



AGENDA

Budget Committee Meeting Friday, 3 June 2022

I hereby give notice that a Meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on:

Date: Friday, 3 June 2022

Time: 9.00am

**Location: Warren Truss Chamber
45 Glendon Street
Kingaroy**

**Mark Pitt PSM
Chief Executive Officer**

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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- 1 OPENING**
- 2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE / APOLOGIES**
- 3 RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**
- 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2022

File Number: 3/6/2022

Author: Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2022 be received.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2022**



MINUTES

Budget Committee Meeting Friday, 27 May 2022

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**MINUTES OF SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE WARREN TRUSS CHAMBER, 45 GLENDON STREET, KINGAROY
ON FRIDAY, 27 MAY 2022 AT 9.00AM**

PRESENT:**Councillors:**

Cr Brett Otto (Mayor), Cr Jane Erkens, Cr Danita Potter, Cr Kirstie Schumacher, Cr Kathy Duff, Cr Scott Henschen

Council Officers:

Mark Pitt (Chief Executive Officer), Tim Low (Acting General Manager Infrastructure), Peter O'May (General Manager Community), Kerri Anderson (Manager Finance and Sustainability), Kevin Searle (Manager Works), James Darcy (Manager Infrastructure Planning), Carolyn Knudsen (Manager Corporate Services), Adam Branch (Acting Manager Water and Wastewater), Donna Brown (Coordinator Infrastructure Support), Craig Patch (Coordinator Finance), Maxine Campbell (Strategic Asset Management Accountant), Rebecca Humphey (Manager People and Culture), Bree Hunt (Executive Assistant)

1 OPENING

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Lords Prayer and welcomed all attendees.

2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE / APOLOGIES**APOLOGY**

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/56

Moved: Cr Brett Otto
Seconded: Cr Kathy Duff

That the apology received from Cr Jones be accepted and leave of absence granted.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Cr Duff acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting took place.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

Attendance:

At 9:01am, Cr Scott Henschen entered to the meeting.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2022

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/57

Moved: Cr Danita Potter

Seconded: Cr Kathy Duff

That the Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2022 be received.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

6 BUSINESS

Attendance:

At 9:05am, Strategic Asset Management Accountant Maxine Campbell entered the meeting.

6.1 INTERNAL EMPLOYEES SKILL DEVELOPMENT AGAINST EXTERNAL RESOURCES PROJECT DELIVERY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/58

Moved: Cr Kathy Duff

Seconded: Cr Danita Potter

That Council note the report to assist with further development of the 2022/23 budget.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

6.2 WONDAI CBD CONCEPT PLANNING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/59

Moved: Cr Danita Potter

Seconded: Cr Scott Henschen

That Council note the report and consider this item in relation to the development of the 2022/23 budget.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

6.2.1 QUESTION ON NOTICE - WONDAL CBD CONCEPT PLANNING

Question on Notice from Cr Kirstie Schumacher:

What does Council need to make the Wondai CBD Concept Planning project happen and when would we need to fund it?

Attendance:

At 9:26am, Manager Infrastructure Works James Darcy left the meeting.

At 9:26am, Coordinator Infrastructure Support Donna Brown left the meeting.

At 9:40am, Coordinator Finance Craig Patch entered the meeting.

At 9:41am, Coordinator Infrastructure Support Donna Brown returned to the meeting.

At 9:45am, Executive Assistant Bree Hunt left the meeting.

At 9:47am, Executive Assistant Bree Hunt returned to the meeting.

At 9:55am, Coordinator Infrastructure Support Donna Brown left the meeting.

6.3 WATER & WASTEWATER PROPOSED CAPEX PROGRAM 22/23

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/60

Moved: Cr Danita Potter

Seconded: Cr Kirstie Schumacher

That the Committee receive the proposed 2022-2023 draft budget for the water and wastewater Capex program and provide guidance for inclusion in the continued preparation of the full South Burnett Regional Council 2022-2023 annual budget as amended.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/61

Moved: Cr Danita Potter

Seconded: Cr Kirstie Schumacher

That the Committee recommends to Council:

That Council consider the forward borrowings and debt policy with a view to moving the 22/23 borrowings to the 23/24 financial year.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

Attendance:

At 10:03am, Coordinator Infrastructure Support Donna Brown returned to the meeting.

6.4 TRIAL OF PROPRIETARY DUST SUPPRESSANT ON LANIGAN ROAD GLAN DEVON

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/62

Moved: Cr Kirstie Schumacher

Seconded: Cr Scott Henschen

That Council note this report and further discussions to be held on 3 June 2022 at the Budget Committee Meeting.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

ADJOURN MORNING TEA

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/63

Moved: Cr Brett Otto

Seconded: Cr Scott Henschen

That the meeting adjourn for morning tea.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0**Attendance:**

At 10:19am, Manager Works Kevin Searle left the meeting.

At 10:19am, Coordinator Infrastructure Planning Donna Brown left the meeting.

At 10:19am, Acting Manager Water and Wastewater Adam Branch left the meeting.

RESUME MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/64

Moved: Cr Brett Otto

Seconded: Cr Kirstie Schumacher

That the meeting resume at 10:51am.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

6.5 INTEREST ON OVERDUE RATES 2022/2023

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/65

Moved: Cr Scott Henschen

Seconded: Cr Danita Potter

That the committee recommend to Council:

1. That pursuant to Section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, compound interest on daily rests at the rate of eight point one seven percent (8.17%) per annum is to be charged on all overdue rates or charges.
2. Council determine that rates or charges will be considered as overdue for the charging of interest if they remain unpaid after thirty (30) days from the due date of the relevant rate notice.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

6.5.1 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND RATE COLLECTION POLICY

RESOLVED 2022/66

A review of the Financial Hardship Policy – Statutory012 and Rate Collection Policy – Statutory041 be brought to the June Executive and Finance & Corporate Standing Committee Meeting.

Attendance:

At 11:27am, Manager People and Culture Rebecca Humphrey entered the meeting (online).

6.6 BUILDINGS & FACILITIES PROPOSED CAPEX PROGRAM 22/23

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/67

Moved: Cr Danita Potter

Seconded: Cr Kathy Duff

That the Committee receive the proposed 2022-2023 draft budget for the buildings and facilities capex program and provide guidance for inclusion in the continued preparation of the full South Burnett Regional Council 2022-2023 annual budget as amended.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

6.6.1 PRIORITY ITEMS - KINGAROY POOL

RESOLVED 2022/68

A list of priority items for the Kingaroy pool be brought to a future budget meeting.

Attendance:

At 11:34am, Manager People and Culture Rebecca Humphrey left the meeting (online).

7 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**7.1 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2022/69

Moved: Cr Kathy Duff

Seconded: Cr Scott Henschen

That the responses to the questions raised by received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Jane Erkens, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher, Kathy Duff and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

8 CONFIDENTIAL SECTION**9 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Meeting closed at 11:36am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Budget Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2022.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

6 BUSINESS

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - BLACKBUTT TOWN DUMP UPGRADE AND MAIDENWELL TRANSFER STATION

File Number: 3/6/2022

I, Councillor Brett Otto, give notice that at the Budget Committee Meeting to be held on 3 June 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

The Committee recommend to Council:

1. That Council does not process to fund the upgrade to the Maidenwell Transfer Station within the capital budget for 2022/2023 and;
2. That Council apply such funding towards the upgrade of the Blackbutt dumping facility to a Town Dump standard to allow for the dumping of commercial, green waste, recyclable and other products as currently provided to the residents of other designated towns and;
3. That the proposed upgrade to the Blackbutt facility be scoped and costed for inclusion in Council's future capital and OPEX budget deliberations for 2022/2023.

RATIONALE

The Maidenwell Transfer Station upgrade project is experiencing delays in land acquisition. The project cost could possibly increase to circa \$400,000 due to increased costs. This will need to be considered in the 2022/2023 capital budget.

I have inspected the existing transfer station facility at Maidenwell and found it be to be well catered for, neat and tidy and in my view, certainly sufficient to meet the needs of the small village of Maidenwell and surrounds.

As such, I find it difficult to justify the capital expenditure, as well as the 'Whole of Life Costing', particularly in light of the need for an additional truck to service the upgraded skip bins.

Blackbutt however, is a growing residential and commercial township for which I believe the capital expenditure and whole of life costs may well be justified.

Residents have repeatedly raised concerns about having to drive to Nanango to dump products not accepted at Blackbutt.

To support the growth of the Blackbutt community as a town in its own right, a proper dump facility is necessary and also fair and consistent with council's services to other designated 'towns'.

Blackbutt does have the commercial need and population demand that is not evident in Maidenwell.

CORPORATE PLAN:

GR8 Support and advocate for appropriate growth and development with responsive planning schemes, processes, customer service and other initiatives

EN3 Continue to provide and investigate options to improve waste reduction, landfill management and recycling

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.2 WORKS PROPOSED CAPEX PROGRAM 22/23**File Number:** 27.05.2022**Author:** Manager Works**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer**PRECIS**

Works capex program 22/23 budget

SUMMARYConsideration of the works capex program for the 22/23 budget

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive the proposed 2022-2023 draft budget for the Works Capex program and provide guidance for inclusion in the continued preparation of the full South Burnett Regional Council 2022-2023 annual budget as presented / amended.

BACKGROUND

The capex program proposed for the 22/23 year for works is up for deliberations. The program includes projects that will have funding through Building Better Regions Funding (BBRF), Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI), Roads to Recovery, Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), SafeST funding and Works for Queensland Round 4 (W4Q4). It is acknowledged that this program may need to be relooked at and amended prior to the adoption of the 22/23 budget depending on final funded depreciation figures and any external funding program which may affect these asset classes.

That the Committee give direction on the proposed works capex program for inclusion in the 22/23 budget preparations.

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

6.3 PROPOSED WASTE 22/23 CAPEX PROGRAM**File Number:** 03.06.2022**Author:** Manager Finance & Sustainability**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer**PRECIS**

Draft Waste capex program 22/23 budget

SUMMARYConsideration of the draft Waste capex program for the 22/23 budget

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive the proposed 2022-2023 draft budget for the Waste Capex program and provide guidance for inclusion in the continued preparation of the full South Burnett Regional Council 2022-2023 annual budget as presented / amended.

BACKGROUND

The capex program proposed for the 22/23 year for waste is up for deliberations. In general waste relies heavily on restricted cash from yearly operating surpluses to fund their program as this asset class has limited depreciation available to fund projects.

That the Committee give direction on the proposed waste capex program for inclusion in the 22/23 budget preparations.

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

6.4 NRM & PARKS PROPOSED CAPEX 22/23**File Number:** 03.06.2022**Author:** Manager Finance & Sustainability**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer**PRECIS**

NRM & Parks draft capex program for 22/23 Budget

SUMMARY

Consideration of the draft NRM & Parks capex program for the 22/23 budget

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive the proposed 2022-2023 draft budget for the NRM & Parks Capex program (excluding Works for Queensland projects) and provide guidance for inclusion in the continued preparation of the full South Burnett Regional Council 2022-2023 annual budget as presented / amended.

BACKGROUND

The proposed capex program for the 22/23 year for NRM & Parks is up for deliberations. While the program currently has proposed projects to be funded under Works for Queensland funding, Council has indicated that they will consider the W4Q funding program separately and therefore the projects included in this program are projects which have received previous approval from Council for inclusion in the W4Q program. The allocation identified for projects approved for delivery in 2021/22 is the balance of funds (*i.e., project allocation less funds already spent*) for projects yet to be fully delivered.

It is acknowledged that this program may need to be reconsidered at and amended prior to the adoption of the 22/23 budget depending on final funded depreciation figures and any external funding program which may affect these asset classes.

That the Committee give direction on the proposed NRM & Parks capex program (excluding Works for Queensland projects which will be looked at separately) for inclusion in the 22/23 budget preparations

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

6.5 ICT PROPOSED CAPEX PROGRAM 22/23 BUDGET**File Number:** 03.06.2022**Author:** Manager Finance & Sustainability**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer**PRECIS**

ICT capex program 22/23 budget

SUMMARYConsideration of the ICT capex program for the 22/23 budget

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive the proposed 2022-2023 draft budget for the ICT Capex program and provide guidance for inclusion in the continued preparation of the full South Burnett Regional Council 2022-2023 annual budget as presented / amended.

BACKGROUND

The capex program proposed for the 22/23 year for ICT is up for deliberations. ICT currently funds all its projects through funded depreciation.

That the Committee give direction on the proposed ICT capex program for inclusion in the 22/23 budget preparations.

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

6.6 PROPOSED FLEET 22/23 CAPEX PROGRAM**File Number:** 03.06.2022**Author:** Manager Finance & Sustainability**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer**PRECIS**

Fleet capex program 22/23 budget

SUMMARYConsideration of the fleet capex program for the 22/23 budget

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive the proposed 2022-2023 draft budget for the Fleet Capex program and provide guidance for inclusion in the continued preparation of the full South Burnett Regional Council 2022-2023 annual budget as presented / amended.

BACKGROUND

The capex program proposed for the 22/23 year for fleet is up for deliberations. Fleet uses depreciation, restricted cash and revenue from sale of old fleet to fund its program.

That the Committee give direction on the proposed fleet capex program for inclusion in the 22/23 budget preparations.

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

6.7 2021-24 WORKS FOR QUEENSLAND (W4Q) PROGRAM**File Number:** 03.06.2022**Author:** General Manager Community**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer**PRECIS**

2021-24 Works for Queensland (W4Q) Program.

SUMMARY

South Burnett Regional Council has been allocated a total of \$5,630,000 over 3 financial years under the 2021-2024 W4Q program.

Council initially provided a list of overarching projects to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning as required which have subsequently been approved.

Council confirmed approval for projects for Year 1 (21/22) of the 3-year program at Council's General Meeting 24/11/2021.

To confirm projects for inclusion in the 2022/23 Budget and ensure timely delivery of the program, Council's confirmation of individual projects for the balance of 2021-24 W4Q Program is requested.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the committee recommend to Council

1. That South Burnett Regional Council endorse the following projects for completion under the 2021-24 Works for Queensland Program and inclusion in future capital/operational budgets.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

\$5,630,000 has been approved for South Burnett Regional Council under this current round of Works for Queensland (W4Q), with all projects to be completed by 30 June 2024. Whilst most projects will be capital projects, operational maintenance works are eligible for funding if projects align with the W4Q guidelines. Additional resources required to complete project will be funded within the allocation provided.

LINK TO CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

South Burnett Regional Council Corporate Plan 2021-26

EC1 Develop and implement initiatives to enhance community parks, gardens and recreational facilities, which may include: tree planting strategy, botanical gardens and perennial (drought tolerant) shrubs and flower planting programme.

EC2 Develop and implement CBD Renewal and Revitalisation Programmes for areas of our townships including service standards for maintenance and cleaning programmes.

EC5 Continue to support, renew and maintain pools, libraries, halls and Customer Service Centres across our region at agreed service levels.

IN7 Develop a secure and reliable urban and rural water supply system through increased allocations, upgraded and renewed infrastructure and pricing models.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION (INTERNAL/EXTERNAL)

Several workshops have been held with Council, and staff across Council to collate potential projects. Total projects far outweigh the approved allocation however a draft program was developed, and Council provided a list of overarching projects to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning at the commencement of the program as required. These overarching projects were subsequently approved.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY BASIS, LEGAL RISKS)

Not Applicable

POLICY/LOCAL LAW DELEGATION IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There will be a mix of capital upgrades and potentially new asset projects included within the W4Q program. New and upgraded assets will be included with Council's asset register requiring a commitment from Council to depreciate and maintain these assets. There will also be several projects that involve the renewal of existing Council assets where renewal and maintenance works are completed.

REPORT

The Works for Queensland (W4Q) grant program is designed to create jobs across regional Queensland by supporting Councils to undertake job creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects.

South Burnett Regional Council has been allocated \$5,630,000 under the 2021-2024 W4Q program.

Council has provided a list of overarching projects to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning which have subsequently been approved.

Extract - Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes 28 April 2021

10.8 W4Q FUNDING 2021-2024

RESOLUTION 2021/1

Moved: Cr Scott Henschen

Seconded: Cr Danita Potter

That Council endorse the submission of a list of nominated projects under the 2021-24 Works for Queensland Program for assessment by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning under the following categories:

1. Open Space Refurbishments - \$2,000,000
Upgrade of parks and open space areas including tree plantings, gardens, fixtures and furniture.
2. Infrastructure Upgrades - \$1,000,000
Footpath rehabilitation, stormwater rehabilitation, street furniture, minor landscaping improvements as part of town renewal projects in Kumbia and Wondai Main Streets.
3. Infrastructure Upgrades - \$2,000,000
The upgrade of Kingaroy water storages to increase security which will include construction of reservoirs and associated pipe works.
4. Community Building Upgrades and Maintenance – \$630,000
Community building maintenance including refurbishments, painting and security improvements. Refurbishments include Murgon PCYC bathrooms, upgrade of

public amenities buildings within Wondai Parks and minor maintenance and painting across a range of community buildings.

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Gavin Jones, Kathy Duff, Roz Frohloff, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

This W4Q round covers three (3) financial years, however Council may decide the allocation of projects across the three financial years with Council having until 30 June 2024 to deliver the approved projects.

A list of potential projects included under the overarching projects was prepared and workshopped with Council, however on adoption of the 2021/22 budget, Council resolved to reconsidered W4Q project allocations.

Council confirmed approval for projects for Year 1 (21/22) of the 3-year program at Council's General Meeting 24/11/2021.

RESOLUTION 2021/2

Moved: Cr Kirstie Schumacher

Seconded: Cr Gavin Jones

That Council endorse the following projects for completion under the 2021 - 2024 Works for Queensland Program with the program balance yet to be confirmed.

Project Type / Project Title	Description	Proposed allocation	21/22	22/23
CBD Renewal - Infrastructure Upgrades		\$1,000,000		
Kumbia CBD	Improve entry aesthetics and accessibility on Bell St, Kumbia.			\$300,000
Community Building Upgrades and Maintenance		\$830,000		
Murgon			\$180,000	
Across Region	Operational maintenance		\$100,000	\$100,000
Open Space Refurbishments		\$1,800,000		
Aerodrome Fencing	Kingaroy and Wondai		\$370,000	
Murgon Park / Amenities Upgrades	QEII Park renewal		\$150,000	\$150,000
Proston Parks	Railway Park renewal		\$50,000	
Kingaroy Park / Amenities Upgrades	Kingaroy Park Redevelopment of Lions Park		\$100,000	

Wondai Park / Amenities Upgrades	Upgrade amenities x 3 [McKell, Dingo Creek & Coronation].		\$100,000	
Regional Park / Amenities Upgrades	Benarkin Park renewal		\$140,000	
Water Infrastructure Upgrades		\$2,000,000		
Mt Wooroolin Reservoir	Design Phase			\$250,000
			\$1,190,000	\$800,000
	Allocation	\$5,630,000		
	Current Projects Total	\$1,600,000		
	Unconfirmed Balance	\$3,930,000		

In Favour: Crs Brett Otto, Gavin Jones, Kathy Duff, Roz Frohloff, Danita Potter, Kirstie Schumacher and Scott Henschen

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

Cost increases and Council commitments to further projects under the W4Q 2021-24 program (*Mondure Hall restumping \$125,000 Council Meeting 23/2/2022, Wondai Free Camp drainage \$150,000 Standing Committee 11/5/2022*) have meant the remaining draft project costs exceeds the total allocation.

To confirm projects for inclusion in the 2022/23 Budget and ensure timely delivery of the program, Council's confirmation of individual projects for the balance of W4Q 2021-24 Program is requested.

The draft projects was presented to Council and discussed at Council's budget workshop on 30/5/2022.

The current program including original draft projects requiring Council's confirmation has been attached for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft 2021-24 Works for Queensland (W4Q) Program 30.05.2022 [!\[\]\(4ca93d483368796553b119843a17a6d1_img.jpg\)](#) 

Works for Queensland - 2021-24

Project Type	Project Title	Description	Value	Construction Year	21/22	22/23	23/24	Total	
CBD Renewal - Infrastructure Upgrades			\$1,000,000						
	Kumbia CBD	Improve entry aesthetics and accessibility on Bell St, Kumbia.	\$ 300,000	22/23		\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Wondai CBD	Scott St (Roundabout to Edward St)	\$ 700,000	23/24			\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	Confirmation required
Community Building Upgrades and Maintenance			\$830,000						
	Murgon	Regional facility upgrades to recreational, commercial and disaster management buildings - bathroom upgrades, asbestos's removal and repainting. (PCYC bathroom upgrade \$380K, Murgon Shop removal of asbestos's and repainting \$140K, Blackbutt SES removal or asbestos's and repainting \$40K)	\$ 560,000	21/22	\$ 180,000	\$ 380,000		\$ 560,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Across Region	Regional repainting program i.e. Nanango Energy Centre	\$ 70,000	22/23		\$ 70,000		\$ 70,000	Potential reallocation
	Across Region	Opex maintenance	\$ 200,000	21/22	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 200,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Across Region	Opex maintenance	\$ 200,000	22/23		\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000	To offset \$200,000 reduction in Opex Budget
	Mondure	Restumping of Mondure Hall	\$ 125,000	22/23		\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000	Approved by Council Resolution 23/02/2022
		Subtotal	\$1,155,000		\$280,000	\$875,000			Project Total overallocation
			\$325,000						
Open Spaces Refurbishments			\$1,800,000						
	Aerodrome Fencing	Kingaroy and Wondai	\$ 370,000	21/22	\$ 370,000			\$ 370,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
		Additional expenditure for Kingaroy and Wondai fencing	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000			\$ 40,000	Increased steel / project costs
	Murgon Park / Amenities Upgrades	QEII Park renewal	\$ 300,000	21/22 (150k), 22/23 (150k)	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000		\$ 300,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Murgon Dog Park	Dog Park (50k)	\$ 50,000	22/23		\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	Potential reallocation
	Proston Parks	Railway Park renewal	\$ 50,000	21/22	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Murgon Park	Install ball sports half court	\$ 50,000	22/23		\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	Potential reallocation
	Kingaroy Park / Amenities Upgrades	Kingaroy Park Redevelopment - Detailed design and delivery of master plan	\$ 680,000	21/22 (100k Lions Park), 22/23 (580k Master Plan)	\$ 100,000	\$ 580,000		\$ 680,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Wondai Park / Amenities Upgrades	Upgrade amenities x 3 [McKell, Dingo Creek & Coronation].	\$ 100,000	21/22	\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Public Amenities Refurbishments	Priority 1 - Butter Factory (Nanango) - New Amenities	\$ 100,000	22/23		\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	Butter Factory Park Priority project
	Regional Park / Amenities Upgrades	Benarkin Park renewal	\$ 140,000	21/22	\$ 140,000			\$ 100,000	Approved by Council Resolution 24/11/2021
	Regional Park / Amenities Upgrades	Wondai 24 hr Camping Grounds drainage improvements	\$ 150,000	21/22		\$ 150,000			Committee Resolution 2022/338 (11/5/2022)
		Subtotal	\$ 2,030,000		\$ 950,000	\$ 1,080,000			Project Total overallocation
			\$230,000						
Water Infrastructure Upgrades			\$2,000,000						
	Kingaroy Water Security Trunk Infrastructure Upgrades - Priority Projects	Mount Wooroolin Reservoir - \$5M total project cost (\$3M borrowing)	\$ 2,000,000	23/24		\$ 250,000	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 2,000,000	Confirmation required
		Total	\$ 6,185,000		\$ 1,230,000	\$ 2,505,000	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 6,185,000	
					\$ 1,150,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,950,000	Allocation Approved to Date
		Allocation	\$5,630,000		-\$80,000	-\$1,705,000	-\$2,450,000	-\$4,235,000	
		Balance	-\$555,000.00					\$3,680,000	Remaining Allocation
								-\$555,000	

6.8 COUNCILLOR SALARY INCREASE FROM 1ST JULY 2022**File Number: 03.06.2022****Author: Manager Finance & Sustainability****Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer****PRECIS**

Local Government Remuneration Commission Report on Councillor Wage Increase from 1st July 2022

SUMMARY

The annual report published by the Local Government Remuneration Commission has been released with the updated remuneration schedule for Councillors applying from 1st July 2022 being announced.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received for information.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Remuneration Commission is an independent entity established under the *Local Government Act 2009*. The Commission is responsible for determining the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the Councillors each year. The Commission have released the remuneration schedule for the 2022-2023 financial year, applicable from 1 July 2022. These figures are shown below.

Remuneration determined (from 1 July 2022) (\$ per annum; see Note 1)				
Category	Local governments assigned to categories	Mayor	Deputy mayor	Councillor
Category 2	Mareeba Shire Council Mount Isa City Council Somerset Regional Council	\$127,366	\$76,421	\$63,684
Category 3	Cassowary Coast Regional Council Central Highlands Regional Council Gympie Regional Council Isaac Regional Council Livingstone Shire Council Lockyer Valley Regional Council Maranoa Regional Council Noosa Shire Council Scenic Rim Regional Council South Burnett Regional Council Southern Downs Regional Council Tablelands Regional Council Western Downs Regional Council Whitsunday Regional Council	\$135,866	\$84,912	\$72,174

The total effect this 2% increase has on the yearly budget has been outlined below for Council's consideration.

	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
2021/2022 Remuneration	\$ 133,196	\$ 83,247	\$ 70,759
2022/2023 Remuneration	\$ 135,860	\$ 84,912	\$ 72,174
Increase	\$ 2,664	\$ 1,665	\$ 1,415
<i>Total effect on budget (not including Super)</i>			\$ 11,404

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the inclusion of the updated remuneration schedule for Councillor in the 2022/2023 budget preparations

For reference S.274 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states the following:

247 Remuneration payable to councillors

- (1) *A local government must pay remuneration to each councillor of the local government.*
- (2) *The maximum amount of remuneration payable to a councillor under the remuneration schedule must be paid to the councillor, unless the local government, by resolution, decides the maximum amount is not payable to the councillor.*
- (3) *In a resolution made under subsection (2), the local government must also decide the amount of remuneration payable to the councillor.*
- (4) *The amount of remuneration decided under subsection (3) for each councillor must not be more than the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the councillor under the remuneration schedule.*
- (5) *The amount of remuneration for each councillor, other than a mayor or deputy mayor, must be the same.*
- (6) *The local government must make a resolution under subsection (2), for the remuneration payable from 1 July of a particular year, before 1 July of that year.*
- (7) *Subsections (4) and (5) are subject to section 248.*

Note – S.248 refers to a Submission to vary remuneration in exceptional circumstances which would apply if the local government considered that, having regard to exceptional circumstances, a councillor of its local government is entitled to an amount of remuneration that is more than the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the councillor under the remuneration schedule. A council may make a submission to the remuneration commission for approval.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Local Government Remuneration Commission 2021 Report** [!\[\]\(d6acf67311aadd559a1d2a684dfb2f56_img.jpg\)](#) 

Local Government Remuneration Commission

Annual Report 2020-21



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Any references to legislation are not an interpretation of the law. They are to be used as a guide only. The information in this publication is general and does not consider individual circumstances or situations. Where appropriate, independent legal advice should be sought.

An electronic copy of this report is available at www.dsdlgp.qld.gov.au.

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Local Government Remuneration Commission

14 December 2021

The Honourable Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
1 William Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Minister

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On 30 November 2021, the Local Government Remuneration Commission (Commission) concluded its determination of the levels of remuneration for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors of Queensland local governments (excluding Brisbane City Council) as required by section 177(c) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 8, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Our determinations on these matters, together with the Remuneration Schedule to apply from 1 July 2022 are included in the enclosed Report, which we commend to you.

Yours sincerely



Robert (Bob) Abbot OAM
Chair Commissioner



Andrea Ranson
Commissioner



Reimen Hii
Commissioner



2021 Report key determinations

Determination of maximum remuneration levels

The Commission has decided to increase the maximum remuneration levels for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors by 2.0% from 1 July 2022.

In making its determination, the Commission considered the following:

- › Increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) compared to the same quarter 12 months prior:
 - for the period December 2020 Quarter: ¹
 - Weighted average of the eight capital cities: +0.9%
 - Brisbane: 1.0%
 - for the 12 month period ending on 31 March 2021: ²
 - Weighted average of the eight capital cities: +1.1%
 - Brisbane: 1.7%
 - for the financial year ended 30 June 2021: ³
 - Weighted average of the eight capital cities: +3.8% per cent
 - Brisbane: +4.9 per cent
 - for the 12 month period ending on 30 September 2021: ⁴
 - Weighted average of the eight capital cities: +3.0%
 - Brisbane: 3.9%
- › Increases in the Wage Price Index (WPI) for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 as compared to the financial year ending 30 June 2020: ⁵
 - Australia (All Industries): +1.5%
 - Queensland (All Industries): +1.6%
 - Queensland and Australia (Public Sector): +1.3%
- › Average Weekly Earnings for the period of May 2020 to May 2021: ⁶
 - Australia (All Industries): +2.3%
 - Australia (Public Sector): +1.7%
 - Queensland (All Industries): +0.2%
 - Queensland (Public Sector): +0.8%

¹ Source: *Consumer Price Index (report), December quarter 2020*, Queensland Government Statisticians Office, Queensland Treasury.

² Source: *Consumer Price Index (report), March quarter 2021*, Queensland Government Statisticians Office, Queensland Treasury.

³ Source: *Consumer Price Index (report), June quarter 2021*, Queensland Government Statisticians Office, Queensland Treasury.

⁴ Source: *Consumer Price Index (report), September quarter 2021*, Queensland Government Statisticians Office, Queensland Treasury.

⁵ Source: *Wage price index, Queensland and Australia, 1997–98 to 2020–21*, Queensland Government Statisticians Office, Queensland Treasury; and *Wage Price Index Australia, September 2021*, All WPI Series: Original (Financial Year Index Numbers for year ended June quarter), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This data represents the average hourly pay across all employment types and does not take into account issues such as the impact of COVID-19 and any increase or decrease of part-time or casual worker hours.

⁶ Source: *Average weekly earnings, Queensland and Australia, 1981–82 to 2020–21*, Queensland Government Statisticians Office, Queensland Treasury; and *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, May 2021*, Australian Bureau of Statistics. This data represents the average weekly gross take-home earnings for all workers and takes into account factors such as the impact of COVID-19. The Commission is aware that the majority of Queensland public servants did receive a wage increase of 2.5% for some of this period but it was paid retrospectively in September 2021 and would not be included in this data. The large increase will be reflected in 2021–22 data.

⁷ Source: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia, Week ending 13 September 2021

-
- › Average Queensland Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages for the period of: ⁷
 - 14 August to 13 September 2021: Jobs +0.2%; Wages +2.2%
 - 12 September 2020 to 13 September 2021: Jobs +3.0% per cent; Wages +5.1%
 - › As in previous years the Commission considered the Brisbane City Council's Independent Councillor Remuneration Tribunal (ICRT) remuneration determination as a potentially relevant factor. However, the ICRT reviews and resets Brisbane City Councillor remuneration arrangements every five years. The last increase was in 2017, at which time the ICRT accorded a 2.0% increase to salaries effective 1 July 2018. In its 20 November 2019 Report, the ICRT determined not to make any changes outside of its four yearly remuneration review cycle. The Commission also notes that in April 2020, the ICRT announced a two year freeze on wages.
 - › In its 31 May 2020 determination, the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal (QIRT) determined that the Base and Additional Salary rates for members would be increased by:
 - 0% with effect on and from 1 September 2019;
 - 2.0% with effect on and from 1 September 2021;
 - 2.25% with effect on and from 1 March 2022; and
 - 2.5% with effect on and from 1 September 2022.
 - › On 1 March 2021, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) made Wages Determination: Certification of Salary Schedules (Wages Determination) which varied the State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2019 (the 2019 Certified Agreement) to:
 - set the salary rate for public service employees under the core agreement at 1 September 2020 as the award rate current at that time (this will be the rate upon which annual increases will be made);
 - align the salary increase dates for public service employees as follows:
 - 2.5% wage increase from 1 September 2019;
 - 2.5% wage increase from 1 September 2021;
 - 2.5% wage increase from 1 March 2022; and
 - 2.5% wage increase from 1 September 2022.
 - › Decision of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal of Western Australia determination dated 8 April 2021: no increase, and no changes to any council's category.
 - › Decision of the New South Wales Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Determination and Annual Report dated 23 April 2021: 2.0% increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable in each category and that the current allocation of councils into the current categories of councils is appropriate.

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⁷ Source: Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia, Week ending 13 September 2021

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- › Decision of the Victorian Minister for Local Government: two per cent increase effective on 1 December 2019 – no update available since 2019. It is noted that a review is currently underway as a result of the passing of the Local Government Act 2020 which transfers the responsibility for determining mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.
- › In Tasmania, the remuneration for local government councillors is automatically increased under the provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015. The increase, effective 1 November 2021, is an automatic indexation of local government allowances provided for under the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) by multiplying the allowances for the previous year by the inflationary factor (determined by calculating the current year's June quarter Wage Price Index divided by the previous years' June Wage Price Index).
- › In the Northern Territory, the allowances for local government council members are indexed by CPI (Darwin) at 1 July each year.
- › The application of principles of consistency and austerity, and general consideration of recent conservative wage review practices in both the public and private sectors.
- › The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and signs of Queensland's improving economic recovery, and the disparity between different parts of the State.
- › The Commission's inability to project the long-term impacts of COVID-19 with certainty.

The Commission also had regard to anecdotal reports and submissions received about:

- › The impact of economic hardship experienced by local communities during and following the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters of 2019-2020.
- › The potential disproportional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions throughout the State particularly rural and remote communities.
- › The economic cost to communities of interruption to businesses and employment.
- › The significant economic volatility and contraction during 2020 and the recent optimistic rebound in economic activity.
- › The need to ensure sustainability for local governments and their communities.
- › Local governments' role in Queensland's post COVID-19 economic recovery and development.

The Commission also gratefully acknowledges the submissions received this year which have assisted in its discharge of its statutory obligations.

Councillor advisors

In the 2020-2021 year, the Commission did not receive any direction or request to make recommendations relating to councillor advisors in the period between 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021.

Category review and future actions

The Act requires the Commission to review the categories of local governments once every four years, in the year prior to each quadrennial election. The next review of the categories is due in 2022.

In its 2019 report, the Commission determined not to make any category changes to the categories of local government. In its 2019, and 2020 report, the Commission stated its intention to undertake an analysis of the categories in the period 2020-2021, after the 2020 quadrennial Queensland Local Government Elections. This anticipated analysis has been delayed in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the rolling-lockdowns experienced throughout Queensland and Australia generally. COVID-19 has inevitably resulted in an increased focus on other priorities for Queensland local government. The Commission commends all local government members for their on-going contribution to their communities and the State of Queensland.

The Commission intends to undertake a category review during 2022 and will engage with and invite submissions from councils and stakeholders commencing in early 2021.

In addition to the category review due in November 2022, the Commission intends to conduct a general review of its methodology in determining its maximum remuneration, categories, and functions in early 2022. After the scope of the general review has been formulated, the Commission will also invite submissions from councils and stakeholders to assist it in its general review.

To that end, the Commission intends to issue practice directions to assist councils and stakeholders to engage with and make relevant submission to the Commission to inform and assist in the discharge of the Commission's statutory functions.

1. The Commission

Formation and composition

The Local Government Remuneration Commission (the Commission) is an independent entity established under the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act). On 1 October 2019, His Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council, approved three new appointees to the Commission for a term of four years.

This is the second report of the new Commission, and the fourteenth report including the reports of the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal and the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The current Chair and Commissioners of the Commission are:

Mr. Robert (Bob) Abbot OAM

Chair

Mr. Abbot has extensive experience in the local government sector with 32 years as an elected councillor and mayor. Mr. Abbot has experience working at state and national local government organizations and has held board and panel positions, including Deputy Chair of the South East Queensland Council of Mayors, Director of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), and Director of the Australian Local Government Association. Mr. Abbot has been a mentor for newly elected mayors on behalf of the LGAQ, with a particular focus on mentoring Queensland Indigenous mayors.

In the Australia Day 2020 Honours List, Mr. Abbot was the recipient of an Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to local government and to the communities of Noosa and the Sunshine Coast.

Ms. Andrea Ranson

Commissioner

Ms. Ranson is a lawyer with extensive experience in public and private sector business and governance. Ms. Ranson brings substantial legal experience in commercial, industrial, and equal opportunity law, ethics, and justice. Ms. Ranson is a Nationally Accredited Mediator currently working with the Queensland Civil

and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT), and a member of the Department of Justice Dispute Resolution Panel and Aboriginal Working Group. Ms. Ranson is appointed as a Non-Executive Director to the Board of North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation, a government owned corporation. Ms. Ranson is Chair of the Corporate Governance & Planning Committee and a Member of the Audit & Financial Risk Management Committee of that Board. Ms. Ranson holds a Master of Laws (LLM), Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Arts from Monash University. She is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Directors (GAICD) and a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA).

Mr. Reimen Hii

Commissioner

Mr. Hii is a barrister and Nationally Accredited Mediator. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts. He is a practicing lawyer with extensive knowledge in public administration and community affairs, and a particular interest in civil and commercial law. Mr. Hii is experienced in professional discipline matters, including investigations, public administration, corporate and public governance, public sector ethics and finance. Mr. Hii has a culturally and linguistically diverse background and experience working with diverse communities. Mr. Hii has previously been recognized as Australian Young Lawyer of the Year by the Law Council of Australia, in recognition of his significant contribution to access to justice and diversity advocacy. Mr Hii provides a deep understanding of diversity and brings well respected analytic skill, together with legal and business acumen to the role.

Remuneration responsibilities

Chapter 6, Part 3 of the Act, proclaimed into force on 3 December 2018, established the Local Government Remuneration Commission to assume the remuneration functions of the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal which ceased to exist on 3 December 2018.

Section 177 of the Act provides the functions of the Commission are:

- › to establish the categories of local governments, and
- › to decide the category to which each local government belongs, and
- › to decide the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the councillors in each of the categories, and
- › to consider and make recommendations to the Minister about the following matters relating to councillor advisors—
 - (i) whether or not to prescribe a local government under section 197D(1)(a);
 - (ii) the number of councillor advisors each councillor of a local government may appoint;
 - (iii) the number of councillor advisors a councillor of the council under the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* may appoint; and
- › another function related to the remuneration of councillors if directed, in writing, by the Minister.

Chapter 8, Part 1, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Regulation) sets out the processes of the Commission in deciding the remuneration that is payable to councillors.

The Regulation requires the Commission to review the categories of local governments once every four years, in the year prior to each quadrennial election, to determine

whether the categories and the assignment of local governments to those categories require amendment.

After determining the categories of local governments, the Regulation also requires the Commission to decide annually, before 1 December each year, the maximum amount of remuneration to be paid to mayors, deputy mayors and councillors in each category from 1 July of the following year.

In addition, section 248 of the Regulation allows a local government to make a submission to the Commission to vary the remuneration for a councillor, or councillors, to a level higher than that stated in the remuneration schedule where the local government considers exceptional circumstances apply. The Commission may, but is not required to, consider any such submission. If the Commission is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist, the Commission may approve payment of a higher amount of remuneration.

On 12 October 2020, the *Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020* and section 197A of the *Local Government Act 2009* came into force. These changes formed part of the Queensland Government rolling reform agenda in the local government sector to further strengthen transparency, accountability and integrity measures that apply to the system of local government in Queensland.

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Section 197A of the Act established requirements for councils that wish to employ councillor advisors and councillor administrative support staff to assist councillors complete their duties. The role of councillor advisors is currently restricted to Brisbane City Council and to those councils within category 4 to 8 as prescribed by this Commission.

The requirements in relation to the appointment of councillor advisors include the following:

- › must vote to pass a resolution to create councillor advisor positions (except Brisbane City Council)
- › appoint advisor, at the discretion of councillors and only until the councillor's term ends, unless re-appointed by a new councillor
- › must report the costs of councillor advisors to the community, for example through the council's annual report.

Requirements for councillor advisors include the following:

- › they must submit registers of interests and keep them up-to-date
- › they must follow a new Code of conduct for councillor advisors in Queensland
- › they must comply with the local government principles and can be found guilty of integrity offences.

A dedicated telephone hotline (07 3452 6747 – available between the hours of 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday) has been established by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning to respond to any questions regarding councillor advisors.

Alternatively, email enquiries can be forwarded to lgreforms@dlgrma.qld.gov.au.

The Commission is yet to receive any submissions or enquiries in relation to councillor advisors as at the date of its determination.

2. Remuneration determination

Remuneration determination for councillors

As required by section 246 of the Regulation the Commission has prepared a remuneration schedule for the 2022-2023 financial year, applicable from 1 July 2022 (the Schedule), which appears below.

Arrangements have been made to publish the Schedule in the Queensland Government Gazette and for this Report to be printed and presented to the Minister for Local Government.

Methodology

The Commission had regard to the matters in section 244 and 247 (2), (5) of the Regulation in determining the Schedule. The Commission also noted and had regard to the matters listed on pages 6 to 9 of this Report to determine the appropriate maximum remuneration in each category of local government.

The Commission notes it did not receive any specific submissions from councils in relation to setting the remuneration schedule for the 2020-2021 financial year and has continued to adopt a conservative approach to setting remuneration levels.

Matters not included in the remuneration schedule

During the 2021 consultation period, Rockhampton Regional Council sought clarification and approval in relation to the payment of Deputy Mayors or Councillors at the level of a Mayor when they are acting in the capacity of Acting Mayor for a period of longer than one month.

The Commission notes that:

- (a) s.247(2) of the Regulation provides that the maximum amount of remuneration payable to a councillor under the remuneration schedule must be paid to the councillor, unless the local government, by resolution, decides the maximum amount is not payable to the councillor, and decides another amount is payable;

- (b) s.247(5) of the Regulation states that the amount of remuneration for each councillor, other than a mayor or deputy mayor, must be the same; and

- (c) pursuant to s.248(1) and (2) of the Regulation, if a local government considers that, having regard to exceptional circumstances, a councillor of its local government is entitled to an amount of remuneration that is more than the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the councillor under the remuneration schedule, it may make a submission to the Commission for approval to pay the councillor an amount of remuneration of more than the maximum amount.

The Commission notes that the submission is not a request for approval for a specific councillor to remunerated at a level more than the maximum amount payable under remuneration the schedule. The Commission considers that it is unable to issue a blanket approval about the remuneration payable to acting Mayors or acting Deputy Mayors in the absence of a specific request or submission from councils specifying the exceptional circumstances that exist in relation to a request to remunerate a specific councillor at an amount more than the maximum payable under the schedule.

The Commission notes that practices may differ within or between individual councils and otherwise considers that any decision to seek an approval of a higher amount of remuneration payable to councillors acting in a higher role from time-to-time is a matter for individual Councils taking into account their own circumstances including budgetary constraints.

The Commission has informed Rockhampton Regional Council of this determination.

Pro rata payment

Should an elected representative hold a councillor position for only part of a financial year, she or he is only entitled to remuneration to reflect the portion of the year served.

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Remuneration schedule to apply from 1 July 2022

Remuneration determined (from 1 July 2022) (\$ per annum; see Note 1)				
Category	Local governments assigned to categories	Mayor	Deputy mayor	Councillor
Category 1 (see Note 2)	Aurukun Shire Council	\$110,386	\$63,684	\$55,192
	Balonne Shire Council			
	Banana Shire Council			
	Barcaldine Regional Council			
	Barcoo Shire Council			
	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council			
	Boulia Shire Council			
	Bulloo Shire Council			
	Burdekin Shire Council			
	Burke Shire Council			
	Carpentaria Shire Council			
	Charters Towers Regional Council			
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Cloncurry Shire Council			
	Cook Shire Council			
	Croydon Shire Council			
	Diamantina Shire Council			
	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Douglas Shire Council			
	Etheridge Shire Council			
	Flinders Shire Council			
	Goondiwindi Regional Council			
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council			
	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Longreach Regional Council			
	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council			
	McKinlay Shire Council			
	Mornington Shire Council			
	Murweh Shire Council			
	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council			
	North Burnett Regional Council			
	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council			
	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Paroo Shire Council			
	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Quilpie Shire Council			
	Richmond Shire Council			
	Torres Shire Council			
	Torres Strait Island Regional Council			
	Winton Shire Council			
	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council			

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Remuneration determined (from 1 July 2022) (\$ per annum; see Note 1)				
Category	Local governments assigned to categories	Mayor	Deputy mayor	Councillor
Category 2	Mareeba Shire Council Mount Isa City Council Somerset Regional Council	\$127,366	\$76,421	\$63,684
Category 3	Cassowary Coast Regional Council Central Highlands Regional Council Gympie Regional Council Isaac Regional Council Livingstone Shire Council Lockyer Valley Regional Council Maranoa Regional Council Noosa Shire Council Scenic Rim Regional Council South Burnett Regional Council Southern Downs Regional Council Tablelands Regional Council Western Downs Regional Council Whitsunday Regional Council	\$135,860	\$84,912	\$72,174
Category 4	Bundaberg Regional Council Fraser Coast Regional Council Gladstone Regional Council Rockhampton Regional Council	\$161,331	\$106,140	\$93,402
Category 5	Cairns Regional Council Mackay Regional Council Redland City Council Toowoomba Regional Council	\$186,806	\$127,366	\$110,386
Category 6	Ipswich City Council Townsville City Council	\$212,279	\$144,350	\$127,366
Category 7	Logan City Council Moreton Bay Regional Council Sunshine Coast Regional Council	\$237,753	\$164,729	\$144,350
Category 8	Gold Coast City Council	\$263,227	\$182,561	\$157,086

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Notes to the remuneration schedule

In its 2014 report the then Tribunal explained the rationale behind the adoption of a system of remuneration which comprised a base payment (of two thirds of the annual remuneration) and a monthly payment based upon attendance at, and participation in, the 12 mandated council meetings.

Note 1 The monetary amounts shown are the per annum figures to apply from 1 July 2022. If an elected representative only serves for part of a full financial year (that is, 1 July to 30 June) they are only entitled to a pro rata payment to reflect the portion of the year served.

Note 2 For councillors in category 1 councils, a base payment of \$36,794.67 is payable for the 12 months commencing on 1 July 2021. A meeting fee of \$1,533.11 per calendar month (or fortnightly equivalent) is payable for attendance at, and participation in, scheduled meetings of council subject to certification by the mayor and/or chief executive officer of the council. Mayors and deputy mayors in category 1 councils are to receive the full annual remuneration level shown.

3. Matters raised with the Commission during the remuneration review program

A summary table of submissions made to the Commission during the review period and the Commission's determination is provided below.

Meetings and deputations

Local governments were provided with the opportunity to engage with the Commission at the 125th Annual Conference of the LGAQ at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre held from 25 to 27 October 2021.

Isaac Regional Council provided the Commission with oral deputations during the LGAQ Conference.

Local governments were also given an opportunity to provide written submissions to the Commission. The Commission determined and advised councils that the date for written submissions would close on 5 November 2021. Three written submissions were received by 5 November 2021: from the Toowoomba Regional Council, Rockhampton Regional Council, and Isaac Regional Council.

The Commission also received one written submission from Aurukun Shire Council after the due date on 11 November 2021.

In making its determination, the Commission had regard to all submissions it received, together with the matters on pages 6 to 9 of this report.

Key points raised with the Commission during the 2020 review period were not dissimilar to 2019 and included increasing demands on councils in relation to sustainability, industry and innovation, potential recognition of differential council and councillor workloads. Councils also raised the impact and future uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic with particular emphasis on concerns for the wellbeing of their community constituents, future economic growth, development, and sustainability, especially in regional areas.

Table – Summary of 2021 submissions

1	Date received	Oral Submission made at LGAQ Mackay Conference on 25 October 2021 and Written Submission on 5 November 2021
	Received from	Isaac Regional Council: Cr Gina Lacey (oral submissions only) and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Stewart-Harris (oral and written submissions)
	Summary of submission	<p>As in 2018, 2019, and 2020 Council submitted for an increase in Mayoral remuneration and requested that consideration be given to amending the classification of categories and the Council's allocation within the categories, because of the significant role the Mayor plays in managing the emerging and long-term issues in the region brought on by the significant transformation through industry and structural change.</p> <p>Council submitted that the challenge for the Commission is to develop categories and descriptions that reflect the workload of Mayors and Councillors. Council proposed that Mayors ought to be considered as a full-time role, while Councillors are more appropriately classified as part-time, as Mayors in the Isaac and similar regions would not be able to hold secondary employment as the part time nature of the role suggests.</p> <p>The submission also identified the significant geographical area (over 56,000km²) covered by the Council, change in industry, employment and social issues, escalation of youth disengagement/wellness and official mine closures requiring a futures preparedness plan as challenges faced by the Council and Mayor.</p>
	Determination	<p>The Commission has determined not to make any category changes in the current review. This issue will form part of the Commission forthcoming comprehensive review of categories.</p> <p>The Commission will consider the matters raised and invite further submissions and/or engagement with councils in 2022 when the Commission undertakes an analysis of the current methodology, remuneration categories and their application.</p>
2	Date received	Written Submission on 28 October 2021
	Received from	Rockhampton Regional Council: Acting Chief Executive Officer Ross Cheesman
	Summary of submission	<p>Council submits that the Deputy Mayor or another Councillor in an Acting Mayor capacity for a period of longer than one month receive remuneration equal to the salary of the Mayor as set by the Commission.</p> <p>Council notes that it recently experienced following a Mayoral vacancy of three months resulting in the Deputy Mayor acting as Mayor without expectation or seeking further compensation.</p>
	Determination	The Commission is unable to issue a general approval of policies about the remuneration payable to acting Mayors or acting Deputy Mayors in the absence of a specific request or submission from a council specifying the exceptional circumstances that exist in relation to a request to remunerate a specific councillor at an amount more than the maximum payable under the schedule.

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3	Date received	Written Submission on 2 November 2021
	Received from	Toowoomba Regional Council: Chief Executive Officer Brian Pidgeon
	Summary of submission	Submission to elevate council from current Category 5 to Category 6. Currently in the same category as Cairns, Mackay, Redland, however, Toowoomba submitted that it is more appropriately benchmarked on a variety of measures, with those in Category 6, specifically Ipswich and Townsville.
	Determination	The Commission has determined not to make any category changes in the current review. This issue will form part of the Commission's forthcoming comprehensive review of categories, and will consider the matters raised and invite further submissions in 2022.
4	Date received	Written Submission on 11 November 2021
	Received from	Aurukun Shire Council: Chief Executive Officer Bernie McCarthy PSM
	Summary of submission	Council submitted that the following matters undertaken by it were relevant to the Commission's remuneration determinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Accessibility to residents (eg, discussions on issues happen in public places wherever the Mayor may be); › Requests to do Welcome to Country and open events; › Demand to attend meetings, virtual and in person; › Requests to school meetings and assembly; › Advice on social issues to other agencies; › Community unrest (it is expected of the Mayor to work with Police consulting with families); › School mediations; › Regular meetings with the Police; › Mayor has an open door policy for Aurukun residents
	Determination	Submission received and noted. No change requested on behalf of Council. The Commission is also cognisant of the unique and wide ranging nature of the work undertaken Indigenous councils such as Aurukun SC. It notes that the remuneration schedule applicable from 1 July 2022 allows for councillors from Category 1 councils such as Aurukun to remunerated by way of a base payment of \$36,794.67 plus \$1,533.11 per month for meeting fees. Mayors and Deputy Mayors receive the full annual remuneration level specified in the schedule, being \$110,386 and \$63,684. The Commission will consider the matters raised and invite further submissions and/or engagement with councils in 2022 when the Commission intends to undertake an analysis of the current methodology, remuneration categories and application.

4. Other activities of the Commission

Exceptional circumstances submissions (matters raised under Local Government Regulation 2012, section 248):

Nil.

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5. Commission's future priorities

The Commission intends to undertake its comprehensive analysis of the council categories in 2022 and looks forward to engaging with local government and its stakeholders over the next 12 months.

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Further information about the Commission and/or the Councillor Conduct Tribunal can be located at www.dsdlgp.qld.gov.au

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7 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

7.1 WORKS 4 QUEENSLAND - WATER FUNDING

File Number: 03-June-2022

Author: Manager Finance & Sustainability

Authoriser: Chief Executive Officer

The following questions on notice were received from Councillor Schumacher.

Question

- If we were to use current restricted cash to build the Mount Wooroolin Reservoir – what would be left in cash reserves for emergency water works – if something significant happened to the network how would be fund the repairs?
- Would there be a shortfall in restricted cash for the water department and would this impact other priority water projects in the 10 year capital program – would any projects be displaced or unfunded because of this decision?
- What rates have we modelled for water access and usage to cover the costs of water infrastructure for the next 10 years – what percentage increase in water rates can residents expect if we fund this project from restricted cash? What would the shortfall be and what projects would we have to fund with rate rises or borrowings instead?
- When would we need to borrow to make up for the use of restricted cash in 22-23 for the Mount Wooroolin Reservoir and how much would we need to borrow it?
- What would Council's borrowings be at the end of this term, with the Gordonbrook upgrades project and whatever works will not be funded by restricted cash because of this decision?
- What is Council's capacity to repay the proposed borrowings? What amount would we qualify to QTC to borrow? Would QTC lend us the funds if we had depleted our restricted cash reserves?

Response

Finance will provide information regarding these questions to Councillors as part of discussions regarding the Works 4 Queensland Program in today's budget committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the response to the questions regarding Works 4 Queensland allocation for water and its effect on the future program raised by Councillor Schumacher be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8 CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING