



# **SPECIAL COUNCIL**

## **PUBLIC MINUTES**

**FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2013 AT 11.00AM**

**Council Members >>**

The Mayor, Councillor Jenny Hill  
Councillor Suzanne Blom  
Councillor Colleen Doyle  
Councillor Gary Eddiehausen APM  
Councillor Pat Ernst  
Councillor Ray Gartrell  
Councillor Jenny Lane  
Councillor Anthony Parsons  
Councillor Trevor Roberts  
Councillor Vern Veitch  
Councillor Les Walker

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## Goals and Strategies of Townsville City Council >>

### Corporate Plan >>

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#### Goal 1 - Economic Sustainability. A robust, diverse and sustainable economy

##### The outcomes we want to achieve:

##### **A robust, prosperous economy which provides opportunities for business and investment.**

- 1.1 Promote investment and assist the development of emergent industries and businesses.
- 1.2 Engage with regional, state and national stakeholders in the creation of a strong and resilient economy.
- 1.3 Increase the city's profile through marketing initiatives, the delivery of festivals and events and support for other community based activities.
- 1.4 Promote the city's distinctive physical character and strong sense of place and identity.

##### **An integrated approach to long term planning which supports a growing city.**

- 1.5 Develop an integrated approach to the long term provision of infrastructure.
- 1.6 Undertake city and regional planning to reflect the aspirations of the community and create an attractive place to live, work and visit.

##### **Infrastructure that meets community needs.**

- 1.7 Provide and maintain timely and sustainable infrastructure.
- 1.8 Provide asset management practices which reflect the community's expectations regarding service levels and its ability to pay.

#### Goal 2 - Environmental Sustainability. Our environment is valued, protected and healthy

##### The outcomes we want to achieve:

##### **Effective management and protection of our natural and built environment through sustainable growth and development.**

- 2.1 Provide strategic and integrated planning and policy development to sustain our environment.
  - 2.2 Effective management, protection and conservation of our natural environment.
  - 2.3 Preserve and protect places of natural and heritage significance.
- ##### **Demonstrated environmental leadership.**
- 2.4 Develop and implement an Integrated Water Management Strategy.
  - 2.5 Develop and implement innovative waste management and recycling strategies.
  - 2.6 Minimise greenhouse gas emissions from council's infrastructure, operations and services through sustainable energy practices.
  - 2.7 Partner with the community and industry stakeholders to develop and promote environmental protection and sustainability initiatives.
  - 2.8 Develop and implement environmental compliance programs and promote community awareness.

##### **Climatic effects on our community, natural and built environment are minimised.**

- 2.9 Mitigate and communicate the risks and effects of climate change.

#### Goal 3 - Social Sustainability - Enhancement of opportunities for social engagement and wellbeing

##### The outcomes we want to achieve:

##### **A safe and healthy community.**

- 3.1 Improve the safety and well-being of the community through the management of public health risks.
- 3.2 Plan for and provide active and healthy lifestyle opportunities.
- 3.3 Coordinate council's response to natural disasters to minimise the effects on the community.

##### **A cohesive and self reliant community.**

- 3.4 Foster the development of the city as a learning community.
- 3.5 Encourage and facilitate the participation and integration of residents into the community.
- 3.6 Strengthen community networks to collaboratively deliver community services.

##### **A community with access to services and facilities.**

- 3.7 Plan for community facilities and services to meet the community's current and future needs.
- 3.8 Provide community services and facilities to meet the needs of the community.
- 3.9 Provide community support services to meet the needs of the community.

##### **A creative community.**

- 3.10 Facilitate and showcase artistic learning and expression through performances, exhibitions, activities and programs.
- 3.11 Support community participation in cultural activities, programs and events.

#### Goal 4 - Responsible Governance - Responsible leadership where decisions are made in a considered and transparent manner

##### The outcomes we want to achieve:

##### **Transparent and accountable local government.**

- 4.1 Develop and implement council's Corporate Governance Framework to ensure strategic planning, compliance with all legislation, policies, Codes of Practice and Standards.
- 4.2 Implement robust risk management strategies.
- 4.3 Encourage community participation and ensure that the community is informed and educated about matters that impact their lives.

##### **A competent, productive and contributing workforce.**

- 4.4 Foster a culture of employee health, safety and well-being.
- 4.5 Implement human resource strategies to become an employer of choice.
- 4.6 Foster diversity, merit and equity, reward and recognition in the workplace.

##### **Excellence in customer service delivery and organisational management.**

- 4.7 Provide responsive and efficient systems to enable the delivery of council services.
- 4.8 Establish and manage long term financial planning to ensure the future sustainability of council.

# MINUTES

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<b>REPORT</b>	<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Friday 28 June 2013 at 11.00am</b>
<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>1 TO 1</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>	The Mayor, Councillor J Hill, Chair Councillor V Veitch Councillor S Blom Councillor C Doyle Councillor G Eddiehausen APM Councillor R Gartrell Councillor J Lane Councillor A Parsons Councillor T Roberts Councillor L Walker Councillor P Ernst

#### **Opening of Meeting and Announcement of Visitors**

The Mayor, Councillor J Hill opened the meeting at 11.00am.

#### **Apologies and Leave of Absence**

There were no apologies or leave of absences.

## Officers Reports

### Corporate Services

#### 1 Budget 2013/14

##### REPORT TO COUNCIL

**Authorised by** The Mayor, Councillor J Hill

**Department** Finance

**Date** 28 June 2013

##### Executive Summary

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council must adopt a budget and Operational Plan for each financial year. The budget is integral to council's revenue raising powers and its planned spending. The recommendations in this report support the adoption of the Budget and Operational Plan for 2013/14.

The 2013/14 Budget complies with the *Local Government Act 2009* and associated Regulations.

The *Local Government Regulation 2012* states that the annual Operational Plan must:

- (a) be consistent with the annual budget; and
- (b) state how the local government will:
  - (i) progress the implementation of the five (5) year Corporate Plan during the period of the annual Operational Plan; and
  - (ii) manage operational risks.

The Operational Plan and Budget have been developed in consultation with all departments and approved by the Executive Management Team.

The Operational Plan and Budget 2013/14, with supporting documentation and commentary, will be tabled under separate cover, as follows:

Attachment 1 – Statement of Estimated Financial Position;  
Attachment 2 – Operational Plan and Budget 2013/14; and  
Attachment 3 – Register of Fees and Charges 2013/14.

All attachments will be available to the public on council's website following the special meeting.

## **Officer's Recommendation**

### **1. FINANCIAL POLICIES >>**

That council adopt:

- 1.1. The Debt Policy as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 4 – *Debt Policy*;
- 1.2. The Investment Policy – as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 5 – *Investment Policy*;
- 1.3. The Pensioner Rates Concession Policy – as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 6 – *Pensioner Rates Concession Policy*; and
- 1.4. The Revenue Policy – as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 3 – *Revenue Policy*.

### **2. REVENUE STATEMENT >>**

That, pursuant to sections 169(2)(b) and 172 of *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the Revenue Statement for 2013/14 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 2 – *Revenue Statement*.

### **3. FEES AND CHARGES >>**

- 3.1. That council adopt the Register of Fees and Charges for 2013/14 in Attachment 3 (as tabled); and
- 3.2. That council note the register of fees and charges includes details of cost-recovery fees pursuant to section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2009*; and
- 3.3. That council note cost-recovery and commercial fees and charges may be amended by resolution at any time during the financial year.

### **4. DIFFERENTIAL RATING CATEGORIES >>**

That, pursuant to section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the differential rating categories and criteria for each category as set out in the Attachment 2 – Appendix 7 – *Differential Rating Categories*.

### **5. RATEABLE VALUE OF LAND >>**

That, pursuant to section 74 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that the calculation of the rates for land is by using the rateable value of the land and the rateable value of the land for a financial year is the site or unimproved value of land for the financial year as advised by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

### **6. LIMITATION OF INCREASE IN RATES LEVIED (CAPPING) >>**

That, pursuant to section 116 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that for 2013/14 the amount of general rates levied will not be more than the amount of general rates levied for the property for the previous financial year, plus the increase, for the relevant rating category, as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 8 – *Differential Rates, Limitations on Increases and Minimum General Rate*; subject to:

- The limitation not being available retrospectively and only applying from the beginning of the financial year; and
- The limitation ceasing to apply on and from 1 July 2014 where the ownership of any land to which the limitation applied is transferred on or after 1 July 2013.

### **7. DIFFERENTIAL RATES, LIMITATION ON INCREASES, MINIMUM GENERAL RATE >>**

That, pursuant to part 4, part 5 and section 116 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to set the differential general rates, minimum general rates and limitation of increase in rates levied for 2013/14 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 8 – *Differential Rates, Limitations on Increases and Minimum General Rate*.

## **8. UTILITY CHARGES >>**

### **8.1. Water >>**

That, pursuant to part 7 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to make and levy the utility charges for water for 2013/14 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 9 – *Utility Charges - Water*.

### **8.2. Sewerage >>**

That, pursuant to part 7 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to make and levy the utility charges for sewerage for 2013/14 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 10 – *Utility Charges - Sewerage*.

### **8.3. Refuse and Recycling >>**

That, pursuant to part 7 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to make and levy utility charges for refuse and recycling for 2013/14 as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 11 – *Utility Charges - Refuse and Recycling*.

## **9. SPECIAL RATES >>**

### **9.1. Nelly Bay Harbour Development >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the annual implementation plan, and make and levy a special rate for the Nelly Bay Harbour Development on the following basis:

- To rateable land identified in the overall plan adopted by council at its meeting held 22 June 2010;
- To recover the cost of service and activity outlined in the Nelly Bay Harbour Overall Plan adopted by council at its meeting held 22 June 2010;
- The annual implementation plan, as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 12 – *Nelly Bay Harbour Operational Plan*; and
- At the rate of \$0.00 applied to the rateable value of the land.

## **10. SPECIAL CHARGES >>**

### **10.1. Rural Fire Levy >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the following overall plan and annual implementation plan, and to make and levy a special charge for Rural Fire Brigades on the following basis:

- The Rural Fire Levy Special Charge will apply to all rateable land identified in the gazetted Rural Fire Board area maps for the following areas and on the following bases; and
- The overall plan for the Rural Fire Brigades Special Charge is to provide financial assistance to the brigades to enable provision of a rural fire service in each area on an ongoing basis. The amount of the charge is based upon the 3 year budget for each brigade that has been provided to council by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service; and
- The annual implementation plan is to remit to the respective brigades the levy collected, twice a year; and
- The annual charges per property in each rural fire brigade area be as detailed on page 15 of Attachment 2 – *Rural Fire Levy*.

## **10.2. Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the annual implementation plan, and make and levy a special charge of \$1,050.00 per property per annum for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme to repay a capital contribution of \$10,500 per property for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme on the following basis:

- The overall plan for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme was adopted by council at its meeting held on 19 August 2008.
- The properties to which the charge applies are identified in the overall plan for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme was adopted by council at its meeting held on 19 August 2008.
- The annual implementation plan for the Julago and Alligator Creek Water Supply Scheme is to levy the charge to each property identified in the overall plan for the period stated in the overall plan.

## **10.3. Black River Rural Water Supply >>**

That, pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to adopt the annual implementation plan, and make and levy a special charge of \$920.00 per property per annum for the Black River Rural Water Supply on the following basis:

- The overall plan for the Black River Rural Water Supply was adopted by council at its meeting held on 10 January 2006.
- The properties to which the charge applies are identified in the overall plan for the Black River Rural Water Supply that was adopted by council at its meeting held on 10 January 2006.
- The annual implementation plan for the Black River Rural Water Supply is to levy the charge to each property identified in the overall plan for the period stated in the overall plan.

## **11. WHEN RATES OR CHARGES MUST BE PAID >>**

That, pursuant to section 118 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that all rates and charges must be paid within 30 days after the rate notice is issued.

## **12. INTEREST ON OVERDUE RATES >>**

That, pursuant to section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that overdue rates and charges will bear interest from 30 days after it becomes overdue and the interest will be calculated at a rate of 11.0% per annum compounding on a daily basis unless, the property owner is an Approved Pensioner as detailed in the Pensioner Rates Concession Policy, in which case overdue rates and charges will bear interest from 1 July 2014.

## **13. DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT >>**

That, pursuant to section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve that a discount for prompt payment of 15% will apply to the General Rate, the Nelly Bay Harbour Development Special Rate and the Black River Rural Water Supply Special Charge upon full payment of all rates and charges, including arrears, by the due date shown on the notice.

## **14. LEVYING OF RATES >>**

That, pursuant to section 94(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, council resolve to levy rates notices for 2013/14 as follows:

- General Rates, Special Rates, Special Charges and Utility Charges will be levied in advance on a half-yearly basis, utility charges for water consumption on certain properties may also be levied on a monthly basis.

**15. CONCESSIONS>>**

**15.1. Pensioner Rates Concession >>**

That, pursuant to section 119 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to allow a concession of up to 85% of the general rate to a maximum of \$800 as detailed in Attachment 2 – Appendix 6 - *Pensioner Rates Concession Policy*.

**15.2. Not-for-profit >>**

That, pursuant to section 120(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to continue granting a concession to entities whose objects do not include making a profit and that applications made to council for consideration of a concession must meet the criteria as defined in section 120 of the Regulation.

**15.3. Water and Sewerage Concessions >>**

That, pursuant to part 10 of Chapter 4 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council resolve to apply concessions for water and sewerage utility charges as set out in Attachment 2 – Appendix 6A – *Water and Sewerage Concessions*.

**16. LONG-TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST >>**

That, pursuant to section 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the long-term financial forecast as set out in the *Strategic Financial Framework* commencing on page 274 of Attachment 2.

**17. OPERATING FUND BUDGET >>**

**17.1** That, pursuant to section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council note the 2013/14 Budget is consistent with the 5-year corporate plan adopted by council on 28 May 2013;

**17.2** That, pursuant to section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt as its Budget the *Budgeted Financial Statements* for 2013/14 as set out in tables 5 – 8 on pages 284 to 288 of Attachment 2.

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

That, pursuant to section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council note the Financial Report and explanation of material variances relating to council's estimated financial position as at 30 June 2013 as set out in Attachment 1 of this report.

**19. OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2013/14 >>**

That, pursuant to section 174 and 175 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, council adopt the Annual Operational Plan as set out in Attachment 2 on pages 9 to 272.

**Council Decision**

**It was MOVED by The Mayor, Councillor J Hill, SECONDED by Councillor V Veitch:**

"that the officer's recommendation be adopted."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**The Mayor, Councillor J Hill thanked staff and Councillors for their work on the Budget and commended the Budget.**

**Councillor P Ernst expressed his view on the following Budget items:**

- a. the proposed bulk kerbside rubbish collection;**
- b. the proposed three day free dumping weekend;**
- c. the Parks budget; and**
- d. funding for Townsville Enterprise Ltd.**

**Close of Meeting**

The Chair, The Mayor, Councillor J Hill declared the meeting closed at 11.15am

**CONFIRMED this**

**day of**

**2013**

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**