

ADOPTION OF WATER UTILITY CHARGES FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

F&BS | 63/19/1 | #7867756

RECOMMENDATION:

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 2026/27 financial year on the following basis:

Residential

- (i) An access charge of \$473.20 shall be applied in accordance with the following:
 - For each barrack or dormitory, accommodation unit, dwelling house, independent living unit, community 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 1190m².
- (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 \$2.05 per kilolitre for all water passing through the water meter within the water year.

Commercial

- (i) An Access Charge of \$467.80 shall be applied in accordance with the following:
 - For each vacant allotment, each shop, office, school, hotel, motel, hostel, boarding house, club, hospital and 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 barrack or dormitory, accommodation unit, dwelling house, independent living unit, multi-unit dwelling, or community 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 \$2.15 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 \$2.65 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 \$473.20 to be applied in accordance with the following: barrack or dormitory, accommodation unit, dwelling house, independent living unit, multi-unit dwelling, or community 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 \$2.05 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, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development 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 \$84.40 shall be applied for each accommodation unit, dwelling house, independent living unit, multi-unit dwelling, community 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 \$1.02 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 \$84.40 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 \$1.02 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.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Not Applicable

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides the details of the water access and water usage charges for the 2026/27 Financial year.

Water access charges have increased by \$45.70 for residential and rural and \$45.20 for commercial.

Water usage charges have increased by 18 cents per kilolitre for residential and rural and 19 cents per kilolitre for commercial.

Recycled water access charges have increased by \$3.20.

Recycled water usage charges have increased by 16 cents.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (Recommended):

That Council:

1. Resolve, 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 per the recommendation above.
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.

Option 2:

That Council does not adopt the Water Utility Charges for the 2026/27 financial year and proposes amendments to the charges.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Statutory:

Adoption of utility charges are in accordance with sections 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and chapter 4, part 7 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.



Steve Cooper
Executive Manager Revenue & Business Support



Lisa Whitton
Chief Financial Officer