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# *Burdekin Shire Council 2002 Annual Report*



*'The role of the Burdekin Shire Council is to strive to make the Burdekin district the best rural community in Australia in which to live.'*

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# Shire Profile

## Local Government

Burdekin Shire.

## Area

5,053 sq kms.

## Location

Latitude 19° 35' south, longitude 147° 24' east, approximately 80 kms south of Townsville.

## Population

18,487 estimated resident population as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2001. (2001 Census)

## Status

Categorised as a Rural Agricultural Very Large (RAV) Local Authority under the Australian Classification of Local Government.

## Rateable Assessments

8,508 as at June, 2002

## The Burdekin Shire

The community of the Burdekin Shire is centred on the rich farming land of the Burdekin Delta. The principal towns are the twin towns of Ayr and Home Hill, with smaller centres of Brandon, Giru, Jerona, Alva, Wunjunga, Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg.

The Burdekin is the largest sugar cane producing area in Australia and boasts the nation's largest water development project – the mighty Burdekin Dam, which is capable of supplying more than 1 million megalitres of water each average year to the Lower Burdekin area.

A combination of favourable climatic factors, fertile, well drained soils and a plentiful supply of irrigation water has also resulted in the establishment of the Burdekin's multi-million dollar small crops industry, with crops grown including capsicums, beans, melons, pumpkins, tomatoes, eggplants and mangoes.

Adding to the strength of the local economy is the districts' grazing industry and growing aquaculture industry.

The Shire is further complemented by a variety of educational, health and sporting resources. The Shire has three high schools, numerous primary schools, pre-schools and day care centres, as well as a TAFE College and the Australian College of Tropical Agriculture. The State Government has also invested in a new \$13 million hospital for the area. Culturally, the Shire is home to the Burdekin Theatre, a well recognized cultural venue in Queensland, the Burdekin Memorial Hall, a modern well-equipped Library and active local arts and cultural associations. After hours, the Shire offers fabulous restaurants and night time entertainment for all ages.

The Burdekin Shire Council retains its progressive and innovative attitude to development. Current growth prospects are centred on value adding to the sugar industry, crop diversification and expansion of the area's aquaculture operations.

The Council is also working to improve the area's tourism prospects through a \$3 million joint State Government and Council project, which will see the town centres of Ayr and Home Hill dramatically revitalized through colourful tree plantings, unique signage and street furniture and vibrant public art works. Current tourism strengths include beautiful natural sights, top Barramundi fishing, dramatic cane fires, friendly, rural hospitality and 300 days of glorious sunshine a year!

## Mayor's Review

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I am pleased to present my 9<sup>th</sup> annual report for the Burdekin Shire Council.

This organisation is committed to the enhancement and improvement of services to the Burdekin community and we continue to search for development opportunities that will diversify this district and strengthen its economic base for the future.

Throughout the previous 12 months we have been able to consolidate on the changes made prior to that. The system of Council committees and individual chairmen and the restructure of the organisation has allowed for a smoother running of the Council's organisation.

### **BUDGET**

The budget focus for the previous 12 months highlighted a number of points including the need to properly identify all of Council's assets and rationalise those assets currently held by Burdekin Shire Council.

Since the introduction of accrual accounting and the identification of depreciation on all assets it has become quite evident that the heady days of expenditure in the 60's and 70's now has its legacy in provision of renewal and refurbishment in the new millennium. Consequently Council and the community will have to make some hard decisions about those areas where facilities will continue to be provided.

I will work through the four areas of directorships.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

This is a Department that has been impacted by considerable change of personnel in this year, and the forthcoming year does not look to be any less impacted in that area as the Director has advised of his impending retirement.

Council continues to implement new programmes through the Environmental Health area and one of those has been the aquatic weed harvester, a project currently fully financed by Government funding, but one which will require ratepayers input in the future.

The aquatic weed harvester certainly improves the ability of Council to work within the Land Protection area and to improve the health of the various water ways around the Shire. Other areas that will have to be developed more fully are food management guidelines to come in line with new legislation. This year has also seen major partnerships develop between Council and various groups and landholders as work progresses on riparian rehabilitation on various waterway riparian zones.

### **WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Council's workforce completed a major works programme within the financial year and met the targets set by Council. Council's workforce continues to address quality assurance issues and comply to the full extent of workplace health and safety requirements while at the same time trying to provide a most efficient service for the increasingly precious rate dollar.



## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Building statistics have continued to drop throughout the year. However restructure within the Department has seen responsibilities for building maintenance added to our building services section. This has ensured local employment of our building certifiers and plumbing section officers.

Our major work within the planning section has been with reconfigurations of land on rural properties primarily under the superseded plan. This will come to an end at the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2002.

Water and sewerage operations have run smoothly with continuing upgrades to control facilities through installation of further telemetry.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Council has maintained an efficient administration throughout the previous 12 months. By the use of grants that are available, Council has employed trainees on a 12 month term to help assist in administration areas.

Annual statistics of correspondence highlights the increasing workload that occurs throughout Council's operation.

During the year Council has implemented a customer request system that is integrated into our records management system. This allows council to fully track requests from its customers and ensure that those requests are fully followed through to their conclusion.

## **ENTERPRISE BARGAINING**

Council operated under Enterprise Bargaining Agreement No. 4 for 2001/2002, and has recently agreed to Enterprise Bargain No. 5. Council will in the next financial year be involved in negotiations for Enterprise Bargain No. 6. Benefits continue to flow from enterprise bargaining both to Council's ratepayers and to Council's workforce.

The Council team along with its senior executives, staff and employees, works diligently to try and provide the best services available to the community. Council is being recognised by its success in various awards and consequently is quite proud of its achievements.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Council continues to receive directives from State Government and demands from its community to increase activities throughout the community. These influences together with the continuing reduction in resources from other tiers of Government puts further and further pressure on the ratepayers of this Shire.

Council continues to improve its efficiency in the delivery of various services as can be seen by the increased area being serviced with the same numbers of people, or in some cases lesser numbers of people carrying out the work than several years ago.

We continue to work in the main as a team of people committed to service the needs of the ratepayers of Burdekin Shire.

I would like to thank the Councillors, the staff and all employees for their commitment to working together for the benefit of this district.

John F. Woods  
**MAYOR**

# Chief Executive Officer's Review

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The Year 2002 Annual Report represents the third "report card" following the March 2000 Local Government Elections.

The image of our Council and its acceptance within the Burdekin community is very much derived from the character and leadership qualities Elected Members, Senior Management and our Employees provide in the delivery of Local Government services.

We have something unique in the Burdekin. Over the last twelve months and in the years ahead, our vision to make the Burdekin Shire *"the best rural community in Australia in which to live"* will be recognised and achieved not only locally, but at a National and International level.

## Addressing our Short Term Community Problems

Locally, particularly over the last four years, an unprecedented series of poor climatic conditions, disease, cane grubs, devastated crop yields and historically low sugar prices, has resulted in a short term lack of confidence in our predominant rural industry in this community – the sugar industry.

Over this time, the Council has been active, through its desire, encouragement and representations to Government and industry bodies, to support value-adding to our sugar crop, with a resulting improved financial return to growers and millers. Also, with a combination of favourable climatic factors, fertile, well-drained soil, a plentiful supply of irrigation water and about 300 days of sunshine per year, there is little constraint for the expansion of the fruit, vegetable and mango industries, with significant growth potential for the existing aquaculture industry.

In all agricultural industries there will always be good and not so good times. For the Burdekin community, the lean period has lasted longer than for any period we've experienced in the past.

However, we are a community with a pioneering spirit, with people renowned for their friendliness, creativity, sporting success, and with drive and enthusiasm to ensure the economic, ecological and sustainable development of the rich Burdekin Delta. As Chief Executive Officer, I am proud to work with the Council and a dedicated and committed staff, willing to foster and promote sustainable economic development through the creation of business investment, employment, value-adding to our sugar industry, increasing diversification and retail opportunities. We typify the good old Aussie Spirit – *"when the going gets tough, the tough get going"*.

## The Future

We will face increasing challenges in the future beyond what has been seen as the traditional responsibilities of Local Government. More than any time in the past, facilitating the economic development of our area will play a critical part in determining our community priorities. Already, the Burdekin Shire Council has demonstrated leadership in this "sea change" as an important partner with the community and other levels of Government to make the health, vitality, prosperity and welfare of our community stronger.

In this report, we highlight the Council and State Government partnership in creating and promoting our principal towns of Ayr and Home Hill through urban and environmental design as friendly places to live, work and relax. This will be achieved through creative signage, colourful art, unique street furniture, improved pedestrian crossings, encouraging promotions and distinct landscaping.



Also in partnership with the State Government and through a co-operative association with Canegrowers Burdekin District, Landcare Queensland, Greening Australia, NQ Water and our local Water Boards, the Burdekin community is leading the way by ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources; pollution control over waste discharge; appropriate levels of air and water quality; minimal soil erosion and degradation; and the protection of some areas in their natural state. Successes have already been achieved in aquatic weed eradication, contribution to improved waterways and wetlands in the Shire and region; pest management strategies involving co-operation and support from individuals, rural landowners and companies; and major tree planting programs that are tackling water quality and salinity issues.

Our success stories, covered in this detailed Annual Report, will continue over the long-term. We have the opportunity to capitalise on the “clean, green and fresh image” as well as our abundant water supply, 300 days of sunshine per year and the most productive agricultural land in Australia.

One of our major challenges in progressing the outstanding potential of the Burdekin community will be brought about by our “big brothers” at the State and Federal Government level devolving more onerous responsibilities on to Local Government, whilst at the same time reducing financial support. Each year, we highlight the significant downturn in Federal Government Financial Assistance Grants to the Burdekin community. If the Federal and State Governments are to continue to benefit financially through taxation revenue from the outstanding growth potential of this major rural community, it is essential they play a continuing role through co-operative partnerships with our community in financially assisting its growth, and with Council, encouraging and assisting private sector investment.

Our people are an exciting ethnic mix, with a range of cultures which enrich our community considerably. As a community, we have a collective pride and respect for our environment and our social, economic, sporting, welfare and ecologically sustainable development achievements.

Let us not be deterred by the current local economic situation. We have the community spirit, the land, water, sunshine and quality of life to fulfil our vision to be “*the best rural community in Australia in which to live*”.

Graham Webb PSM, FLGMA (Life),  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

# Council's Mission and Values

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## **Mission Statement**

"The role of the Burdekin Shire Council is to strive to make the Burdekin district the best rural community in Australia in which to live."

## **Values**

How we achieve our mission is as important as the mission itself. Fundamental to success for the Council are these basic values.

**Commitment to the Organisation** – a commitment by Councillors, management and employees to achieving the objectives of the Council.

**Openness, Honesty and Trust** – to provide an organisational culture that expects openness, honesty and trust and engenders these principles in its work with the community.

**Best Practice, Productivity, Innovation and Continual Learning**– a commitment to ongoing development of skills and knowledge of Councillors, management and employees to deliver outcomes underpinned by continuous improvement, best practice and innovation.

**Teamwork** – to recognise the importance of maintaining a stable work environment in which Councillors, management and employees work constructively together in a spirit of teamwork, trust and loyalty.

**Customer Focus** – to recognise and value the importance of our customers and to deliver excellence in services provided to both our external and internal customers.

**Community Awareness and Wellbeing** – to respond to the realistic and prioritised needs of the community and to embrace the principles of community wellbeing linked to ecological sustainable development and regard resource management as resource stewardship for the future, to help build an integrated, accessible community.

**Fairness, Equity and Ethical Behaviour** – to recognise that fairness, equity and ethical behaviour should underpin all decisions made by Council, management and employees in dealings with internal and external customers and is based on respect for others.

**Valuing People** – to recognise our ratepayers, citizens and employees as our greatest asset and to value their contribution and commitment to the Burdekin Shire.



# Corporate Governance

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## **Corporate Governance**

The Australian National Audit Office has defined Corporate Governance as follows :-

*“Corporate Governance is about formalising and making clear and consistent the decision making processes in the organisation. An effective system of corporate governance will help facilitate decision-making and appropriate delegation of accountability and responsibility within and outside the organisation. This should ensure that the varying needs of the stakeholders are appropriately balanced; that decisions are made in a rational, informed and transparent fashion; and that those decisions contribute to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation.”*

The Council is committed to high standards of corporate governance and accountability and seeks continuous improvement in this area.

## **Local Government Act 1993**

The Local Government Act 1993 is the legislation under which the Burdekin Shire Council is constituted and contains detailed reporting and operational requirements, which the Council has a duty to comply with.

The governance framework, applicable to Local Government, is generally more complex than in the private sector. Local Government tends to have broad objectives with wide reaching impacts on the community as distinct from private organisations where the overriding obligation is to maximise the return to shareholders. Local Government must recognise the wider public interest issues associated with the delivery of public services while still ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of services.

In common with the private sector, Local Government has to respond to a complex set of stakeholder and legal requirements, particularly regarding financial reporting. In addition, Local Government has to satisfy public accountability requirements.

The Local Government Act 1993 clearly distinguishes between the role of the elected members of the Council and the Chief Executive Officer. The separate roles of the elected members and the Chief Executive Officer are more fully described in the Local Government Act.

## **Committees and reporting structures**

The Council has the following basic meeting structure for managing its business:

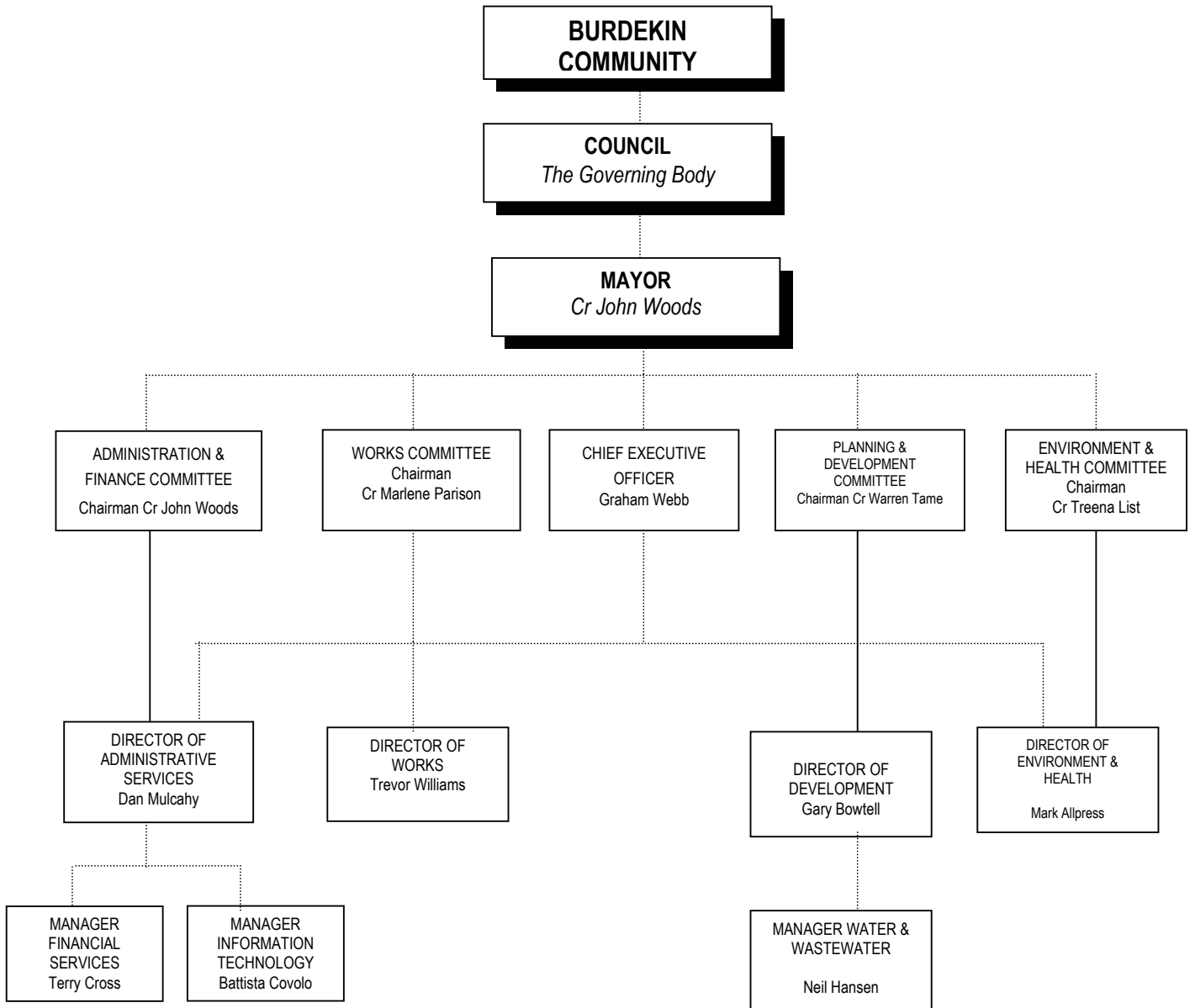
- Ordinary Council meetings – generally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.
- Four (4) main standing Committees that meet once to twice per month. The Committees are as follows:
  - Administration and Finance Committee
  - Combined Works Committee
  - Planning and Development Committee
  - Environment and Health Committee

Other advisory committees have also been established. Any changes to meeting times and dates are advertised in the local media. All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public.

The above meeting structure is shown diagrammatically in the organisational structure.

# Organisational Structure

The Organisational Structure as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002



# Elected Members

*Elected Members as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2002*



Back (L to R) Cr L Loizou, Cr W Tame, Cr H Petersen, Cr J Woods (Mayor), Cr L Davies, Cr G Andersen, Cr D Jackson  
 Front (L to R) Cr. M. Henaway, Cr. M. Parison, Cr T List (Deputy Mayor), Cr C Hyden, Mr G Webb (Chief Executive Officer)

**MAYOR**  
 Cr. John Woods  
 P.O. Box 97, Home Hill  
 (Telephone 4782 6337)

Cr. Llewelyn Davies  
 85 Wilmington Street,  
 Ayr  
 (Telephone 4783 2993)

Cr. Graham Andersen  
 99 Norham Road,  
 Ayr  
 (Telephone 4783 3124)

Cr. David Jackson  
 102 Fourteenth Avenue  
 Home Hill  
 (Telephone 4782 8312)

Cr. Marlene Henaway  
 18 Albert Crescent,  
 Ayr  
 (Telephone 4783 3090)

Cr. Chris Hyden  
 M.S. 54,  
 Dalbeg  
 (Telephone 4784 0156)

Cr. Treena List  
 (Deputy Mayor)  
 P.O. Box 550, Ayr  
 (Telephone 4783 2988)

Cr. Lou Loizou  
 Daniel Road,  
 Inkerman  
 (Telephone 4782 0141)

Cr. Warren Tame  
 89 Wickham Street,  
 Ayr  
 (Telephone 4783 3929)

Cr. Henry Petersen  
 40 Home Hill Road  
 Ayr  
 (Telephone 4783 2136)

Cr. Marlene Parison  
 P.O. Box 116,  
 Giru  
 (Telephone 4782 9260)

In addition to the above formal meeting structure, the Council at its discretion will appoint sub-committees of Councillors and staff to examine particular issues and/or consult with external stakeholders in relation to particular matters. Recommendations from these sub-committees are then brought to the Council for consideration.

Furthermore, there are also meetings between the Committee Chairmen, Chief Executive Officer, and Directors that occur from time to time. The Chief Executive Officer also schedules executive meetings comprising of Directors and Managers to discuss organisational issues. These meetings usually occur monthly.

### **Leadership and strategy**

Elected Members as representatives of residents and ratepayers provide community leadership and guidance and facilitate communication between the community and the Council. The Mayor must ensure the carrying out of the local government's decisions and may provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer on the implementation of Council decisions.

A number of documents collectively guide the organisation. These are:

- **Corporate Plan**  
This plan has a five-year timeframe covering all of the major activities of the Council. It is influenced by the general community, elected members and staff views in setting medium term objectives. The Corporate Plan is reviewed annually by the Council.
- **Annual Budget**  
This document expresses the objectives, plans and resources associated with the first year of the Corporate Plan. The Budget is adopted each year by Council.

### **Support for Elected Members**

The Chief Executive Officer, through an effective support process provided by the Local Government Association of Queensland, ensures Elected Members understand their roles and responsibilities and are able to add value and bring independent, informed and objective judgements to bear on the governance and decision making process of the Council. An induction programme is provided to all new Councillors on appointment.

The Council's remuneration policy provides for a yearly allowance to enable elected members to attend conferences, seminars and/or workshops in order to improve their knowledge in the various areas that make up Local Government.

### **Ethics and values**

To ensure that the Council meets its obligations under the Act and to support its commitment to ethical behaviour, a draft Code of Conduct for Councillors and employees has been prepared. It is expected that consultation on the draft Code of Conduct will take place during 2002/03 and that a formal Code of Conduct will then be adopted.

The Chief Executive Officer and employees are required to follow all policies and guidelines adopted by Council, as well as the requirements of the Local Government Act. An important area for corporate governance and in the relationship between the Council and its stakeholders is in the area of purchasing, which the Council has a detailed policy to guide all employees in relation to procurement activities.

The Chief Executive Officer maintains Material Personal Interest Registers for all Councillors and designated senior officers. In addition, there is a register of gifts maintained to record any gifts offered to Councillors and staff.

### **Monitoring and review**

The Council has a number of instruments in place to ensure that performance is continually monitored and reviewed and that corrective action is taken where required.

- **Financial Reporting**  
Accrual based financial reports are prepared and submitted to Council on a monthly basis to satisfy financial accountability requirements. The Annual Budget is revised at least twice per year.
- **Monthly Reporting**  
Reports from Chief Executive Officer, Directors and/or Managers are provided to Council and/or Committees on a monthly basis. These reports cover operational aspects and may also include financial reporting.
- **Operational Plan Reporting**  
Operational Plans are firstly adopted by the Council to reflect programmes, priorities and projects included in the Annual Budget. The operational plan is then reported on at quarterly intervals to the Council.
- **Annual Report**  
An Annual Report, which includes financial and activity statistics, as well as a full set of the audited financial statements, are produced for the Council and other interested parties.
- **Community Survey**  
Subject to budget constraints, the Council will arrange for a community survey to monitor the Council's performance as perceived by the community across a range of key services and to obtain feedback on priorities as perceived by the community.

### **Risk Management and Internal Control**

Council meetings are held regularly and elected members are given adequate notice of meetings, which comply with the prescribed statutory requirements. Agenda items and relevant material are provided prior to the meetings to enable informed discussion by the elected members. Minutes of meetings accurately reflect the decisions taken by the Council.

The Council has implemented other strategies and/or is developing other strategies to achieve effective risk management and internal control including the following:

- Limits of authority are delegated and appropriate processes are outlined in respect of purchasing.
- Position Descriptions are established for all staff positions.
- Policies are currently being documented in a policy manual, which is accessible on the Intranet for all staff. Older policies require periodic review to determine their currency.
- An internal audit committee has been established to review external audit reports and monitor appropriate internal control frameworks.
- The adequacy of Council's insurance coverage is checked on an annual basis in consultation with our insurance brokers.
- The Council is a member of the QLD Local Government Workcare Scheme, which is a self insurance scheme for workers compensation claims. To remain a member of the scheme, the

Council is committed to implement a Workplace Health & Safety Management Program titled SafePlan.

## **Legislative Administration and Compliance**

### **Legislative Responsibility**

The Council must comply with all of its statutory obligations, not only of the Local Government Act but also of the many other legislative requirements which impact on its activities. Examples of such legislation include elections, workplace health and safety, GST, fringe benefits tax, competitive neutrality, planning and building, freedom of information, employment and environmental legislation to name just a few.

Local Government has such a broad range of legislative requirements, more complex than the private sector or more narrowly focused organisations, so it is important Council can be assured compliance is taking place.

Industry bodies such as the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Department of Local Government play a significant role in communicating legislative requirements and changes.

### **Delegations and authorisations**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, the Council has delegated a broad range of powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer in order to expedite decision making and provide a high level of customer service. Where appropriate, the Chief Executive Officer has further delegated powers to staff and/or authorised particular officers to undertake certain activities.



***Mayor John Woods gives a warm welcome to the  
People to People Student Ambassadors***

## Main Achievements 2001/2002

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The Council's 2001/02 Budget was framed against three (3) important influences, being industry lobbying, inflationary impacts and depreciation concerns. With this in mind, the objectives of the organization were to continue to improve efficiencies and to attract Government funding to make the ratepayer dollar go further.

The Council's budget was again focused towards road works and drainage with in excess \$6.17 million incurred on new roads, road maintenance, drainage and reseals (excluding flood damage). This compares to a total budget expenditure of \$24.2 million. In addition, new environmental initiatives were commenced to improve the environmental sustainability of the district.

The Council continued in its partnership agreement with the Department of Natural Resources & Mines for the development of roads in the Burdekin River Irrigation Area (BRIA). Under this agreement, the link between Stockham & Mulgrave Roads was constructed. In addition, the Council also continued its maintenance contract with the Department of Main Roads. Maintenance income of \$675,859 was claimed during the financial year.

Ongoing incorporation of Quality Assurance (QA) into Council works was carried out with the principal aim of improved productivity and reduction of waste and rework. QA is also required for external works, including works for State Government Departments.

Under the Roads to Recovery Program, the Council completed two (2) projects being Colevale Road widening and reconstruction; and Kirknie Road bitumen reconstruction. Major traffic management projects funded by Council, Federal Black Spot and/or the State Government Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme included completion of the roundabouts at the intersections of Chippendale/Munro Streets and Maidavale/Ivory Roads; construction of traffic management projects at East Ayr State School and Clare State Schools and Charles Street, near the Ayr Bowling Club.

Bitumen reconstruction, widening and kerbing and channeling were a major part of the works performed. Sections of Peggy's Bog Road, Robert & Woods Streets, Wilmington Street, Barratta Road, Trembath Road, Brown Road, Day Road and Bahrs Road were able to be upgraded to improve community transport in these areas.

Drainage works included the completion of improvements to drainage on Beach Road, Ayr and Sixth Street, Home Hill and completion of the town of Ayr Flood Study and Horseshoe Lagoon Flood Study.

Shire residents disposed of 28,886 tonnes of waste over the year which consumed 14,362 cubic metres of the Kirknie Road landfill. The recyclable bin operation saw an increase in the weight of recyclable materials with 790 tonnes being recovered compared to 631 tonnes in 2000/2001. The DrumMuster program which operates out of the Ayr Transfer Station and provides for the recycling of used chemical drums continued to be well utilized with most service days being fully booked out.

Council's responsibilities under the various Health, Food & Environmental Legislation were addressed. Licensing activities were undertaken of food premises (107 licenced premises); personal appearance services (35 hairdressers); and Environmentally Relevant Activities (92 Level 1 Licences & 45 Approvals).

Animal Management continued to be an issue with 470 complaints requiring attention during the year. The principal areas of complaints were dog attacks, straying animals and barking. 2,382 animal registrations occurred during the year.

Parks and Gardens continue to be well maintained, including the planting of garden beds in the CBD Areas of Ayr and Home Hill. Employee efforts in this area were one of the reasons that Ayr was successful in being awarded the North Queensland Tidiest Towns Award for 2002.

An exciting project commenced this year was the purchase of the aquatic weed harvester through funds provided by the Department of Primary Industries. The harvester has been used to clear weed choked waterways in the Burdekin Shire which will ultimately benefit the whole community. To date, aquatic weed infestations in Payard's Lagoon; Castellanelli's Lagoon; Dick's Bank; Churches Lagoon; Gorizia's Lagoon; Lilliesmere Lagoon; and Sturiale's Lagoon have been cleared.

The Pest Management Agreements' Program, where landholders gain access to the Council's subsidized chemical scheme continues to be popular, with 116 landholder agreements being signed.

The Burdekin Riparian Rehabilitation Project commenced with Council working co-operatively with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Burdekin Canegrowers; and Greening Australia to improve the Riparian Zone along Sheepstation Creek. This project employed young trainees for a 12 month period and will provide long lasting environmental benefits for the district.

Council provided planning and development services to its customers. 380 building applications and 153 plumbing & drainage applications were processed. In the Planning Area, 15 material change of use applications; and 61 reconfiguration applications were processed. Co-ordination of the initial stages of the development of a Planning Scheme to comply with the Integrated Planning Act 2000 commenced.

In the Technical Services Area, Engineering Services were provided to the Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust for works in the Burdekin and Haughton Rivers. Additional assistance to the Trust included consultancy services for the Haughton River (Giru) Flood Study and the Haughton River Integrated Catchment Management Study. The Burdekin Shire Storm Surge Study also commenced in 2001/02.

The Water Supply & Sewerage Systems were adequately upgraded and maintained. The Water Supply & Sewerage System Total Management Plan was completed and approved. A new receival facility for septic tank sludge at the Ayr Sewerage Treatment Plant was constructed. Installation of telemetry SCADA equipment to the Water & Waste Water operating areas was continued to improve management of and data acquisition from these systems.

Operation and maintenance of the four (4) Council swimming pools was undertaken with major refurbishment for the amenities' buildings at the Home Hill, Clare & Millaroo Pools commencing in the latter part of the year.

Employment grants totaling \$312,697 were obtained in respect of trainees under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative and continuing apprenticeships. Premises were purchased at the Ayr Industrial Estate to house the Burdekin's State Emergency Service Operations which will more adequately cater for that organisation's size, future development and worth to the Burdekin district.

The Rural Addressing Project advanced well, with areas of the shire completed, including all the southern side of the Burdekin River; the Jarvisfield/Rita Island area; and the Airville/Maidavale area.

Administratively, five (5) new Local Laws were gazetted; two (2) Laws were under consideration; and one (1) Law was deferred. The telephone system to the Store/Depot at Jones Street, Ayr was upgraded and the Council's PABX was upgraded to the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) Standard. In addition, a wireless link was installed for the Burke Street Water Treatment Plant, Ayr Sewerage Treatment Plant and for the Burdekin Community Association.



During the year, the Council progressed the Ayr/Home Hill CBD Revitalisation project and engaged the services of Buckley Vann Town Planning Consultants and Abnett Consulting to produce an action plan to contain short, medium and long term revitalisation actions to be implemented by the Council, and other business, community and government groups and agencies.

Council continued with its generous donations to welfare, cultural, sporting & community based organizations with a total of \$562,518 provided in the form of cash or provision of services. In addition, \$55,248 was spent on area promotion.

A major refurbishment of the Burdekin Library Ayr was undertaken during September/October, 2001 including internal painting, new carpet, expansion of floor space and a new circulation desk. The refurbishments were the first major upgrade since the library opened in 1984.

The Burdekin Library continued to be well patronized with 71,486 people visiting the Ayr Library. In the Shire, 9,290 library members borrowed a total of 168,088 items. A total of 3,226 books; 15 talking books; and 141 videos were the main purchases for library shelves. 22 displays were set up by government and community organizations and individuals ranging from art and craft, to health, hobbies and school displays. Approximately 313 children from 14 different classes visited the library for Book Week celebrations alone.

With the assistance of funding from the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services, a Rural Transaction Centre was established in Giru and officially opened on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2001. Centenary of Federation events were celebrated in the Burdekin Shire from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2001 with the assistance of funding from Centenary of Federation Queensland. In recognition of the International Year of Volunteers, a function was held at Anzac Park, Ayr on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2001.

Financially, the Council implemented a change of its Banker to the Queensland Country Credit Union Limited following comprehensive tendering and acceptance testing processes. Implementation of electronic funds transfer (EFT) payment of all Council Creditors commenced in April, 2001. Annual rate collections for 2001/02 included 9,443 transactions for \$12M at the Council Chambers compared with 3,647 transactions for \$6.4M at collection agencies including BPAY for debit cards.

Evidence of Council's longstanding policies and community support for sport and recreation can be gauged by the Burdekin community being a finalist in the Channel 9 Today Show Quest for the Sportiest Town of Australia 2001. Although the Burdekin community was not the National Winner of the competition, the district's successes were highlighted, identifying that this district has produced 56 National or International Sporting Champions in a wide variety of sports.

From 60 community entries from throughout the State, the Burdekin Shire and community was announced as one of six (6) finalists in the Inaugural Year for the 2001 Community of the Year Award sponsored by the Queensland Government, Main Roads, Queensland Transport and Coates Hire. Although not the winner, judges were impressed with Council's programs which highlighted the development of local solutions to local problems in the areas of the arts and cultural development, sport and recreation, welfare services, aged persons housing, area promotion, environmental management and business district revitalisation.

## Activity Statistics

The following indicators have been selected as a guide or measure of the activities of the Council.

	2000/2001	2001/2002
Average Net Rates Per Residential Property ( <i>Excluding Fire Levy</i> )		
- Ayr	\$1,372	\$1,337
- Home Hill	\$1,218	\$1,182
- Brandon	\$1,322	\$1,304
- Giru	\$898	\$860
Level of Gross Rates Arrears ( <i>Excluding Fire Levy</i> )	\$354,472	* \$1,058,325
Interest and Redemption Repayment Per Rateable Assessment	\$521	\$308
Loan Debt ( <i>Market Value Adjusted</i> ) Per Rateable Assessment	\$1,390	\$1,525
<hr/>		
Number of Building Approvals	370	380
Dollar Value of Building Approvals	\$9,801,837	\$9,576,894
Number of Building Approvals (Private Certifiers)	38	34
Dollar Value of Building Approvals	\$1,971,414	\$1,314,204
<hr/>		
Number of Material Change of Use Impactment Assessment	14	8
Number of Material Change of Use Code Assessments	5	7
Number of Reconfiguration Applications	35	61
<hr/>		
Operating Revenue to 30 <sup>th</sup> June	\$23,619,068	\$24,404,772
Operating Expenditure (plus borrowing costs) to 30 <sup>th</sup> June	\$23,418,123	\$24,240,280

\* As at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2002, the rate income and rate arrears (receivables) include the water consumption income for the second reading for the financial year. In past years this income was recognised in the following year when rate notices were levied and issued. The changed accounting treatment of accruing the water consumption income back to the current financial reporting year complies with the principle of matching incomes and expenses with the periods in which they are earned or incurred.

# Performance Indicators

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The following ratios and performance indicators have been submitted for the 2001/2002 Comparative Performance Information prepared by the Department of Communication, Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport.

## Financial

	2000/2001	2001/2002
<b>Revenue Ratio</b> The percentage of council's total operating income derived from rates and charges. Indicates Councils dependence on rates and charges revenue.	72.64%	75.40%
<b>Working Capital Ratio</b> Council's ability to meet current commitments	2.22	2.80
<b>Debt Servicing Ratio</b> The percentage of total operating income used to service debt	18.64%	10.70%
<b>Borrowing Ratio</b> The relationship between total borrowing and total operating income	51.18%	53.10%
<b>Rates Arrears Ratio</b> The effectiveness of council's collections of rates and charges	2.1%	5.8%*
<b>Capital Expenditure Ratio</b> Ratio of capital expenditure to depreciation	1.46	1.22
<b>Unfunded Depreciation Ratio</b> Percentage of annual depreciation expense not funded from current revenue	0.0%	13.9%
<b>Change in Community Equity Ratio</b> Percentage change in council's net wealth	1.0%	5.5%

\* Refer previous page for explanation of Rates Arrears for 2001/2002.

## Personnel

Number of employees per 100 capita	1.13	1.14
Wages and Salaries as a percentage of total operating expenditure	46.95%	50.87%
Number of employees per \$1,000,000 total operating expenditure	12.47	12.09
Percentage of work time lost due to accident	0.16%	0.13%

## Waste Management Services

Waste collection costs per property serviced	\$153.60	\$159.09
Total tonnage of refuse collected per property serviced	0.73	0.71
Total tonnage of refuse collected per bin serviced	0.62	0.60
Total tonnage of recyclables collected per residential property	0.12	-
Apparent recycling rate percentage	16.63%	-

### Road Maintenance Services

	2000/2001	2001/2002
<b>Road Maintenance expenditure per laned kilometre – sealed roads</b>		
Urban	\$1,221	\$1,620
Rural	458	460
Total	607	633
<b>Road maintenance expenditure per laned kilometre – unsealed roads</b>	\$954	\$962
<b>Percentage of sealed roads 'resealed'</b>		
Urban	4.53%	8.45%
Rural	10.13%	12.29%
Total	9.04%	11.56%

### Water Services

Properties served per 100km mains employed	2,196	2,159
Water OMA costs per properties served	\$256	\$265
Water OMA costs per 100km of mains	\$562,762	\$571,096
Water quality standard/guidelines Bacteriological compliance	80%	100%
Faecal coliform compliance		72.92%
Total coliform compliance		N/A
Other pathogens compliance		N/A
Water quality standard/guidelines Physical Chemical compliance	57.14%	
Turbidity compliance		N/A
Colour compliance		N/A
pH compliance		100%
Main breaks per 100km of mains	9.4	6.7

### Sewerage Services

Properties served per 100km of main	4,441	4,457
Sewerage OMA costs per properties served	\$246	\$257
Sewerage OMA costs per 100km of main	\$1,090,745	\$1,146,132
Compliance with sewerage effluent standards for BOD	95.24%	90.91%
Compliance with sewerage effluent standards for Suspended Solids	100.00%	100.00%
Compliance with sewerage effluent standards for Nutrients	100.00%	100.00%
Confirmed sewer chokes per 100km of main	1.9	5.6

### Parks and Gardens

Cost of maintaining parks and gardens per hectare maintained	\$18,176	\$19,156
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## Burdekin Shire recognises achievers at Australia Day Celebrations on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2002

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The Burdekin community celebrated Australia Day at a ceremony held at the Burdekin Theatre and acknowledged the achievements, dedication and outstanding service of some of its prominent citizens and community groups.

**Joy O'Leary – Citizen of the Year**  
**Billy Raymond - Achievement Award**  
**James Dearness – Young Citizen of the Year**  
**Annette Vassalini – Sportsperson of the Year**  
**Dean Wellington – Junior Sports Award**  
**Brian Kersnovske – Sports Administrator Award**  
**Burdekin Representative 16yrs Netball Team – Junior Sports Team Award**  
**Cheryl Platt – Senior Cultural Award**  
**Abby Martin – Junior Cultural Award**  
**Spirit of Burdekin Solar Car Team – Community Event of the Year**



**Joy O'Leary – Citizen of the Year**

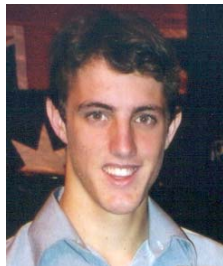
The 2002 Australia Day Citizen of the Year was nominated for her dedication and outstanding voluntary service to the Burdekin Tourism Association for the past 6 years. She has been instrumental in promoting the Burdekin as a tourist destination and encouraging Shire residents to regard tourism as a viable Shire industry. She is currently the co-ordinator of volunteers on roster at the Tourist Information Centre at Plantation Park. She leads by example and is able to attract dozens of volunteers and members to the Burdekin Tourism Association. In addition, she has served as President and Secretary of the Alva Beach Progress Association and is a member of the Alva Beach Rural Fire Brigade. She eagerly assists the Driver Reviver site in Brandon and also is a regular helper with Meals on Wheels.



***Billy Raymond – Achievement Award  
– Citizen of the Year Category***

The Australia Day Council has made provision for Council to award an Achievement Medallion to an individual who has made a significant contribution to their community or have given exceptional service to the community. This year the judges decided to award an achievement medallion in this Citizen of the Year category.

Billy Raymond was nominated for his outstanding contribution to the cultural life of the Burdekin over the past 15 years. He has promoted the Burdekin in a variety of cultural events at the Burdekin Theatre through a wide range of mediums such as regular talks on ABC Radio, television “Curtain Up” and newspaper articles. He has also encouraged local talent through ‘Entertainer of the Year’ and local concerts such as Christmas concerts and ‘Music on Sunday’. He has used his expertise in promoting shows and attracting big names to perform in the Burdekin. He has displayed a genuine love and interest in the Theatre over the past 15 years. It was very fitting to see someone of his calibre being recognised for his tireless efforts for the Burdekin Community.



***James Dearnness – Young Citizen of the Year***

James Dearnness was nominated for his broad range of involvement in school, cultural, sporting and community activities. His achievements include:

- He completed his bronze, silver and gold in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme
- Has received numerous academic achievement awards over the past 5 years
- He participated in the concert band, stage band, brass ensemble and soul play for the Ayr State High School
- He has been involved with the Church Youth Bands and other Youth Group activities
- He has played school rugby league and rugby union
- He participated in Toastmasters
- Collected in door-knock appeals

- Participated in Clean Up Australia Day in Years 10, 11 and 12
- He has marched in the Anzac Day Parades for the past 3 years
- He participated in the Orchestra for the Community Productions of Peter Pan, Cinderella and Les Miserables
- He was School Captain of Ayr State High School in 2001



***Annette Vassalini – Sportsperson of the Year***

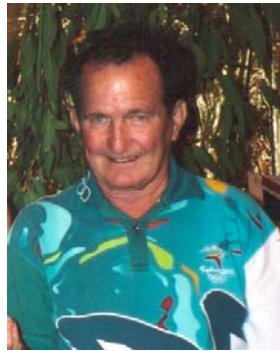
The 2002 Australia Day Sports Awardee, Annette Vassalini, was nominated for her outstanding achievement in the sport of Clay Target Shooting. She made the Queensland State Team in Townsville in the year 2000 to qualify to shoot at the National Championships held at Wagga Wagga in 2001 for which the Queensland Ladies Team that she was a member of won Gold. From this competition she was chosen to represent Australia at the Oceania Games held in New Zealand. At the completion of the competition, the awardee gained a bronze medal for her individual tally.

Other achievements include making the Northern Zone team and competing in a State-Wide pistol shooting competition. She comes from a family all involved in the sport of shooting with her father, husband, brother and son all competing in competitions.



***Dean Wellington – Junior Sports Award***

Dean Wellington only started his chosen sport of weightlifting in the year 2000. He achieved first place in the Tropical Bodies North Queensland Power-Lifting Challenge held in March, 2001. In July, he attained another first placing in the Oceania Power-Lifting Championships, also setting a new Queensland record for his age. He further won first placing in the Australian Postal Bench Press Competition and third placing in the Australian Telstra Schools Clean and Jerk Postal Competition. In this competition, he won the best sub-junior lifter in the three lifts of power-lifting being Squat, Bench-Press and Dead-Lift.



**Brian Kersnovske – Sports Administrator Award**

Sports Administrator Awardee, Brian Kersnovske was nominated for his outstanding contribution to the sport of Rugby League and Athletics.

Brian has been heavily involved in Little Athletics in the Burdekin community for quite a number of years. In 1995, he applied to officiate the Australian Track and Field Championships. A year later, he was informed that he had obtained the relevant qualifications to become an official. He was appointed by Athletics Australia to be the National Technical Official in the field events at the Australian Track and Field Championships. In the year 2000, he was successful in applying to become an official at the Australian Championships and because of his superb effort at these Championships, he was chosen to be the National Technical Official at the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games and also the World Veteran and Goodwill Games held last year.

In addition, he has a long association with Burdekin Rugby League being rewarded with Life Membership to both Junior and Senior Clubs due to his outstanding contribution.



**Burdekin Representative 16 yrs Netball Team – Junior Sports Team Award**

This award was introduced last year to recognise Junior Sports Teams that have made a noteworthy record of achievement in sport.

The Burdekin Representative 16 yrs Netball Team won first place in the 2001 State Age Netball Championships (16 yrs) held in June, 2001 at the Metropolitan District Netball Association in Brisbane. The team members also compete locally on a weekly basis as well as competing in regional competitions.





***Cheryl Platt – Senior Cultural Award***

The 2002 Australia Day Cultural Awardee, Cheryl Platt, was nominated for her dedication, commitment and outstanding contribution to the cultural life of the Burdekin for the past 10 years.

She is a dedicated member of the Burdekin Theatre Players in the capacity of Actress, Backstage Hand, Lighting and Sound Operator for the past 5 years and Musical Director for all Burdekin Singers and all Community Productions for the last 10 years. She organises and prepares adult choirs to participate in the North Queensland Adult Eisteddfod and organises weekly singing rehearsals for the Junior Burdekin Singers to performance levels which is seen at various concerts throughout the year. In addition, she generously volunteers her time to work for the Burdekin Theatre and is often called upon to assist with Board Promotions for lighting and backstage work.

She is a person who seeks no public recognition for the work she does. She has made an outstanding contribution to the cultural life in the Burdekin and has been a worthy ambassador for the district.



***Abby Martin – Junior Cultural Award***

The 2002 Junior Cultural Awardee, Abby Martin, was nominated for her outstanding achievement in Cultural Activities.

Abby has participated in Eisteddfods in Mackay, Burdekin, Townsville and Charters Towers. She plays the Saxophone, Clarinet and Piano and dances Classical, Ballet, Tap and Modern Dancing. She has attained Year 6 Trinity College in Speech and Drama and also completed her Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award in 2001. She readily participates in community productions and community events including the Moulin Rouge Opening Night, Burdekin Water Festival and Harvest Festival Balls and two Debutante Balls. Last year she won Junior Entertainer of the Year and has recently been offered a song and dance role in the Townsville Production of 'Chicago'. In 2001, she received her teachers level for tap dancing and consequently has been able to keep dance classes operating in a centre that would otherwise have been closed down.



***Spirit of Burdekin Solar Car Team - Achievement Award  
– Community Event of the Year  
Team Members:***

<b><i>Brett Dal Bello</i></b>	<b><i>Kevin Fiamingo</i></b>	<b><i>Mark Tomarchio</i></b>
<b><i>Tanneal Micallef</i></b>	<b><i>Cameron Pirrone</i></b>	<b><i>Robert Ciranni</i></b>
<b><i>Nick Todeschino</i></b>	<b><i>Darrin Lindsay</i></b>	<b><i>Callan Oar</i></b>
<b><i>Wesley Robinson</i></b>	<b><i>Adam Betteridge</i></b>	<b><i>Rachel Pavan</i></b>
<b><i>Tahia Burton</i></b>	<b><i>Daniel Peters</i></b>	

This year the judges decided to award an achievement medallion in this Community Event of the Year category. The Achievement Award has been awarded to the Spirit of Burdekin Solar Car Team, who placed the Burdekin district on the map throughout Australia. It was a first ever entry into the World Solar Car Challenge by a North Queensland School Team. Using energy equivalent to that of a toaster, a Solar Powered vehicle was built by Burdekin Catholic High School students to travel 3,000 km from Darwin to Adelaide. The team received phenomenal support from all over Australia. Donations came from local businesses, a grant from the State Government and help with design from experts in Southern Queensland, the Northern Territory and Victoria. The dedication by students, parents and teachers to bring this event together involved thousands of tireless hours. The School displayed initiative and foresight for young people, not only for the Burdekin but Australia wide.



***Centenary of Federation Motorama 2001– Community Event of the Year  
Desley Ralph, Secretary – Motorcycle Club Ayr***

The Community Event of the Year, The Centenary of Federation Motorama 2001, was one of the biggest events of its kind on the North Queensland Motorsporting calendar in 2001. 6 years ago, a small band of hard-working club members decided to hold the first Motorama to showcase the depth of talent, which the district has to offer, across all disciplines of motorsport. In 2001, the Motorama attracted an estimated crowd of 2000 people who were treated to non-stop entertainment as part of the Centenary of Federation Celebrations. Special guest, Motor-racing legend Dick Johnson was a huge crowd favourite. Over 60 immaculately prepared show vehicles provided an impressive concourse trackside. The action on the track was provided by Club Members on motorcycles, quad-racers and go-karts which showcased their racing skills that have lead them to many Queensland and North Queensland Titles. For the 'rev-heads', 10 of the top burn-out cars from around the region, smoked up their tyres and competed in the inaugural Townsville vs Burdekin burn-out competition as well as the Australian Donut Championships. Finally, when all of the smoke and dust had settled on the track, a local rock band took over until the early hours of the next morning.

## Administrative Services

1.

*Actual Total Operating Costs \$3,787,916*

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### **Achievements for the Year**

- Civic Receptions arranged during the year included the People to People Student Ambassador Programme; Australia Day Celebrations; Morning Melodies; Lawrie Lawrence Pantomime – Kids Alive – Do the Five; Natalie Cook – Book Launch; Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea; Governor of Queensland Afternoon Tea; Active Australia Day Walk
- Obtained employment grants of \$312,697 in respect of trainees under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative and continuing apprenticeships.
- Purchased existing premises in Ayr Industrial Estate to house the Burdekin's State Emergency Service Operations at a cost of \$386,292 which will more adequately cater for this organisation's size, future development and worth to the Burdekin district. In addition, SES operations were funded in the amount of \$82,968 net of subsidies and contributions.
- Work continued on the development and implementation of new Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws. Five (5) new Local Laws were gazetted, two (2) Laws were under consideration and one (1) Law was deferred.
- Preparation of internal documents including Draft Code of Conduct and Email and Internet Policies.
- Maintenance and repair of various Council owned public buildings around the Shire including the Brandon Heritage Precinct. New construction included the construction of a new storeroom onto the side of the Burdekin Memorial Hall.
- Council resolved on 28 March, 2002 to apply the Code of Competitive Conduct to the following business activities by 30 June, 2003:
  - Other Roads; Recoverable Works; Roads (tendered MRD); Refuse Management; Water & Sewerage; Workshop; Caravan Parks; and Plant Management.
- The Rural Addressing project advanced well with areas of the Shire completed including all the southern side of the Burdekin River, the Jarvisfield/Rita island area and the Airville/Maidavale area. Installation is progressing in the Giru area. Valuable assistance has been offered by the Ayr Rotary, Ayr Lions Club and Giru Lions Club.
- Upgraded telephone system to Stores/Depot at Jones Street, Ayr including upgrade of PABX to European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) Standard.
- Installation of Wireless Link for Burke Street Water Treatment Plant and Sewerage Treatment Plant.
- Installation of Wireless Link and Computer Network for Burdekin Community Association.

- Facilitated technology to meet Enterprise Bargaining target based indicators dealing with correspondence system and newly introduced internal customer request system.
- Upgrading works at the Jones Street Depot including fencing, sewerage works and new electronic gate totalling \$49,491.
- Finalist in the Channel 9 Today Show Quest for the Sportiest Town of Australia 2001.
- Burdekin Shire and Community was one of six finalists in the inaugural year for the 2001 Community of the Year Award which takes into account the development of local solutions to local problems in the areas of the arts and cultural development, sport and recreation, welfare services, aged persons housing, area promotion, environmental management and business district revitalisation.



Burdekin children get a fun lesson on Water Safety  
from Laurie Lawrence



*Representatives from the organisations receiving donations from Mayor John Woods – Terry Cross (Brass Band), Alf Shand & John Fahey (Boat Club), Mayor Woods, Marlene Parison (CWA), Delayne Jaggard and Kay Duggan (Neighbourhood Centre) and Peter LeFeuvre (School of Arts)*



*Clockmaker David Godwin with the Ayr Town Clock's 'unique' timing mechanism*

# Finance

## 2.

*Actual Total Operating Costs for 2001/2002 - \$1,062,355*

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### **Achievements for the Year**

- Rating analysis and drafting and adoption of Council budget, policies and estimates within statutory requirements and timelines to adopt the 2001/02 Budget and two-year forward estimates on 14 August 2001.
- Initial full cost pricing project for a selection of Council business activities including Water, Sewerage, Plant, Recoverable Works, etc.
- Commenced early annual budget process to be able to adopt formal budget in July, one month earlier than previous years.
- Annual financial statements for 2000/01 prepared within required statutory deadlines for audit opinion.
- Three comprehensive budget reviews as at October, January and April undertaken and presented to Council.
- Completion of all State Government requirements including annual & 5 year Works Programs and 10 year cash forecast to enable drawdown of Council's \$2.87M loan program.
- Implemented change of Council's banker to Queensland Country Credit Union Ltd. following comprehensive tendering and acceptance testing processes.
- Compiled relevant data for Local Government Department of Finance Review and Comparative Performance Indicators for submission to Department for collation and publication.
- Ongoing recognition, valuation and recording of Council's Assets acquired and constructed during the year as well as revaluations for significant assets in the total asset base of \$232M.
- Separate recording of vandalism repairs identifies annual costs of at least \$12,700 for repair of vandalised Council assets.
- Implementation of electronic funds transfer (EFT) payment of all Council creditors commenced in April.
- Prompt and accurate fortnightly processing of 14,600 creditors accounts throughout the year to in excess of 1500 customers.
- Commenced monthly reporting on comparative expenditures for local and out of town purchases.
- Prompt and ongoing provision of financial services to the Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc. staff and board members to support operations at the Burdekin Memorial Hall and Burdekin Theatre.



- Fortnightly salary and wages payments and related staffing matters dealt with accurately and promptly for workforce varying in size from 205 to 240 members including trainees.
- Staff and workforce vacancies totalling 22 processed through the year.
- Researched, advised and provided administrative support in obtaining 25 traineeships across Council's staff and workforce.
- Human Resource and payroll administrative support and advice provided to Enterprise Bargaining Team.
- Rates arrears result of 2.1% (\$431,448) compared with total levies (\$20.15M) through prompt and effective collection and follow up procedures.
- Annual rate collections for 2001/02 of 9,443 transactions for \$12M at Council Chambers compared with 3,647 transactions for \$6.4M at collection agencies including BPAY for debit cards.
- Property transfers totalling 980 processed by Rates staff during the year to maintain Council's rates and property record.
- Progressive stocktaking procedures achieved more frequent stocktake checks with completion of the full year stocktake cycle by early April and minor stock write off.



***Council Officers Aaron Green & Michelle Scott  
undertaking a stocktake at Council's Store***





*Jill Prior from the Rates Department provides assistance to Kate McAuley*

*Examining aspects of the Credit Unions banking tender*

*From Left:  
Peter Pattinson;  
QLD Country Credit  
Union Branch  
Manager – Burdekin  
District, Dan Mulcahy  
& Terry Cross*



# Environmental Services

3.

Actual Total Operating Cost \$ 4,796,399

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## Achievements for the Year

- **Health & Environment**

Inspection and monitoring programmes continued to address Councils responsibilities under the Health, Food and Environment Protection Acts. Licensing activities were undertaken of Food premises (107 licenced premises) Personal Appearance Services (35 Hairdressers) and Environmentally Relevant Activities (92 Level 1 licences and 45 approvals).

- **Animal Management**

Irresponsible animal ownership continues to cause problems in the shire and resulted in 470 complaints requiring attention during the year. The principal areas of complaints are dog attacks, straying animals and barking. Animal registration numbers were maintained with 2,382 registrations occurring during the year. Problems with security at the dog pound saw this operation relocated to a private kennel. Digital photos are now taken of all impounded dogs to minimise the need by dog owners to visit the kennels. This service has been well received.

- **Parks & Gardens**

The parks and gardens are well maintained and were one of the reasons that Ayr was successful in being awarded the North Queensland Tidiest Towns Award for 2002. The efforts of the Parks and Gardens staff are recognised as contributing significantly to achieving this award.

- **Public Conveniences**

The standard of the shires public conveniences continues to receive positive feedback from both locals and visitors. Councils upgrading programme continued over the year with a new facility being provided at Morris Landing in the northern area of the shire.

- **Cemeteries**

Both the Ayr and Home Hill Cemeteries continue to be maintained at a high standard.

- **Waste Management**

Both the waste collection and waste disposal operations continue to operate at a high standard. Shire residents disposed of 28,886 tonnes of waste over the year, which consumed 14,362 M<sup>3</sup> of landfill space at the Kirmie Road landfill. On a positive note the recyclable bin operation saw an increase in the weight of recyclables materials with 790 tonne being recovered compared to 731 tonnes in 2000-2001. The DrumMuster program which operates out of the Ayr Transfer Station and provides for the recycling of used chemical drums, continues to be well utilised with most service days being fully booked out.

- **Land Management**

Council continued to be very proactive in natural resource management. A number of programmes are run in this area including weed and pest management and the operation of the Aquatic Weed Harvester. The Weed Harvester which has been Federally funded has shown that significant water quality outcomes can be achieved by the unclogging of waterways. Ultimately the whole community benefits from this improved water quality. To date aquatic weed infestations in Castelanelli's Lagoon, Dicks Bank, Churches Lagoon, Gorizia's Lagoon, Lilliesmere Lagoon and Sturiale's Lagoon have been cleared. The benefits of controlling aquatic weeds have been also recognised by a number of other communities and the weed harvester has carried out remediation works on contract to NQ Water in Ross River, Townsville and to Hinchinbrook Shire Council to treat Victoria Mill Lagoon.

The Pest Management Agreements program, where landholders can gain access to Shire's subsidised chemical scheme continues to be popular, with 116 landholder agreements being signed.

***Burdekin Deputy Mayor Treena List, Primary Industries Henry Palaszczuk and local member Steve Rodgers give the thumbs up to the weed harvester***



***Land Protection Officer Merv Pyott on the banks on Plantation Creek, where aquatic weed hyacinth is now under control***





*Burdekin Mayor John Woods officially launched 'Pet Pep'. Pictured with Animal Control Officer Trevor Nash and some of the students who attended the launch.*



*Council's mosquito control officer Trevor Sorohan sprays a mosquito breeding ground at Plantation Park*

# Community and Cultural

## 4.

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Actual Total Operating Costs \$2,047,276

### **Achievements for the Year**

- Council has continued with its generous donations to welfare, cultural, sporting and community based organisations. A total of \$562,518 was provided to various organisations in the Shire in the form of cash or provision of services.
- Maintenance and upkeep was undertaken on the Burdekin Theatre, Memorial Hall, Library and the Support Centre. A major refurbishment of the Burdekin Library, Ayr was undertaken during September – October, 2001 including internal painting, new carpet, expansion of floor space and a new circulation desk at a net cost of \$66,529. The refurbishments were the first major upgrade since the Library opened in 1984. The Library was closed for 2 weeks during the September school holidays during the refurbishment.
- Subsidies for sporting and cultural excellence were offered in accordance with Council's policy. Sixteen (16) young people benefited from this subsidy totalling \$3,600.
- With the assistance of \$3,000 funding provided by Sport and Recreation's Community Development Program, a sports administrators' course was conducted on the evenings of 26 to 28 February 2002, and was attended by fourteen (14) local sports administrators.
- Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Grants totalling \$15,775 were provided to fifteen (15) organisation, comprising \$6,310 Council funds and \$9,465 State Government funding.
- General maintenance and repairs were also carried out to the Ayr, Home Hill, Clare and Millaroo Swimming Pools. Major refurbishment of the amenities buildings were carried out at the Home Hill Swimming Pool.
- \$55,248 was spent on Area Promotion which included donations to various bodies, Christmas decorations, promotional advertising and contributions to the Burdekin Development Council, Burdekin Tourism Association and Burdekin Grower Race Day.
- With the assistance of \$77,065 funding from the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services' Rural Transaction Centre Program, a Rural Transaction Centre has been established in Giru. The centre was opened by the Honourable Senator Ian Macdonald, Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government on Thursday, 8 November 2001, and is operating satisfactorily.
- A further two projects were completed under the Queensland Department of Communication and Information, Local Government, Planning and Sport's Security Improvement Program, as follows:
  - Installation of solar lights at Plantation Creek Boat Ramp
  - Installation of security lighting at Watson's Green, Home Hill

- Centenary of Federation events were celebrated in the Burdekin Shire from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2001 with the assistance of \$77,000 funding from Centenary of Federation Queensland. Events included:
  - Centenary of Federation Community Production – featuring a cavalcade of music and dance from popular musicals
  - Burdekin Panorama” – a photographic collection exhibited at the Burdekin Library
  - Centenary of Federation Ball” - held at the School of Arts Hall, Giru
  - Centenary of Federation Musical Morning Tea” – a daytime function planned to appeal to the senior and disabled members of the community and held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall, Home Hill.
  - Family Fair” - which highlighted and celebrated our youth, the cultural community and gave families and the aged the opportunity to celebrate the last 100 years, was held at Anzac Park, Ayr
- In recognition of the International Year of Volunteers, a function was held at Anzac Park, Ayr on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2001 to recognise the many worthy and dedicated volunteers in the Burdekin community.
- Total number of visits to the Burdekin Library, Ayr was 71,486. In the Shire, 9,290 Library Members borrowed a total of 168,088 items. A total of 3226 books, 15 talking books and 141 videos were the main purchases for Library shelves.
- 22 displays were set up by Government and community organisations and individuals, ranging from art and craft to health, hobbies and school displays.
- In Library Children’s Services, 8 holiday activities were conducted in Ayr and 8 in Home Hill. 43 School classes paid visits to the Library while the Children’s Librarian made 73 visits to schools, pre-schools and kindergartens during the year. 313 children (approximately) from 14 classes visited the library for Book Week celebrations.

***Mayor John Woods cuts the ribbon to officially open the newly renovated library***



***Librarian Michelle Scott with the photo panorama***

*Patricia Ashworth, 10, of Home Hill, joins in the celebrations of the International Year of the Volunteer*



*Burdekin Shire Council CEO Graham Webb and Betty Kelly look over stories of the Shire's History*

*Giru resident Teena Parison with daughter Bianca, 4, takes advantage of the new Medicare Easyclaim facility after the Rural Transaction Centre Opening*





# Works & Services

5.

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*Actual Total Roadworks (including Drainage, Boatramps, Aerodrome and Plant)  
Operating Costs \$7,678,538.*

## **Achievements for the Year**

- Ongoing incorporation of quality assurance into Council works with the principal aim of improved productivity, and reduction of waste and rework. It also is required for external works, including for State Government Department.
- Continuing development of the Burdekin River Irrigation Area (BRIA) in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources. The year has resulted in the construction of the link between Stockham and Mulgrave Roads.
- Council has continued its Maintenance Contract with the Department of Main Roads. This contract services a total 186km covering sections of the Bruce Highway, Kirknie, Dalbeg and Ravenswood Roads. Maintenance income of \$675,859 was claimed during the 2001/02 financial year.
- All profits derived from contract works have been returned to Council for distribution and fund such areas as Shire roadworks, purchase of plant and equipment, and training.
- Council allocated in excess of \$5.07 million for new roads, drainage and reseals in the 2001/02 financial year. Very limited carryover of unspent funds was achieved during the 2001/02 financial year.
- Major projects completed include:-
  - **Roads to Recovery**  
The Federal Government has allocated just over \$1.65 million in a five year package under the Roads to Recovery Program. Council completed the following two projects in the second year of the project:-  
Colevale Road widening and reconstruction.  
Kirknie Road (bitumen reconstruction).
  - **Major Traffic Management**  
*(funded by Council, Federal Blackspot and/or State Government TIDS)*  
Completion of Roundabouts at the intersections of Chippendale/Munro (Council Funding) and Maidavale/Ivory (Blackspot Funding).  
Construction of traffic management projects at East Ayr State School and Clare State School (Council and TIDS Funding).  
Construction of traffic management project in Charles Street, near the Ayr Bowling Club (Council Funding).
  - **Drainage**  
Completion of improvements to drainage on Beach Road and Sixth Street.  
Construction of concrete invert in town of Alva (Topton Street).
  - **Flood and Drainage Schemes**  
Completion of the Town of Ayr Flood Study and Horseshoe Lagoon Flood Study



- Footpath Reconstruction  
Footpath construction on Cox Street (Gibson Street to Chippendale Streets), Davenport Street, Eighth Avenue and Sixth Street.
- Bitumen Reconstruction, Widening and Kerbing and Channelling were a major part of the works performed. Sections of Peggys Bog Road, Robert and Wood Streets, Wilmington Street, Barratta Road, Trembath Road, Brown Road, Day Road and Bahrs Road, were able to be upgraded to improve community transport in these areas.
- Restoration of significant flood damage to road and drainage infrastructure as a result of excessive rains during the month of February 2000 resulted in works to the value of approximately \$380,000.
- Carried out maintenance on Shire Boat Ramps.
- Carried out maintenance of Shire Airstrips.
- Carried out reseals to shire roads to value of almost \$867,000.



*Henry Street during construction*



***Construction of Day Road***



***Barratta Road construction***



***Clare School drainage and footpath***



***Colevale Road construction***





*Third Street kerb  
and channel*

*Davenport Street  
Footpath*



# Technical Services, Planning & Development

6.

Actual Total Operating Costs \$1,627,280

## Achievements for the Year

### **Technical Services**

- Provided engineering services to the Burdekin Shire Rivers improvement Trust for works in the Burdekin and Haughton Rivers, including:
  - Investigation, survey, design and estimation of cost.
  - Construction of bank protection.
  - Stream clearing.
  - Preparation of Submissions to and negotiation with Government Agencies to secure approval for works.
- Prepared a Consultancy Brief for the Haughton River (Giru) Flood Study for the River Trust.
- Prepared a Consultancy Brief, assessed tenders, and facilitated commencement of the Haughton River Integrated Catchment Management Study for the River Trust.
- Prepared a Consultancy Brief, assessed tenders, and facilitated commencement of the Burdekin Shire Storm Surge Study for Council.
- Prepared a Consultancy Brief, assessed tenders, and facilitated combined aerial survey/photography for multiple projects for the Council and the River Trust.
- Attended training seminars and represented Council on local and regional planning/development issues.
- Assisted with completion of negotiations for the Burdekin River Irrigation Area partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

### **Planning and Development**

- Continued with provision of development services, incorporating changed legislation and regulation, through an integrated processing approach including:

<b>Development Type</b>	<b>Number of Applications processed</b>
A. Building	380 (building work valued at \$9.6 million)
B. Plumbing and Drainage (including sewage collection and disposal in unsewered areas)	153
C. Material Change of Use impact assessment	8
D. Material Change of Use Code Assessment	7
E. Reconfiguration (Subdivision) under Superseded Planning Scheme	41
F. Reconfiguration (Subdivision) under Transitional Planning Scheme	20
G. Environmentally relevant activities processed through IDAS	28

- Co-ordinated initial stages of the development of a Planning Scheme to comply with the Integrated Planning Act 2000, including appointment of a Consultant in conjunction with two nearby Councils.
- Undertook Regulatory action including issuing of Show Cause Notices and Enforcement Notices for Breach of the Town Planning Scheme, Water Act, and/or the Building Act, and provided input for Planning and Environment Court Appeals.
- Continued management of Council assets including:
  - Continued development of an Asset Management System for Council owned buildings.
  - Continued maintenance of Council buildings and commenced inspection of Council buildings for asbestos.
  - Progressed computerisation of house drain plans.
- Provided co-ordination for the CBD revitalisation project.
- Resolved problems with Workshop oil separator.
- Provided solar powered solution for water supply to Plantation Creek toilets.



***Plumbing Inspector David Massey checking the installation of backflow prevention devices at a new building construction***





***Building Inspector Trevor Maltby inspecting the bond beams at a new building construction***



***Planning Officers Shane Great and Ian Stewart discuss a planning matter***

# Water & Wastewater

7.

*Actual Total Operating Costs \$4,468,107*

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## **Achievements for the Year**

- Constructed new receival facility for septic tank sludge at the Ayr Sewage Treatment Plant. Provides a facility for ratepayers living outside of the defined sewerage collection area to dispose of septic tank sludge and excess effluent and comply with environmental requirements.
- Installed a mechanical screen at the Ayr Sewage Treatment Plant to improve operational performance of the plant and enable sewage to be treated during periods that the primary clarifier is by-passed for maintenance. Previously raw sewage had to be pumped to adjoining land during these maintenance periods that created a public and environmental nuisance.
- Continued with the installation of telemetry SCADA equipment to the water and wastewater operating area to improve management of and data acquisition from these systems.
- Completed and obtained approval of the Water Supply and Sewerage System Total Management Plan. The plan provides for the management of these systems with a strong emphasis on maintenance of the asset to avoid unplanned future failures, ensure depreciation is accounted for, and to ensure future refurbishment or replacement funding is available when components of the system reach ultimate service life.
- Operation and maintenance of the four Council swimming pools is the prime responsibility of the Department with major refurbishment for the amenities buildings at the Home Hill, Clare and Millaroo pools commenced in the later part of the year.

Operation of the pools was satisfactory with some contract defect works at the Ayr pool causing inconvenience to patrons over the winter period.

- Operated and maintained Council's Water Supply Systems for Ayr/Brandon, Home Hill, Giru and Mount Kelly with a high level of compliance for bacteriological and chemical standards with the Australian guidelines for water quality.

The systems provided a safe and reliable supply with only a limited number of unplanned interruptions.

- Operated and maintained the Sewerage System for Ayr/Brandon and Home Hill within the requirements of the environmental approvals.

Heavy rains during the year caused significant infiltration of stormwater and surging within the system but no overflows to properties or the environment were recorded.

- Attended to one sewage overflow at Ayr caused by damage to the Chippendale Street rising main during excavation works by others.
- Attended to one sewage overflow occurred to the Home Hill system due to electrical problems at a small pump station.



- Continued program of property inspection and facilitated installation and maintenance of private land holder trade waste infrastructure.
- Maintenance and inspection of sewers continued using Council's high pressure cleaner and CCTU camera.
- Relocated a sewer and manhole at Dosetto Street to facilitate Council's drainage works.
- Alteration of water supply rising main to Brandon to allow for the North Burdekin Water Board to construct an irrigation channel for the Klondyke farm irrigation project and improved drainage conditions.
- Commenced a research trial to study the effects of using fish and aquatic weeds to remove nutrient from sewage effluent prior to discharge to the environment.

***Water & Sewerage  
Technical Officer, John  
Power inspecting a  
recent sewerage pump  
station telemetry  
installation***



***Installation of  
mechanical inlet  
screen at Ayr  
Sewerage  
Treatment Plant***



***Water & Waste Water  
Manager, Neil Hansen  
and Water & Sewerage  
Supervisor, Gary  
Tickner overlook  
treatment ponds when  
they hosted a tour of  
the Ayr sewage  
treatment plant***

# F i n a n c i a l   S u m m a r y

The 2001/02 Budget was framed against three (3) important influences being industry lobbying, inflationary impacts and depreciation concerns. In developing the Budget, the Council acknowledged that it had come from a position where for the previous two (2) years the general rate increases had been below the Council's business inflation rate and that the Council would be faced with further inflationary pressures of over 8% on Council's operations for the year ahead.

In response to this, the Council Budgeted for a general rate rise of about 5% for each category. Sewerage charges remained unchanged, garbage increased 0.9% and garbage and recycling increased only 0.6%. 2001/02 saw the introduction of a two part water tariff where consumers received a reduced annual charge and an associated lower annual entitlement. The water access charge reduced 18.3% for the majority of consumers.

Major new capital items expended in 2001/02 included; roadworks - \$3,728,987; road maintenance - \$865,649; drainage projects - \$300,268; building programme - \$463,451; water supply - \$149,481; sewerage supply - \$243,194; land and improvements \$45,240 and plant and equipment \$578,605 (net of trades and sales).

The Council's total interest and redemption payments as a percentage of Budgeted total rates and user charges for 2001/02 is 14.71%. As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002 our closing total debt (book value) with the Queensland Treasury Corporation was \$12,822,430. Our total debt (book value) in respect of the BRIA has reduced from \$262,951 to \$125,487.

The Council's overall debt is still considered to be satisfactory. Total debt as a percentage of total property, plant and equipment assets is 8.7% compared to 8.2% for 2000/01. Total interest and redemption payments as a percentage of total revenue is 10.9% compared to 18.6% in 2000/01.

Of continued concern to the Council is the future direction of the financial assistance grants. The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission is currently reviewing their methodology. The current draft methodology (including adjustments) indicates a general purpose grant (GPG) of \$535,289 in 2002/03 compared to the budgeted \$581,000 in 2001/02. Of greater concern to the Council is the indicated GPG of only \$289,683 with no adjustments.

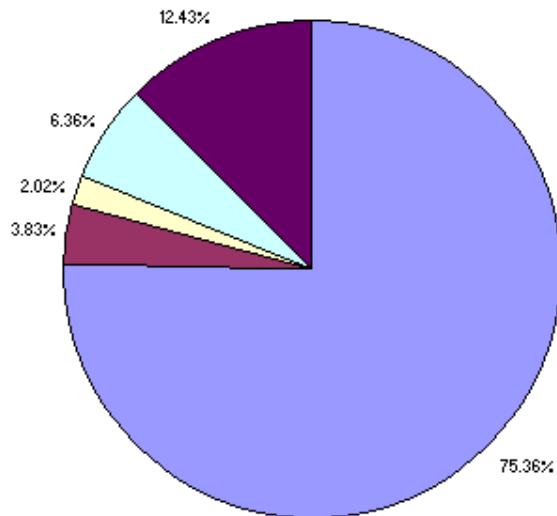
The Council has continued with its dedicated effort to seek out and obtain funding available from various Government and other sources. Funding approvals assist in getting extra value out of the ratepayers dollar and assist in achieving certain community objectives and milestones.

	2000/2001	2001/2002
Rates and Charges Revenue (net)	\$17,156,508	\$18,391,100
Total Operating Revenue	\$23,619,068	\$24,404,772
Operating Expenses	\$23,418,123	\$24,240,280
Operating Surplus before Appropriations	\$144,236	\$2,944,160
Accumulated Surplus (deficiency) after Appropriations and Transfers	(\$70,355)	(\$100,185)
Total Debt (Book Value)	\$12,088,136	\$12,947,917

Reserves	\$5,499,968	\$6,644,690
Total Assets	\$158,275,433	\$167,086,536
Total Liabilities	\$15,150,484	\$16,103,724
Total Equity	\$143,124,949	\$150,982,812

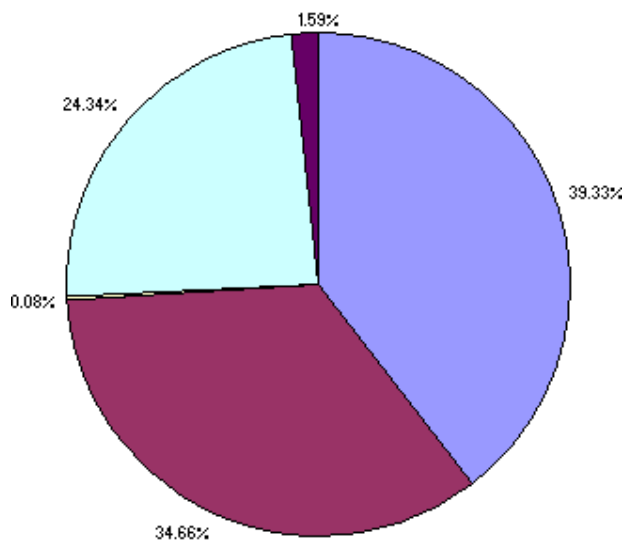
# COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF BURDEKIN

## OPERATING REVENUE 2001/02



REVENUE	\$ '000	%
Rates and Charges	18,391	75.36%
Fees and Charges	934	3.83%
Interest	494	2.02%
General Revenue	1,552	6.36%
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	3,034	12.43%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,405</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

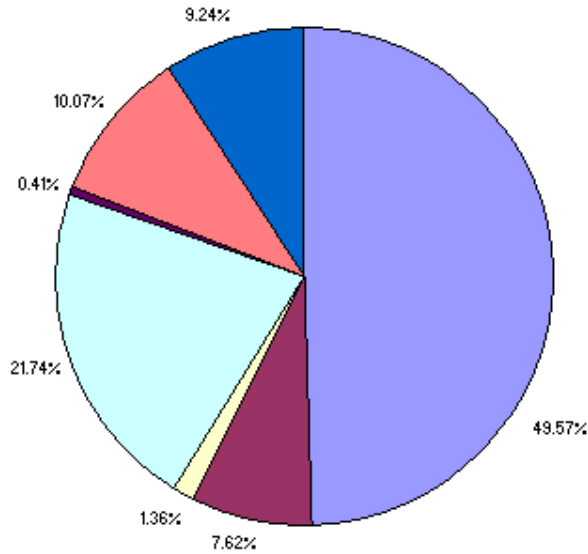
## OPERATING EXPENSES 2001/02



EXPENSES	\$ '000	%
Employee Costs	9,243	39.33%
Materials and Services	8,145	34.66%
Bank Charges	19	0.08%
Depreciation	5,720	24.34%
Other	373	1.59%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF BURDEKIN

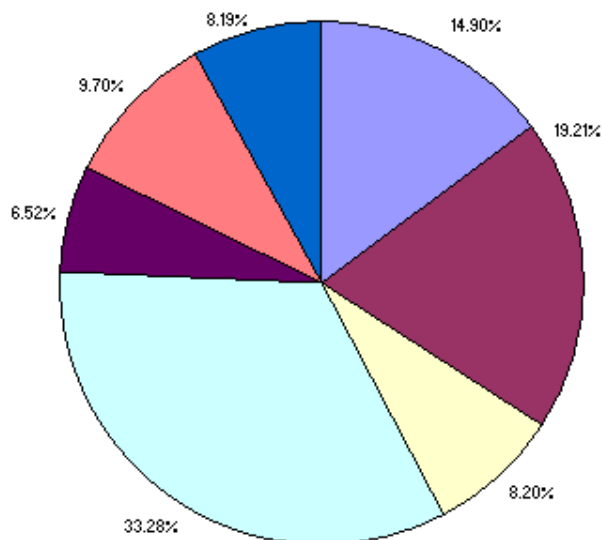
## OPERATING REVENUE 2001/02 BY PROGRAM



PROGRAM REVENUE	\$	%
	'000	
Corporate & Finance Services	13,836	49.57%
Environmental Services	2,127	7.62%
Community & Cultural	380	1.36%
Works & Services	6,067	21.74%
Technical Services	115	0.41%
Sewerage	2,810	10.07%
Water	2,578	9.24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,913</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*Refer Note 2 in Financial Statements

## OPERATING EXPENSES 2001/02 BY PROGRAM

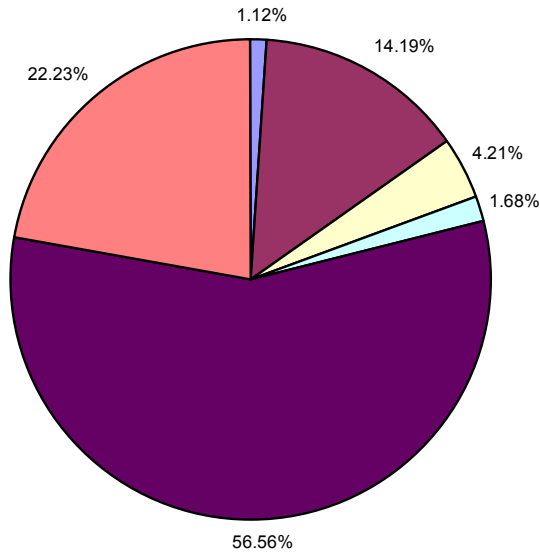


PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$	%
	'000	
Corporate & Finance Services	3,720	14.90%
Environmental Services	4,797	19.21%
Community & Cultural	2,047	8.20%
Works & Services	8,309	33.28%
Technical Services	1,627	6.52%
Sewerage	2,423	9.70%
Water	2,045	8.19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,968</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*Refer Note 2 in Financial Statements

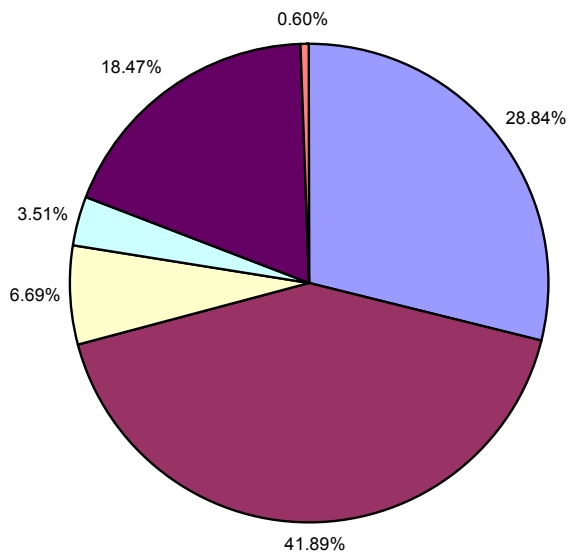
# COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF BURDEKIN

## APPLICATIONS OF CAPITAL FUNDING 2001/02



APPLICATIONS	\$ '000	%
Land and Improvements	95	1.12%
Plant & Equipment	1,199	14.19%
Buildings	356	4.21%
Other Assets	142	1.68%
Infrastructure Assets	4,780	56.56%
Repayment of Borrowings	1,879	22.23%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,451</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## SOURCES OF CAPITAL FUNDING 2001/02



SOURCES	\$ '000	%
Loan Borrowings	2,437	28.84%
Funded Depreciation	3,540	41.89%
Proceeds of Disposal of Non Current Assets	565	6.69%
Reserves	297	3.51%
Developers' Contributions, Grants and Subsidies	1,561	18.47%
Funds Utilised from General Revenue	51	0.60%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,451</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Statutory

**Information**

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# Revenue Policy for the Year 2001/2002

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## **A. Differential General Rates**

Council is committed to a differential rating system, which provides a flexible framework to enable Council to apply different rates in the dollar to different categories, if considered appropriate. It is considered this system would achieve a fairer and more equitable distribution of the rating burden than would occur if one general rate was levied in respect of all rateable land.

For the 2001/02 financial year Council supports the retention of the current six differential categories which enable Council to address the economic circumstances of the community as a whole and/or the circumstances of particular sectors or groups of individuals as may arise in the future.

Council's Revenue Policy, as well as taking into account local economic circumstances of the community, takes into account :

- **Social and Environmental Factors** – Council's revenue and differential rating policies identifies Council's responsibilities to certain groups of ratepayers through exemption from rating, land used for charitable, religious or educational purposes, and the allowance of pensioner rate remissions;
- **Access to Services** – With an increasing road network, particularly in rural areas of the Shire and demands on Council to upgrade the standard of roads for harvesting, transporting of rural product and processing associated with the sugar, grazing and horticulture industries, Council considers those areas benefiting from access to improved road and infrastructure standards should contribute appropriately to Council's revenue base to maintain the high level of road services expected.

In the case of sugar milling operations, Council has taken into account that the increased costs of infrastructure associated with maintaining and upgrading roads including tramway corridors, cane sidings and other infrastructure associated with these operations, contribute to Council's costs in maintaining and upgrading the standards of roads within the Burdekin Shire.

At the same time, Council acknowledges and again has taken into account that improved services including recreation and sporting, swimming pools, community, cultural, library, and welfare services, public halls, environmental health services and amenities, parks and playgrounds, cemeteries, Council's public buildings, Council's industrial land and residential estate development, Council's economic development initiatives, improvements and development work in the Council's principal towns are Local Government services which should be met by the whole community.

- **Equity** – Equity is the corner stone of the Burdekin Shire Council's revenue raising policies. In arriving at its rating policies, Council is satisfied that the rating burden for the current financial year is distributed in a fair manner.

The annual valuation made by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines of all lands in the Burdekin Shire area shall have force and effect for the period of twelve months commencing on 30th June 2001.

Prior to the implementation of a differential rating system, The Burdekin Shire's rating and revenue policy was generally based on traditional financial divisional boundaries with one general rate for each of the four divisions –



HOWEVER

- (a)
- (i) The Council formed the opinion following the release of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines valuations of land report which became effective on 1st July 1996 , that the valuations at that time would lead to rating inequities and a distortion of relativities in the amount of rates paid in various areas of the Shire, if only one general rate was adopted. With the introduction of new valuations to have force and effect from 30th June 2001, Council still maintains the view that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' current valuations of the Shire which became effective from 30th June 2001 will continue to lead to rating inequities and unfairness in that a distortion of relativities in the amount of rates paid in various areas of the Shire will occur if only one (1) general rate is adopted;
  - (ii) Such an outcome is unacceptable to Council;
  - (iii) For these reasons, the Council is of the opinion that a system of differential general rating will achieve a fairer and more equitable distribution of the rating burden, and exhibit the following features :
    - (1) It is flexible so that the Council can adapt its rating system to the circumstances of its community;
    - (2) It is equitable in relation both to the ratepayers' ability to pay or to the benefit he or she receives from the expenditure of rates;
    - (3) It is simple and easily understood;
    - (4) It is economical to administer relative to the revenue derived; and
    - (5) It ensures that ratepayers in similar situations are treated in a like manner;

The Council determines that a method of differential general rating be applied to all rateable land in the Shire on the basis set out hereunder.

- (b) For the purpose of making and levying differential general rates on all rateable land in the Shire, the Council hereby -
- (i) Determines that there shall be 6 categories of land being the categories specified in Column 1 of the Table hereunder; and
  - (ii) Adopts as the criteria for each category specified in Column 1 of that Table, the criteria set out in Column 2 of that Table opposite that category and that such criteria be based on the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' Land Use Codes or Valuation Numbers, as required.
- "Land Use Codes" means those Land Use Codes used by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to classify land within the Burdekin Shire boundaries during the period of the valuation which becomes effective for rating purposes from 1st July, 2001.
- (c) The Council has identified the category in which each parcel of rateable land in the area is included applying the criteria adopted by Clause (b) hereof.

<b>TABLE</b>	
<b>COLUMN 1</b>	<b>COLUMN 2</b>
<b>Category</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
A - RESIDENTIAL	<p><b>Land having any of the following Land Use Codes excluding valuation numbers 2799, 5460, 5464, 5533, 5957 :-</b></p> <p>01 - Vacant Urban Land; 02 - Single Unit Dwelling; 03 - Multiple Dwelling (Flats); 04 - Large Homesite – Vacant; 05 - Large Homesite – Dwelling; 06 - Outbuilding; 07 - Guest House/Private Hotel; 08 – Building Units; 09 - Group Title; 21 – Residential Institutions (Non-Medical Care); 72 - Residential Subdivisions; 97 - Welfare Homes/Institutions.</p>
B - COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL	<p><b>Land having any of the following Land Use Codes including valuation numbers 2799, 5460, 5464, 5533, 5957 :-</b></p> <p>10 - Combined Multi-Dwelling &amp; Shops; 11 – Shop - Single; 12 - Shops - Shopping Group (more than 6 shops); 13 - Shopping Group (2 to 6 shops); 14 - Shops - Main Retail; 15 - Shops - Secondary Retail; 16 - Drive-in Shopping Centres; 17 - Restaurant; 18 - Special Tourist Attraction; 19 – Walkway; 20 - Marina; 22 – Car Park; 23 - Retail Warehouse; 24 - Sales Area Outdoor; 25 Offices; 26 - Funeral Parlours; 27 - Hospitals, Conv. Homes (Medical Care) (Private); 28 – Warehouses &amp; Bulk Stores; 29 – Transport Terminal; 30 - Service Station; 31 - Oil Depots; 32 – Wharves; 33 - Builders' Yard/Contractors' Yard; 34 Cold Stores - Iceworks; 35 General Industry; 36 - Light Industry; 37 – Noxious/Offensive Industry; 38 - Advertising - Hoarding; 39 – Harbour Industries; 40 – Extractive; 41 - Child Care; 42 - Hotel/Tavern; 43 - Motel; 44 – Nurseries; 45 - Theatres and Cinemas; 46 - Drive-in Theatre; 47 - Licensed Clubs; 48 - Sports Clubs/Facilities; 49 - Caravan Parks; 50 - Other Clubs Non-Business; 51 - Religious; 52 - Cemeteries; 53 - (Secondary land Use Code for Commonwealth ownership); 54 - Secondary Land Use Code for State ownership); 55 - Library; 56 - Showgrounds/Racecourses/Airfields; 57 – Parks and Gardens; 58 - Educational; 59 - (Secondary Land Use Code for Local Authorities); 90 - Stratum; 91 - Transformers; 92 - Defence Force Establishments; 96 - Public Hospital; 99 - Community Protection Centre.</p>
C - GRAZING & LIVESTOCK	<p><b>Land having any of the following Land Use Codes :-</b></p> <p>60 - Sheep Grazing - Dry; 61 - Sheep Breeding; 62 - Not allocated; 63 - Not allocated; 64 - Cattle Grazing – Breeding; 65 - Cattle Breeding and Fattening; 66 Cattle Fattening; 67 Goats; 68 - Dairy Cattle – Quota Milk; 69 Dairy Cattle – None Quota Milk; 85 Pigs; 86 - Horses; 87 - Poultry; 89 – Animals Special.</p>
D - RURAL - SUGAR CANE	<p><b>Land having any of the following Land Use Codes:-</b></p> <p>75 - Sugar Cane.</p>
E - RURAL – OTHER	<p><b>Land having any of the following Land Use Codes:-</b></p> <p>70 - Cream; 71 – Oil Seeds; 73 - Grains; 74 – Turf Farms; 76 - Tobacco; 77 - Cotton; 78 - Rice; 79 - Orchards; 80 - Tropical Fruits; 81 – Pineapple; 82 - Vineyards; 83 - Small Crops and Fodder Irrigated; 84 - Small Crops Fodder Non- irrigated; 88 - Forestry and Logs; 93 - Peanuts; 94 - Vacant Rural Land; 95 - Reservoir, Dam, Bores.</p>
F - SUGAR MILLING	<p><b>Land having any of the following Valuation Numbers:-</b></p> <p>1704 - 10000, 6926, 7400 and 7830</p>

- (d) In making and levying differential general rates for the 2001/02 financial year, Council has done so to raise an amount of revenue it sees as being appropriate to maintain and improve assets and provides services to the Shire as a whole. In deciding how that revenue is raised, Council took into account the following factors –
- The rateable value of land and the rates which would be payable if only one general rate was adopted; and
  - The level of services provided to that land and the cost of providing the services compared to the rate burden that would apply under a single general rate; and
  - The use of the land in so far as it relates to the extent of utilisation of Council services; and
  - Location and access to services.
- (e) In making and levying differential general rates for the 2001/02 financial year, Council has indicated a desire to trend towards one rate in the dollar for categories A through to E by 2003/04.
- (f) Descriptions of categories in determining the differentials are:

**Category A – Residential:** Includes, but not limited to, urban land within the townships of Ayr, Home Hill, Brandon, Sutcliffe Estate, Cornford Crescent/Rutherford Street; rural residential estates at Mt. Kelly, and off Patricia Road (Fiamingo's estate), Hillcrest Place and Lisa Drive (Domanti's estate); beach resorts at Alva and Wunjunga, Plantation Creek, Jerona, Ocean Creek, Groper Creek; Clare, Millaroo, Dalbeg and Giru.

**Category B – Commercial and Industrial:** Includes, but not limited to, land described in the aforementioned land use codes which are predominantly located in the principal towns of Ayr and Home Hill.

**Category C – Grazing and Livestock:** Includes, but not limited to, land covering areas outside the urban areas on the north and south banks of the Burdekin River where land use is for purposes identified in the aforementioned land use codes.

**Category D – Rural – Sugar Cane:** Includes, but not limited to, land developed for the district's principal agricultural crop of sugar cane within the Pioneer, Kalamia, Inkerman and Invicta Mill areas.

**Category E – Rural – Other:** Includes, but not limited to, land used for the production of the district's produce, other than sugar cane and grazing.

**Category F – Sugar Milling:** Land used for the Pioneer, Kalamia, Inkerman and Invicta sugar mills and predominantly used for the processing of sugar cane.

- (g) In accordance with Section 983 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Council shall advise owners of rateable land of the following –
- (i) The categories of rateable land in the Shire and the criteria by which the land is categorised;
  - (ii) The category in which the land to which the rate notice applies is shown on the rate notice;
  - (iii) The category in which the land is included was identified by the Burdekin Shire Council;

- (iv) If they consider that as at the date of issue of the rate notice their land should, having regard to the criteria adopted by Council, have been included in another category, they may object against that categorisation of their land by posting to or lodging with the Chief Executive Officer, Burdekin Shire Council, a notice of objection in the prescribed form within thirty (30) days of the date of issue of the rate notice (copies of the form are available at the Shire Offices);
  - (v) The sole ground on which they may object is that having regard to the criteria determined by the Council for categorising rateable land, the land should have been included, as at the date of issue of the rate notice, in another of the categories specified;
  - (vi) The posting to or lodging of an objection with the Chief Executive Officer shall not in the meantime interfere or affect the levy and recovery of the rates specified in the rate notice;
  - (vii) Where, by reason of the decision of the Chief Executive Officer on the objection the land is taken to have been included in another category as at the date of issue of the rate notice, an adjustment of the amount of rates levied, or, as the case may be, the amount of rates paid shall be made in accordance with Section 1029 of the Local Government Act 1993; and
  - (viii) Postal address of the Chief Executive Officer, Burdekin Shire Council is Box 974, AYR Q4807.
- (h) For the year ending 30th June, 2002, differential general rates are hereby made and levied on all rateable land in the Shire included in the specified category as set out hereunder :-

Category A – **2.046 cents** in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of all rateable land in the category.

Category B – **2.067 cents** in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of all rateable land in the category.

Category C – **1.911 cents** in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of all rateable land in the category.

Category D - **1.911 cents** in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of all rateable land in the category.

Category E – **1.911 cents** in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of all rateable land in the category.

Category F - **14.159 cents** in the dollar on the unimproved capital value of all rateable land in the category.

## **B. Minimum General Rates**

Section 967(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that “a *Local Government may identify rateable land for the purpose of making and levying a minimum general rate in any way it considers appropriate*”

Council also has power, where differential general rates are made and levied, to apply a different level of minimum general rate for each category of land.

The Council considers that the following minimum general rates are reasonable to recover Council's administrative costs and appropriate revenue for services provided by the Council to all properties irrespective of their rateable value, and which lend themselves to recovery of rates by a minimum general rate.

For the 2001/02 financial year, the following minimum general rates shall apply:

Category A - **\$337**  
Categories B, C, D & E - **\$567**  
Category F - **\$11,247**

The above provisions shall not apply to any land under the ownership of the North Burdekin Water Board and the South Burdekin Water Board and used for channel and ancillary Water Board purposes.

### **C. Rates Instalment Policy**

Council will allow landowners who are unable to pay their rates by the due date to enter into an arrangement to pay by instalments with the Chief Executive Officer by way of delegated powers being authorised to enter into agreed arrangements, with no recovery action being taken while the arrangement is being maintained.

For the year ending 30th June, 2002, the Council's policy introduces a rate instalment policy for landowners in the Burdekin Shire who can produce evidence of financial hardship. For ratepayers experiencing difficulties with payment of rates, the Council will consider allowing delayed payment of rates and any arrears interest over a period of up to two (2) years, upon written application to the Chief Executive Officer for a structured instalment plan.

No discount shall be allowed for payment of rates by instalments.

It will be expected that eligible pensioners meet payments of any outstanding rates and current rates within the discount period to qualify for the Council's pensioner remission concessions and State Government subsidy. If there is evidence acceptable to Council that any eligible pensioner is unable to meet rate obligations within 42 days of service of an annual rate notice and are unable to enter into an instalment plan for payment of outstanding rates, satisfactory to the Chief Executive Officer. Council may, in exceptional circumstances after considering a report from the Chief Executive Officer, agree to the outstanding rates remaining a charge on the land to be recovered following the death of the eligible pensioner/pensioners or as a result of sale/transfer of the land. Discount on rates on land owned by eligible pensioners and the allowance of Council's pensioner remission concessions will only apply if all rates and charges, and any arrears, are paid within 42 days of service of the Council's annual rates levy.

### **D. Application for Relief on Grounds of Hardship**

Ratepayers may also apply for rate relief with an application on the basis of hardship supported by relevant documentation. The Council's policy governing the consideration of any application for relief on the grounds of hardship is currently as follows :-

- (a) An applicant will be eligible for consideration of rates remission on the grounds of financial hardship upon complying with the following criteria :-
  - (i) The applicant does not have reasonable assets external to the land upon which the application for relief on the grounds of hardship applies to; and

- (ii) Payment of rates by the applicant would cause financial hardship within the next twelve (12) months;
- (b) Applicants will be required to disclose private financial documentation including, where applicable, the previous two (2) years tax returns, profit and loss statement and balance sheet as prepared by a registered accountant or tax agent.

#### **E. Sewerage Scheme**

A sewerage charge will be levied on each rateable property, both vacant and occupied, that Council has or is able to provide with sewerage services and identified hereunder.

The sewerage charge is set to recover all of the costs associated with the provision of sewerage and waste water services provided by Council in the financial year. These costs include loan interest, depreciation and the cost of on-going maintenance and operation of the system, including treatment plant operations.

A charge is set, subject to the provisions hereunder, and referred to as classes of buildings in accordance with the "Building Code of Australia 1996" as amended, for each pedestal in residential dwellings and residential lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, or other community titles act that are connected to Council's sewerage system. Where sewerage services are provided to the common property of sewerage scheme land within the meaning of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Body Corporate shall be levied a charge on each pedestal.

- (a) The Sewerage Area shall consist of: -

All land situated in the Shire of Burdekin that the Council is prepared to sewer. A parcel of land shall be deemed to be within a sewerage area if the Council is prepared to sewer any part of the land.

Such charges shall be levied to defray the cost of constructing sewerage including the payment of interest on and redemption of, the instalments into a sinking fund, in respect of any loan money borrowed for or in respect of such function and the cost of operating, maintaining, and managing sewerage.

The charges shall also apply in respect of any land or any structure, building or place on land that is not rateable under Section 957 of the Local Government Act 1993.

In this subsection reference is made to classes of Buildings. Buildings and portions of buildings shall be classified in accordance with the "Building Code of Australia 1996", as amended as follows -

#### **Class 1**                      One or more buildings which in association constitute -

- (a) Class 1a - a single dwelling being -
  - (i) a detached house; or
  - (ii) one or more attached dwellings, each being a building, separated by a fire resisting wall, including a row house, terrace house, town house or villa unit; or
- (b) Class 1b - a boarding house, guest house, hostel or the like with a total floor area not exceeding 300 m<sup>2</sup> and in which not more than 12 persons would ordinarily be resident, which is not located above or below another dwelling or another Class of building other than a private garage.

Class 2 - A building containing two or more sole-occupancy units each being a separate dwelling.

Class 3 - A residential building, other than a building of Class 1 or 2, which is a common place of long term or transient living for a number of unrelated persons, including: -

- (a) A boarding house, guest house, hostel, lodging house or backpackers' accommodation; or
- (b) A residential part of a hotel and motel; or
- (c) A residential part of a school; or
- (d) Accommodation for the aged, disabled or children; or
- (e) A residential part of a health-care building which accommodates members of staff.

Class 4 - A dwelling in a building that is Class 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 if it is the only dwelling in the building.

Class 5 - An office building used for professional or commercial purposes, excluding buildings of Class 6, 7, 8, or 9.

Class 6 - A shop or other building for the sale of goods by retail or the supply of services direct to the public, including: -

- (a) An eating room, cafe, restaurant, mill or softdrink bars; or
- (b) A dining room, bar, shop or kiosk part of a hotel or motel; or
- (c) A hairdresser's and barber's shop, public laundry, or undertaker's establishment; or
- (d) Market or sale room, show room, or service station.

Class 7 - A building which is -

- (a) A public carpark; or
- (b) for the storage, or display of goods or produce for sale by wholesale.

Class 8 - A laboratory, or a building in which a handicraft or process for the production, assembling, altering, repairing, packing, finishing, or cleaning of goods or produce is carried on for trade, sale, or gain.

Class 9 - A building of a public nature -

- (a) Class 9a - a health-care building, including those parts of the building set aside as a laboratory; or
- (b) Class 9b - an assembly building, including a trade workshop, laboratory or the like in a primary or secondary school, but excluding any other parts of the building that are of another class.

Class 10 - a non-habitable building or structure -

- (a) Class 10a - a non-habitable building being a private garage, carport, shed, or the like; or
- (b) Class 10b - a structure being a fence, mast, antenna, retaining or free-standing wall, swimming pool or the like.

- (b) The charges in the Sewerage Area for the **2001/02** financial year shall be :-

A charge of **\$404-00** shall be made where sewerage is provided for a full year to Class 1a or Class 4 buildings and portion of buildings and to a single dwelling unit of a Class 2 building. This

charge shall apply subject to Clause (c) hereunder. In respect of each and every parcel of vacant land separately valued for rating purposes, a charge of **\$404-00** for a full year shall be made.

A charge of **\$404-00** shall be made where sewerage is provided for a full year to a Lot contained in a Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 or another community title Act. This charge shall apply subject to Clause (c) hereunder. This charge shall be payable from the date of registration of the community titles scheme and shall be payable by the owner.

A **pro rata charge** based on **\$404** per annum shall apply in respect of any parcel of land to which sewerage supply is or is not connected and which becomes separately valued during the financial year or to which the Chief Executive Officer deems shall be separately valued during the financial year. Such charge is to take effect from the date of possession or date of effect of valuation, whichever is the earlier.

A **pro rata charge** based on **\$404** per annum shall apply in respect of any parcel of land to which sewerage supply is connected.

Notwithstanding the above, where a concessional valuation applies under Section 25 of the Valuation of Land Act, a pro rata charge shall not apply, provided that in respect of the subject subdivision in total, a single charge will apply for the full year.

- (c) Two or more water closet pans installed at Class 1a or Class 4 buildings or portions of buildings and to a single dwelling unit of a Class 2 building shall be permitted without the imposition of charges other than those in Clause (b).
- (d) A charge of **\$404-00** shall be made for each water closet pan and/or each 1800mm of urinal (as defined by the Standard Sewerage By-laws) connected, proposed to be connected or required to be connected (in accordance with the minimum number/s of water closet pans and/or urinals specified in the Building Code of Australia 1996) at Classes 1b, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings, or portions of buildings, where sewerage is available for a full year or on a pro rata basis according to the proportion of the year for which sewerage is available. In this sub- clause, the charge of **\$404-00** shall also apply in respect of three wall urinals or part thereof.
- (e) Notwithstanding the above, a charge of **\$404-00** shall be made for the first three and a charge of **\$202-00** for subsequent water closet pans and/or each 1,800 mm of urinal (as defined by the Standard Sewerage By-laws) connected, proposed to be connected or required to be connected (in accordance with the minimum number/s of water closet pans and/or urinals specified in the Building Code of Australia 1996) at premises listed in the **First Schedule** below, or as the Council may determine by resolution.

#### The First Schedule

*Motels, Hotels, Taverns, Accommodation Units, Caravan Parks, Service Stations, Non-Government Offices, Shops, Restaurants, Skating Rink, Drive-In Theatre (Stardust), Factory, Foundry, Private Day Care Centres.*

- (f) A charge of **\$404-00** shall be made in respect of each separately valued parcel of land on which any building and portions of buildings are erected, and not being chargeable as hereinbefore set out.
- (g) Within the Sewerage Area, for premises that pump septic tank effluent to the sewer system, an annual charge equivalent to 60% of the standard sewerage charge of \$404 which equates to **\$242-40** shall apply. Provided that approval of the Council is received to dispose of the effluent



as aforesaid. Provided also that the Council shall apply an infrastructure contribution charge to be set as a General Charge by resolution of the Council.

- (h) In the sanitary area of **Spelta's Subdivision**, the following charges shall apply for effluent removal from covered places for the 2001/02 financial year.
- (i) A charge of **\$404-00** per annum shall be made on all premises with septic tank installations of Class 1a or Class 4 buildings and portion of buildings and to a single dwelling unit of a Class 2 building. This charge shall apply subject to Clause (ii) hereunder.
  - (ii) Two or more water closet pans installed at Class 1a or Class 4 buildings or portions of buildings and to a single dwelling unit of a Class 2 building shall be permitted without the imposition of charges other than those in Clause (i).
  - (iii) A charge of **\$404-00** shall be made for the first three and a charge of **\$202-00** for subsequent water closet pans and/or each 1,800 mm of urinal (as defined by the Standard Sewerage By-laws) connected, proposed to be connected or required to be connected (in accordance with the minimum number/s of water closet pans and/or urinals specified in the Building Code of Australia 1996) at premises listed in the **First Schedule** above, or as the Council may determine by resolution.
  - (iv) A charge of **\$404-00** shall be made for each water closet pan and/or each 1800mm of urinal (as defined by the Standard Sewerage By-laws) connected, proposed to be connected or required to be connected (in accordance with the minimum number/s of water closet pans and/or urinals specified in the Building Code of Australia 1996) at Classes 1b, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings, or portions of buildings, subject to (ii) and (iii) hereinbefore mentioned, where septic is available for a full year or on a pro rata basis according to the proportion of the year for which septic is available. In this sub-clause, the charge of **\$404-00** shall also apply in respect of three wall urinals or part thereof.
  - (v) Payment of the charge of **\$404-00** per annum will entitle all premises to sixteen (16) effluent removal services per annum. Subsequent effluent removal services after the first sixteen (16) services will be the responsibility of the landowner or occupier to arrange and pay for.

Notwithstanding the above, if sewerage is provided to any such premises, the entitlement of effluent removal services will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

- (h) Sewerage charges to be levied on sporting and other organisations (including the Burdekin Community Church and Home Hill Race Club) located outside the sewerage areas where these organisations provide their own pumping facilities and sewer line for the conveyance of sewage from their premises into the Council's Sewerage System be based on one-third (to the next) of the sum of the number of water closet pans plus each 1800mm of urinal installed for use at the premises at the rate of **\$404-00** per water closet pan.

#### **F. Ayr Industrial Estate Sewerage**

The Ayr Industrial Estate Sewerage Special Charge shall apply to all lots in Stages 1 & 2 of the Ayr Industrial Estate provided that the Special Charge shall apply for the year in which the landowner has indicated that connection to the sewer shall be made for each separately valued parcel of land. The benefited area is defined in Table A attached.

The Special Charge is separate to the sewerage charge provided in E, which shall also be payable in respect of each separately valued parcel of land.

For connection to the sewer in the **1999/2000 financial year**, the following special charges shall apply:

- (i) A charge of **\$1,435-10** per annum for a period of five (5) years for the purpose of defraying part of the cost of constructing the sewerage infrastructure to serve Stages 1, 2 & 3 of the Ayr Industrial Estate including the payment of interest thereon based on the Queensland Treasury Corporation indicative borrowing rate at 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1999, where the registered proprietor/s have indicated in writing that they favoured their share of financing the sewerage infrastructure construction in this manner.
- (ii) A charge of **\$836-28** per annum for a period of ten (10) years for the purpose of defraying part of the cost of constructing the sewerage infrastructure to serve Stages 1, 2 & 3 of the Ayr Industrial Estate including the payment of interest thereon based on the Queensland Treasury Corporation indicative borrowing rate at 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1999, where the registered proprietor/s have indicated in writing that they favoured their share of financing the sewerage infrastructure construction in this manner.

For connection to the sewer in the **2000/2001 or 2001/02 financial year**, the following special charges shall apply:

- (i) A charge of **\$1,578-38** per annum for a period of five (5) years commencing in 2000/2001 for the purpose of defraying part of the cost of constructing the sewerage infrastructure to serve Stages 1, 2 & 3 of the Ayr Industrial Estate including the payment of interest thereon based on the Queensland Treasury Corporation indicative borrowing rate at 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1999, where the registered proprietor/s have indicated in writing that they favoured their share of financing the sewerage infrastructure construction in this manner.

#### **G. Domestic Waste Collection Service**

For the purpose of providing a 240 litre domestic waste service collection, the whole of the Shire is declared a "waste area", which means an area within the Shire in which the Council, utilising the services of its contractor, Townsville Trade Waste Pty. Ltd., undertakes for the storage, collection and conveyance of domestic waste and the disposal thereof.

Within parts of the declared "waste area", occupied land predominantly used for urban, commercial, and industrial purposes, identified within land use codes, the Council shall also, utilising the services of Townsville Trade Waste Pty. Ltd., provide a 240 litre recyclable waste service to be collected on a fortnightly basis.

In the "waste area", the following domestic waste collection charges shall apply for the 2001/02 financial year:

- (i) A charge of **\$155-00** per domestic waste collection service including recyclable waste service per annum shall be made in respect of occupied land where the weekly service of removing garbage and a fortnightly recyclable waste removal service are rendered or available. This includes Class 1, Class 2 or Class 4 buildings or portions of buildings.
- (ii) A charge of **\$107-00** per domestic waste collection service per annum shall be made in respect of occupied land where the weekly service is rendered or available. A recyclable service is not included in this charge. This charge shall only apply where a service is available and rendered and the domestic dwelling on the occupied land is located no further than 400 metres from the collection point. This service may be offered by Council in respect of properties where the domestic dwelling on the occupied

land is located further than 400 metres from the collection point but this shall be absolutely at Council's discretion. In the event of the service being rendered, the said charge shall be applicable.

- (iii) The Council may allow a refund on the domestic waste collection service charge levied or paid in respect of any occupied land provided that the service has been previously discontinued for a period of not less than three (3) months in respect of such land. An application for refund is to be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer.
- (iv) In buildings or portions of buildings classified as Classes 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9, in accordance with the "Building Code of Australia 1996", and where multiple domestic garbage services are provided i.e. more than two services, Council may, on application and with the agreement of the Director of Environment and Health, pursuant to delegated powers from the Chief Executive Officer, allow less than a similar number of recyclable garbage services with a proportionate reduction in charges, depending on the number of domestic garbage services and recyclable services provided.

#### **H. Water Supply Scheme**

In February, 1994 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a strategic framework for the efficient and sustainable reform of the Australian water industry. One aspect of this framework is the greater use of consumption based pricing (often referred to as two part tariffs) for water supplied to customers in urban areas.

In determining charges to apply in respect of the provision of water, the Council is cognisant of the fact that Queensland Local Governments have been given the responsibility to carry out an evaluation of the cost effectiveness of charging for water services under a consumption based two-part pricing policy. Council has been encouraged to embrace the objectives of the reform and review their operations and, if shown to be cost effective, introduce a two-part pricing policy. The outcomes of this form of water supply demand management are aimed at community benefit from:

- Establishment of a charging system more closely aligned to equitable full cost pricing principles (user pays);
- Reduced water consumption resulting in:
  - reduced operational costs,
  - deferment of future augmentation works for water treatment plants and delivery systems, and
  - an improved environmental balance of ground water reserves for future generations.

In introducing reform, Council has resolved to eliminate any concessions for any section of the community in respect of consumption based charging.

Council has expressed concern that the implementation of a pricing structure based on a reduced allocation, and particularly a zero allocation, will have an adverse affect on the amenity of the Shire's towns because of an expected reduction in watering of yards and footpaths as a cost saving exercise.

Council has adopted as the first stage of implementation of a two-part water pricing regime, an annual base allowance of 500 kilolitres per meter for a minimum access charge of \$250. A staged implementation would allow Council to move to a full cost pricing structure (zero allocation) if Council becomes satisfied in future that it is of advantage to do so. Council has agreed to consider, prior to deciding the 2002/03 Budget, whether a further adjustment to full cost pricing to reflect service/meter size (and therefore the instantaneous demand capacity of the service) should be implemented.

- (a) The Council has resolved to introduce a consistent water charging regime for the provision of water and makes water charges for the 2001/02 financial year on the bases set out below to be levied on all land within the Water Area as described below.

**The Water Area shall consist of:**

All land situated in the Shire of Burdekin to which the Council is prepared to supply water including the Ayr/Brandon, Home Hill, Mt. Kelly and Giru Water Supply Schemes and the Airdmillan, Klondyke, Colevale, Groper Creek, Alva and Sutcliffe Water Supply Extensions. A parcel of land shall be deemed to be within a water area if the Council is prepared to supply water to any part of the land.

Such charges shall be levied to defray the cost of constructing the water supply including the payment of interest on and redemption of, the instalments into a sinking fund, in respect of any loan money borrowed for or in respect of such function and the cost of operating, maintaining, and managing the water supply.

The charges shall also apply in respect of any land or other structure, building or place on land that is not rateable under Section 957 of the Local Government Act 1993.

- (b) The basis of the water charges in the Water Area for the 2001/02 financial year shall be: -
- (i) a minimum access charge; and
  - (ii) a consumption (excess) charge for each kilolitre consumed above a set entitlement as registered by a meter installed by Council.
- (c) Except as hereinunder provided, a minimum access charge of **\$250-00** shall be payable in respect of a water connection to any land and building (or part thereof) or other structure whether occupied or not and a minimum access charge of **\$250-00** shall be payable in respect of every parcel of vacant land separately valued for rating purposes to which the water supply is or is not connected.
- (d) For premises containing Lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 or another community title Act, where each Lot and Common Property is capable of separate measurement of water, a minimum access charge of **\$250-00** shall be payable in respect of each and every individual metered water connection point.
- For premises containing Lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 or another community title Act, where each Lot and Common Property is not capable of separate measurement of water, a minimum access charge of **\$250-00** shall be payable in respect of each Lot as if each Lot was provided with an individual metered water connection point.
- The minimum access charge shall be payable from the date of registration of the community titles scheme and shall be payable by the owner.
- (e) A water charge of **\$336-15** consisting of a minimum access charge of \$250-00 and a charge of \$86-15 for the purpose of defraying the cost of constructing the **Sutcliffe Estate Water Supply** including the payment of interest on and redemption of any loan money borrowed for or in respect of such function and the cost of operating, maintaining and managing the water supply shall apply in respect of any land in the Sutcliffe Estate Water Supply area where the registered proprietor or the registered proprietors of such land have indicated in writing that they favoured the financing of the water supply scheme from loan monies and where the water supply is connected.

- (f) Notwithstanding Clause (c) above, in respect of any land connected to the **Groper Creek Water Supply Scheme**, the minimum access charge of **\$250-00** shall not be payable until such time as any land or building (or part thereof) commences to draw water from the water supply scheme.
- (g) The charges in the **Alva Water Supply Area** for the 2001/02 financial year shall be a minimum access charge of **\$250-00** payable in respect of any land, land and building (or part thereof) or other structure whether occupied or not and capable of being separately described by real property description and capable of being transferred as a separate allotment.
- (h) A **pro rata charge** based on **\$250-00** per annum for all land situated in the Water Area shall apply in respect of any parcel of land to which water supply is, or is not connected and which becomes separately valued during the financial year or to which the Chief Executive Officer deems shall be separately valued during the financial year. Such charge is to take effect from the date of possession or date of effect of valuation, whichever is the earlier.

Notwithstanding the above, where a concessional valuation applies under Section 25 of the Valuation of Land Act, a pro rata charge shall not apply, provided that in respect of the subject subdivision in total, a single charge will apply for the full year.

- (i) A building, any part of which is separately occupied or capable of being separately occupied, shall be levied with a minimum access charge in respect of each and every individual metered water connection point, provided the building is in single title ownership.
- (j) Where more than one building is erected on a parcel of land, one of which may be used for residential purposes and any others for business purposes, one minimum access charge shall be levied on such parcel of land in respect of each and every individual metered water connection point provided.
- (k) It is not the intention of Council to levy a minimum access charge in respect of fire hose reels.

Excess Water Charges 2001/02:

- (l) The maximum quantity of water or entitlement which shall be supplied annually through a meter installed in respect of any land or building (or part thereof) or structure without liability being incurred for excess water charges shall be five hundred thousand (500,000) litres.

For any rates assessment with more than one (1) meter, excess water charges shall be calculated individually on the basis of water consumption of each meter. No summing of consumption and water entitlements for that rates assessment will occur.

- (m) The charge for water consumed in the **2001/02 financial year** for all water supplied to any land or structure, building or place for which an excess water charge is to be levied shall be based on the following -

For excess water usage up to and including 500,000 litres – **15 cents** per 1,000 litres.  
For excess water usage above 500,000 litres - **80 cents** per 1,000 litres.

- (n) The charge for excess water shall be payable in addition to the minimum access charge.
- (o) For premises containing Lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 or another community title Act, where each Lot and Common Property is capable of separate measurement of water, excess water charges shall be calculated from the individual water meters serving each lot and common property.

For premises containing Lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 or another community title Act, where each Lot and Common Property is not capable of separate measurement of water, excess water charges shall be calculated from the property primary water meter and charged to the lots proportional to the lot entitlement schedule for the Community Title unless an agreement between the Body Corporate and Council has been entered into pursuant to section 154(4) of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997.

- (p) In respect of fire hose reel services, all existing services are to have meters fitted retrospectively where practicable. All such services will be then capable of being measured in respect of their water consumption and it is the intention of Council to levy a consumption (excess) charge for each kilolitre consumed. Dedicated fire mains are to be installed with no meter and not intended to be metered for consumption. Where a fire hose reel is connected off a dedicated fire main, a combination meter is to be installed and the consumption measurement is to be taken from the low flow (fire hose reel) meter only. Notwithstanding the above, if a minimum access charge is applied to the fire hose reel service, a consumption (excess) charge will apply for consumption above the set entitlement.
- (q) The Council intends to retain two water meter readings per year based on the current format of December and June as an initial frequency and increased readings be considered as consumption trends and predictions are identified accurately and with confidence. Following the December, 2001 meter reading the Council will calculate whether consumption is above the set annual entitlement. If consumption is above the set entitlement, a consumption (excess) charge shall be levied on the landowner based on the excess water charges for 2001/02. Following the June, 2002 meter reading the Council will calculate whether consumption is above the set annual entitlement. If consumption is above the set entitlement, a consumption (excess) charge shall be levied on the landowner based on the excess water charges for 2001/02. The calculation of the consumption (excess) charge will take into account total consumption and the levy of previous charges, if any.
- (r) If any meter in use ceases to register or is reported by an officer of the Council to be out of order or registering inaccurately, the Chief Executive Officer may estimate the charge for the water supplied during the period such meter was not in working order by considering the daily average consumption of a comparative period selected by the engineer or the whole of the previous financial year, whichever is the lowest, and multiplying this average by the number of days the meter is out of order or registering inaccurately. Notwithstanding the above, the Chief Executive Officer may cause a check meter to be installed and estimate the charge upon the registration thereof.
- (s) In the case where the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that there was a previously undetected leak within the property boundaries, the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with delegated powers from the Council, will determine the basis for charging excess water charges. His determination, entirely in his discretion, shall be made either upon the basis of annual consumption over the previous three year period or where there is not a history of excess water usage prior to detection of the leak, and where the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied as to the bona fides of the claim, on the basis that the Chief Executive Officer shall reduce the excess water charges up to an amount of 50% of the amount otherwise payable

Excess Water Charges 2000/01:

- (t) Excluding the Giru Water Supply Area, the maximum quantity of water which shall be supplied annually through a meter installed in respect of any land or building (or part thereof) or structure without liability being incurred for excess water charges shall be one million and forty thousand (1,040,000) litres.

For any rates assessment with more than one (1) meter, excess water charges shall be calculated on the basis of total water consumption less total water entitlement for that rates assessment.

- (u) (i) Excluding the Giru Water Supply Area, the charge for water consumed in the **2000/01 financial year** for all water supplied to any land or structure, building or place except as hereunder defined in Clause (ii), for which an excess water charge is to be levied shall be based on the following -

For excess water usage up to and including 500,000 litres – **70 cents** per 1,000 litres.  
For excess water usage above 500,000 litres and below 1,001,000 litres - **80 cents** per 1,000 litres.  
For excess water usage above 1,000,000 litres – **85 cents** per 1,000 litres.

- (iii) Excluding the Giru Water Supply Area, the charge for water consumed in the **2000/01 financial year** for all water supplied to any land or structure, building or place as specified in the **Second Schedule** below, for which an excess water charge is to be levied shall be based on the following –

For excess water usage up to and including 1,000,000 litres – **70cents** per 1,000 litres.  
For excess water usage above 1,000,000 litres and below 10,001,000 litres – **80 cents** per 1,000 litres.  
For excess water usage above 10,000,000 litres – **85 cents** per 1,000 litres.

The Second Schedule (2000/01 water consumption only)

*Caravan Parks, Hotels, Motels or other buildings used for accommodation of persons (excluding multi-unit buildings used for residential purposes), 24 Hour Service Stations, Schools, Preschools, Kindergartens, Endeavour Farm, Nursing Homes, Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged, Koinonia Place, Sporting Clubs or any parcel of land used for any sporting purposes, Car washes (primary use of land).*

- (v) (i) In respect of the Giru Water Supply Area the maximum quantity of water which shall be supplied annually through a meter installed in respect of any land or building (or part thereof) or structure without liability being incurred for excess water charges shall be eight hundred and forty thousand (840,000) litres.
- (ii) In respect of the Giru Water Supply Area, the charge for water consumed in the **2000/01 financial year** for all water supplied to any land or structure, building or place, for which an excess water charge is to be levied shall be based on the following -

For excess water usage up to and including 150,000 litres - **70 cents** per 1,000 litres.  
For excess water usage above 150,000 litres and below 301,000 litres - **80 cents** per 1,000 litres.  
For excess water usage above 300,000 litres - **85 cents** per 1,000 litres.

- (w) The charge for excess water shall be payable in addition to the minimum water charge.
- (x) For premises containing Lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 or another community title Act, where each Lot and Common Property is capable of separate measurement of water, excess water charges shall be calculated from the individual water meters serving each lot and common property.



For premises containing Lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 or another community title Act, where each Lot and Common Property is not capable of separate measurement of water, excess water charges shall be calculated from the property primary water meter and charged to the lots proportional to the lot entitlement schedule for the Community Title unless an agreement between the Body Corporate and Council has been entered into pursuant to section 154(4) of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997.

- (y) If any meter in use ceases to register or is reported by an officer of the Council to be out of order or registering inaccurately, the Chief Executive Officer may estimate the charge for the water supplied during the period such meter was not in working order by considering the daily average consumption of a comparative period selected by the engineer or the whole of the previous financial year, whichever is the lowest, and multiplying this average by the number of days the meter is out of order or registering inaccurately. Notwithstanding the above, the Chief Executive Officer may cause a check meter to be installed and estimate the charge upon the registration thereof.
- (z) In the case where the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that there was a previously undetected leak within the property boundaries, the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with delegated powers from the Council, will determine the basis for charging excess water charges. His determination, entirely in his discretion, shall be made either upon the basis of annual consumption over the previous three year period or where there is not a history of excess water usage prior to detection of the leak, and where the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied as to the bona fides of the claim, on the basis that the Chief Executive Officer shall reduce the excess water charges up to an amount of 50% of the amount otherwise payable

#### **I. Jerona Electricity Supply**

The Jerona Electricity Supply Special Charge for the **2001/02** financial year to meet the annual interest and redemption on a loan borrowed for the Jerona Electricity Supply shall be **\$85-42**. This charge was introduced following public consultation with the benefited area landowners and after Council considered there were special benefits to landowners by the provision of electricity supply to the area. The benefited area is defined in Table B attached.

#### **J. Wunjunga SBS Translator**

The Wunjunga SBS Translator Supply special charge for the **2001/02** financial year to meet the ongoing cost of repairs and maintenance and electricity supply to the SBS television translator shall be **\$51-17**. The benefited area is defined in Table C attached.

#### **K. Time within which Rates must be Paid**

Rates and charges for the 2001/02 financial year must be paid within 42 days after the rate notice is issued.

#### **L. Discount on Rates and Charges and Incentives for Early Payments**

To encourage the prompt payment of rates and charges, a discount will be allowed on rates and charges levied if the rates and charges, including any arrears, are paid within 42 days after the issue of a rate notice. As a further inducement to encourage ratepayers to pay their annual rates bill early, Council will offer holiday prizes donated by resort owners, managers and sales/marketing personnel at Queensland resorts.

Discount of **10%** is to be allowed on rates and charges (excluding fire service charges & Ayr Industrial Estate Sewerage Special Charges) for the financial year **2001/02** if such rates and charges (including

arrears of rates and charges and fire service charges) are paid in full within 42 days of the date of the service of the rate notice.

Section 1023 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides opportunities for the Council to offer inducements to ratepayers (over and above discount) for ratepayers who pay their annual rates account with any arrears during the discount period. In accordance with conditions attached to a brochure included with the annual rates account, four (4) weekly draws supervised by an Officer of the Ayr Police and an Officer from the Ayr Court House, will be conducted during the rate discount period.

#### **M. Interest on Rates and Charges**

It is Council's policy to ensure that the interests of ratepayers are protected by discouraging avoidance of responsibilities for payment of rates and charges when due. To this end, Council will impose interest on rates and charges which remain unpaid at 30th June next following the levy of the rates and charges. The rate of interest to be charged on rates and charges unpaid at the end of the financial year in which the same become due and payable shall be, in accordance with the Council's policy at a rate of 2% above the variable base business interest rate at the Council's bank, the Commonwealth Bank at the time of adoption of the Council's Annual Budget, this being after the addition of 2%, 9.55% per annum compound interest calculated on daily balances.

#### **N. Remission of Rates and Charges**

It is the Council's policy to provide assistance by way of a remission of rates to eligible pensioners who comply with the policies of Council as identified hereunder.

##### Council Remission

- (A) For the year ended 30th June, 2002, a bona fide pensioner, who is in receipt of a full pension/allowance, or a part pension/allowance of amount equal to or less than thirteen dollars and fifty cents (**\$13-50**) below the amount of a full pension, who produces a Pensioner Concession Card from Centrelink or a Pensioner Concession Card or a Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs, will be allowed a rates remission on property which is the principal place of residence of the pensioner and is owned by the pensioner. This policy shall also extend to bona fide pensioners who either have another bona fide pensioner(s) residing with them under the same roof or have any other person or persons earning an income residing under the same roof and to War Widows who are the holders of a Gold Card. Such rates remission to be calculated as follows -
- (i) **Half the sum** of the relevant General Rates, Water Charges, and Sewerage Charges (excluding garbage charges and excluding those charges levied in respect of water supply extensions, such charges applicable for defraying the cost of the water supply extension including the payment of interest on and redemption of any loan borrowed for the scheme or alternatively any charge where the benefited area landowner has agreed to contribute towards the capital cost of the water supply extension by way of a cash contribution) in respect of a bona fide full pensioner(s), adjusted in accordance with the following sliding scale by a percentage of the maximum allowable remission based on the sum of the dollar differences between the amount of pension(s) received by the applicant pensioner(s) and the amount of the applicable full pension(s);

## Pensioner Remission Policy Sliding Scale

Dollar Difference Interval Between Pension(s) Received and Applicable Full Pension(s)	Percentage of Maximum Allowable Remission
From	
1 cent to \$1-50	93%
\$1-51 to \$2-50	86%
\$2-51 to \$3-50	79%
\$3-51 to \$4-50	72%
\$4-51 to \$5-50	64%
\$5-51 to \$6-50	57%
\$6-51 to \$7-50	50%
\$7-51 to \$8-50	43%
\$8-51 to \$9-50	36%
\$9-51 to \$10-50	29%
\$10-51 to \$11-50	21%
\$11-51 to \$12-50	14%
\$12-51 to \$13-50	7%

plus

- (ii) Discount of 10% will be allowed on the gross amount of rates and charges and before the deduction of Council remission and any State Government subsidy if rates and charges, together with any arrears, if any, are paid within 42 days of the service of a rate notice. Notwithstanding the provisions of this clause, eligible pensioners will be entitled to the State Government subsidy up to an amount of \$180-00 as per the State Government subsidy policy referred to hereunder, even if Council rates are not paid within the discount period.

Notwithstanding the above,

- (a) the Council may in its discretion consider any case on its merits where special circumstances apply; and allow such remission as it sees fit up to the maximum remission.
- (b) a remission shall be allowed to a bona fide pensioner in accordance with clauses (i) and (ii) above, who is in receipt of a pension/allowance, who produces a Pensioner Concession Card from Centrelink or a Pensioner Concession Card or a Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and who occupies a dwelling in respect to which a **life tenancy** has been granted by way of Will only and providing there is no provision in the Will which relieves the life tenant of the obligation to pay the rates and charges levied in respect of the property and providing such property is the principal place of residence of the pensioner.
- (c) a remission shall be allowed to a bona fide pensioner in accordance with clauses (i) and (ii) above, who is in receipt of a pension/allowance, who produces a Pensioner Concession Card from Centrelink or a Pensioner Concession Card or a Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and who is in part ownership with other bona fide pensioners who do not necessarily reside at the premises providing that each pensioner not living at the premises shall not be entitled to a remission of rates on more than one property.

- (d) a remission shall be allowed to a bona fide pensioner in accordance with Clauses (i) and (ii) above and who is a resident of an Institution caring for the aged, including hospitals and Blue Nursing Units, providing the principal place of residence remains vacant.

Notwithstanding the above, the maximum allowable rates remission in respect of Clause (a) shall be set at **\$342**. For the 2001/02 financial year, the maximum entitlement of \$342 shall be allowed after Council discount has been deducted from gross rates and charges levied in respect of the assessment

Applications for remission of rates and charges are to be received on or before 30th June of each year. The amount of pension payable at time of the application will determine the level of remission of rates and charges.

To receive a remission as hereinbefore described, rates and charges must be paid in full together with arrears, if any, within 42 days of the service of the rate notice.

A remission granted pursuant to this section is only applicable for the period of time that the applicant pensioner is the owner of the property and all requirements set out above remain fulfilled. If the principal place of residence is disposed of during the year, a supplementary rates notice will be issued to the owner of the property representing the proportionate share of the remission from date of sale to 30th June next.

State Government Subsidy :

- (B) For the year ending 30th June, 2002, an approved pensioner as defined in guidelines for the State Government's Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme, shall be entitled to a State Government subsidy equivalent to 20 per cent of the cost of gross rates and charges levied, excluding any amount in excess of **\$900** per annum levied. For the 2001/02 financial year, the maximum entitlement of up to \$180 shall be allowed after Council discount has been deducted from gross rates and charges levied in respect of the assessment. Notwithstanding the provisions of this clause, eligible pensioners will be entitled to the State Government subsidy up to an amount of \$180-00 as per the State Government subsidy policy referred to hereunder, even if Council rates are not paid within the discount period.

Donations' Policies :

- (C) For each financial year in the seweraged areas of Ayr, Brandon and Home Hill, donations equivalent to remission of half the sum of the relevant sewerage charges (excluding garbage charges and after discount if applicable) in respect of second and subsequent pedestals and/or urinals at premises or land used for private schools, churches, welfare and youth organisations, sporting purposes and public halls, excluding premises licensed under the Liquor Act will be made to the relevant community organisations immediately upon payment in full, together with arrears if any, of all levied rates and charges and that the Council may, in its discretion, consider any case on its merits where special circumstances apply and make such donations as Council considers appropriate.

**O. General Charges**

The Council shall by resolution fix charges for services and facilities supplied by it, including but not limited to those services and facilities referred to in Section 974 of the Local Government Act 1993. Such charges will generally be contained in the Schedule of Fees and Charges as adopted by Council from time to time.

## **P. Unfunded Depreciation**

This Budget includes an unfunded depreciation of \$1,708,672 over the next three year period. Unfunded depreciation results from not having enough current revenue to meet Council's depreciation costs on its business and infrastructure assets. By unfunding depreciation, Council is making a conscious decision to write down the capital (net worth) of the Council and indicates that assets such as roads:-

- may not be replaced at least in their current form in the future; or
- may be replaced only by extra loan funding or by additional external income.

The determination of unfunded depreciation and the affected assets will be refined during 2001/02 as asset valuations, revaluations and depreciation schedules review are completed.

The Burdekin Shire Council is intending to fund depreciation charges in the next three years to the extent of 85%, 89% and 94% respectively.

The unfunded depreciation across the three (3) years is identified as follows:

Year	2002	2003	2004
Roads	\$756,037	\$501,383	\$325,970
Water	48,299	67,035	9,948
Total	\$804,336	\$568,418	\$335,918

G.J. Webb  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

### Revenue Policy for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004

Under Section 520(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Council's Revenue Policy for the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 is required to be specified in general terms.

In general terms, the Burdekin Shire Council intends to maintain a revenue policy that includes;

- Determination of general rates on the bases of six differential categories which will be maintained with a minimum general rate for each category;
- Determination of utility and special charges per utility connection and/or provision on user pay principles for the relevant services of sewerage, water, garbage etc.; and
- Allowance of remission of rates to approved pensioners;
- Allowance of discount during the applicable discount period.



*Deputy Mayor, Treena List  
and Administration  
Support Officer, Janice  
Horan sort through some  
of the Burdekin's  
historical photographs*

*Cox Street /  
Chippendale Street  
Roundabout*







**Burdekin Night Alert  
Supervisor Frances  
MacConachie at the  
award winning Waste  
Transfer Station**

**Graham Andersen  
(from left), James  
Kennedy and Tano  
Buono at the  
Landcare centre in  
Brandon (premises  
provided free of  
charge by Council)**



## Policies on Rebates and Concessions

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The Council's Policy on remission of rates and charges for pensioners and donations to churches, sporting bodies and not for profit organisations is identified under Section N in the Revenue Policy.

## Particulars of Rebates and Concessions Allowed in Respect of Rates and Charges

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### Council Remissions

Rates and Charges Remitted to Pensioners .....	\$287,719
Number of Applications .....	898

### Donations

Standing Donations to Churches, Sporting Bodies etc .....	\$71,800
Number of Applications .....	49

## Library Statistics

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### Statistics

	2000/2001	2001/2002
Membership	10,014	9,290
Membership as % of population	53.16%	49.32%
Total book stock	56,500	53,610
AV Sound (spoken word, music)	2,061	1,688
AV Videos	919	1,031
CD Roms	82	60
Annual circulation – Issues (excluding renewals)	175,293	168,088
Discarded library stock - sale receipts	\$1,140.40	\$1,266.80



# Elected Members Meeting Attendances

**councillor JOHN FREDERICK WOODS**

Chairman of Full Council and the following Standing Committees:  
Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Standing Committees:  
Health & Environment Committee, Planning & Development Committee and Combined Works Committee.

Chairman of the following Advisory Committees:  
Aerodrome Advisory Committee; Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Enterprise Bargaining Committee; Home Hill Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; and Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group.



Representative of the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:  
Burdekin Shire Disaster Mitigation Plan Advisory Group; Town of Home Hill Flood Study Advisory Group; and Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee.

Chairman of the following Statutory Committees:  
Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; and Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Enterprise Bargaining Committee.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:  
Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust; South Burdekin Water Board; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; North Queensland Local Government Association Executive; North Queensland River Trust Association Executive.

1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	20	2
Planning & Development	22	20	2
Combined Works Committee	22	20	2
Administration & Finance Committee	12	10	1
Health & Environment Committee	12	9	1
	90	79	8

Other: 47

Aerodrome Advisory Committee; Ayr Central Business District Beautification and Improvements Committee; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Burdekin Shire Disaster Mitigation Plan Advisory Group; Enterprise Bargaining Committee; Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; Enterprise Bargaining Committee; Home Hill Business District Beautification and Improvements Committee; South Burdekin Water Board; Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group; Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee; North Queensland Local Government Association Executive; North Queensland River Trusts Association Executive; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; North Queensland Local Government Association Conference; North Queensland River Trusts Association Conference; and Miscellaneous.

**Total** 126

**councillor GRAHAM HENRY ANDERSEN**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Chairman on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Roads Development Working Group.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee (Delegate); Workplace Health & Safety Committee (Delegate); Enterprise Bargaining Team; and Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group.



Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee (LAWMAC); Ayr Chamber of Commerce; Burdekin Landcare Group.

1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	21	1
Planning & Development	22	21	1
Combined Works Committee	22	21	1
Administration & Finance Committee	12	11	1
Health & Environment Committee	12	11	1
	90	85	5

Other:

49

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee (Delegate); Enterprise Bargaining Team; Workplace Health & Safety Committee (Delegate); Roads Development Working Group; LAWMAC; Ayr Chamber of Commerce; Burdekin Landcare Group; Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; and Miscellaneous.

Total	134
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**councillor LLEWELYN REES DAVIES**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Burdekin Shire Disaster Mitigation Plan Advisory Group; Burdekin Weeds Advisory Committee; Home Hill Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee (Delegate); Internal Audit Committee; Roads Development Working Group; and Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Development Council Inc.; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; and Home Hill Chamber of Commerce.



1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	22	-
Planning & Development	22	21	-
Combined Works Committee	22	22	-
Administration & Finance Committee	12	12	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	12	-
	90	89	-

Other:

74

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Development Council Inc.; Burdekin Shire Disaster Mitigation Plan Advisory Group; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; Home Hill Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee (Delegate); Home Hill Chamber of Commerce; Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Burdekin Weeds Advisory Committee; Internal Audit Committee; Roads Development Working Group; Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; North Queensland Local Government Association Conference; and Miscellaneous.

<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>
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**councillor MARLENE LORRAINE HENAWAY**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Chairman of the following Advisory Committees:

Burdekin Road Safety Advisory Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Ayr Central Business District Beautification and Improvements Committee; Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group; and Equal Employment Opportunity Committee.



<b>1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002</b>			
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Meetings Convened</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business</b>
Full Council	22	21	-
Planning & Development	22	21	-
Combined Works Committee	22	18	-
Administration & Finance Committee	12	12	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	11	-
	90	83	-

Other:

21

Ayr Central Business District Beautification and Improvements Committee; Burdekin Road Safety Advisory Committee; Equal Employment Opportunity Committee; Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; Local Government Association Conference; North Queensland Local Government Association Conference; Miscellaneous.

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Total	104
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**councillor ALDYTH CHRISTINE HYDEN**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Aerodrome Advisory Committee; Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee; and Internal Audit Committee.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Neighbourhood Centre; Burdekin Development Council Inc.; and Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements.



1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	15	-
Planning & Development	22	17	-
Combined Works Committee	22	12	-
Administration & Finance Committee	12	9	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	10	-
	90	63	-

Other:

19

Aerodrome Advisory Committee; Internal Audit Committee; Burdekin Neighbourhood Centre; Burdekin Development Council Inc.; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; and Miscellaneous.

<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>
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**councillor DAVID REGINALD JACKSON**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:  
 Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:  
 Aerodrome Advisory Committee; Home Hill Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; and Burdekin Road Safety Advisory Committee.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:  
 Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Tourism Advisory Committee of Townsville Enterprise Board; and North Queensland Sports Foundation.



1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	21	1
Planning & Development	22	22	-
Combined Works Committee	22	22	-
Administration & Finance Committee	12	12	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	12	-
	90	89	1

Other:

62

Aerodrome Advisory Committee; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Burdekin Road Safety Advisory Committee; Home Hill Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; North Queensland Sports Foundation; Tourism Advisory Committee of the Townsville Enterprise Board; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; and Miscellaneous.

Total	151
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**councillor TREENA PATRICIA LIST**

Chairman on the following Standing Committees:  
Health and Environment Committee

Representative on the following Standing Committees:  
Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Chairman of the following Advisory Committees:  
Internal Audit Committee.



Representative on the following Advisory Committees:  
Ayr Central Business District Beautification and Improvements Committee; Burdekin Shire Disaster Mitigation Plan Advisory Group; Enterprise Bargaining Team; Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee; and Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:  
Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc. Enterprise Bargaining Committee; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee (LAWMAC) (Delegate); and North Burdekin Water Board.

1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	20	1
Planning & Development	22	20	1
Combined Works Committee	22	20	1
Administration & Finance Committee	12	11	1
Health & Environment Committee	12	11	1
	90	82	5

Other:

91

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc. Enterprise Bargaining Committee; Burdekin Shire Disaster Mitigation Plan Advisory Group; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; Enterprise Bargaining Team, Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee; Internal Audit Committee; LAWMAC (Delegate); North Burdekin Water Board; Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; and Miscellaneous.

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Total	173
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**councillor LOU LOIZOU**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Burdekin Weeds Advisory Committee; and Home Hill Business District Beautification and Improvements Committee.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Crimestoppers; and Water Use Efficiency Management Group.



1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	22	-
Planning & Development	22	22	-
Combined Works Committee	22	22	-
Administration & Finance Committee	12	12	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	12	-
	90	90	-

Other:

38

Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Home Hill Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Weeds Advisory Committee; Burdekin Crimestoppers; Water Use Efficiency Management Group; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; Local Government Association Conference; and Miscellaneous.

<b>Total</b>		128	
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**councillor MARLENE EVELYN PARISON**

Chairman on the following Standing Committees:

Combined Works Committee.

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Town of Home Hill Flood Study Committee; Town of Ayr Flood Study Committee; Burdekin Weeds Advisory Committee; Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee; Town of Home Hill Flood Study Advisory Group; and Roads Development Working Group (Delegate).



Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust.

1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	21	1
Planning & Development	22	21	1
Combined Works Committee	22	21	1
Administration & Finance Committee	12	12	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	12	-
	90	87	3

Other:

57

Burdekin Local Government Counter Disaster Committee; Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust; Burdekin Weeds Advisory Committee; Horseshoe Lagoon Drainage Steering Committee; Roads Development Working Group (Delegate); Town of Ayr Flood Study Advisory Group; Town of Home Hill Flood Study Advisory Group; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; and Miscellaneous.

<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>
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**councillor PETER JOSEPH HENRY PETERSEN**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee; Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; and Workplace Health and Safety Committee.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; and Burdekin Development Council Inc.



1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002			
Meeting	Meetings Convened	Meetings Attended	Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business
Full Council	22	19	-
Planning & Development	22	19	-
Combined Works Committee	22	19	-
Administration & Finance Committee	12	12	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	12	-
	90	81	-

Other:

35

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Burdekin Development Council Inc.; Workplace Health & Safety Committee; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; North Queensland Local Government Association Conference; and Miscellaneous.

<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>
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## **councillor WARREN FRANCIS TAME**

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Planning and Development Committee.

Representative on the following Standing Committees:

Combined Works Committee; Health & Environment Committee; and Administration and Finance Committee.

Representative on the following Advisory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Ayr Central Business District Beautification and Improvements Committee; and Workplace Health and Safety Committee.

Representative of the following Statutory Bodies or Local/Regional Groups:

Burdekin Community Association; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Burdekin Development Council Inc.; and Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements.



<b>1 / 7 / 2001 to 30 / 6 / 2002</b>			
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Meetings Convened</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Meetings Absent Whilst on Council Business</b>
Full Council	22	16	1
Planning & Development	22	18	1
Combined Works Committee	22	17	1
Administration & Finance Committee	12	10	-
Health & Environment Committee	12	10	-
	90	71	3

Other:

43

Ayr Central Business District Beautification & Improvements Committee; Burdekin Cultural Complex Board Inc.; Committee to Review Senior Executive Officers' Employment Arrangements; Workplace Health & Safety Committee; Burdekin Community Association; Burdekin Development Council Inc.; Budget; Special Full Council; Works Inspections; Local Government Association Conference; and Miscellaneous.

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<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>
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## Resolution on Elected Members Remuneration

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Pursuant to section 379 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Council at its meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2000 recorded a resolution fixing the remuneration of Councillors. The resolution authorises the payment to Councillors of remuneration for their services in respect of the following:

- Council Meetings.
- Committee Meetings.
- Meetings concerning Local Government and community matters.
- Deputations, inspections, conferences, training and educational seminars in relation to duties as Councillors.
- All other matters relating to the carrying out by Councillors of their duties.

The full text of the resolution is available for perusal at the office of the Chief Executive Officer.

At the Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2000 it was further resolved that remuneration to Councillors shall be paid by comparing the duties of a Councillor with the role, duties, responsibilities and characteristics applicable to a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Queensland. The basic annual salary payable to an MLA will include any variations approved by the Queensland Parliament. At 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000 the annual salary for an MLA was \$91,500.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 the annual salary for an MLA was \$95,100. Annual % increase from \$91,500 to \$95,100 = 3.9% approximately. Thus allowances and meeting fees for 2001/2002 were as follows:

Mayor Allowance	\$66,570 p.a.
Deputy Mayor	\$6,657 p.a.
Meeting: 4-8 hours	\$274
Meeting: 2-4 hours	\$137
Meeting: 0-2 hours	\$69
Annual Allowance – Councillors including Deputy Mayor	\$951
Annual Allowance – Mayor	\$1,427

## Total Remuneration and Superannuation Contributions Paid to Councillors

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**1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

Councillor	Mayor's Allowance	Meeting and Acting Mayor's Allowance	Car Allowance	Total	Council's 12% Superannuation Contributions Paid
<b>WOODS, J.F.</b>	67,996.00	-	-	67,996.00	8,182.33
<b>HENAWAY, M.L.</b>	-	17,465.00	-	17,465.00	2,095.80
<b>HYDEN, A.C.</b>	-	13,415.00	840.00 (townstay) 3,528.00 (car)	17,783.00	2,134.06
<b>LIST, T.P.</b>	-	27,743.00	-	27,743.00	3,329.18
<b>LOIZOU, L.</b>	-	20,145.00	3,267.00	23,412.00	-
<b>PARISON, M.E.</b>	-	19,869.00	2,572.00	22,441.00	2,692.96
<b>TAME, W.F.</b>	-	19,010.00	47.00	19,057.00	2,286.96
<b>ANDERSEN, G.H.</b>	-	20,896	-	20,896.00	2,507.52
<b>DAVIES, L.R.</b>	-	24,465.00	-	24,465.00	2,935.80
<b>JACKSON, D.R.</b>	-	19,659	2,618.00	22,277.00	2,673.28
<b>PETERSEN, P.J.H.</b>	-	18,153.00	-	18,153.00	2,178.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$67,996.00	\$200,820.00	\$12,872.00	\$281,688.00	\$31,016.25

## Changes to Tenders

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### **List of Action taken Under Section 488(2) - Changes to Tenders during the Year**

There were no Council resolutions made to change tender specifications.

## Calling for Expressions of Interest

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### **List of all Resolutions during the Year Under Section 489(1) - Short Listing After Calling for Expressions of Interest**

The Council did not resolve to invite expressions of interest before inviting tenders.

## Equal Employment Opportunity

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The Council forwarded its EEO Management Plan and EEO Annual Forward Plan - 1996/98 to the Director, Department of Local Government and Planning on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1996. Advice has been received back from the Department that both plans are supported.

## Public Sector Ethics Act Requirements

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A draft Code of Conduct for both Councillors and employees was prepared in 2001/02. It is anticipated that consultation and adoption of the Code will be undertaken in 2002/2003.

# Borrowings Policy

The Council adopted the following policy in respect of borrowings for the 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 financial years at its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2001.

## Legislation

In accordance with S450 of the Local Government Act 1993 and S7 of the Local Government Finance Standard 1994 the following is a statement of the Burdekin Shire's policy about borrowings.

## New Borrowings

New borrowings planned for the current financial year and the next two financial years

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>2001/02</i>	<i>2002/03*</i>	<i>2003/04*</i>
Water	-	130,000	180,000
Sewerage	-	-	112,000
Roadworks	1,600,000	2,100,000	1,850,000
Drainage	600,000	485,000	100,000
Plant	210,000	320,000	300,000
CBD Revitalisation	177,000	455,000	305,000
SES Headquarters	285,000	-	-

\* The 2002/2003 & 2003/2004 financial years have been amended to reflect proposed borrowings recorded at the Budget Meeting held on 16/7/2002.

The proposed borrowings are planned to be repaid over notional terms from six (6) up to fifteen (15) years as part of Council's consolidated debt with the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

## Existing Borrowings

The Council's debt is performing well with all accounts ahead of schedule as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2002.

<i>Account</i>	<i>Debt Pool</i>	<i>Book Value</i>	<i>Remaining Term</i>	<i>Expected Term</i>	<i>Years Ahead</i>
Plant	3 year	\$440,287.69	1.30 years	1.13 years	0.17 years
Plant 2 A/c	6 year	\$206,702.99	5.89 years	5.82 years	0.07 years
Ayr Industrial Estate	6 year	\$720,880.97	4.91 years	4.58 years	0.33 years
Water	6 year	\$321,930.10	7.00 years	6.60 years	0.40 years
Roadworks	6 year	\$4,696,915.19	7.08 years	6.63 years	0.45 years
Roadworks 2 A/c	9 year	\$1,586,935.73	9.89 years	9.78 years	0.11 years
Properties	9 year	\$3,015,345.11	10.52 years	9.08 years	1.44 years
CBD Revitalisation	9 year	\$177,383.57	9.96 years	9.89 years	0.07 years
Drainage	12 year	\$771,712.54	12.12 years	11.71 years	0.41 years
Drainage A/c	15 year	\$600,621.17	14.98 years	14.87 years	0.11 years
SES A/c	15 year	\$283,714.84	14.89 years	14.76 years	0.13 years

## Donations - Other

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The Council makes various donations through the year to assist in community development. The table below summarizes the extent of donations made. These donations are in addition to the rebates and concessions allowed in respect of rates and charges.

Donations - Welfare Associations	\$46,523
Donations - Cultural Activities	\$31,923
Donations - Entrepreneurial Fund	\$51,000
Donations - Burdekin Cultural Complex Board	\$283,000
Donations - Sporting Clubs/Associations	\$18,251
Donations - Life Saving/Beach Patrol	\$6,789
Donations - Economic Development, Tourism and Promotions	\$30,921

## Revenue Assistance Policy

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The Council has a Revenue Assistance Policy whereby funds are allocated to meet the costs of improvements on land owned or controlled by the Council. Funds are provided usually to sporting and community based organisations in the form of interest free loans repayable over an agreed period of time.

Budget Approvals in 2001/2002 were as follows:-

Burdekin Netball Association Inc.	\$30,734-00
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## Grants for Excellence in Sports & Cultural Activities

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The Council has a small fund from which to allocate subsidies to those individuals under the age of 18 years selected to represent the State or Nation in a sporting or cultural event. Certain criteria must be met.

**Recipients in 2001/2002 are as follows:**

<b>Kris Kodega</b> - Queensland North U18 Yrs Men's Basketball Team	\$225
<b>Alita Dales</b> - Queensland Secondary Schools' Golf Team	\$225
<b>Jason Fowler</b> - Queensland North U18 Yrs Men's Basketball Team	\$225
<b>Amy McCarthy</b> - Queensland North U18 Yrs Women's Basketball Team	\$225
<b>Rachel Mulcahy</b> - Queensland Primary Girls' Touch Team	\$225
<b>Mark Newman</b> - North Queensland State Tenpin Bowling Team	\$150
<b>Lauren Oar</b> Queensland North U18 Yrs Women's Basketball Team	\$225
<b>Michael Pappalardo</b> Queensland North U18 Yrs Men's Basketball Team	\$225
<b>Leanne Robertson</b> Queensland Under 14 Yrs Soccer Team	\$225
<b>Terrence Steel</b> - Queensland Under 15 Yrs Hockey Team	\$225
<b>Katrina Stevenson</b> - Queensland Primary School Track & Field Team	\$225
<b>Jamie Statham</b> 3 Years & Under – Greg Norman Junior Masters	\$225
<b>Joel Torrisi</b> Country Queensland U15 Yrs – National Talent Identification Championships Under 15 Yrs Identified Players Tour of UK	\$225 \$300
<b>Christopher Woods</b> Queensland Junior Darts Team	\$225
<b>Russell Zonta</b> Queensland 16 Years & Under Hockey Team	\$225

# National Competition Policy

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Council at its meeting held on 28 March, 2002 resolved to apply the Code of Competitive Conduct to all of Council's nominated business activities by 30 June, 2003 in accordance with the Implementation Plan (Appendix 1) contained in the Report – "Burdekin Shire Council Full Cost Pricing, February 2002", such activities being:

- Other Roads,
- Recoverable Works,
- Refuse Management,
- Water & Sewerage, and
- Workshop.

In addition, the Council further resolved to nominate new business activities for consideration of Financial Incentive Package Scheme (FIPS) funding in accordance with the Implementation Plan (Appendix 1) contained in the Report – "Burdekin Shire Council Full Cost Pricing, February 2002", such activities being:

- Caravan Parks,
- Plant Management, and
- Roads (tendered MRD)

In respect of recoverable works carried out for the Department of Main Roads, an overhead calculation is carried out to reflect the full cost of the project being carried out. This pricing has been accepted by the Department of Main Roads. The overhead calculation includes an allowance for the following expenditures:

- Network Stewardship – Includes salary component for Executives, supervision, survey and design, costing, Workplace Health & Safety, Information Technology, Administration and associated plant.
- Office Overheads – Includes allowance for software upgrade, floor area, electricity, telephone, stationery and insurance.
- Contingencies and Profits

## **COAG Water Reform**

The Council resolved to implement a two part tariff from 1 July, 2002.

Council originally considered a report titled 'Two Part Pricing Policy – First Report 25<sup>th</sup> February 1999' and its meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1999. In the report, no attempt was made to provide a definite recommendation. At that time it was believed the main concern was the extent of information that was provided and identification of any areas of concern that may require a more detailed report so that Council was comfortable about being fully informed.

Subsequent to this, a memo from the Director of Development dated the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2001 was prepared and tabled at a meeting of the Councils Administration and Finance Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2001. The Council recorded four resolutions as a result of this memo as follows:

- Moved, seconded that Council adopt as the first stage of implementation of a Two-Part Water Pricing Policy, an annual base allowance of 500 kilolitres per meter for an access fee of \$250 with excess water usage charged at:
  - 15 cents per kilolitre for consumption greater than 500 kilolitres and up to 1,000 kilolitres; and
  - 80 cents per kilolitre for consumption greater than 1,000 kilolitres.

- Moved, seconded that Council implement, on a stage basis, a revised Two-Part Water Pricing Policy which would allow Council to move to a full cost pricing structure (zero allocation) if Council becomes satisfied that it is of advantage to do so.
- Moved, seconded that Council consider, prior to deciding its 2002/2003 budget, whether a further adjustment to full cost pricing to reflect service/meter size (and therefore the instantaneous demand capacity of the service) should be implemented.
- Moved, seconded that any funding received by Council under the National Competition Policy initiative for the introduction of a Two-Part Water Pricing Policy be credited to the Water and Sewerage Reserve Fund for the purpose of providing sufficient funds for adjusting charges if necessary after the first year of introduction.

During 2001/02 the Council considered reports from the Director of Development in relation to the proposed Water Pricing Policy to be implemented for the period 2002/03 to 2007/08.

At the Planning and Development Committee meeting held on 23 May, 2002 the Council resolved as follows:

Moved, seconded that the following pricing structure be adopted for water supply for 2002/03:

Access Charge -	\$240 for zero allocation
Consumption Charges -	10 cents per kilolitre for usage from 0 to 1,000 kls 50 cents per kilolitre for usage over 1,000 kls

Moved, seconded that in respect of Water Supply Charges for 2002/03, no charging concessions be granted to consumers given that many community groups are already better off under the new pricing structure and there will be adverse implications of such a proposal on other ratepayers (any concessions given as a community service obligation will impact negatively on Council's General Rate).

### **Implementation of two part tariffs**

- **Access Charge**  
The Access Charge of \$240 for 2002/03 per meter installation meets the fixed cost of operating and maintaining the system, taking into account the fixed and variable cost components.
- **Fixed external environmental costs**  
At this stage no external environmental costs have been accurately defined and costed but a potential has been identified and a need for further analysis exists. Ground water replenishment is part of the costing structure.
- **Customer groups**  
The allocation of the fixed access charge across customer groups has not reflected the cost and magnitude of the potential service capacity at this time. Council will further refine the policy to look at access charge compared to meter size. Council pricing policy is consistent for all user groups.
- **Volumetric Charge/long run marginal costs**  
Consideration of long run marginal costs was carried out as part of the review but Council's main focus for the pricing structure was to provide a system that did not significantly affect one particular group or user as a result of the initial change.

Demand management and equity consideration were more significant considerations for the initial consumption based price structure.

- **Additional capacity for growth**  
Due to previous very high allocations and the evaluation of consumption trends Council believes the new pricing structure will introduce significant water conservation and they will review the pricing structure as

compared to demand over the next two to three years before introducing factors for additional capacity. At this time growth is low and if demand management is achieved to the level anticipated future growth in demand may not be a significant factor.

- **External and congestion costs**

Early indications are that congestion costs should not be a factor.

- **Seasonal variations**

Demand and pricing factors will not significantly alter as a result of seasonal variations as it is not considered to be relevant to the water supply system operated by Council.

### **Consumption Based Charging**

Consumption charge was based on the statistical consumption figures of each property to achieve a desired total income without a significant change in pricing for any one particular user group.

Pricing structures were subject to computer modelling to achieve the desired result. The estimated proportion of access and consumption (volume) charges generated by residential and others is as follows:-

	<b>Access Charge</b>	<b>Access %</b>	<b>Consumption Charge</b>	<b>Consumption %</b>
Residential	\$1,341,641	88.10	\$403,226	75.00
Other	\$ 181,135	11.90	\$133,998	25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,522,776</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$537,224</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### **Complaints Procedure**

Council at its meeting held on 26 June, 2002 resolved to establish a process for resolving complaints by affected persons about failure to comply with the competitive neutrality principles applying to the various business activities subject to the Code of Competitive Conduct.

## Registers Kept Open for Inspection

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- Register of Councillors' Material Personal Interest
- Register of Delegation by Local Government
- Register of Delegation by Chief Executive Officer
- Register of Council Policy
- Register of Local Laws
- Register of Subordinate Local Laws
- Register of Authorisations
- Register of Fees and Charges
- Register of Enterprises
- Register of Gifts

Financial

**Statements**

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