



BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL



AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD AT COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
145 YOUNG STREET, AYR**

on 15 December 2015

COMMENCING AT 9:00AM

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TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2015

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1 PRAYER

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 24 November 2015

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 November 2015 be received as a true and correct record.



BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD AT COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
145 YOUNG STREET, AYR**

On 24 November 2015

COMMENCING AT 9:00AM



TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2015

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

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Ordinary Council Meeting 24 November 2015



BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL



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ATTENDANCE

Councillors W.C. Lowis (Mayor), L.D. McCathie, L. Loizou, U.E. Liessmann, P.M. Dalle Cort and E.J. Bawden

Mr. M. Magin - Chief Executive Officer
Mr. D. Mulcahy – Manager Governance and Local Laws
Mr. W. Saldumbide - Manager Operations
Mr. K. Byers - Manager Technical Services

Minutes Clerk – Miss S. Cronin

Apologies: Councillor R.H. Lewis (Deputy Mayor)

1 PRAYER

The meeting prayer was delivered by Pastor Andrew Ballin of the Baptist Church.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor called for declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were identified.

3 MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 10 November 2015

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10 November 2015 be received as a true and correct record.

Resolution

Moved Councillor Loizou, seconded Councillor Dalle Cort that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

4 REPORTS

4.1 Capital Projects Monthly Report for Period Ending 31 October 2015

Recommendation

That the Capital Projects Monthly Report for Period Ending 31 October 2015 be received.

Resolution

Moved Councillor Liessmann, seconded Councillor Bawden that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

4.2 Operating Statement for the Period Ending 31 October 2015

Recommendation

That the Operating Statement for the Period Ending 31 October 2015 be received.

Resolution

Moved Councillor McCathie, seconded Councillor Loizou that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

4.3 End of First Quarter Comments 2015/2016 Operational Plan

Executive Summary

The end of first quarter comments for the 2015/2016 Operational Plan have been collated and are presented to Council.

Recommendation

That Council receives the attached end of first quarter comments for the 2015/2016 Operational Plan.

Resolution

Moved Councillor Dalle Cort, seconded Councillor McCathie that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

5 GOVERNANCE & LOCAL LAWS

5.1 Adoption of Revised Public Interest Disclosure Policy

Executive Summary

Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy has been reviewed and updated to reflect changes in legislation as well as changes in the organisational structure. The revised Public Interest Disclosure Policy will form part of council's fraud and corruption control framework.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the attached Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

Resolution

Moved Councillor Bawden, seconded Councillor McCathie that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

6 CLIENT SERVICES

7 FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8 OPERATIONS

9 TECHNICAL SERVICES

10 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

12.1 Membership of RADF Advisory Group

Executive Summary

A review of membership of the new RADF Advisory Group is sought following the outcome of a community survey as part of community consultation undertaken to inform the community on proposed changes to the RADF program.

Recommendation

Option 1: That membership of the RADF Advisory Group comprise 2 Councillors (one being the Chair), one staff representative and one community representative (as well as the RADF Liaison Officer who does not have voting rights).

OR

Option 2 : That membership of the RADF Advisory Group comprise 2 Councillors (one being the Chair), one staff representative and two community representatives, (as well as the RADF Liaison Officer who does not have voting rights).

OR

Option 3 : That membership of the RADF Advisory Group comprise 2 Councillors (one being the Chair), one staff representative and three community representatives, (as well as the RADF Liaison Officer who does not have voting rights)..

Resolution

Moved Councillor Liessmann, seconded Councillor Dalle Cort that the recommendation be adopted reflecting Option 3.

CARRIED

Councillors McCathie and Dalle Cort voted against the motion.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

13.1 2014/2015 Annual Report

Resolution

Moved Councillor Loizou, seconded Councillor Dalle Cort that Council adopts the 2014/2015 Annual Report.

CARRIED

13.2 Water, Wastewater and Distribution Technical Support

Resolution

Moved Councillor Dalle Cort, seconded Councillor Liessmann that Council resolves to accept Hydrological Pty. Ltd. as its preferred supplier of specialist technical support in the areas of water treatment, wastewater treatment and distribution system management due to the specialised nature of the services that are being sought.

CARRIED

14 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

15.1 Lower Burdekin Water Board Representative - Councillor Ross Lewis

Recommendation

That Council appoints Councillor Ross Lewis as Council's Representative on the Lower Burdekin Water Board up to and including the March 2016 Local Government Election at which time the nomination will be reviewed.

Resolution

Moved Councillor Dalle Cort, seconded Councillor Loizou that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

15.2 Burdekin Art Society Inc - General Rates Exemption and Standing Donation

Recommendation

That in accordance with Council's usual practice relating to not for profit community organisations, the Council grants the following to the Burdekin Art Society Inc. in respect of its Trustee Lease over Part of Lot 91 on GS980:

1. An exemption from the payment of General Rates; and
2. A standing donation equivalent to 90% remission of half the sum of the relevant sewerage charges in respect of second and subsequent pedestals and/or urinals.

Resolution

Moved Councillor Bawden, seconded Councillor McCathie that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

16 URGENT BUSINESS

17 CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

Council Meeting closed to Public under Section 275 of Local Government Regulation 2012

Resolution

Moved Councillor Liessmann, seconded Councillor Loizou that the Council meeting be closed to the public under the following sections of the Local Government Regulation 2012:

- 275(1)(e) contracts proposed to be made by it;
- 275(1)(h) other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interest of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

For the purpose of discussing:

1. Mt Inkerman Native Tourism Development Project; and
2. Progress on the construction of the Kirknie Road Landfill Waste Cell.

CARRIED

Council Meeting opened to Public

Resolution

Moved Councillor Loizou, seconded Councillor Liessmann that the Council meeting be opened to the public.

CARRIED

18 DELEGATIONS

- 10.15am Citizenship Ceremony – Miss Kylie Michelle Moxham, Mrs Barbara Milburn and Mr Bhaven Mayen Vakil

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.05pm.

These minutes were confirmed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 December 2015.

MAYOR

4 REPORTS

5 GOVERNANCE & LOCAL LAWS

5.1 Adoption of Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

Document Information

Referring Letter No: N/A

File No: N/A

Name of Applicant: N/A

Location: N/A

Author and Title: Rebecca Woods Executive Officer

Executive Summary

Councils are exposed to fraud and corruption risks both internally and externally partly due to the high volume of goods and services they procure which are often from local suppliers. In order to properly address these risks it is vital for councils to adopt a fraud and corruption control framework including various policies, plans and procedures. A fraud and corruption control policy, plan and implementation plan have been developed by council officers. The plan focuses on the areas of Prevention, Detection and Response and the implementation plan outlines various activities aligned with these three main areas of fraud and corruption control.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy as part of a Fraud and Corruption Control Framework. Further, that Council endorses the Fraud and Corruption Control Plan and Implementation plan.

Background Information

In June 2014, the Queensland Audit Office tabled a report in parliament regarding Fraud Management in Local Government. The report followed a survey of all 77 councils in Queensland and provided detailed information on the results and findings of the surveys. Overall, local governments in Queensland were found to have insufficient fraud management frameworks which has lead to substantial financial losses across the sector. The QAO report to parliament made a number of recommendations including the introduction of mandatory reporting to the Auditor General and the Minister responsible for Local Government regarding reportable losses due to fraud or corruption.

Link to Corporate/Operational Plan

5.2.1 Demonstrate leadership by advocating the Council's intent to government, business and the community

5.3.1 Apply an open and transparent leadership model

5.3.2 Adhere to the governance framework and public reporting systems

5.3.3 Ensure Council's financial position is effectively managed

5.3.4 Undertake regulatory responsibilities in accordance with state regulations

Consultation

In developing the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and associated plan, council officers have liaised with the QAO, the senior leadership team and all relevant internal stakeholders. Council officers have also attended a fraud and corruption awareness workshop and have assessed the draft policy and plan against information obtained during this workshop.

Legal Authority or Implications

Recent changes to the Local Government Regulation 2012 now require council to report any reportable losses due to fraud activity within 6 months to the Auditor General and the Minister responsible for Local Government.

307A Recording and notifying loss of local government asset

(1) This section applies if the chief executive officer—

(a) is aware of a loss of an asset belonging to the local government that the officer is satisfied is a reportable loss; or

(b) reasonably suspects there has been a reportable loss of an asset belonging to the local government; or

(c) is aware of a material loss of an asset belonging to the local government.

(2) The chief executive officer must keep a written record of the following details about the loss—

(a) a description of the asset, including its value;

(b) the cause of the loss;

(c) the action taken by the local government to deal with the loss, including, for example—

(i) action to remedy any weakness in the local government's operations; or

(ii) action taken to recover the loss;

(d) approval for writing off the loss.

(3) If the chief executive officer is satisfied the material loss is also a reportable loss, the officer must notify the following as soon as practicable, but not more than 6 months after the officer becomes aware of the loss—

(a) the Minister;

(b) the auditor-general;

(c) for a loss resulting from the commission of an offence under the Criminal Code or another Act—a police officer;

(d) for a loss resulting from the corrupt conduct of a councillor, local government employee or local government worker—the Crime and Corruption Commission.

(4) In this section—

corrupt conduct see the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, section 15.

material loss, for an asset belonging to a local government, means—

- (a) for money—a loss of more than \$500; or
- (b) for any other asset—a loss valued by the chief executive officer at more than \$1000.

reportable loss, for an asset belonging to the local government, means a loss resulting from—

- (a) the commission of an offence under the Criminal Code or another Act; or
- (b) the corrupt conduct of a councillor, local government employee or local government worker; or
- (c) conduct of a contractor of the local government that would be corrupt conduct if the contractor were a councillor, local government employee or local government worker.

Policy Implications

This is a new policy and will be added to Council's Policy Register.

Financial and Resource Implications

The financial and resource implications of the implementation of this policy and associated plan are difficult to gauge. It is expected that a considerable amount of time will be required to raise awareness amongst all staff and promote a culture of zero tolerance towards fraud and corruption. Part of the implementation plan will involve a whole of Council fraud awareness training which will be conducted in house and where possible during "wet days". Resources will be directed towards the proper investigation and handling of issues- with higher awareness there is likely to be a higher instance of reporting. With increased awareness and monitoring there may also be financial savings made due to a decrease in currently undetected fraud instances (such as timesheet fraud and overtime roort schemes).

Report prepared by:

Rebecca Woods Executive Officer

Report authorised by:

Matthew Magin Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

1. Fraud and Corruption Control Policy



Commencement Date:

Function: Governance

RESPONSIBILITIES

Policy Owner	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
Policy Contact	<i>Manager Financial and Administrative Services</i>
Approval Authority	<i>Council</i>
Next Review Date	<i>September 2017</i>

REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Status	Date	Approver/Meeting	Resolution/Document No.
<i>1.0</i>	<i>Draft</i>	<i>07/08/2015</i>		

1 PURPOSE

The policy details Council's commitment to the prevention, detection and management of fraudulent and corrupt activity within or against the organisation. The policy aims to minimise the frequency and severity of fraud or corruption activities through the implementation of a Fraud and Corruption Control Plan with a focus on prevention, detection and treatment of fraud and corruption activities within the organisation.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fraud and corruption can harm Council's reputation and credibility, affect public confidence in Council and lead to financial loss to Council and effectively have an impact on ratepayers. The *Local Government Act 2009* requires Council to establish and maintain appropriate systems of internal control and risk management. This policy is part of Council's Fraud and Corruption Control Framework and should be used in conjunction with the Fraud and Corruption Control Plan and Implementation Plan.

3 SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council activities, employees, contractors, volunteers and Councillors.

4 EXCEPTIONS

Nil

5 DEFINITIONS

Corruption - *Dishonest activity in which a director, executive, manager, employee or contractor of an entity acts contrary to the interests of the entity and abuses his/her position of trust in order to achieve some personal gain or advantage for him or herself or for another person or entity.*

Council – *Burdekin Shire Council*

Fraud – Dishonest activity causing actual or potential financial loss to any person or entity including theft of moneys or other property by employees or persons external to the entity and whether or not deception is used at the time, immediately before or immediately following the activity. This also includes the deliberate falsification, concealment, destruction or use of falsified documentation used or intended for use for a normal business purpose or the improper use of information or position.

6 POLICY STATEMENT

6.1. Council is committed to:

- taking a risk management approach to the prevention, identification and management of fraud and corruption;
- reducing or removing the potential for fraudulent or corrupt conduct on the part of its employees, contractors, clients and suppliers;
- detecting fraudulent or corrupt conduct through the systematic processes articulated in Council's Fraud and Corruption control plan and implementation plan (see Associated Documents);
- investigating or otherwise formally enquiring into all instances of suspected fraudulent or corrupt conduct exposed as a result of our detection processes, or as a result of receiving an allegation of fraudulent or corrupt activities;
- managing, disciplining or facilitating the prosecution of those responsible for incidents of fraud and corruption as appropriate;
- minimising the risk of fraud and corruption; and
- ensuring the continuing organisational integrity and transparency of its operations.

6.2. Council will act on any suspicion of illicit conduct on the part of its staff or any party with whom it conducts business.

6.3. Council officers have a responsibility and an obligation to report suspected or known fraudulent or corrupt activities or incidents.

6.4. Council will take action against anyone who takes reprisal action against a Council officer who reports suspected or known incidents, consistent with Council's Public Interests Disclosures Policy.

6.5. Council recognises that fraud and corruption prevention and control are integral components of good governance and risk management.

6.6. Council will ensure that effective reporting to the Auditor General and the Minister responsible for Local Government is conducted in accordance with requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

7 OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this policy are to-

- a) Prevent and manage fraud and corruption against and within Burdekin Shire Council
- b) Identify strategies and activities Council has in place to mitigate fraud and corruption risks.
- c) Minimise the frequency and severity of fraud and corruption activities through the implementation of a robust fraud and corruption control plan.

8 LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2010

Criminal Code Act 1899

9 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Fraud and Corruption Control Plan

Fraud and Corruption Control Implementation Plan

5.2 Community Consultation Report

Document Information

Referring Letter No: N/A

File No: N/A

Name of Applicant: N/A

Location: N/A

Author and Title: Rebecca Woods- Executive Officer

Executive Summary

Natalie Kent was engaged by council to conduct a series of community consultation workshops to gauge community sentiment and satisfaction with council services and the performance of elected and non-elected council officers.

Recommendation

That council receives the attached report.

Background Information

Council has made a commitment within the Corporate Plan 2015-2020 to improve community consultation process that enables community contribution and feedback. These community focus groups were run as part of council's commitment to improved consultation.

Link to Corporate/Operational Plan

5.1.1 Improve community consultation processes that enable community contribution and feedback

5.1.2 Be responsive and proactive in providing information in the public interest

Consultation

Natalie Kent is an experienced consultant who has had many years' experience in Local Government- both as an officer and then working for LGAQ in various roles. Natalie now works as a consultant and was contracted to conduct these focus groups on behalf of council.

Legal Authority or Implications

N/A

Policy Implications

N/A

Financial and Resource Implications

N/A

Report prepared by:

Rebecca Woods- Executive Officer

Report authorised by:

Matthew Magin- Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

- 1.Community Consultation Report
- 2.Associated Statistics as presented to participants

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

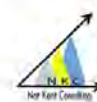
Community Focus Groups to Gauge Public Perceptions, Attitudes and Opinions

NOVEMBER 2015





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1. Introduction

Nat Kent Consulting Pty Ltd was engaged by Burdekin Shire Council to engage with the community to gauge perception, attitudes and opinions of the Council and its operations.

The consultant was required to provide a comprehensive report to Council detailing the feedback from the engagement activities, demographic of participants in relation to shire, any performance ratings received during the engagement activities and recommendations for actions that can be implemented by Council

This report provides information on the methodology used in the engagement, the qualitative and quantitative summaries of responses.

2. Methodology

The engagement process included the use of a set of questions seeking responses on the following:

- Performance of Council
- Rating of Councillors (collectively)
- Rating of the Management Team (collectively)
- Sought information on the knowledge of Council rates, cost of services and acceptable rate increases
- Sought information on whether Council should decrease, maintain or increase a range of services
- Sought information on where Council should direct its human and financial resources as a priority and well as which of the services were directly important to the respondents.
- Preferences for contacting and getting information were also collected.

Where ratings of performance were undertaken the respondents were asked a reason for their rating. This information assists in understanding how to improve performance in these areas and what activities of Council prompt a particular response.

Invitations to attend small focus groups and face to face interviews were sent out to a Council engagement list. These invitations were sent by letter and email to the 75 persons included on the engagement list. The lists covered the areas of Giru, Brandon, Ayr, Home Hill, Mount Kelly, Dalbeg, Clare and Millaroo.

In addition to those on the list another 5 people attended the small focus groups through local invitations.

The final sample total was 19.

Small focus groups were arranged over the period 11, 12 and 13 November 2015 at locations in Home Hill (2), Ayr (2), Brandon (1), Clare (1) and Giru (1). Face to face interviews were also undertaken.



3. General Findings

- One off issues such as the solar farm decision had jaded the respondents view of trust and decision making by Council
- There is a belief that Council redunded staff that had local knowledge and replaced them with consultants
- On the other hand there was equally a belief that some of the long term employees were stuck in their ways and would not change
- There were conflicting views in relation to the cyclone shelter. The negative views of it being a 'white elephant' and that it was "not rated Category 5" impacted heavily on the performance ratings. Others thought that the shelter was of high value to the community for its multiple use.
- There was a belief that the Council's residential rates and charges were higher than the neighbouring or like Councils and the respondents were very surprised to find that was not the case.
- There was generally no real understanding of the costs incurred by Council.
- Small towns generally felt left out or not considered as part of Council's decision making. Some of this view however may be driven by them not wanting to be part of the whole Shire.
- Although ABS statistics showed that there is a high level of internet access in the community a number of the respondent felt Council was relying too much on the website and Facebook as they did not have access to them. Information on disaster management for example was on the website and without internet access was useless. The Get Ready day was commended but again those in small towns would not drive to participate.
- The community generally would look for information on the website or in the paper however they felt that "there is no longer a reporter at the Council meeting" and this meant less information on Council in the paper. The newsletter was good and had been received by most of the respondents.
- When contacting the Council respondents predominately would call by phone.
- Overall the customer service was well rated. There were some concerns about the call centre and not being able to get to the staff any more.
- There was a feeling that the current Mayor was less visual in the community than the last 2 mayors. There was also negative and positive views about his leadership style.
- The respondents were unhappy that some Councillors sent letters to the editor as this demonstrated lack of unity.
- The majority of respondents were happy to pay a rate rise around CPI or 2-3% to maintain the current services.
- There were some views that Council gold plated infrastructure, did not reduce spending when the economy slowed locally and needed to find efficiencies.
- The respondents also judged performance based on the visuals of Council staff. They described the following:
 - Council staff sleeping on park benches
 - Taking three employee to install a sign with one leaning on a vehicle, smoking while the other two installed the sign.
 - Taking longer than contractors would to do a job
 - Not being efficient and using outdated slow work processes
 - Too many stop and go for small job, twice the amount that a contractor would use



4. Demographics of Respondents

	Percentage Respondents	Percentage of Community 2013 ABS
Male	42.1%	50.6%
Female	57.9%	49.4%

Table 1

The sample has a slightly higher number of females than the ABS.

Age	1-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Participated	Excluded	10%	32%	32%	37%
ABS Indicator	N/A	7.8%	31.3%	36.3%	24.5%

Table 2

The age group 15-24 years was under represented in the engagement process. The ABS indicator has been calculated based on 18-24 year olds in the 2013 ABS data on Burdekin Shire Council. The 65+ age group are overrepresented in comparison to the ABS indicator. The groups in 25 through to 64 years more closely aligned to the statistical group for those ages.

Highest Education	Year 1-7	Year 8-12	Certificate	Trade	Diploma	Degree	Post Grad Diploma	Post Grad Degree
	11%	37%	11%	11%	5%	16%	0%	11%

Table 3

There was good representation from the spectrum of highest education types within the respondent group.

Years Lived in Shire	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	40+
Percentage of Respondents	21%	5%	16%	11%	47%

Table 4

Almost 50% of the respondents had spent all or the majority of their life in the Shire.

The survey instrument also captured other indicators relating the respondents. Each respondent provided multiple responses to a pick list.

• Ratepayer	68%	• Home Owner	74%
• Member of a community or service club	74%	• Australian born	100%
• Employee	42%	• Landlord	53%
• Self Employed	37%	• Business Owner/Shop Keeper	32%
• Business Employee	32%	• Urban Property Owner	32%
• Rural Property Owner	26%	• Community Worker	26%
• Sports person	26%	• Tenant	21%
• Cane grower	21%	• Self-funded Retiree	16%
• Rural Property Worker	16%	• Business Property Owner	16%
• State or Commonwealth Employee	11%	• Motel/Hotel/Caravan Park Operator	5%
• School or TAFE Teacher	5%	• Religious Worker	5%

Table 5



None of the respondents related to the following:

- Person with a disability
- Pensioner
- Mine Worker
- Small crop grower
- Transport Operator
- Builder/Developer
- Student
- Health Worker
- Indigenous
- 457 visa holder
- Real Estate Agent
- Unemployed
- Grazier
- Born Overseas

Despite a number of respondents being over the age of 65 years none nominated as receiving a pension. They either continued to work in a business or at farming activities or were self-funded in retirement.

5. Statistical Responses

5.1 Overall Performance

The first set of ratings relates to the performance of Council in a range of areas. Those responding "don't know" were excluded from the rating calculation however the percentage providing that answer has been included in the table as a reference to the community's knowledge of each of the performance matters.

The rating is a percentage out of 100. Generally 70% and over is a good score (green) and focus should be placed firstly on improving ratings coloured yellow.

Performance Area	Performance Score	Percentage of Respondents that "don't know"
General Service Delivery	70.5%	0%
Responding to maintenance requests	70%	26%
Financial Management	61%	21%
Asset Management	69.5%	10.5%
Developing long term strategies	58.75%	15.5%
Representing a culture of customer service	72%	5%
Following good decision making processes	50.75%	31.5%
Representing a culture of openness and transparency	60%	10.5%
Supporting a feeling of community connectedness	69.5%	0%
Disaster management preparedness	74%	10.5%
Disaster management response	74%	10.5%

Table 6



All respondents were able to comment on the general service delivery of Council and the support for community connectedness.

The respondents had the greatest difficulty answering the performance questions on "responding to maintenance requests" and "following good decision making processes". The high "don't know" responses for "responding to maintenance requests" has been given a green rating due to those giving that response had not had to contact Council for a maintenance request and therefore could not rate the question.

The ratings for "don't know" that are marked in red are where lack of information or knowledge of the decisions or the decision making process influenced the outcome.

General Service Delivery

"Rural towns forgotten about"
"Lot of room for improvement"
"Services are regular"
"Only see gardeners when they sleep on park benches"
"Happy with the service"
"Wanting to remove services"
"Towns are tidy, streets and parks are looked after"
"Council is top heavy and need to cut the cloth to the funding"
"No big problems, services are adequate"
"Job gets done"
"Good work"
"Everything is done when needed"

Responding to maintenance requests

"Good service"
"Do come out with the street sweeper"
"Reaction is not always the community priority"
"Quick response when I asked for something"
"Parks, gardens and general maintenance good"
"Always come within 24 hours"
"Have responded to flooding and high rainfall"
"Enquired about water quality and were very responsive"
"Took a long time to get someone to ring back"
"Have not needed anything but others have had good responses"

Financial Management

"Things seem to run ok"
"Low debt so that is good"
"Uncertain of current position"
"People talk"
"High rates from what I read and spend funds without prioritisation"
"Have been able to fund large requests when needed"
"Street works take a long time and contractors could do it quicker and cheaper"
"Rates going up and less being done"
"Do not know the facts"
"Being told there is no money for new infrastructure to grow our community"
"No local input in where the money is spent"
"Redundant officers with local knowledge and replaced them with consultants"



Asset Management

- "Heard the pool was green and full of leaves"
- "Clare Hall in disrepair"
- "May need to improve without hitting the ratepayer"
- "Roads and buildings in good condition"
- "We don't have a great deal of Council owned assets"
- "Handing assets to the State Government is not a good idea"
- "Water and sewerage is good"
- "Pot holes are eventually fixed"
- "Have done pipe scouring"
- "Roads and drainage are improving and area developing"
- "Town is not run down"

Developing long term strategies

- "People say there could be improvements"
- "High paying ratepayers should be asked"
- "Residents not aware maybe needs more publicity"
- "We need a local voice, our own Councillor"
- "Isolation factor in our community so we don't foresee any development"
- "Very little as far as one has been told"
- "People don't know what is going on"
- "Don't want lots of hot air"
- "Council sent out for community input into a plan"
- "Website information needs updating"
- "Economic development process has been good"
- "Will get more creative ideas with the change of time"

Representing a culture of customer service

- "Heard that there is a response when called"
- "Having to travel 80 km round trip to the dump is not customer service"
- "Are good and staff helpful most times"
- "Front office staff are good but the customer service from actual Councillors is lacking"
- "Service at office very good"
- "Both office staff and Council workers"
- "Customer service staff always smile"
- "Call centre after hours is not as responsive as before"
- "Timely responses to flood information requests"

Following good decision making processes

- "Spending and allocation of funds is pushed to the squeaky wheels"
- "People are happy to be criticise Council but won't put their hand up"
- "Unaware of current process, needs to be outlined to community"
- "It seems good but have not been to a meeting"
- "Solar farm, not in the right place, not happy with the decision"
- "No idea how they make decisions"
- "Lack of meeting with the people"
- "Not informed during the process, only the end result which is usually not favourable"
- "The process is full of "red tape", too drawn out and causes the end goal to be lost"
- "The local need to be able to sit in meeting to know this so they need night meetings"
- "Solar farm decision was behind the scene"



Representing a culture of openness and transparency

"Solar farm kept in the dark, sign was hidden, first time we heard of it was approval in the paper"
"Not contacting neighbours about the solar farm"
"Councillors only tell what they want us to hear"
"Not kept updated on issues in our area"
"Sometimes"
"Always told what we don't want to know"
"Trying to hand back assets to the State Government with the residents not knowing"
"More secretive, less feedback and the paper is not sending a reporter to the meeting"
"Poor response when asked questions about how rates were calculated"
"They will listen"
"More communication needs to be done here"
"Business forum was good"

Supporting a feeling of community connectedness

"There are events that Council has not supported"
"They support financially and in kind for community groups"
"CEO talked to the Council workers about the storm"
"Give the young people something to do like Flikafest"
"They have quite a few community events and these are well attended"
"Harvest and Water Festival are good"
"Trying to improve the theatre is good"
"Having the skate park opening when kids are at school"
"We do not feel we are connected in any way to the rest of the Shire"
"Never see the Councillors so no connection"

Disaster management preparedness

"Were ready last cyclone"
"Council supports the SES"
"Are we prepared? How do I know? I don't"
"We are totally isolated, no warning procedure and no assistance in floods"
"Should have extra dumping hours in preparation"
"Do we have one for Giru?"
"Need to be proactive with emergency boat replacement"
"New shelter is a white elephant, not Category 5 rated"
"Don't really know"
"Unaware of the process"
"Information on website but no access to the internet"
"Get Ready Sunday was good"

Disaster management response

"Responded quickly to the last storm"
"Can't do green waste for community members after the storm"
"In the past they have been excellent"
"When power goes out takes 3 hours to come on but not really a Council issue"
"We get flooded in, only one active SES member"
"Clean up in good time, good response once tragedy hits"
"After Yasi there was not power for 5 days but Council was on the ball"
"Very quick to help"
"Do value community safety"
"Council assisted with food when people were stranded at Sandy Corner"



5.2 Councillor Performance

The next set of responses relate to Councillors as a group. The rating is a percentage out of 100%.

Performance Area	Performance Score	Percentage of Respondents that "don't know"
The level of trust in the Councillors	56%	21%
The quality of the decisions of the Councillors	58.5%	21%
The level of leadership of the Councillors	61.5%	31.5%
The quality of the outcomes that are delivered by the Councillors	60%	26.3%

Table 7

The ratings appeared to be highly influenced by one off instances.

Trust

- "Solar farm, no straight answers"
- "Some not prepared to listen"
- "Never see them, don't know who they are"
- "Know them and some are good business people"
- "They do what they said as quickly as possible"
- "Talk about town is they are pretty good"
- "Don't like Councillors airing views in letters to the editor"
- "There are some ego trips and self-gain in election"

Decisions

- "Not in bad debt"
- "Poor financial management as rates consideration should be given to industry down turn"
- "There are some good ones"
- "Want to be informed about the decision making process and the decisions"
- "Stopped doing things to save money"
- "Rates not explained"
- "Very good"
- "Pretty good"
- "Trying to satisfy the minority"
- "Little clicks influence decisions, each Councillors need to be independent"

Leadership

- "Do not respect the rural community, stuck in a box in town"
- "The Mayor should be a Councillor first on not rely on the CEO to advise him"
- "No standout profiles, we need a livewire to get things going"
- "Mayor not a leader in comparison to previous 2 mayors"
- "Good people who lead well in their own way"
- "Mayor shows good leadership"
- "Just enough leadership to do the job"



Outcomes

- "Redeveloped the roads in town and then they were the wrong asphalt and had to be redone"
- "Most outcomes are delivered"
- "Often promises that are not followed through"
- "Very slow to progress anything"
- "Special rate coming off, good outcome, happy to pay for a special project"
- "Rates issue has coloured my thinking"
- "No bad things, all seems good"
- "A lot of good reports"
- "Some good, some bad outcomes"

5.3 What do they want from Elected Members?

- Honesty, compassion
- Service that is promised
- Look after small communities and have open communication with them
- Careful selection of senior officers
- Not to consider themselves above the average ratepayer
- Want the Councillors to live in my area
- Be seen in our community and associate with the public
- Listen to the people
- More open Council
- Business friendly Council that realises that primary industry is the major economic driver
- Keep the Shire financial with the roads and gardens in good condition
- Creativity in community development
- Improved communication on decisions
- Unity as a Council, there is disunity amongst some of the Councillors
- Decide the budget and policy and let the staff get on and do the job
- Don't tie the hands of the staff

5.4 Management Team Performance

The next set of responses relate to Management Team as a group. The rating is a percentage out of 100%.

Performance Area	Performance Score	Percentage of Respondents that "don't know"
The level of trust in the Management Team	65%	21%
The quality of the decisions of the Management Team	62.8%	21%
The level of leadership of the Management Team	65.7%	36.8%
The quality of the outcomes that are delivered by the Management Team	70%	31.5%

Table 8



The responses were influenced by the change in Council management. The respondents also felt they know very little about the actual management team of the Council but rated them higher than the Councillors in performance.

Trust

- 'Good relationships with the staff'
- "Don't hear a lot of complaints"
- "CEO has an agenda made in consultation with Council"
- "I trust them as they know more than me"
- "Previous management was more in tune, long term employees more practical"
- "Long termers are set in their ways and not innovative"
- "Local knowledge replaced by consultants"

Decisions

- "Bound by process and regulation but their decision are not just regimented, they explain the decisions if unfavourable"
- "Need to prioritise where money is spent"
- "They are following Council's decisions"
- "Very good to my knowledge"
- "Some gold plating"
- "Need staff to have the attitude 'how can we make this happen'"
- "No positive decisions about our town"
- "Closing local amenities without thinking about the consequences"

Leadership

- "New economic development strategy is taking the community forward"
- "New CEO still finding his legs"
- "All do well"
- "Some of the better staff are gone"
- "Some enthusiastic and go out of their way to show leadership"
- "The leader has great knowledge and the team is competent but lacks communication"

Outcomes

- "Dinosaur mentality, hard to get implement change"
- "Too much money spent on parks that are not used"
- "Water and general services are being done"
- "They get things done"
- "Have been proactive with roads"
- "Cannot get to a person, don't know who the staff are"
- "Outcomes are delivered as ordered by the Council"

5.5 What do they want from Management Team?

- Do the job properly and be fair
- Not subject to corruption
- Open and frank
- Follow up and call back as promised
- Implement Council decisions in an efficient and cost effective manner
- Be proactive and identify issues that Council needs to deal with
- Put words into action
- Continue to provide communication and information



- Work together
- Less red tape and only regulate if risk is high
- Staff to be helpful and give direct answers
- Realise Burdekin is a rural area not a city
- More visits to small communities
- Economic development that includes a vision to move forward in a positive way
- Want to know more about what they are doing

6. Knowledge of Council Revenues and Costs

6.1 Rates and charges

A question was asked as to the knowledge of the cost of Council rates and charges for general rates and water, sewerage and waste charges at the minimum charge and 300 kilolitres of water.

The average response was \$2568.75. The actual amount is \$2425.00

15.8% of the respondent could not provide an estimate and some of these were tenants.

The responses ranged from \$1500.00 to \$3500.00.

Questions were also asked whether the rates and charges were lower, the same or higher than neighbouring or like Councils.

Rates and Charges Type	Lower	Same	Higher
Total General, Water, Sewerage and Waste	21%	31.5%	47.5%
General	31.5%	37%	31.5%
Water	31.5%	42.2%	26.3%
Sewerage	26.3%	47.4%	26.3%
Waste	37%	31.5%	31.5%

Table 9

The answers to these questions were interesting as when asked about the total nearly 50% felt that they were higher than the neighbouring or like Councils. However when asked about the line items on the rate notice, the respondents were more balanced in their answers.

The respondents were surprised to find out that the rates and charges were actually lower than Townsville and Hinchinbrook Council and said that there had been lots of discussion in the paper about it being higher.

6.2 Cost of building and sealing roads

A question was asked relating to a cost of building and resealing a rural road. The road was 1 kilometres in length and 7.5 metres wide and built from the standard of a track to become a rural road.

The answers varied from \$8000.00 to \$2 million for the road construction and \$1000.00 and \$500000.00 for the resealing. 15.8% of respondents were unable to answer to either of the estimates.



Cost Type	Average Estimate of all Respondents	Actual Council Cost Based on Latest Revaluation
Construct a Rural Road from a Track to 7.5 metre wide sealed road (per Kilometre)	\$534,718.00	\$558,000.00
Reseal a Rural Road 7.5 metre wide	\$73,687.00	\$26,600.00

Table 10

6.3 Rate Increases

The next question related to the annual rates and charges increase that the respondents were willing to pay to maintain the current service levels. The options provided were 1% to 10% on a pick list.

There was a 5% "don't know" response to this question. There were 21% that noted that zero was not on the pick list and wanted to answer 0. All of those respondents were from Giru and talked amongst themselves in relation to answering the question. One of those respondents did add that they were prepared to pay an increase if they got a wage increase.

None of the remainder of the respondents questioned that zero was not on the pick list and the majority were happy to pay around CPI or 2-3% to maintain current services.

The lowest was 1% and the highest 5%. Another respondent said 3% but up to 5% to increase service levels. The average of all respondents was 2% if those wanting a zero increase were included. The average without those wanting zero was 2.5%.

It appears from the responses to these questions that most of the community expected rates and charges increases to be around CPI and were happy to pay that to sustain services.

Those who commented that they wanted zero did feel that their community contributed more rates and charges to the revenue than they received in service. See matters rating to Giru later in this report.

6.4 Sources of revenue

A question was asked regarding the amount of funds was provided from the Council revenues, State Government Grants and Commonwealth Grants in relation to the operations (not capital) of Council.

Source	Lowest Response	%	Highest Response	%	Average %Response	Council 2014/15 Actual	Don't Know % Excluded
Council rates, charges, fees etc. for operating	25%		80%		62.5%	88%	15.7%
State Government Grants	10%		50%		21.5%	9.1%	15.7%
Commonwealth Grants	5%		50%		16%	2.9%	15.7%

Table 12



The responses showed that the respondents felt that the State and Commonwealth provided much more funding to Council than the reality. They again were surprised to find out that the community through rates, charges and fees needed to provide the majority of operating revenue to the Council.

7. Service Priority

The following list of services was provided and respondents asked if Council should reduce, maintain or increase each of the services.

The percentage of respondents that answered "don't know" for any of the services is listed in the right hand column. The percentages are based on those who did respond.

Service	Reduce Service (% of those who provided an answer)	Maintain Service (% of those who provided an answer)	Increase Service (% of those who provided an answer)	Don't Know (% of all respondents)
Roads	5.3%	68.4%	26.3%	
Drainage	10.5%	57.9%	31.6%	
Water Supply	5.3%	57.9%	36.8%	
Sewerage Services	5.9%	82.4%	11.8%	10.5%
Council Management	25%	38%	38%	15.8%
Waste Management	5.3%	63.2%	31.6%	
Sporting Facilities	5.3%	63.2%	31.6%	
Parks and Gardens	10.5%	68.4%	21.1%	
Libraries	11.8%	76.5%	11.8%	10.5%
Arts and Culture	16.7%	44.4%	38.9%	5.3%
Economic Development	0%	44%	56%	15.8%
Community Buildings	0.0%	72.2%	27.8%	5.3%
Swimming Pools	10.5%	42.4%	42.1%	
Cemeteries	13%	81%	6%	15.8%
Environmental Management	13%	69%	19%	15.8%
Aerodrome	19%	75%	6%	15.8%

Table 13



The same pick list was used to ask the following questions:

1. Rank the five most important services for Council to direct most of its human and financial resources using 1 – 5 and picking just one against each number.
2. Rank the five most important services to the respondent using 1 – 5 and picking just one against each number.

Service	Council should direct most of its human and financial resources	Most important to the respondent
Roads	2	3
Drainage	7	6
Water Supply	1	1
Sewerage Services	6	7
Council Management	4	4
Waste Management	5	5
Sporting Facilities	9	11
Parks and Gardens	8	12
Libraries	15 (not in any respondent's 1 – 5 choice)	13
Arts and Culture	15 (not in any respondent's 1 – 5 choice)	14
Economic Development	3	2
Community Buildings	13	10
Swimming Pools	11	9
Cemeteries	12	15
Environmental Management	10	8
Aerodrome	14	16 (not in any respondent's 1 – 5 choice)

Table 14

Both tables 13 and 14 need to be read together. For example although respondents felt that services to swimming pools should be increased that service is only ranked 11 and 9 respectively when asked about raking use of resources and personal importance.





The combination of the two tables should therefore be read as:

- Roads are of high importance and the current service is adequate.
- Water is of high importance and the current service is adequate.
- Sewerage is of high importance and the current service is adequate.
- Council Management is of high importance and Council needs to put more resources into this area.
- Economic Development is of high importance and Council needs to put more resources into this area.
- Arts and culture is of low overall importance but if there is spare resources the service should be increased.
- Swimming pools are of low overall importance but if there is spare resources the service should be increased.

8. Contacting Council and Seeking Information from Council

The question was asked about the preference of the respondents contacting Council.

Phone the Council Office	89%
Send an email or fax Council Office	15.7%
Send a letter to the Council Office	10.5%
Send a text to the Council Office	0%
Use Snap, Send and Solve	5%
Use the Council's Online Contact form	5%
Phone a Councillor	36.8%
Send an email or fax to a Councillor	10.5%
Text a Councillor	0%
Send a letter to a Councillor	0%

Table 15

The respondents' preference is to contact Council by phone.

A question was asked about where the respondents would look for information on the Council.

Council's website/Facebook	47.4%
In the local paper	52.6%
In the library	0%
Attending the Council office	26.3%
Attending a Council meeting	21.1%
Attending a Council function	5.3%
Other (state) Phone Book was stated	5.3%

Table 16

The respondents' preference is to look for Council information online or in the local paper.



9. General Observations

The responses raised the issue of a disconnect felt by the smaller communities of Clare and Giru in relation to services delivery. There was however a distinct difference between the responses from the respondents at Clare and the respondents at Giru.

The respondents at Clare felt that they were forgotten in relation to visits from Council and Councillors as well as proactive maintenance. They were concerned about losing services in the future however were extremely happy with the way Council responded to a service request once it was made. They felt however that there should be programmed maintenance so that they did not need to request general services. Their responses also showed that they thought about the broader community and could have a whole of Shire view.

On contrast respondents from Giru had a more parochial view. This included not seeing services available in Ayr or Home Hill as their service. When asked for example about the library service they would say they do not have one although they then wanted to know the opening times and discussed that amongst themselves.

They were also unhappy about the timing of the skate park opening, the power going off affecting the water supply, the bitumening of the road and felt that they paid more in rates than they received in service. The respondent discussed that Council had shown them the amount of rates paid in relation to monies spent in the community but felt that the rural rates should have also been included. Hence that indication that they feel that they are not part of the broader community.

All other respondents treated the Council area as a whole and answered from a more strategic point of view. One respondent did question why Council had put a skate park in Giru as they had a lot of services for a small community and that the cost must be high per capita to provide that service.

Generally the responses showed that Council performed well in on ground service delivery and was responsive when a request was placed for maintenance. Many of the areas that were marked down related to people "hearing things" or one off decisions.

The solar farm approval, reduction in a number of grants and the visual performance of employees (what people described about the outside workforce) played a role in marking down Council's decision making and trust.

Although some of the respondents had been critical of Council's service or responses very few of them had actually contacted Council seeking rectification of an issue, attended a Council meeting or understood the roles and responsibilities of the Council and Council administration. They seem to prefer to complain about Council not responding to something they did not even know about.

Some felt that unless they personally know the people involved that they could not rate them in respect of the services or performance.

It was clear from the responses that where respondents had contact with Council more regularly, on a personal basis or had knowledge of the Council processes that they ranked Council higher in service delivery and performance.

In other instances respondents would, as a first step, respond to gossip, complain to others or write a letter to the editor rather than seeking a response from Council on a matter.



10. Specific Observations

Clare

The issues in Clare related to street sweeping, the pool operations and maintenance and the rubbish tip. They felt on general maintenance that there was no planned maintenance schedule and that they only got service when they asked. They were happy with the response times once they called Council.

There were two issues that dominated their comments. The first was the approval of the solar farm and the second was access to the landfill.

They felt that the solar farm application has been kept "hush hush". They did understand that Council had met its statutory requirements but felt that Council should have engaged with the locals in relation to the application over and above any statutory requirements. They felt that the owner had hidden the sign behind long grass and used the statutory obligation of advising the neighbours (Sunwater) as a way to hiding the development.

The community was concerned that Council would now collect less rates because of the change in use meaning that others would need to pay more to have the same rate take.

The other major issue was access to the land fill or a transfer station. Although the respondents complained about access to the land fill they gave different information in relation to opening times. One said it was once per month and another saying once per fortnight.

Although no one from Dalbeg or Millaroo were represented in the respondents the Clare respondents also commented on the access by those people to a land fill site or a transfer station and exemplified the length of a journey into town to have access whether at Clare or at Ayr/Homehill.

A number of respondents suggested a transfer station and therefore it appears there had been some discussion within the community and one responded "like at Dingo Beach".

There was a belief that Council responded too quickly to collecting downed trees from the storm damage and there was a belief that Council should have assisted individual home owners with the removal of trees that were down in their yards.

The other matter raised in Clare was the registering of 4 dogs. They felt Council should manage the dog complaints and ensure that any one owning more than 2 dogs follows the proper registration process.

The respondents would like the Clare Hall to be maintained and roads maintained through the crushing season.

There was also concern that Council should have waited until after the cane season was finished before it commenced the works on Brown's Road.

The respondents were keen to see the Councillors visit their community and talk about issues.



Giru

As noted in the general observations the respondents at Giru were more parochial in their comments.

They felt that Councillors should visit more regularly, that they receive less service than Ayr and Homehill and that they pay more rates than they receive in service. They did not mention other smaller communities in the Shire and focused on their own town area.

They were concerned about the pool closing and that Council should take over the running of the facility.

The Giru respondents were more vocal about the experience of the Mayor, Councillors, CEO and other senior officers in relation to the local outcomes. They felt Council has reduced experienced employees and that had impacted on the practical nature of solutions. They also felt that Council would always say "no" to a request as a first response and that they were always looking for reasons why they could not do something.

The respondents complained about the resurfacing of a street in Giru which they believe was resurfaced only a few years ago and the continual resurfacing had increased the height of the road and changed the drainage and accessibility of properties.

They were critical of Council "knocking down" the amenities block at the caravan park which meant that travellers do not have access to amenities unless they go to the park and then only toilets. They mentioned that Council was progressing the issue but it was very slow. They want free camping available so that some money is spent in town helping to sustain local business.

Another concern was power outages that created a water issue recently. They felt that Council should have installed a back-up generator to ensure that they did not run out of water.

They also included a wish list of maintaining the tennis courts, mobile library, clean drains and gutters and the culvert in Lyons Street (promised 12 months ago).

The respondents also complained that they were promised a Council meeting in their community and it had not happened.

Ayr, Homehill and Brandon

The remainder of the respondents came from these areas however their responses reflected a whole of community view. None of these respondents singled out a particular area as having different services levels or were concerned (except the one Giru Skate Park comment) that Council favoured one area over another.

There were however comments about "gold plating" of some services, lack of knowledge of new employees, concern over redundancies of long term staff and a less visible Mayor compared against the last two.

Cane growers felt that they did not get any explanation from Council on "why they were carrying a greater rate burden than other commercial categories". They felt Council has not provided the Cane Growers Association with any valid information or response.



There was consensus that the roads had improved over the last few years and that things like being able to dump free of charge and the removal of the voucher system at the land fill were positive steps.

There was some concerns that the one stop shop and customer service process had segregated the community from the officers that they used to access. Others however said the one stop shop was a great initiative and was working.

Some responses did emphasise that they had been promised a call back by Council and it had not happened and they had to call again and follow up the issue.

Generally respondents were pleased with economic development initiatives and recognised that the community should not be "blinkered by cane production" and seek a diversified approach and that diversification and development would "increase the size of the financial cake".

Some respondents commended Council for the cyclone shelter however the construction issues they had heard about dampened the overall responses. Some felt it was not compliant with the category requirements. Others living out of town felt that they would not get to the shelter in a cyclone event and felt it was a waste of money.

Respondents did have a general wish list which included improving the entrance statements for the towns, engaging with sporting and recreational clubs and support or lobbying from Council for a department store like Big W.

Tourism was only mentioned by one respondent who felt Council was not investing enough in that sector of the economy.

Solar Farm

The solar farm decision influenced the rating of performance of the Council decision making and leadership. There appeared a lack of understanding of Council's role in the development process. One respondent believed that Council was an active party in bringing the foreign company into the Shire and pushing through the approval "to get runs on the board".

Further comments were made about it being prime cane growing land that should be farmed, that the rates collected will be less, meaning others will pay more, that it will have an effect on the health on those living near it and that profits will go off shore.

Customer Service

Customer service rated very well overall. Generally Council responded well once a request for service was logged. The issues were more with Council being proactive or having maintenance schedules for the smaller areas.

Disaster Management

Generally the community were happy with both disaster management preparedness and responses. These rated the highest in performance. Some respondents that did not have access to the internet felt Council should provide other communications to the community each year in relation to preparedness.



Visibility of Councillors

The small communities want more visibility of the Mayor and Councillors. They want more regular contact and face to face meetings. They however were unable to provide any topics for those meetings other than the ones already noted as areas of complaint about service delivery.

11. General Comments

Positive

- "Christmas markets are great"
- "Council was on the ball during Yasi"
- "Roads have been upgraded over the last few years"
- "Newsletter is good and meetings are open"
- "Community is very liveable"
- "Council has low debt"
- "Recent business forum was good"
- "Staff have good relations with the community"
- "Towns are tidy and very well looked after"
- "On the current position Council things are running smoothly"

Negative

- "Councillors are not popular on social media"
- "District is struggling and Council not pulling back on spending and being more efficient"
- "Rate charges are not explained"
- "Council should have less red tape and be less regulatory"
- "McMillan Street drainage gold plated"
- "Council tries to keep particular ratepayers happy rather than prioritise"
- "Spending too much money on pools and upgrading the caravan park"
- "Councillors airing view in letters to the editor shows disunity"
- "Some staff have dinosaur mentality and it's very hard to change their thinking"
- "Nothing for young people to do"

Comments about the survey method

Some respondents came with written comments expecting an open forum.

Others were very happy being able to do one on one interviews as they had not enjoyed the last time they were at a Council forum. One described that as a "talk fest full of wind and nothing has happened".

Some invitees that were unable to attend provided some written information. Most related to specific complaints about the Giru road resurfacing issues and that the Mayor and Councillors should get out to the smaller communities more.



12. Recommendations

1. Update Council information on the website (example is a survey from 2014 which is still on the site).
2. Develop a communication strategy for addressing some of the information gaps. The respondents felt the newsletter could be used to fill information gaps.
3. Seek out opportunities to have conversations with residents in the smaller towns (Management and Councillors). It is suggested that these be informal and target individuals or small groups. Large groups or open forums might not provide any outcomes due to vocal minorities.
4. Identify the information gaps explained in this report e.g. solar farm decision process, landfill opening times Clare, and rating of the cyclone shelter that have impacted on the performance rating of Council and find ways of filling those gaps.
5. Develop a set maintenance plan for the small communities so they are aware of the level of service to expect.
6. Develop a process post the budget for getting financial data on costs, revenue and strategies to the community in an easy to understand form.
7. Formalise the release of long term strategies of the new Council (post-election).
8. Work with the outside workforce in relation to the visual aspects of their work behaviours. The community does not often respect that the outside workforce have a lunch break and that it is their own time to relax.
9. Develop a strategy to engage people between the ages of 18-25 to get input into the services for the younger community.
10. Continue the economic development work that has been supported by most of the respondents.
11. Keep a focus on road, water and waste management as these services are high contributors to Council's performance rating.
12. Strategically manage Council's resources in relation to efficiency and effectiveness so that the community can recognise they are getting value for money. This may include formalising levels of services and reporting against the services delivered.
13. Encourage innovation, reduction of red tape, regulation that is risk based and continue to deliver that current customer service process.
14. Provide some additional information on disaster management in the newsletter or local paper.



Statistics Used Durnig Consultation 2015

	Burdekin	Hinchinbrook	Townsville	Moreton
General	\$ 981.00	\$ 975.00	\$ 1,117.00	\$ 838.00
		(40-100K Valuation)		
Garbage	\$ 455.00	\$ 229.50	\$ 223.00	\$ 237.00
		\$ 146.00		
Bin Size	140	240	240	140
Water	\$ 422.00	\$ 354.10	\$ 739.00	\$ 303.68
Vol 300 KL	\$ 48.00	\$ 291.00		\$ 200.10
			(allocation)	
Sewerage	\$ 519.00	\$ 725.90	\$ 759.00	\$ 719.42
Total	\$ 2,425.00	\$ 2,721.50	\$ 2,838.00	\$ 2,298.20

All rates and charges excludes any discounts

Special and separate rates have been excluded

Hinchinbrook as a banded differential general rate for residential

Hinchinbrook has a bin charge for serviced properties and then another charge on all other properties for access to the tip

Townsville has an allocation of 772 or a water watchers plan which is \$337 plus \$1.35 per KL or \$742 at 300KL (used cheapest)

2013	Burdekin	Hinchinbrook	Townsville	Charter Towers
Est Population	17888	11700	189238	12491
Est Average Wage	\$ 42,857.00	\$ 41,370.00	\$ 52,272.00	\$ 49,616.00
Est Average Age	41.2	46.9	33.1	38.6
	Whitsunday			
	34016			
	\$ 45,139.00			
	37.3			

Average Australian age was estimated as 37.3

Burdekin New Rural Road constructed from a track to 7.6 metres chip seal

Per Kilometre \$558,372 Based on current valuation

Reseal

(about every 12 years \$26,600 Based on current valuation

2013-14	Burdekin	Hinchinbrook	Charter Towers
---------	----------	--------------	----------------

Urban Road Kms	150	92	138
Rural Roads Kms	993	601	3796
Total	1143	693	3934

Much of the Charters Towers rural roads are gravel

2013-14	Percentage of Operating Revenue Sources
Council	88%
State	9.10%
Commonwealth	2.90%
	100%

Operating grants only included

**The information below was not given to the participants as they might have contrued
it as a political marketing exercise however good to know**

Both Operating and capital grants have dropped dramatically since 2011
There is at least \$800 million per year less grant money available to Queensland Local Government
each year

6 CLIENT SERVICES

7 FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

7.1 First Amended Budget for 2015/16

Document Information

Referring Letter No: N/A

File No: 1403

Name of Applicant: N/A

Location: N/A

Author and Title: Kim Olsen, Manager Financial and Administrative Services

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council may, by resolution, amend the budget for a financial year at any time before the end of the financial year.

Management have completed a review of the 2015/16 budget based on results to the end of October and estimated transactions for the remainder of the financial year. The first amended budget includes carryover projects and funding.

An amended budget for the 2015/16 financial year is submitted for adoption.

Recommendation

That the amended budget and report for the period ending 30th June, 2016 as tabled be adopted.

Background Information

The amended budget is based on best estimates of expenditure and income as provided by the relevant Managers.

Financial Analysis

The major change in the amended budget is a \$144,339 increase in the Operating Result.

Increases in rates, contract and recoverable works, and operational contributions and donations were offset by changes to employee benefits and materials and services. A major change impacting on this amendment is the transition of the transfer station operations from

a contractor arrangement to utilisation of Council employees. This has resulted in overall savings of approximately \$84,300.

There was an increase in the retained surplus to \$103,915 compared to the original budget retained surplus of \$15,266. This has occurred as a result of the increase in the Operating Result.

The Capital Works Program budget has increased by \$9.1M. This has arisen from \$8.89M in carryover projects and \$210,000 in new allocations. The majority of the increase of \$9.1M relates to major projects such as Kirknie Landfill Cell Liner, Ayr Pool Refurbishment, Sewer Reline, Home Hill Water Towers replacement of aerators, drainage and roadwork projects. The funding sources for these projects has also been changed to reflect the current availability of grant funding, depreciation etc.

The internal loan of \$475,000 that was included in the original budget is no longer required for this amended budget.

Major Variances

The major variances in the amended budget are:

Revenue

- \$110,567 increase in rates and utility charges relating to expected increases in water consumption.
- \$121,402 increase in operational contributions and donations, mainly due to sewerage and water headworks charges for residential developments and infrastructure charges for commercial developments.
- \$101,787 increase in operational grants and subsidies. This includes a small increase to the FAGS grant allocation resulting from the grant pool annual review, and an increase in plant operations due to improved claim processes for Fuel Tax Credits.
- \$125,000 increase in contract and recoverable works resulting from access to increased scope of works within Transport and Main Roads (TMR). This is partially offset by an increase in expenses.

Expenses

- \$388,495 increase in employee benefits. This increase is mainly relating to changes to transfer station operations transitioning from contract payments to wages. There is a corresponding decrease in materials and services. Other increases relate to the TMR contract and other internal operational charges.
- \$117,908 decrease in materials and services, mainly as a result of the changes to transfer station operations. This decrease is offset by increases in TMR RMPC projects, along with a budget for front-end analysis costs of economic development infrastructure projects.

Link to Corporate/Operational Plan

Strategy 1.7 – Ensure effective corporate governance through compliance with legislation and adoption of risk management strategies.

Consultation

The amended budget has been collated and presented by the Finance and Administrative Services Department from estimates provided by Managers.

Legal Authority or Implications

Local Government Act 2009
Chapter 4 Finances and accountability

Local Government Regulation 2012
Section 170 Adoption and amendment of budget

Interpretation guidance on this legislation is provided from the Department of Local Government.

Policy Implications

N/A

Financial and Resource Implications

Refer to content of report.

Report prepared by:

Fiona Smith - Financial Accountant

Report authorised by:

Kim Olsen - Manager Financial and Administrative Services

Attachments

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL**Budgeted Statement of Comprehensive Income**

For the periods ending 30 June

	2015/16 Original Budget \$	2015/16 Revised Budget \$	2016/17 \$	2017/18 \$
Revenue				
Rates and utility charges	36,840,090	36,950,657	37,987,910	39,119,255
Less Discounts	(279,000)	(284,000)	(284,000)	(284,000)
Net rates and utility charges	36,561,090	36,666,657	37,703,910	38,835,255
User fees and charges	2,263,200	2,241,700	2,331,368	2,401,306
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	3,715,969	3,939,158	3,889,236	3,987,489
Interest revenue	1,637,000	1,637,000	1,677,720	1,668,713
Sales of contract and recoverable works	1,590,000	1,715,000	1,766,450	1,819,443
Other Income	407,900	414,443	431,019	443,947
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	46,175,159	46,613,958	47,799,703	49,156,153
Expenses				
Employee benefits	(18,518,010)	(18,906,505)	(19,502,383)	(19,990,073)
Materials and services	(15,432,055)	(15,314,147)	(15,561,322)	(16,268,157)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(10,524,200)	(10,561,480)	(10,987,746)	(11,418,699)
Finance Costs	(417,404)	(403,997)	(335,374)	(264,318)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	(44,891,669)	(45,186,129)	(46,386,825)	(47,941,247)
Operating surplus (deficit)	1,283,490	1,427,829	1,412,878	1,214,906
Capital income and expenditure:				
Cash capital grants, subsidies and contributions	3,933,555	6,095,691	1,798,000	798,000
Capital Income				
Other capital expenses				
Net result for the period	5,217,045	7,523,520	3,210,878	2,012,906

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL**Budgeted Statement of Financial Position**

As at the periods ending 30 June

	2015/16 Original Budget \$	2015/16 Revised Budget \$	2016/17 \$	2017/18 \$
Current Assets				
Cash and deposits	28,625,832	32,621,353	32,387,715	33,602,341
Receivables	2,804,216	3,427,646	3,427,646	3,427,646
Inventories	1,164,678	953,368	953,368	953,368
	32,594,726	37,002,367	36,768,729	37,983,355
Non-Current Assets classified as held for sale	264,250	264,250	264,250	264,250
	32,858,976	37,266,617	37,032,979	38,247,605
Non-Current Assets				
Receivables	198,134	184,449	184,449	184,449
Property, plant and equipment	473,893,067	494,715,310	496,587,226	495,903,745
Intangible assets	894,313	716,857	808,295	739,377
Capital Work in Progress	9,008,713	3,917,326	3,917,326	3,917,326
	483,994,227	499,533,942	501,497,296	500,744,897
TOTAL ASSETS	516,853,203	536,800,559	538,530,275	538,992,502
Current Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	3,722,367	4,024,764	4,079,054	4,134,702
Interest bearing liabilities	1,604,517	1,604,517	1,677,118	1,971,969
Provisions	247,195	2,399,992	2,459,991	2,521,490
Other				
	5,574,079	8,029,273	8,216,163	8,628,161
Non-Current Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	472,861	-	-	-
Interest bearing liabilities	4,893,481	5,072,563	3,395,445	1,423,476
Provisions	17,321,563	21,232,844	21,241,910	21,251,202
	22,687,905	26,305,407	24,637,355	22,674,678
TOTAL LIABILITIES	28,261,984	34,334,680	32,853,518	31,302,839
NET COMMUNITY ASSETS	488,591,219	502,465,879	505,676,757	507,689,663
Community Equity				
Capital account	207,411,299	196,259,745	200,335,016	201,767,135
Asset revaluation reserve	257,218,107	277,958,053	277,958,053	277,958,053
Restricted capital reserves	10,754,552	10,885,721	11,017,867	11,140,111
Other capital reserves	6,978,030	8,667,917	7,195,728	7,403,947
Recurrent reserves	6,213,965	8,590,528	9,079,467	9,300,049
Accumulated surplus/(deficiency)	15,266	103,915	90,626	120,368
TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY	488,591,219	502,465,879	505,676,757	507,689,663

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL**Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows**

For the periods ending 30 June

	2015/16 Original Budget \$	2015/16 Revised Budget \$	2016/17 \$	2017/18 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities				
Receipts				
Net rates and utility charges	36,561,090	36,666,657	37,703,910	38,835,255
Total fees and charges	2,263,200	2,241,700	2,331,368	2,401,306
Sales of contract and recoverable works	1,590,000	1,715,000	1,766,450	1,819,443
Interest revenue	1,637,000	1,637,000	1,677,720	1,668,713
Contributions and donations	142,092	263,494	204,899	211,046
Government subsidies and grants	3,573,877	3,675,664	3,684,337	3,776,443
Other Income	407,900	414,443	431,019	443,947
	46,175,159	46,613,958	47,799,703	49,156,153
Payments				
Employee benefits	(18,477,176)	(18,851,163)	(19,379,028)	(19,863,634)
Materials and services	(15,432,055)	(15,314,147)	(15,561,322)	(16,268,157)
Finance costs	(417,404)	(403,997)	(335,374)	(264,318)
Land and development costs	(215,000)	(215,000)	-	-
	(34,541,635)	(34,784,307)	(35,275,724)	(36,396,109)
Cash provided by / (used in) operational activities	11,633,524	11,829,651	12,523,979	12,760,044
Cash Flow from Investing Activities:				
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	485,000	629,826	755,000	793,000
Contributions	12,957	24,957	-	-
Government grants and subsidies	3,920,598	6,070,734	1,798,000	798,000
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(14,323,602)	(23,269,019)	(13,450,100)	(11,359,300)
Payments for intangibles	(38,000)	(199,000)	(256,000)	(100,000)
Net cash provided by investing activities	(9,943,047)	(16,742,502)	(11,153,100)	(9,868,300)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities:				
Proceeds from borrowings	-	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	(1,541,149)	(1,534,395)	(1,604,517)	(1,677,118)
Net cash provided by financing activities	(1,541,149)	(1,534,395)	(1,604,517)	(1,677,118)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	149,328	(6,447,246)	(233,638)	1,214,626
Cash at beginning of reporting period	28,476,504	39,068,599	32,621,353	32,387,715
Cash at end of Reporting Period	28,625,832	32,621,353	32,387,715	33,602,341

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL

Budgeted Statement of Changes in Equity

For the periods ending 30 June

	Total				Retained Surplus/Deficit			
	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Original Budget \$	Revised Budget \$	\$	\$	Original Budget \$	Revised Budget \$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of year	483,374,174	494,942,359	502,465,879	505,676,757	201,806,068	181,809,827	196,363,660	200,425,642
Correction to opening balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restated opening balance	483,374,174	494,942,359	502,465,879	505,676,757	201,806,068	181,809,827	196,363,660	200,425,642
Net result	5,217,045	7,523,520	3,210,878	2,012,906	5,217,045	7,523,520	3,210,878	2,012,906
Other comprehensive income for the year								
Asset revaluation surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	5,217,045	7,523,520	3,210,878	2,012,906	5,217,045	7,523,520	3,210,878	2,012,906
Transfers (to) from retained earnings and recurrent reserves	-	-	-	-	(57,619)	(42,705)	(488,939)	(220,582)
Transfers (to) from retained earnings and capital reserves	-	-	-	-	461,071	7,073,018	1,340,043	(330,463)
Balance at end of year	488,591,219	502,465,879	505,676,757	507,689,663	207,426,565	196,363,660	200,425,642	201,887,503

	Asset Revaluation Surplus				Reserves			
	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Original Budget \$	Revised Budget \$	\$	\$	Original Budget \$	Revised Budget \$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of year	257,218,107	277,958,053	277,958,053	277,958,053	24,349,999	35,174,479	28,144,166	27,293,062
Correction to opening balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restated opening balance	257,218,107	277,958,053	277,958,053	277,958,053	24,349,999	35,174,479	28,144,166	27,293,062
Net result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year								
Asset revaluation surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers (to) from retained earnings and recurrent reserves	-	-	-	-	57,619	42,705	488,939	220,582
Transfers (to) from retained earnings and capital reserves	-	-	-	-	(461,071)	(7,073,018)	(1,340,043)	330,463
Balance at end of year	257,218,107	277,958,053	277,958,053	277,958,053	23,946,547	28,144,166	27,293,062	27,844,107

BURDEKIN SHIRE COUNCIL

Financial Ratios of the Budget

For the periods ending 30 June

	OBUD 2015/16	RBUD 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	%	%	%	%
Operating Surplus Ratio				
<u>Net operating surplus</u>				
Total operating revenue	2.8%	3.1%	3.0%	2.5%
The extent to which operating revenue covers operational expenses.				
Target: Between 0% and 10% per annum (on average over the long term)				
Asset Sustainability Ratio				
<u>Expenditure on replacement assets</u>				
Depreciation expense	93.4%	153.0%	69.7%	67.4%
The extent to which the infrastructure assets are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.				
Target: >90% per annum (on average over the long term)				
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				
<u>Total liabilities-current assets</u>				
Operating revenue	-10.0%	-6.3%	-8.7%	-14.1%
Measures the extent to which the net financial liabilities of Council can be serviced by operating revenues.				
Target: <60% per annum (on average over the long term)				
Interest Coverage Ratio				
<u>Net interest expense</u>				
Operating Revenue	-2.7%	-2.8%	-2.9%	-3.0%
Indicates the extent to which Council's operating revenues are committed to net interest expense.				
Working Capital Ratio				
<u>Unrestricted current assets</u>				
Current liabilities	5.9:1	4.6:1	4.5:1	4.4:1
Measures the extent to which Council has liquid assets available to meet short term financial obligations.				
Net rates & utility charges original budget prior year	35,198,721	35,198,721	36,561,090	37,703,910
Net rates & utility charges budgeted for current year	36,561,090	36,666,657	37,703,910	38,835,255
Change rates and utility chages net of discounts	1,362,369	1,467,936	1,142,820	1,131,345
Percentage change	3.9%	4.2%	3.1%	3.0%

8 OPERATIONS

9 TECHNICAL SERVICES

10 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

10.1 Adrianna McNamara - Development Application Material Change of Use for Home Occupation (Beauty Therapist) at 14-16 Albert Street, Ayr (Lot 20 on SP232097 Parish of Antill, County of Gladstone)

Document Information

Referring Letter No: 1465393

File No: 226, CONS15/0019

Name of Applicant: Adrianna McNamara

Location: 14-16 Albert Street, Ayr (Lot 20 on SP232097, Parish of Antill, County of Gladstone)

Author and Title: S Great – Manager Planning and Development

Executive Summary

An application for a Material Change of Use has been received from Adrianna McNamara, seeking approval to establish a Home Occupation business titled, 'Adrianna Romeo – Beauty Therapist' to 14-16 Albert Street, Ayr (Lot 20 on SP232097, Parish of Antill, County of Gladstone). A Development Application (Impact Assessable) has been triggered in accordance with the Burdekin Shire Council's IPA Planning Scheme (*the scheme*).

Recommendation

That Council approves the Development Application - Material Change of Use for a Home Occupation (Beauty Therapy) at 14-16 Albert Street, Ayr (Lot 20 on SP232097, Parish of Antill, County of Gladstone) subject to the following conditions:

GENERAL

- 1.1 The conditions of the development permit must be effected prior to the commencement of the use, except where specified otherwise in these conditions of approval.
- 1.2 The Home Occupation can only be operated strictly in accordance with the supporting material and approved plans submitted with the application and can only be conducted by a person resident therein.

-
- 1.3 No source of power other than one or more single phase electric motors having a total connected load of not more than 2.2 kilowatts is used.
 - 1.4 The floor area used (whether temporarily or permanently) does not exceed more than one-third of the total floor area of the dwelling house, except with and in accordance with the conditions of an express permission of the Council.
 - 1.5 No load is imposed on any local utility greater than that which is normally required by other uses permitted in the zone in which the dwelling house is situated.
 - 1.6 No machinery or apparatus causing interference with reception of radio or television signals is used or operated.
 - 1.7 There is no public display of goods on the premises.
 - 1.8 Only one sign with a maximum face area of 0.5 m² and bearing only the name of the person carrying out the business and the type of business is to be provided on the premises.
 - 1.9 The activity does not cause any injury to or have a prejudicial effect on the amenity of the locality in which it is carried out due to the emission of noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, grit, oil, waste products, or anything whatsoever.
 - 1.10 The approved use shall be undertaken so that no undue disturbance is caused to neighbouring properties by virtue of noise, bright lights, traffic movements or interference with radio and television reception.

ACCESS

2. Construct a minimum 4m wide concrete crossover (100mm thick, 32 mPa, F72 mesh) from the invert of the existing kerbing and channelling to the property boundary and re-profile the footpath each side of the proposed driveway to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. An application to construct a driveway will need to be submitted to Council and the construction of the access is to be to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer.

BUILDING WORK

3. A development permit for Building Works is to be obtained before any building works are carried out on the premise.

EXTERNAL WORKS

4. The developer must at its own cost undertake all necessary alterations to public utility mains and services as are rendered necessary by the carrying out of any required external works or other works associated with the approved development.

STORMWATER

-
5. The approved development and use(s) must not interfere with the natural flow of stormwater in the locality in such a manner as to cause ponding or concentration of stormwater on adjoining land or roads.

ADVICE (Note: These are not conditions)

- *The footpath between the kerb and property boundary is to be kept clear of parked vehicles.*

Background Information

Burdekin Shire Council acting as the Assessment Manager has received a Development Application for a Material Change of Use for a Home Occupation at 14-16 Albert Street, Ayr (Lot 20 on SP232097, Parish of Antill, County of Gladstone). The proposal is for a Home Beauty Therapy Business and triggers an 'Impact Assessable' Development Application in accordance with the provisions of the Burdekin Shire Council's IPA Planning Scheme (*the scheme*).

The proposal is located on land zoned 'Village' and will be assessed against the scheme in its entirety. Particularly relevant section of the scheme will include the Desired Environmental Outcomes, the Village Zone Code and Home Occupation Code.

The Application

The applicant's intent is to operate a Home Based beauty therapy business from a proposed beauty room to be built as a free standing structure alongside the existing house. The access to the site will be off Albert Street via a proposed new driveway. The applicant has indicated that there will be no other employees as part of the proposal and that it is expected there will be no more than 4 to 8 customers attending the premises per day. The application is typical of a Home Occupation and is considered to be an acceptable use provided that it complies with the scheme. In this particular case, the application has met all the overall outcomes for the Home Occupation Code.

Given that the Development Application was triggered as 'Impact Assessable', public notification was required. The application was advertised in the Burdekin Advocate on Friday 13 November, 2015 and at the closing date for submissions on Friday 4 December, 2015, no properly made submissions were received.

Site Description/Surrounding Land Uses

The subject site is located at 14-16 Albert Street, Ayr on a regular shaped allotment of 1529m² and is currently improved with a dwelling house and shed. The locality is considered to be predominantly residential surrounded by vacant lots on all sides of the subject site.

Conclusion

Council's Development Assessment Team members have assessed the application and included reasonable and relevant conditions as part of the recommended approval. These conditions have been included to ensure any possible negative impacts on amenity are minimised. Given that the proposal complies with the provisions contained in Council's

Planning Scheme, it is recommended that Council approves the application subject to the abovementioned conditions.

Link to Corporate/Operational Plan

N/A

Consultation

The applications was advertised in the Burdekin Advocate on Friday 13 November, 2015 and at the closing date for submissions on Friday 4 December, 2015, no properly made submissions were received. All relative Council departments have been consulted, there was no external consultation required for this application.

Legal Authority or Implications

N/A

Policy Implications

N/A

Financial and Resource Implications

N/A

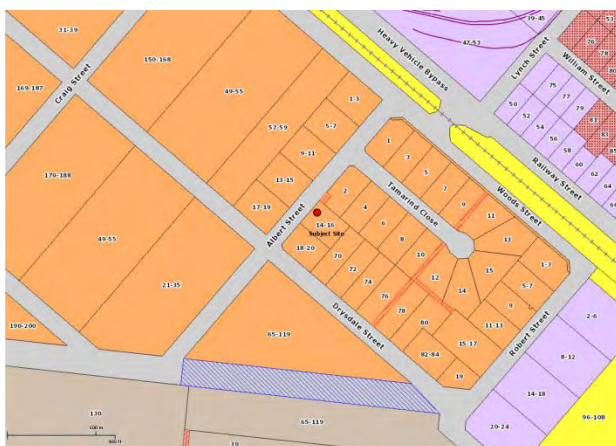
Report prepared by:

S. Great – Manager Planning and Development

Report authorised by:

S. Great – Manager Planning and Development

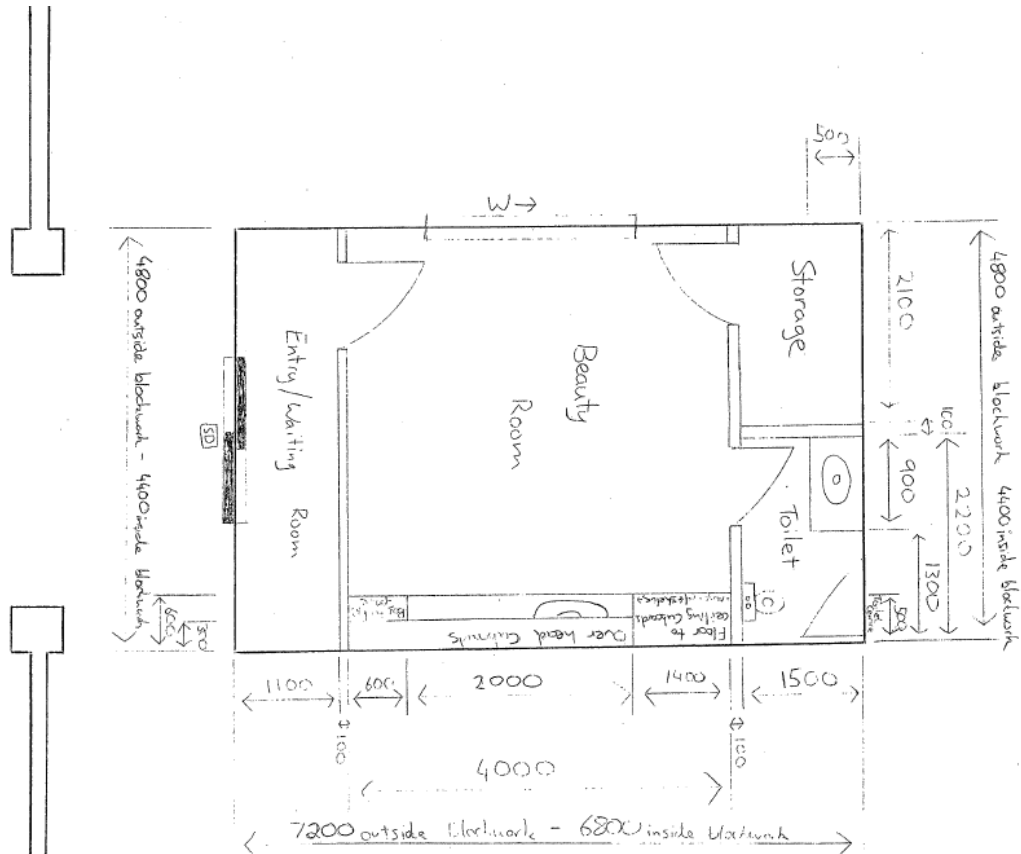
Attachments



Planning Scheme



Zone Map



10.2 Endorsement of States Principle Cycle Network Plan for Burdekin

Document Information

Referring Letter No: 1465616

File No: 533

Name of Applicant: N/A

Location: Burdekin Shire

Author and Title: S. Great - Manager Planning and Development

Executive Summary

The North Queensland Principal Cycle Network Plan for the Burdekin Shire Council area has been developed following extensive consultation with Department of Transport and Main Roads and Council Officers.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council endorse the North Queensland Principle Cycle Network Plan in particular, the network maps for the Burdekin Shire Council area as developed by Department of Transport and Main Roads and Council Officers.

Background Information

The cycle network plan for the Burdekin region has been developed in accordance with already adopted similar network layout plans. These layout plans including the Burdekin be active trails demonstrate where recreational infrastructure such as bike paths should be constructed. This particular plan is a critical component of future relevant funding applications.

The Queensland Government recently announced additional funding and statewide expansion of the Cycle Network Local Government Grants (CNLGG) program. Under the CNLGG program, all local governments with an endorsed Principal Cycle Network Plan in place will be able to apply for matched state funding towards the delivery of local cycling infrastructure projects. Following our endorsement of the plan, BSC will be eligible to apply for funding under the program from 2016-17 onwards.

Link to Corporate/Operational Plan

N/A

Consultation

Council and Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)

Legal Authority or Implications

N/A

Policy Implications

N/A

Financial and Resource Implications

Endorsed plan can facilitate funding applications.

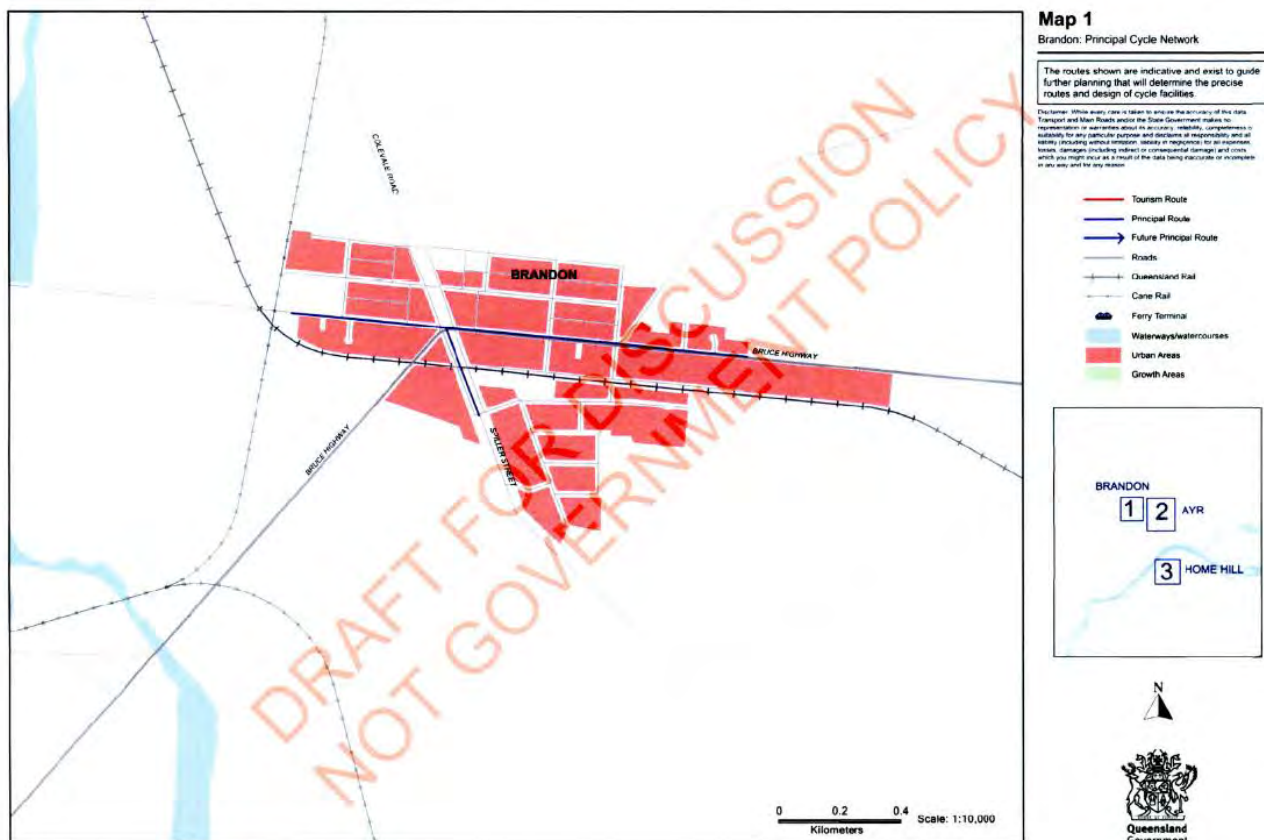
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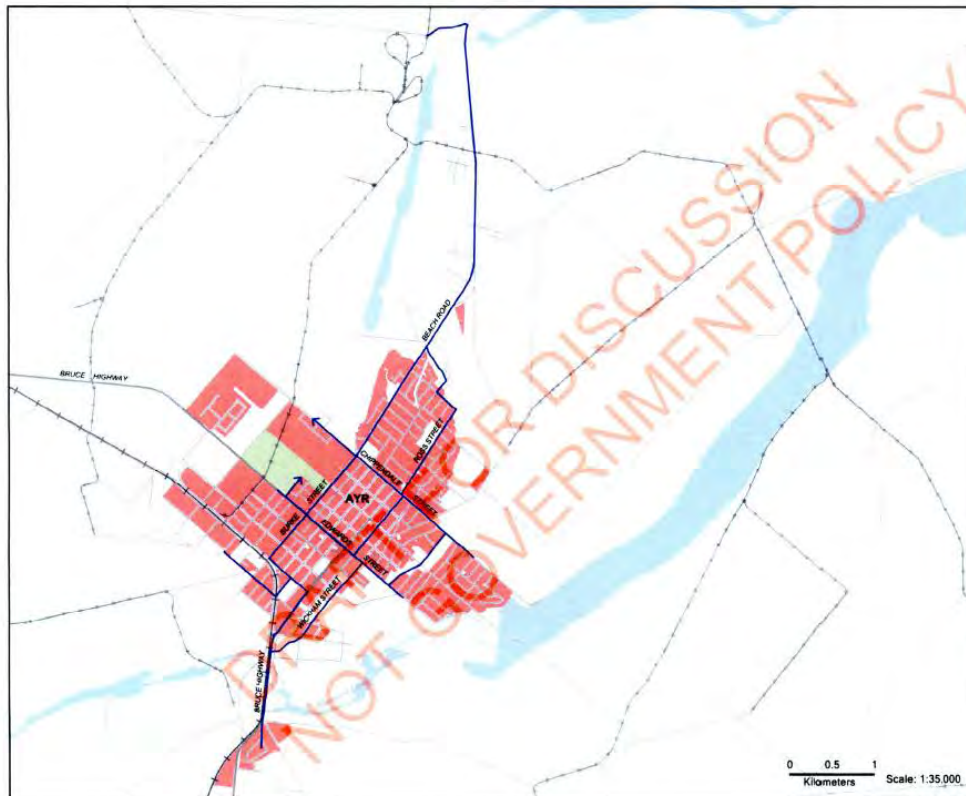
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S Great – Manager Planning and Development

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Map 2

Ayer: Principal Cycle Network

The routes shown are indicative and exist to guide further planning that will determine the precise routes and design of cycle facilities.

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- Tourism Route
- Principal Route
- Future Principal Route
- Roads
- + Queensland H&I
- Cane Rail
- Ferry Terminal
- Waterways/watercourses
- Urban Areas
- Growth Areas



Map 3

Home Hill: Principal Cycle Network

The routes shown are indicative and exist to guide further planning that will determine the precise routes and design of cycle facilities.

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- Tourism Route
- Principal Route
- Future Principal Route
- Roads
- + Queensland H&I
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- Urban Areas
- Growth Areas



11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

14 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

Tabled Separately

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

15.1 Pest Management Plan

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Draft Pest Management Plan 2016-2019 for submission to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines noting that the draft document has complied with the public consultation process.

16 URGENT BUSINESS

17 CLOSED MEETING ITEMS

18 DELEGATIONS

