and well-established tourism operations.

With a commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2030, we are also looking to position Cairns and Far North Queensland as a leader of the Smart Green Economy in Australia.



Green economies are "The New World".

There is a lot of opportunity for investment in this area, and Cairns, and the Far North region in general, are well positioned to take advantage of these opportunities.

We have an abundance of renewable energy resources (think solar and wind), a significant First Nations population with proven experience in natural resource management, and we have close proximity and connectivity, through an international airport, to Asia and the Pacific.

Leveraging these advantages and elevating Cairns and the Far North as leading Australia's green economy, has the potential to deliver medium to long-term economic returns, and grow innovation and diversification.

There is also strong strategic alignment at all levels of government that support a greener economy.

For example, bold targets as part of Council's Climate Change Strategy 2030 align with the Queensland Government's Energy and Jobs Plan, and the Federal Government's commitment to increased emission reduction targets.

The time has come to be a part of this change; we can either get aboard, embrace it and reap the benefits, or remain on the shore and watch the future sail by.



## Tourism and visitation

All this is positive and something that should fill us all with a sense of confidence for the future, despite current challenges.

However, critical to our local economy is ensuring that the tourism industry can generate visitation through marketing and promotion.

While the pandemic demonstrated that the Cairns economy was incredibly resilient and other industries, such as health, construction and education, can provide stability, tourism remains critically important to the ongoing prosperity and profile of the city.

Council supports tourism and the local economy in many ways, particularly through a \$3.4 million annual contribution to Tourism Tropical North Queensland to promote Cairns as a premier tourism destination.

We have enjoyed a remarkable rebound since the reopening of borders, but we cannot rest on our laurels.

In a highly competitive global market, we need to stay light on our feet and remain flexible.

To compete successfully, targeted destination marketing is needed and that means appropriate funding.

Presently, the onus of funding this ongoing promotion of our region falls on the ratepayer – I believe that this burden should be shifted to our visitors through the introduction of a modest levy.

This would allow Council to remove this impost from ratepayers and allow us to redirect that \$3.4 million back to the community.

## CASE STUDY: VISITOR LEVY

A visitor levy of 2.5% applied to each guest night would raise \$16M annually (based on 2017/18 figures) for direct investment in tourism promotion and industry development.



A levy would also provide the industry with the financial autonomy to promote their product and our destination.

User-pay levies of this kind are used all around the world; Australia has been slow to follow suit. However, it is heartening to see the NSW is now considering if a visitor levy is appropriate for them.

We know that targeted campaigns work in increasing visitation – it is common knowledge that if you do not invest, your market share does not grow.

Our numbers show that a small, 2.5% levy per room per night, can generate \$16 million annually to be spent attracting more visitors to Cairns.

Raising the same amount from ratepayers is just not feasible. A user-pays visitor levy is a much fairer way to ensure our tourism industry can thrive, while residents benefit from the flow-on impact to our economy and jobs.

It's just common sense that tourism destinations can raise their own funding and have control over how it is spent, rather than relying on State and Federal grants that can dramatically shrink depending on budget priorities.

Governments need to learn to work together and in instances like this, they need to understand the people involved in the industry are the people who participated in opening up the region to tourism.

No one in Australia knows more about this industry than they do, so why are we holding them back?



## Our city is growing

People love Cairns and it is no surprise that we are continuing to grow. Our relaxed lifestyle makes sure people love to live, work and play in Cairns.

The latest figures show that Cairns' population now sits at over 172,000 residents.

We have a SA4 population of 261,000 residents, the largest in Northern Australia, and far bigger than Townsville and Toowoomba.

In the 2021/22 financial year, our city recorded our strongest population growth in almost a decade.

Council has diligently accommodated growth.

Just last month, this Council endorsed policies to help growth and development issues, with waiver for infrastructure charges for:

- The development of social and affordable housing
- The development of student accommodation
- For development in specific zones, including but not limited to Gordonvale, Babinda, Cairns City and Cairns North.

We also moved to stimulate further investment that will broaden and strengthen the economy by waiving infrastructure charges for health, education, maritime, aviation and manufacturing developments.

This Budget also allows for the introduction of a new Express DA program, which will fast-track decision-ready, low-risk applications that meet certain eligibility criteria to be assessed within 10 business days.

As Cairns continues to grow, we must look beyond the term of this current Council – that is what good and responsible government does.

According to our projections, the city's population could reach up to 265,000 by 2050, that's almost 100,000 more people than live here today.

We need to plan for this growth now, to make sure that everyone can live here and enjoy what we love about Cairns today.

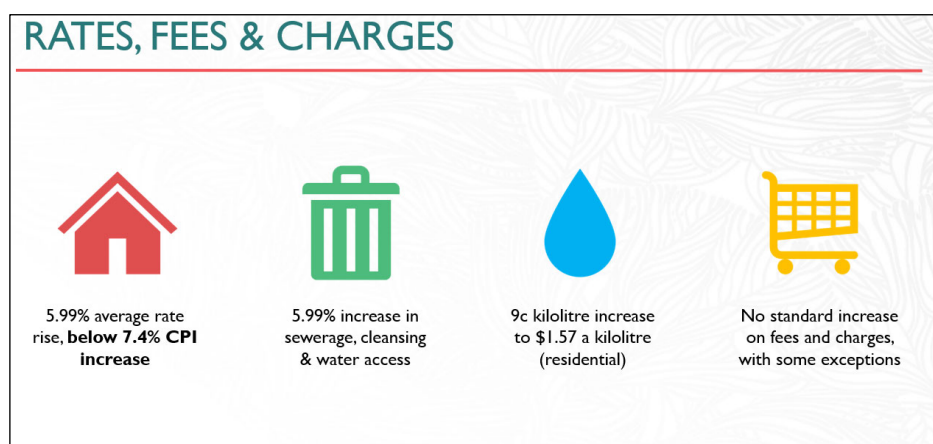
It is about accommodating growth, while retaining those things that are most dear to us, which define the character of Cairns.

To progress this approach, the Budget has set aside \$1.7 million to progress the Towards 2050 Growth Strategy, \$685,000 for Resource Recovery 2040 which will address future kerbside collection and landfill diversionary plans, as well as a \$24 million capital works investment to advancing the Cairns Water Security – Stage 1 project.

## The Budget

The proposed Budget provides for:

- Operating revenue of \$377.9 million
- Operating expenditure of \$377.7 million
- Capital Works program of \$164.8 million



Council has determined a rate rise of 5.99% is required across the board – for the majority of residential ratepayers, that equates to \$3.16 or less a week in Council charges. This excludes the State’s fire levy and water usage charges.

This rate increase remains true to this Council’s commitment over the past decade to keep rate rises at a minimum, with increases at or below the State’s Consumer Price Index (CPI).

We worked hard to keep the rate rise significantly lower than the state’s recorded CPI of 7.4% in March 2023.

Council has also decided not to proceed with the introduction of a new rating category for non-principal places of residence.

Residential water usage charges will rise by nine cents to \$1.57 per kilolitre. Commercial water usage charges will also rise by nine cents to \$1.64 per kilolitre.



## Conclusion

This Council recognises the financial pressures and the imposts on the cost of living now being experienced by the community.

In response, we have limited rate increases to a minimum and will continue our efforts to stimulate the local economy through our operational and capital works programs.

I believe this is a budget that is appropriate for this Council to adopt.

It recognises the need for fiscal responsibility (it is balanced); it provides for significant capital works (it is focussed on delivering core services and improving our way of life); and it positions this Council to capitalise on future opportunities as they arise.

Consideration of this Budget today does not mark the end of the budget process – with escalating costs there will be a need for continued discipline and commitment to deliver budget outcomes and the program of works.

There is always a need to adapt to the ever-changing environment and to respond as changing conditions and priorities warrant.

This is where we must now direct our attention.

In closing, I would like to thank and commend my fellow Councillors for their time and input in preparing the Budget and especially acknowledge the efforts of Chief Financial Officer Ms Lisa Whitton, the Executive Leadership Team, and CEO Ms Mica Martin who have been faultless.

I present the 2023/24 Cairns Regional Council Budget to you for its adoption.

Before dealing with the respective resolutions, I would like to offer Councillors – commencing with Division 1 and progressing through to Division 9 – an opportunity to speak to the Budget in the context of their division.

Councillors are directed to limit their comments to three (3) minutes or less each with consideration that the substantive Budget item is number 19 on the agenda.

Thank you.

## **DIVISION 1 COUNCILLOR MOLLER ADDRESS**

In terms of leadership, I read if you want to help people, you tell them the truth. If you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear. Listening to your community is important, but strong and responsible leadership is also educating your community on what can or can't be done, or why a difficult decision today is needed for future betterment. Where leaders default to populism over responsible decision-making, it invariably leads to poorer outcomes.

The most important, involved and challenging responsibilities we have as an elected Councillor, is to develop and hand down the annual Council budget (capital and operating) for the financial year going forward. A great deal of work and preparation goes into the presentation of the annual budget; from scenario settings, looking for costs savings, project and asset management costings, expected service level delivery, debt and borrowings, financial ratios, return on investments, and so on. A high degree of financial literacy is required, when you consider the income /expenditure of Council, Council's extensive workforce in terms of numbers in dealing with the operations of Council, and where you have the added fiduciary obligations in being responsible for resident and ratepayer's money, which significantly funds Council operations. That is why Council and the Council Management team go through a number of workshops and briefings, with seven (7) alone this year, to finalise the 2023/2024 annual budget, where our experienced Financial and qualified Management team have the financial and operational expertise to assist Councillors, and Councillors can question, seek further information and test assumptions, on that advice in arriving at our decision making on the budget. This is the level of governance I know the resident's of Division 1 expect of me, and any Councillor who does not avail themselves of this strong governance approach, does so at their own peril. The annual budget, a combined effort and responsibility of Councillors and Council's Management team will be implemented by our dedicated staff, who are very much greatly appreciated.

I would like to assure our residents of Division 1 and Cairns, in a very challenging environment, careful consideration has gone into this year's budget. Notably, we are in an economy where the CPI index for the March quarter is 7.4% and we have delivered a rate/charge increase at 5.99%, to give some cost-of-living relief, to our residents, maintaining the Manning led Council's undertaking to keep cost increases to CPI or below. This increase is to ensure Council is sustainable going forward in our three (3) and ten (10) forecasts also, and is not a budget designed to provide sugar coatings, in anticipation of an election year, but is fair and fiscally responsible and is significantly less than the cost increases we are seeing for insurance, electricity and other household consumables.

As we as Councillors, are charged to act in the interests of all of Cairns, with this budget, I am, and will continue to advocate for the projects that will improve the liveability of our City and local communities, whilst delivering the services our community expects.

Finally, I am proud to be part of a Council with a strong track record of spending money locally. The revenue we raise is not ours – it's the communities. Ultimately, each of our crucial different sectors, from agriculture, tourism, construction, mining, education, health, property, etc, will benefit from a fiscally sustainable Council, which then contributes positively to our resident's vibrant way of life, in amongst the natural beauty of what we call Cairns, our home.



## **DIVISION 2 COUNCILLOR PYNE ADDRESS**

**Thank you Mr. Mayor -**

- Council has a number of rating categories that are used to raise revenue.
- It is no secret that this year we considered a Non PPR Category that would have noted an owners use of a property as Non PPR, so a rental, air-B&B or whatever. Now I supported this category and received due criticism from the relevant vested landholding interests. Unfortunately, I lost and this category is not part of the budget.
- Many other councils have PPR and some are even using their non-PPR data to look at those air-B&B and other short term uses, which to be honest, are not a helpful use of property when we are in the midst of a housing crises. This is really important, because by charging a higher rate in the dollar for these uses, it means there is less incentive for non-occupying owners to engage in such profitable 'short term' agreements.
- Thus property owners are encouraged to put their properties back into long term rental agreements with local people. That is exactly what we need here in Cairns.

**Now on the rates increase, it is important to note:**

- 58% of Cairns householders live in a house they own or are paying off. They are home-owners.
- That 58% of people are those missing out as a result of our failure to introduce a new category. The full burden of this rates increase now falls on them.
- To be clear, because we are not receiving any income from a new category..... the full burden of the rates increase now falls entirely on the shoulders of Cairns homeowners.

I am sure today will start a conversation about air-B&B and how such uses may pay more rates in the future, but for now that is just hot-air. It is the budget we adopt today that will be in force for the next 12 months and talk of future reform is just that ... talk.

Finally, I remind people we recently waived developer infrastructure charges in the city to help with the housing crises, but now we are slugging home-owners. I believe people will spot this double standard a mile off. Thank you.

## **DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR ZEIGER ADDRESS**

Another year has passed of Council serving the community and we look forward to the upcoming year. I want to thank the amazing staff that we have here at CRC, at this time of year it is especially important to acknowledge the leaders and their teams of the different departments as they strive to keep the ever increasing costs of running the various sections of Council under budget. No easy feat that is for sure. Thank you to Lisa Whitton and her team as they have worked hard on ensuring that Council remains fiscally sound, yet keeping the pain of rate rises as low as possible.

Whilst we had hoped for a smaller rise in rates, we all know the cost of living in every sector has risen, this is no different for businesses such as Council. Still – we have kept the raise under CPI at 5.99%

All basically business as usual with this budget, I need to note however that I did not support the Policy Change last ordinary meeting regarding Revenue and Pensioner Policies. This said I am unable to support Item 16 as I feel in this current financial climate we need to provide as much assistance to those in need that we can.

### News for Div 3

No big spends this year but an update on those in the wings.....

- Whilst the White Rock Community & Multi-Cultural Centre didn't get a hand up in the latest State Gov handout, Council has committed to do the design this year. This will ensure that we are able to take advantage of future grants next year and noting that a portion has already allowed for in the Council budget which has been locked in for some years and due to commence construction in the 25/26 financial year all going well.
- Planning and design has commenced for the implementation of the Jeff Pezzutti Masterplan, which we have seen stage 1 commence – building more tennis courts to enable the re-location of the Tennis Courts. We should see more work commence 24/25 financial year.
- Due to budget constraints, our Fishing Platform has been pushed out quite a few years, but we will re-visit that in years to come. I have not forgotten and I'm sure my fellow Councillors are more than aware.
- A special note that we have included Urban Art allowance in this year's budget for all suburbs. Amazing how you can brighten up a suburb with some colour, not a big expense but makes a world of difference. Residents will see splashes of colour around their suburbs during the year.

## DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR JAMES ADDRESS

**Over the Last few years** .... our budget was greatly affected by Covid-19, now, as we move forward new challenges face us all. High inflation, rising out of control building costs, labour and material shortages and the uncertain future effects of the never-ending war in Ukraine.

These external pressures all guaranteeing price escalations substantially more than the **5.99%**

### **Council budgeted rate rise.**

Hence, it follows that our focus must always be on Council's strategic financial objectives and the Long-Term Financial Plan, all driven by our overarching responsibility to ensure the financial sustainability of your Council, your city, and your small businesses in these very uncertain times.

With this uncertainty, our economy is slowing, in fact the Reserve Bank is deliberate in making this happen. A recession is on the cards.

As the Mayor said, "Council's Budget has a significant effect on the local economy." Over 80% of Council's total expenditure is spent with local businesses, supporting over 3.600 local jobs.

To support this, we have budgeted a \$165 million Capital Works spend to keep stimulating and sustaining our economy during these uncertain times.

**Division 4 will see** a continuation of the essentials:

- More footpath renewals,
- Maintenance of the drainage systems, creeks etc
- Kerb and Channelling and shoulder sealing renewal
- Asphalt overlay program
- Reseal Program
- Lighting upgrades
- Park upgrades, with the highlight being.
- The Lions Park, Earlville Tennis Court upgrade.

All made possible by our remarkable staff who deliver day-in day-out for your community. Council's very own exceptional team of people "Cairns Regional Council Workers".

Last week, I attended the Australian Council of Local Government conference in Canberra. A daily walk through one of the main city parks and surrounds proved to me that Cairns, for a regional city, punches well above its weight. The standard of Park upkeep I saw in Canberra is appalling, proving what the mayor said. "Clearly illustrating that Cairns is one of the best kept cities in Australia". This Budget will continue to maintain our asset base, and our facilities & programs at exceptional levels.

The average rates increase for the majority is around \$164.00 per annum, or equivalent to \$3.16 or less per week.

The unusual set of circumstances, leading up to this year's budget has unfortunately seen the rates rise slightly higher than desired, when compared to the past seven budgets. I am, however, confident Cairns Regional Council rates will keep their ranking as one of the cheapest in the state, once this year's benchmarking is complete.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their input and support with our budget deliberations, as well as acknowledging the efforts of our CEO Mica Martin, with special thanks to Lisa Whitton, our CFO and her team for guiding us through the process.

## **DIVISION 5 COUNCILLOR EDEN ADDRESS**

When I was elected, I made it clear that I am a straight shooter who values honesty and integrity. So, let's cut to the chase. Life has taught me that there are always two sides to every story. You have just heard one side, which portrays this budget as the most challenging, practical, fiscally responsible budget for the times. But there's another side to the story, one that suggests we have lost our way.

Remember the Unity Team's words: "get the money right and the rest will follow." Yet, here we are with a 5.99% rate rise this year, 5.3% budgeted for next year, big debt and little cash. So, where did it all go wrong?

**Council meeting adjourned at 9.50 a.m.**

**MOLLER / OLDS that the meeting be resumed 10:00 a.m.**

*carried unanimously*

Cr Eden continued her address:

In light of that clarification I will talk about the budget reflecting **\$10M** in new 'nice to have' initiatives one being the sugar-hit cash grab of an additional parking officer for the CBD in Division 5, not at the request of the divisional councillor or residents that will "*more than pay for itself*"... further hitting the back pockets of our residents already doing it tough.

Just because CPI is 7.4% doesn't make 5.99% a good budget

I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Lisa Whitton, our Chief Financial Officer, and her team in preparing this budget. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today - thank you.

## **DIVISION 6 COUNCILLOR VALLELY ADDRESS**

It takes courage to do what's right, to make hard decisions that are financially responsible for our community. Our community that intrust us to do that right thing by them.

To me, this budget goes beyond being just a financial plan; it represents our collective commitment to building a place we are proud to call home - a place where compassion, care, and progress intertwine.

A true leader's commitment goes beyond the immediate needs of today; it extends into our responsibility for a sustainable, healthier, greener future for generations to come. These are values that the constituents of Division 6 tell me are important to them.

As an organisation we believe that the best decisions are made collectively, with input from all members of our community and all of us as councillors. For your voice to matter and to have a lasting impact attending and engaging in budget discussions is vital.

In the spirit of unifying, this budget supports the arts, culture, and recreational opportunities that bring us together to make those life-long memories.

Of particular interest to the residents of Division 6 will be:

- The progression of the Redlynch sporting precinct, the renewal of Redlynch Skatepark.
- The finalisation of the engineering for the footpath between Ryan Wear Park and Freshwater Christian College.

This budget is also such a testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work of our council staff, and volunteers.

Their tireless efforts and commitment to serving our community is an inspiration.

I acknowledge and appreciate their invaluable contributions, for they are the driving force behind the positive change we see and experience every day.

I see you, and I thank you.

For me, this budget represents our shared vision for a vibrant, connected, healthy community.

Thank you to my colleagues for the mutual trust, support, and dedication it requires to collectively create a better future for the people that entrust us to make these decisions.

I am proud to be here representing a community that fills my heart with hope and my life with meaning.

Thank you!

## **DIVISION 7 COUNCILLOR O'HALLORAN ADDRESS**

Thanks Mayor Manning.

When building a budget you have to have some core points and to everybody who stood up in the room on the first day not to lose sight of our core business. It is so important to us that we maintain and look after our assets that was priority one and nobody quivered from that – fantastic effort.

This is an unusual budget most of it is underground, no pretty stuff, it is something that has been kicked down the road for many many years. The water the wastewater but it is most important first up every morning turn the tap on clean your teeth and push the button it is a lot of business in 10 minutes when you first wake up that is when you realise where all the budget will be going this year.

Division 7 we have some fantastic assets up there where a lot of money will be spent on the Botanical Gardens, a lot of the amenities toilet blocks and that. I remember the first year attending the Botanical Gardens with the Mayor and he asked me what the chook shed in the corner. It was where all their precious plants were housed it was just old mesh tin and wire compared to what it is today but now the amenities the toilets the buildings around are looking a bit tied to the unique and very very popular Tanks another facility up there old things needs a lot of money this year so that has been included.

Two very very good pick-ups and to you Mr Mayor I have been lucky enough to ride all the budgets with you it has been a fantastic effort and you have been a local, you understood local people and the way they think, I remember you drilling it in to us first up we will never ever charge more than we have to, to make the ship run. Thank you and congratulations.

## **DIVISION 8 COUNCILLOR COGHLAN ADDRESS**

Thankyou Mayor Manning for allowing the opportunity to speak to this budget for the upcoming financial year.

It's our Duty to make sound financial decisions that benefit the community and address the needs of our residents. With that in mind we have carefully reviewed our spending priorities, to strike a balance between providing the expected essential services and minimising the burden on ratepayers.

We acknowledge the importance of investing in community infrastructure and services while also recognising the need for constraint.

This is a difficult budget due to significant cost escalation to date, and more still expected to come.

We have absorbed these cost impacts to the greatest extent possible without compromising service levels. This rate rise is still much lower than CPI.

We have a diverse community and bat above our average in terms of what we can do with comparatively low rates (annual rates benchmarking shows we are excellent value for money).

We have a strong focus on liveability, which is a key element of our Corporate Plan Maintaining our service levels and expenditure also makes a significant contribution to the local economy – almost 90% of our expenditure is spent local every year.

All of this would not be possible without of course, our hardworking staff.

Thankyou Ms Whitton for your patience within the seven budget workshops you offered. For those of us that attended all or most workshops, this gave us the opportunity to have the input we needed to represent our residents, making sure we didn't lose or blow out timeframes where possible for key projects which are important in our divisions. For me among other priorities that

means Barron Waters Master Plan progressing, Smithfield Leisure Precinct staying within the following year's budget to begin, and the Northern Beaches Leisure Trail to keep moving to next stages.

Thank you to our CEO and all Directors for controlling staffing costs and the inflow/outflow of staff in such difficult times. Thank you to all council staff, for your passion and commitment which is a source of pride to our city and certainly as a councillor.

In conclusion, our upcoming budget reflects our commitment to operate within spending constraints. We understand the challenges faced by our residents and are dedicated to making responsible decisions that prioritise essential services, infrastructure development and fiscal sustainability. We will continue to seek your feedback and support so that together we will continue to build a stronger, more resilient Cairns.

## **DIVISION 9 COUNCILLOR OLDS ADDRESS**

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors first and foremost. I know there were 7 meetings Lisa and there were emails sent out by you and your team for feedback on top of that and anything else it is not like it was 7 short meetings. Everyone gets bloodied and bruised in there because we all standing up for what we want for our separate divisions.

Some years you get more in your division than other years and this is my 8<sup>th</sup> budget that I have been a part of and you guys have been here for 12 Max Bob and Terry but it ebbs and flows but Division 9 has been pretty lucky and pretty blessed the last few years. We have had a lot of footpaths put down, we have had the Miami link road go through, which by all accounts, I was at a couple of P&C meetings lately they are loving it, the kids riding it is a bit safer to get to school these days. We have got the Deep Creek bridge coming in the next budget. It is already starting construction so that is really exciting. That is the most important link in our Division - Division 9 is that Kewarra Beach to Clifton Beach. So that is absolutely fantastic and then you have already mentioned Mr Mayor the community hall out there that the state government came 50/50 with us. The design I put it out there last week – I was allowed to finally put the design out to some people that were really anxious to see it and I think it is going to be absolutely fantastic and I don't mean to get Cathy Cr Zeiger down too much she will be a bit jealous we have got 2 toilets in Division 9 coming up this year. Not just one dunny but people think it is just a toilet but when you need them you need them. Trinity Beach the southern end of Trinity Beach is getting a brand new one. It is going to be bought forward, it is going to be DVA compliant of course as the old one has been there for what 1023 years I think it has been there it was in much need of an upgrade or a new one and Palm Cove finally down the southern end we have found a position through that master planning process we did over the last 18 months where we can put a toilet that is not going to annoy anyone. Everyone wants one but no one wants it in front of their business or their house.

I think the officers did a great job with finding those areas but I do want to thank everyone, thank you Lisa, but really take my hat off to you it is not easy, you have got 10 different personalities coming at you. Like I said sometimes there is some clawing and boxing going on out there but if you hold yourself high and you carry yourself well and all the other executives, as we are fighting for our divisions you are fighting for your portfolios too and I think at the end of the day commonsense always prevails and it is what it is so this is the most important part of what I do so \$400M of other peoples money in our hands and I can tell you we do understand the gravity of that so I will talk again in agenda 19.

# 1. NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR .....4

Lauren Aitcheson | 63/8/32-01 | #7179340

EDEN / PYNE

That Council:

1. Note that the following are all business activities that are to be conducted by Council during the 2023/24 financial year:
  - a. Cairns Water
  - b. Cairns Resource Recovery
  - c. TicketLiNK
  - d. Car Parking
  - e. Cemeteries
  - f. Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre
  - g. Munro Martin Parklands
  - h. Tanks Arts Centre
  - i. Cairns Performing Arts Centre (CPAC)
  - j. Barlow Park
  - k. Swimming Pools
  - l. Sugarworld Water Park
  - m. Libraries
  - n. The Court House
  - o. Caravan Parks
2. Note that for the 2023/24 financial year, the identified significant business activities of Council which are subject to the National Competition Policy (NCP) under Section 43 of the *Local Government Act 2009* are:
  - a. Cairns Water
  - b. Cairns Resource Recovery
3. Note that the competitive neutrality principle will be applied to all of the identified significant business activities for the 2023/24 financial year. The level of reform applied to the significant business activities is:
  - a. Cairns Water – commercialisation
  - b. Cairns Resource Recovery – commercialisation
4. Note that it will not conduct any significant business activities that were not conducted in the preceding financial year, that is, there are no new significant business activities to be conducted in the 2023/24 financial year.
5. Note that for that 2023/24 financial year, the following are prescribed business activities under Section 39 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:
  - a. Cairns Water
  - b. Cairns Resource Recovery
  - c. TicketLiNK
  - d. Car Parking
  - e. Cemeteries
  - f. Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre
  - g. Munro Martin Parklands
  - h. Tanks Arts Centre
  - i. Cairns Performing Arts Centre (CPAC)
  - j. Barlow Park
  - k. Swimming Pools
  - l. Sugarworld Water Park

**m. Libraries**

**n. The Court House**

6. **Note that the code of competitive conduct will mandatorily apply to a ‘building certifying activity’ within the meaning of Section 47(4) of the *Local Government Act 2009*. Council note that it will not conduct a business activity within the meaning of a ‘building certifying activity’ in the 2023/24 financial year.**
7. **Note that the code of competitive conduct will mandatorily apply to a ‘roads activity’ within the meaning of Section 47(5) of the *Local Government Act 2009*. Council note that it will not conduct a business activity within the meaning of a ‘roads activity’ in the 2023/24 financial year.**
8. **Decide by resolution, for the 2023/24 financial year, that the following prescribed business activities apply the code of competitive conduct under Section 47(7) of the *Local Government Act 2009*:**
  - a. **Cairns Water**
  - b. **Cairns Resource Recovery**
9. **Decide by resolution, for the 2023/24 financial year, that the following prescribed business activities do not apply the code of competitive conduct under Section 47(7) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, for the reasons provided:**

<b>Business Activity</b>	<b>Reason</b>
TicketLiNK	Principle purpose to ticket Council events and shows
Car Parking	Principle purpose to increase availability of parking in the Cairns CBD
Cemeteries	Primarily undertaken as a community service, with little or no competition
Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition
Munro Martin Parklands	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition
Tanks Art Centre	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition
Cairns Performing Arts Centre	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition
Barlow Park	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition
Swimming Pools	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition
Sugarworld Water Park	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition
Libraries	Primarily undertaken as a community service, with little or no competition
The Court House	Primarily undertaken as a community facility, with little or no competition

*carried unanimously*



**2. DEBT POLICY .....10****Kerry Robertson | 63/8/32-01 | #7132969**

MOLLER / ZEIGER

That Council adopts the Debt Policy for 2023/24.

*carried unanimously***3. PROCUREMENT POLICY 2023/24.....16****Julia Deleyev | 63/14/4-01 | #7169406**

PYNE / VALLELY

That Council Adopts the proposed amendments to the Procurement Policy for 2023/24.

*carried unanimously***4. ADOPTION OF DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR .....57****Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7183300**

VALLELY / OLDS

That Council:

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

**Summary of Land Use Categories**

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

Category	Description
Residential A	Residential properties
Residential K	Residential properties that are building units.
Residential L2	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 2
Residential L3	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 3
Residential L4	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 4
Residential L5	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 5
Residential L6	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 6
Residential L7	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 7
Residential L8	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 8
Residential L9	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 9



Residential L52	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 52
Residential L53	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 53
Residential L54	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 54
Residential L55	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 55
Residential L56	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 56

Category	Description
Residential L57	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 57
Residential L58	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 58
Residential L59	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 59
Residential L60+	Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is equal to 60+
Residential M	Residential land which is subject to section 50 of the <i>Land Valuation Act 2010</i> .
Residential R	Retirement Villages and Relocatable Home Parks
Commercial B	Major Shopping Centres over 34,999m <sup>2</sup> Gross Lettable Area – Retail (GLAR).
Commercial D	Commercial properties located within the Inner City.
Commercial E	Commercial properties not included in Commercial Categories B, D, F & G.
Commercial F	Properties used by Not for Profit Recreation, Sporting and Community Groups that are eligible for Rates Based Financial Assistance.
Commercial G	Major Shopping Centres over 20,000m <sup>2</sup> and less than 35,000m <sup>2</sup> GLAR.
Rural Productive	All properties which are used predominantly for Primary Production.
Other Land	Land not included in any of the above categories.

## **Description of Land Use Categories**

The following is a description of the land use categories:

**Note:** The zones in CairnsPlan 2016 may be a factor in determining the rating categories for Land Use Codes 01, 04, 06, 09, and 72.

### **RESIDENTIAL**

#### **Residential A**

##### **Residential Properties**

This category will only apply where:

- a) the land is used solely for residential purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land to be used solely for residential purposes; or
- b) the land contains a dwelling house and secondary dwelling; or
- c) the sole purpose for which the subject land is presently utilised is vacant land and has been purchased by an individual for solely residential purposes following the re-configuration of allotments.

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

- 01 Vacant urban land (excluding those included in commercial categories D and E);

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

### **Residential K**

**Residential properties that are building units**

**This category will only apply where:**

- a) the land is used solely for residential purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land to be used solely for residential purposes; and
- b) the land is part of a community title scheme.

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

**08 Building Units**

### **Residential L2 to Residential L60+**

**Where the number of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) on the property is between 2-60+.**

**This category will only apply where:**

- a) the land is used solely for residential purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land to be used solely for residential purposes; and
- b) the land contains between 2-60+ Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs); and
- c) the land does not fall into category Residential K;

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

**03 Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs)**

### **Residential M**

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

### **Residential R**

**Retirement Villages and Relocatable Home Parks**

**This category will only apply where the land is:**

- a) used for retirement village purposes or has the potential predominant

use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land of retirement village purposes.

- b) used for relocatable home park purposes or has the potential predominant use of or adapted to be used for the siting of relocatable homes for residential use

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

- 10 Combined multi-dwelling and commercial
- 21 Residential Institutions (non-medical care);

The following land is specifically included in this category:

- a) Over-50's Lifestyle Resorts
- b) Relocatable home parks
- c) Retirement villages

## **COMMERCIAL**

### **Commercial B**

Major Shopping Centres ov 34,999m<sup>2</sup> Gross Lettable Area- Retail (GLAR)  
This category will apply where the land is:

- a) used for shopping centre purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land of shopping centre purposes; and
- b) the anchor tenants are a variety of department store(s)/ discount department store(s) and large grocery supermarkets; and
- c) major on-site parking facilities; and
- d) a gross lettable area retail (GLAR) over 34,999m<sup>2</sup>

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

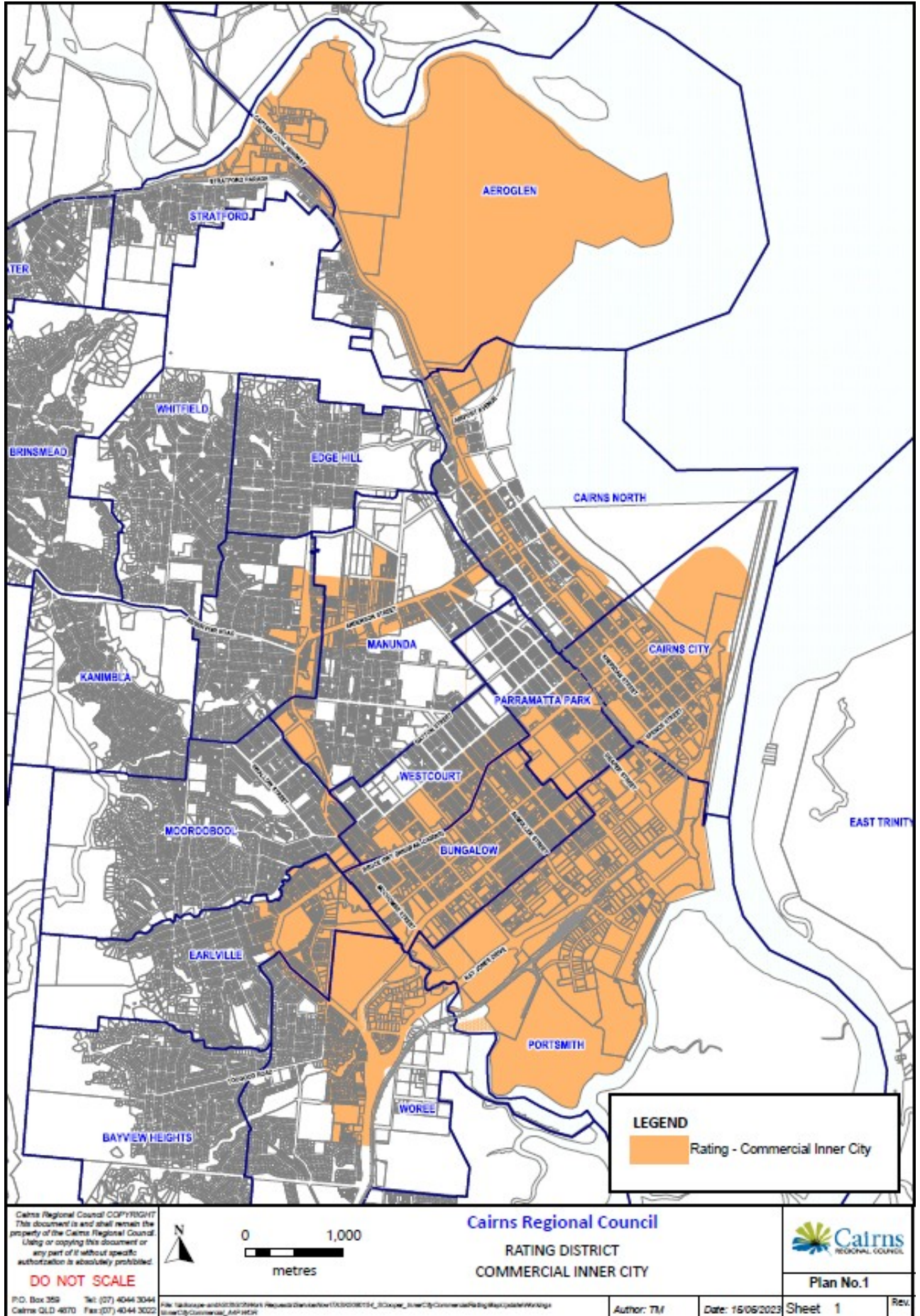
- 12 Shopping Group (more than 6 shops);
- 13 Shopping Group (2 to 6 shops);
- 14 Shops Main Retail;
- 15 Shops Secondary Retail;
- 16 Drive-In Shopping Centres.

### **Commercial D**

Commercial Properties located within the Inner City

This category will apply where the land is:

- a) used for commercial/ industrial purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land of commercial/ industrial purposes; and
- b) are contained within the shaded area on the below map shown as commercial inner city.



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

07	Guest House/Private Hotel;	32	Wharves;
08	Building Units;	33	Builders Yard/Contractors Yard;
09	Group Titles;	34	Cold Stores - Iceworks;
10	Combined Multi Dwelling and Shop;	35	General Industry;
11	Shop - Single;	36	Light Industry;
12	Shops - Shopping group (more than 6 shops, excluding those in Categories B, E and G);	37	Noxious/Offensive Industry;
13	Shopping group (2 to 6 shops, excluding those in Categories B, E and G);	38	Advertising - Hoarding;
14	Shops - Main Retail (excluding those in Categories B, E and G);	39	Harbour Industries;
15	Shops - Secondary Retail (excluding those in Categories B, E and G);	40	Extractive;
16	Drive In Shopping Centres (excluding those in Categories B, E and G);	41	Child Care;
17	Restaurant;	42	Hotel/Tavern;
18	Special Tourist Attraction;	43	Motel;
19	Walkway;	44	Nurseries;
20	Marina;	45	Theatres and Cinemas;
22	Car Park;	46	Drive-In Theatre;
23	Retail Warehouse;	47	Licensed Clubs;
24	Sales Area Outdoor;	48	Sports Clubs/Facilities;
25	Offices;	49	Caravan Parks;
26	Funeral Parlours;	50	Other Clubs; Non-Business;
27	Hospitals; Convalescent Homes (Medical Care) (Private);	51	Religious;
28	Warehouses and Bulk Stores;	52	Cemeteries (including Crematoria);
29	Transport Terminal;	55	Library;
30	Service Station;	56	Showgrounds/Racecourses /Airfields;
31	Oil Depot and Refinery;	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.

Also including the following properties where that land is included as Principle centre, Major centre, District centre, Local centre, Neighbourhood centre, Mixed-use precinct 1, Mixed-use precinct 2, Low-impact industry, Medium-impact industry, High-impact industry, Waterfront and marine industry, Specialised centre, Strategic Port Land zones within CairnsPlan 2016.

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*.

### **Commercial E**

Commercial properties not included in Commercial Categories B, D, F & G

This category will apply where the land is:

- a) used for commercial/ industrial purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land of commercial/ industrial purposes; and
- b) are not contained within the shaded area on the map shown as commercial inner city.
- c) Does not fall into commercial categories B, D, F and G

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 07 Guest House/Private Hotel;                              | 31 Oil Depots and Refinery;            |
| 08 Building Units;   | 32 Wharves;                            |
| 09 Group Titles;   | 33 Builders Yard/Contractors Yard;     |
| 10 Combined Multi Dwelling and Shop;                       | 34 Cold Stores - Iceworks;             |
| 11 Shop - Single;  | 35 General Industry;                   |
| 12 Shops - Shopping group (more than 6 shops);             | 36 Light Industry;                     |
| 13 Shopping group (2 to 6 shops);                          | 37 Noxious/Offensive Industry;         |
| 14 Shops - Main Retail;                                    | 38 Advertising - Hoarding;             |
| 15 Shops - Secondary Retail;                               | 39 Harbour Industries;                 |
| 16 Drive In Shopping Centres;                              | 40 Extractive;                         |
| 17 Restaurant;   | 41 Child Care;                         |
| 18 Special Tourist Attraction;                             | 42 Hotel/Tavern;                       |
| 19 Walkway;  | 43 Motel;                              |
| 20 Marina;   | 44 Nurseries;                          |
| 22 Car Park;   | 45 Theatres and Cinemas;               |
| 23 Retail Warehouse;                                       | 46 Drive-In Theatres;                  |
| 24 Sales Area Outdoor;                                     | 47 Licensed Clubs;                     |
| 25 Offices;  | 48 Sports Clubs/Facilities;            |
| 26 Funeral Parlours;                                       | 49 Caravan Parks;                      |
| 27 Hospitals; Convalescent Homes (Medical Care) (Private); | 50 Other Clubs; Non-Business;          |
| 28 Warehouses and Bulk Stores;                             | 51 Religious;                          |
| 29 Transport Terminal;                                     | 52 Cemeteries (including Crematoria);  |
| 30 Service Station;  | 55 Library;                            |
|  | 56 Showgrounds/Racecourses /Airfields; |



57	Parks and Gardens;	95	Reservoir, Dam, Bores;
58	Educational - including Kindergartens;	96	Public Hospital;
91	Transformers;	97	Welfare Homes/Institutions;
92	Defence Force establishments;	99	Community Protection Centre.

Also including the following properties where that land is included as Principle centre, Major centre, District centre, Local centre, Neighbourhood centre, Mixed-use precinct 1, Mixed-use precinct 2, Low-impact industry, Medium-impact industry, High-impact industry, Waterfront and marine industry, Specialised centre zones within CairnsPlan 2016.

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*.

### **Commercial F**

Properties used by Not for Profit Recreations, Sporting and Community Groups that are eligible for Rates Based Financial Assistance.

This category will apply where the land qualifies for assistance under Council's Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy.

### **Commercial G**

Shopping Centres over 20,000m<sup>2</sup> and less than 35,000m<sup>2</sup> GLAR

This category will apply where the land is:

- a) used for shopping centre purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land of shopping centre purposes; and
- b) the anchor tenants are a variety of department store(s)/ discount department store(s) and large grocery supermarkets; and
- c) major on-site parking facilities; and
- d) a gross lettable area retail (GLAR) over 20,000m<sup>2</sup> and less than 35,000m<sup>2</sup>

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

- 12 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.

## RURAL PRODUCTIVE

This category will apply where the land is used for primary production purposes or has the potential predominant use by virtue of its improvements or activities conducted upon the land of primary production purposes.

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

60	Sheep Grazing - Dry;	78	Rice;
61	Sheep Breeding;	79	Orchards;
64	Cattle Grazing - Breeding;	80	Tropical Fruits;
65	Cattle Breeding and Fattening;	81	Pineapples;
66	Cattle Fattening;	82	Vineyards;
67	Goats;	83	Small Crops and Fodder Irrigated;
68	Milk - Quota;	84	Small Crops Fodder Non-irrigated;
69	Milk - No Quota;	85	Pigs;
70	Cream;	86	Horses;
71	Oil Seeds;	87	Poultry;
73	Grains;	88	Forestry and Logs;
74	Turf Farms;	89	Animals Special;
75	Sugar Cane;	93	Peanuts.
76	Tobacco;		
77	Cotton;		

## OTHER LAND

Land not included in any of the above categories.

- Resolve to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power, pursuant to sections 81(4) and 81(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to identify the rating category to which each parcel of rateable land belongs.
- Resolve, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 80 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the differential general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category and, pursuant to section 77 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the minimum general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category, as follows:

Category	Rate in the dollar	Minimum
Residential A	0.00577900	1,026.20
Residential K	0.01028192	1,026.20
Residential L2	0.00819012	2,052.40
Residential L3	0.00819012	3,078.60
Residential L4	0.00819012	4,104.80
Residential L5	0.00819012	5,131.00
Residential L6	0.00819012	6,157.20
Residential L7	0.00819012	7,183.40
Residential L8	0.00819012	8,209.60
Residential L9	0.00819012	9,235.80

<b>Category</b>	<b>Rate in the dollar</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
Residential L10	0.00819012	10,262.00
Residential L11	0.00819012	11,288.20
Residential L12	0.00819012	12,314.40
Residential L13	0.00819012	13,340.60
Residential L14	0.00819012	14,366.80
Residential L15	0.00819012	15,393.00
Residential L16	0.00819012	16,419.20
Residential L17	0.00819012	17,445.40
Residential L18	0.00819012	18,471.60
Residential L19	0.00819012	19,497.80
Residential L20	0.00819012	20,524.00
Residential L21	0.00819012	21,550.20
Residential L22	0.00819012	22,576.40
Residential L23	0.00819012	23,602.60
Residential L24	0.00819012	24,628.80
Residential L25	0.00819012	25,655.00
Residential L26	0.00819012	26,681.20
Residential L27	0.00819012	27,707.40
Residential L28	0.00819012	28,733.60
Residential L29	0.00819012	29,759.80
Residential L30	0.00819012	30,786.00
Residential L31	0.00819012	31,812.20
Residential L32	0.00819012	32,838.40
Residential L33	0.00819012	33,864.60
Residential L34	0.00819012	34,890.80
Residential L35	0.00819012	35,917.00
Residential L36	0.00819012	36,943.20
Residential L37	0.00819012	37,969.40
Residential L38	0.00819012	38,995.60
Residential L39	0.00819012	40,021.80
Residential L40	0.00819012	41,048.00
Residential L41	0.00819012	42,074.20
Residential L42	0.00819012	43,100.40
Residential L43	0.00819012	44,126.60
Residential L44	0.00819012	45,152.80
Residential L45	0.00819012	46,179.00
Residential L46	0.00819012	47,205.20
Residential L47	0.00819012	48,231.40
Residential L48	0.00819012	49,257.60
Residential L49	0.00819012	50,283.80
Residential L50	0.00819012	51,310.00
Residential L51	0.00819012	52,336.20
Residential L52	0.00819012	53,362.40
Residential L53	0.00819012	54,388.60
Residential L54	0.00819012	55,414.80

Category	Rate in the dollar	Minimum
Residential L55	0.00819012	56,441.00
Residential L56	0.00819012	57,467.20
Residential L57	0.00819012	58,493.40
Residential L58	0.00819012	59,519.60
Residential L59	0.00819012	60,545.80
Residential L60+	0.00819012	61,572.00
Residential M	0.00577900	No minimum applies
Residential R	0.00577900	1,026.20
Commercial B	0.05155954	1,322,237.86
Commercial D	0.01819908	1,057.58
Commercial E	0.00816260	1,057.58
Commercial F	0.00577900	1,026.20
Commercial G	0.03702530	556,648.30
Rural Productive	0.00865166	1,057.58
Other Land	0.00816260	1,057.58

*carried with Cr Pyne voting against the motion*

**5. ADOPTION OF 2023/24 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR HOLLOWAYS BEACH ROCK WALL STAGE 2A ..... 70**  
**Kerry Robertson | 63/8/32-01 | #7163882**

COGHLAN / EDEN

**That Council adopt the 2023/24 Annual Implementation Plan for Holloways BeachRock Wall Stage 2A.**

*carried unanimously*

**6. HOLLOWAYS BEACH ROCK WALL STAGE 2A – SPECIAL CHARGE ..... 76**  
**Kerry Robertson | 63/8/32-01 | #7163584**

COGHLAN / JAMES

**That Council adopts the following in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012:**

**Pursuant to section 92 of the Local Government Act 2009 and section 94 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council resolves to levy a Special Charge**

on all rateable land within the area defined on the map marked Holloways Beach RockWall – Stage 2A (Attachment No. 1) in accordance with the Overall Plan adopted by Council on 30 June 2004.

### **Special Charge**

- a. Each parcel of rateable land identified on the map marked Holloways Beach Rock Wall - Stage 2A will specially benefit from the constructed rock wall and each parcel will receive a special benefit by way of an improved level of protection from the sea for the length of wall constructed on the seaward side of that individual parcel.
- b. Council makes a special charge for the 2023/24 financial year to be levied on each parcel to the extent specified below:

Lot No.	Registered Plan	Amount
14	709285	\$2,480.12
48	709285	\$2,480.12

- c. That the Special Charge – Holloways Beach Rock Wall Stage 2A be levied over a period of 20 years from 2004.
- d. That the Special Charge – Holloways Beach Rock Wall Stage 2A be repaid at market value where the amount owed is paid prior to the 20 year expiry.
- e. If, after the date of this resolution, and before the levy of the special charge, a reconfiguration of any of the parcels of rateable land into one or more rateable lots is registered:
  - i. The gross amount to be levied on the rateable lot or lots created by the reconfiguration, from the date of registration, is the amount specified in the table above for the rateable lot which existed immediately prior to the reconfiguration, adjusted on a pro rata time basis to produce an amount for the period from the date of registration of the reconfiguration to 30 June 2024.
  - ii. If more than one rateable lot is created by the reconfiguration, the gross amount must be apportioned to all of the rateable lots created:
    - on a pro rata land area basis, if the rateable lots are created by standard format plan; or
    - on a pro rata gross floor area basis, if the rateable lots are created by building format plan.
- f. In making an apportionment under paragraph (e), land which is dedicated as a road or dedicated or transferred to a public authority for other public purposes, or which becomes common property (whether under a standard format or building format plan) must be

disregarded, and must have no apportionment applied to it, so that the total amount apportioned to the new rateable lot or lots equals the amount specified in the table above as the special charge for the lot which existed immediately prior to the reconfiguration.

- g. If a rateable lot to which a special charge amount has been apportioned in accordance with this paragraph is itself reconfigured into one or more rateable lots before the levy of the special charge, sub paragraphs (e) and (f), and this subparagraph, must be applied, with necessary adaptations, to apportion the special charge amount for that rateable lot to the new rateable lots, and so on for any subsequent reconfiguration.
- h. If any adjustment of a special charge which has already been levied is required under Chapter 4, Part 9, Division 2 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as a result of reconfiguration of any of the parcels of rateable land into one or more rateable lots, the adjustment must be made on a pro rata time basis, applying paragraph (e) to calculate the amount on which the calculation for the period after reconfiguration is based.

*carried unanimously*

**7. ADOPTION OF 2023/24 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR HOLLOWAYS BEACH ROCK WALL STAGE 2B ..... 82**  
**Kerry Robertson | 63/8/32-01 | #7163990**

COGHLAN / VALLELY

That Council adopt the 2023/24 Annual Implementation Plan for Holloways Beach Rock Wall Stage 2B.

*carried unanimously*

**8. HOLLOWAYS BEACH ROCK WALL STAGE 2B – SPECIAL CHARGE ..... 88**  
**Kerry Robertson | 63/8/32-01 | #7163592**

COGHLAN / O’HALLORAN

That Council adopts the following in accordance with sections 92 and 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

Pursuant to section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to levy a Special Charge on all rateable land within the area defined on the map marked

Holloways Beach RockWall – Stage 2B (Attachment No. 1) in accordance with the Overall Plan adopted by Council on 30 June 2004.

**Special Charge**

- a. Each parcel of rateable land identified on the map marked Holloways Beach Rock Wall - Stage 2B will specially benefit from the constructed rock wall and each parcel will receive a special benefit by way of an improved level of protection from the sea for the length of wall constructed on the sea ward side of that individual parcel.
- b. Council makes a special charge for the 2023/24 financial year to be levied on each parcel to the extent specified below:

Lot No.	Plan	Amount
9	745145	\$ 1,404.26
15	709285	\$ 1,404.26
16	709285	\$ 1,849.19
17	709285	\$ 2,808.58
18	709285	\$ 1,404.26
19	709285	\$ 3,699.36
20	709285	\$ 3,699.36
1	738098	\$ 5,044.41
2	738098	\$ 5,044.35

- c. That the Special Charge – Holloways Beach Rock Wall Stage 2B be levied over a period of 19 years from 2005.
- d. That the Special Charge – Holloways Beach Rock Wall Stage 2B be repaid at market value where the amount owed is paid prior to the 19 year expiry.
- e. If, after the date of this resolution, and before the levy of the special charge, a reconfiguration of any of the parcels of rateable land into one or more rateable lots is registered:
  - i. The gross amount to be levied on the rateable lot or lots created by the reconfiguration, from the date of registration, is the amount specified in the table above for the rateable lot which existed immediately prior to the reconfiguration, adjusted on a pro rata time basis to produce an amount for the period from the date of registration of the reconfiguration to 30 June 2024.
  - ii. If more than one rateable lot is created by the reconfiguration, the gross amount must be apportioned to all of the rateable lots created:
    - on a pro rata land area basis, if the rateable lots are created by standard format plan; or

- on a pro rata gross floor area basis, if the rateable lots are created by building format plan
- f. In making an apportionment under paragraph (e), land which is dedicated as a road or dedicated or transferred to a public authority for other public purposes, or which becomes common property (whether under a standard format or building format plan) must be disregarded, and must have no apportionment applied to it, so that the total amount apportioned to the new rateable lot or lots equals the amount specified in the table above as the special charge for the lot which existed immediately prior to the reconfiguration.
  - g. If a rateable lot to which a special charge amount has been apportioned in accordance with this paragraph is itself reconfigured into one or more rateable lots before the levy of the special charge, sub paragraphs (e) and (f), and this subparagraph, must be applied, with necessary adaptations, to apportion the special charge amount for that rateable lot to the new rateable lots, and so on for any subsequent reconfiguration.
  - h. If any adjustment of a special charge which has already been levied is required under Chapter 4, Part 9, Division 2 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as a result of reconfiguration of any of the parcels of rateable land into one or more rateable lots, the adjustment must be made on a pro rata time basis, applying paragraph (e) to calculate the amount on which the calculation for the period after reconfiguration is based.

*carried unanimously*

**9. ADOPTION OF THE BLUEWATER SPECIAL CHARGE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023/24..... 95**  
**Donna Machan | 63/2/11-01 | #7144698**

OLDS / VALLELY

That Council adopts the Bluewater Canal Special Charge Annual Implementation Plan 2023/24.

*carried unanimously*

**10. BLUEWATER CANAL – SPECIAL CHARGE..... 100**  
**Donna Machan | 63/2/11-01 | #7144689**

OLDS / EDEN

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* known as the Bluewater Canal Special Charge, as follows:

1. That Council makes and levies a special charge on the rateable land identified in this resolution for the purpose of funding works for the dredging and maintenance of the Bluewater Canal, Half Moon Creek and Offshore Channel.
2. At its meeting held on 30 June 2021, Council adopted the overall plan for the carrying out of the works identified therein. The rateable land to which the overall plan applies is the land specified in the Council adoption resolution.

The estimated cost of implementing the overall plan is \$8.2M across the ten (10) year period after allowing for contributions of \$0.3M from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

3. The rateable land to which the special charge applies will specially benefit from the works, as compared to other areas of the Cairns region generally, for the reason that such rateable land has the benefit of direct access to the canal, creek and offshore channel, the subject of the works. In addition, the rateable land forms part of the canal estate which by its nature specifically contributes to the requirement that the canal, creek and offshore channel be dredged on a regular basis to allow access to the rateable land and marine berths.
4. The special charges for the 2023/24 financial year apply to the rateable land identified below:

Property Description	Amount of special charge
Lots 1 to 37 on SP165903	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 1 to 2 on SP279525	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 39 to 41 on SP165903	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 42 on SP241494	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 44 to 65 on SP165903	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 79 to 116 on SP165903	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lot 117 on SP261231	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 119 to 130 on SP165903	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 22 to 23 on SP224676	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 1 to 3 on SP301538	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 26 to 31 on RP737271	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lots 32 to 43 on RP737260	\$2,377.64 per lot
Lot 1860 on SP264300 (the "Bluewater Marina")	\$256,785.12
Lot 26 on SP122863 (the "Yorkeys Knob Marina")	\$98,929.46

5. The special charge is to be levied by two half yearly levies.
6. If, after the date of this resolution, a reconfiguration of any of the parcels of rateable land into one or more rateable lots is registered in

accordance with Chapter 4, Part 9, Division 2 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

- a. The gross amount to be levied on the rateable lot or lots created by the reconfiguration, from the date of registration, is the amount specified in the table above for the rateable lot which existed immediately prior to thereconfiguration, adjusted on a pro rata time basis to produce an amount for the period from the date of registration of the reconfiguration to 30 June 2024.
- b. If more than one rateable lot is created by the reconfiguration, the gross amount must be apportioned equally to all of the rateable lots created with waterfrontages.
- c. In making an apportionment under paragraph (b), land which is dedicated as a road, or dedicated or transferred to a public authority for other public purposes, or which becomes common property (whether under a standard format or building format plan) must be disregarded, and must have no apportionment applied to it, so that the total amount apportioned to the new rateable lot or lots equals the amount specified in the table above as the special charge for the lot which existed immediately prior to the reconfiguration.
- d. If a rateable lot to which a special charge amount has been apportioned in accordance with this paragraph is itself reconfigured into one or more rateable lots, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) and this subparagraph must be applied, with necessary adaptations, to apportion the special charge amount for that rateable lot to the new rateable lots, and so on for any subsequent reconfiguration.

*carried unanimously*

**11. ADOPTION OF SEWERAGE UTILITY CHARGES FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR ..... 106**

**Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7134442**

JAMES / MOLLER

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

**Sewerage**

Sewerage charges shall be made for the cost of supplying a service for the removal of sewage for the 2023/24 financial year in accordance with the following:

**(a) Residential**

- (i) A standard charge of **\$907.56** to be applied in accordance with the following:
  - i. For each dwelling house, strata title unit or multi-unit dwelling(MUD)
  - ii. For each improvement built 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 **\$722.54** to be applied to each vacant allotment.
- (iii) A standard commercial charge per pedestal will apply to properties where strata title units have pedestals/urinals servicing common property.

**(b) Commercial**

A standard charge of **\$776.46** per pedestal 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 pedestal.
- (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 pedestal.
- (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 sub-clause (i) to (iii) hereof shall be levied on the person or body, or Commonwealth or State

Department at whose request the structure, building or improvement was provided with sewerage.

- (v) In respect of places of public worship and nursing homes listed under section 73 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* a charge of 50% of the standard charge for each pedestal, 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 pedestal 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 within a commercial category a standard residential charge equivalent to one pedestal per residential 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 their 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 2023 the rate shall be apportioned.

(c) **Rural Productive**

A standard charge of \$907.56 to be applied in accordance with the following:

- (i) In respect of all seweraged premises designed or used for rural productive purposes, a standard charge per pedestal 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.
- (iii) A charge for treatment of effluent from effluent storage tanks of **\$383.90** for each residence, each flat, each strata title unit, each shop etc shall apply.

*carried with Cr Eden voting against the motion*

## **12. ADOPTION OF WATER UTILITY CHARGES FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR ..... 110**

**Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7134451**

ZEIGER / PYNE

That Council resolve:

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

### **WATER CHARGES - POTABLE**

Water Charges shall be made for the purpose of supplying water for the 2023/24 financial year on the following basis:

#### **Residential**

- (i) An access charge of \$306.68 shall be applied in accordance with the following:
  - For each barrack, each dwelling house, strata title unit or multi-unit dwelling, and each vacant allotment categorised as residential.
  - For each improvement built 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 \$1.57 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.

### **Commercial**

- (i) An Access Charge of \$303.14 shall be applied in accordance with the following:
- For each vacant allotment, each shop, each office, each school, each hotel, each motel, each hostel, each boarding house, 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 multi-unit dwelling, each strata title unit that has for the purposes of differential rating been categorised as co-existing with commercial category a standard residential charge per residential improvement shall apply.
- (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 **\$1.64** per kilolitre for all water passing through the meter within the water year. The only exception being:
- Water supplied to Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Ltd for shipping, which is to be charged at \$2.14 per kilolitre for each kilolitre passing through the meter. Lessees of Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Ltd will be charged at the commercial rate with no access charged levied against the shared properties.

### **Rural Productive**

- (i) An access charge of \$306.68 to be applied in accordance with the following: dwelling house, each multi-unit dwelling, 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 \$1.57 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.

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

#### **Water Charges - Recycled**

##### **Residential**

- (i) An access charge of \$74.34 shall be applied for each dwelling house, each multi-unit dwelling, each strata title unit and each vacant allotment categorised as residential, which is supplied recycled water through a water meter.
- (ii) In respect of all properties and/or premises at which a water meter is installed on the recycled water service connection to such property and/or premises, recycled water usage shall be charged at the rate of \$0.79 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.
- (iii) Water charges shall be levied proportionately for the unexpired part of the year from the date of connection of the water meter to the subject land.
- (iv) Meters shall be read on a rotational basis three times each year.
- (v) Accounts for recycled water usage will be issued three times during the year.

##### **Commercial**

- (i) An access charge of \$74.34 shall be applied for each separate improvement, as per the commercial rate for potable, and each vacant allotment categorised as commercial, which is supplied recycled water through a water meter.
- (ii) In respect of all properties and/or premises at which a water meter is installed on the recycled water service connection to such property and/or premises, recycled water usage shall be charged at the rate of \$0.79 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.

- (iii) Water charges shall be levied proportionately for the unexpired part of the year from the date of connection of the water meter to the subject land.
  - (iv) Meters shall be read on a rotational basis three times each year.
  - (v) Accounts for recycled water usage will be issued three times during the year.
2. Resolve, pursuant to section 102(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a water meter is taken to have been read during the period that starts two weeks before, and ends two weeks after, the day on which the meter is actually read.

*carried with Cr Eden voting against the motion*

**13. ADOPTION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT UTILITY CHARGES FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR..... 114**  
**Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7134571**

MOLLER / OLDS

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

**Cleansing – Domestic**

- (i) A Domestic Cleansing Charge, for the purpose of removal and disposal of refuse for the 2023/24 financial year be set at an amount of \$434.74 per service and applied in accordance with the following schedule:

Type of Improvement	No. of Services
Residence	1
Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDS)	1
Strata Title Units	1
Boarding House/Guest House/Hostel for each four 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.



- (iii) A minimum charge of \$217.36 to apply to all properties of South Woolanmaroo Reserve and Russell Heads, Reserve East Russell, where those ratepayers have signed an agreement for Council to remove household refuse from an agreed location.

*carried with Cr Eden voting against the motion*

**14. ADOPTION OF OVERDUE INTEREST ON RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR..... 116**

**Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7134577**

O'HALLORAN / MOLLER

That Council resolve, pursuant to section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, compound interest on daily rests at the prescribed rate of 11.64% per annum is to be applied on all overdue rates and charges for 2023/24 financial year.

*carried with Cr Eden voting against the motion*

**15. ADOPTION OF LEVY AND PAYMENT AND PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR..... 119**

**Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7134647**

VALLELY / ZEIGER

That Council:

1. Resolve, pursuant to section 107 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and section 114 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, Council's rates and charges, and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Emergency Management Levy be levied:
  - a. for the half year 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 – between July and December 2023; and
  - b. for the half year 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 – between January and June 2024
2. Resolve, pursuant to section 118 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that Council's rates and charges, and the QFES Emergency Management Levy, be paid by a date which is at least 30 days after the date of the issue of the rate notice.

*carried unanimously*

**16. ADOPTION OF RATES PENSIONER CONCESSIONS FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR ..... 120**

**Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7134656**

O'HALLORAN / JAMES

That Council resolve:

1. For new approved applications, pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a rebate of the general rate of a set amount of \$300.00 per annum be applied to all eligible ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government Pensioner Subsidy for the 2023/24 financial year, and
2. For existing recipients, approved applications prior to 1 July 2022, pursuant to sections 120, 121 and 122 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a rebate of the general rate of up to 40% be applied to all eligible ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission to a maximum of \$1,350 per annum for the 2023/24 financial year.

*carried with Cr Zeiger voting against the motion*

**17. FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR ..... 122**

**Steve Cooper | 63/19/1-01 | #7134664**

PYNE / COGHLAN

That Council resolves, pursuant to *section 121(b)* of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to grant rates and charges concessions to those ratepayers experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 by way of extended payment plans and interest waivers through the Financial Hardship Policy.

*carried unanimously*

**18. STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION ..... 126**

**Jessica Piercy | 63/17/2-01 | #7169919**

ZEIGER / O'HALLORAN

That Council note the Statement of Estimated Financial Position in accordance with section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

*carried unanimously*

**19. ADOPTION OF BUDGET ..... 131**

**Jeremy Rillstone | 63/2/10-01 | #7186406**

JAMES / MOLLER

That, pursuant to section 107A of the *Local Government Act 2009* and sections 169 and 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council's Budget for the 2023/24 financial year, incorporating:

- i. The statements of financial position;
- ii. The statements of cash flow;
- iii. The statements of income and expenditure;
- iv. The statements of changes in equity;
- v. The long-term financial forecast;
- vi. The revenue statement;
- vii. The revenue policy (adopted by Council resolution on 24 May 2023);
- viii. The relevant measures of financials sustainability; and
- ix. The total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget,

as tabled, be adopted by Council.

*carried with Cr Eden and Cr Pyne voting against the motion*

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.38 AM**

**CONFIRMED THIS DAY OF 2023**

.....  
**MAYOR**

.....  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**