

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
OF THE RICHMOND SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, RICHMOND ON
MONDAY 24 JULY 2023



RICHMOND SHIRE COUNCIL

CONFIRMED SPECIAL BUDGET MINUTES

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PRESENT

Present when the Mayor Cr Wharton declared the meeting open at 11:20am were:

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Wharton, Cr Kuhl, Cr Fox, Cr Kennedy, Cr Buick

Cr Johnston via videoconference

STAFF:

Chief Executive Officer – Peter Bennett, Director of Community Services and Development – Angela Henry, Director of Corporate Services – Peta Mitchell, Director of Works – Syed Qadir and Minutes Secretary – Tiana Grant

APOLOGIES

Nil

MAYORS MESSAGE

I now propose the following Budget Report presented to the Richmond Shire Council at the Special Budget Council Meeting on Monday 24 of July 2023. This budget reflects the Council's core activities of improvements to the existing roads, water and sewerage network while preparing for future investment opportunities. The potential development of the agricultural, energy and mining industries within the Shire provides opportunity to deliver financial sustainability to the Council.

RATES AND CHARGES

Land valuations were completed by the Department of Natural Resources and came into effect on 1st July 2023. The Shire had an overall increase of 163% in valuations since the last valuation. The valuation increases were broken down as follows:

- Residential 22.9%
- Commercial 27.4%
- Industrial 49.4%
- Rural 167.7%

Council has taken the valuation increases into account when considering the increase of rates and charges. The rating categories have been reviewed and adjustments made to the cents in the dollar to offset the valuation increase. A 6% increase in general rates and charges has been adopted for the 2023/2024 budget.

Council has also adopted new water access and excess charges. Council has given all properties a generous water allocation to help with keeping the Shire looking green. A separate bill will be sent out for any excess water charges.

General rates contribute less than 5% to Council's operational budget and highlight an important need for Council to look at other opportunities to deliver financial sustainability.

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL WORKS

Council has adopted a \$20M Road and Infrastructure capital budget. The highlights include:

- Airport – an upgrade to Richmond Airport with a completely new landing strip that would allow for larger planes. This would be fully funded between the State and Federal Government and would cost \$7.5M.

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- Council has received 4 lots of funding through the Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program, and they include:
 - \$250,000 for the replacement of flood cameras around key roads in the Shire.
 - \$321,410 for rural roads upgrades
 - \$1.421M for stormwater upgrade in the Richmond township. This work will be completed by the end of November 2023.
- \$1M to continue the rehabilitation and guttering to Crawford Street.
- Flood damage work of \$5M from the 2022 flood damage. The 2023 flood damage has not yet been finalised but will be added to the budget once approved.
- A new catwalk to be installed at the Richmond Saleyards.
- \$11M contract from Department of Transport and Main Roads for the sealing of the Winton Road.

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES
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1.1 Advertising Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation an Advertising Policy.

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Advertising Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.1

It was moved Cr Buick, Seconded Cr Kennedy and carried that Council adopt the Advertising Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES
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1.2 Debt Collection Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation a Debt Collection Policy.

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Debt Collection Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.2

It was moved Cr Kuhl, Seconded Cr Fox and carried that Council adopt the Debt Collection Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.3 Revenue Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation a Revenue Policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Revenue Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.3

It was moved Cr Johnston, Seconded Cr Buick and carried that Council adopt the Revenue Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.4 Entertainment and Hospitality Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation an Entertainment and Hospitality Policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Entertainment and Hospitality Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.4

It was moved Cr Buick, Seconded Cr Johnston and carried that Council adopt the Entertainment and Hospitality Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.5 Procurement Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation a Procurement Policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Procurement Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.5

It was moved Cr Kuhl, Seconded Cr Fox and carried that Council adopt the Procurement Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.6 Investment Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation an Investment Policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Investment Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.6

It was moved Cr Kennedy, Seconded Cr Johnston and carried that Council adopt the Investment Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.7 Grants to Community Organisations Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation a Grants to Community Organisations Policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Grants to Community Organisations Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.7

It was moved Cr Fox, Seconded Cr Kuhl and carried that Council adopt the Grants to Community Organisations Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.8 Water Usage Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation a Water Usage Policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Water Usage Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.8

It was moved Cr Buick, Seconded Cr Kennedy and carried that Council adopt the Water Usage Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.9 Debt Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 section 104 Council can include into its budget documentation a Debt Policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Debt Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.9

It was moved Cr Fox, Seconded Cr Kuhl and carried that Council adopt the Debt Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.10 Hardship Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Queensland Audit Office has recommended that Council publish a hardship policy to assist ratepayers to seek a concession for hardship as allowed by section 120(1) (c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

This policy is a new policy for Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Hardship Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.10

It was moved Cr Johnston, Seconded Cr Kuhl and carried that Council adopt the Hardship Policy as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

1. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES

1.11 Revenue Statement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* section 104 the budget for Council must include a Revenue Statement.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the Revenue Statement as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.11

It was moved Cr Fox, Seconded Cr Kuhl and carried that Council adopt the Revenue Statement as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Policy

ITEM 2.0 REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL REPORTS

2.1 Budgeted Financial Statements

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's Budget must be prepared on an accrual basis and be adopted after 31 May but before 01 August for every financial year.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

***That Council: accept the proposed Budget for 2023/2024 as presented incorporating:
Statement of Comprehensive Income
Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Changes in Equity
Operational Revenue and Expenditure Statement***

RESOLUTION 20230724.12

*It was moved Cr Kuhl, Seconded Cr Buick and carried that Council accept the proposed Budget for 2023/2024 as presented incorporating:
Statement of Comprehensive Income
Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Changes in Equity
Operational Revenue and Expenditure Statement*

Cr Kuhl requested Council look into the level of services provided, such as frequency of mowing, rubbish removal, etc. and their impact on Council's operational costs.

Cr Fox requested also requested a breakdown of services provided to the Racecourse.

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It was noted that the Me & My Mum Hub are using Council internet without being charged. Council to look into their Agreement and charge accordingly moving forward.

Attendance

Cr Johnston left the room at 11:53am

Cr Johnston re-entered the room at 11:55am

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Statements

ITEM 2.0 REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL REPORTS

2.2 Long Term Financial Forecast

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's Budget must be prepared on an accrual basis and be adopted after 31 May but before 01 August for every financial year.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the proposed Long Term Financial Forecast as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.13

It was moved Cr Kennedy, Seconded Cr Buick and carried that Council accept the proposed Long Term Financial Forecast as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Forecast

ITEM 2.0 REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FINANCIAL REPORTS

2.3 Capital Works Budget

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's Budget must be prepared on an accrual basis and be adopted after 31 May but before 01 August for every financial year.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the proposed Capital Works Budget for 2023/2024 as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.14

It was moved Cr Kuhl, Seconded Cr Fox and carried that Council accept the proposed Capital Works Budget for 2023/2024 as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- 2023/2024 Capital Budget

ITEM 3.0 REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023/2024

3.1 Operational Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 174(1) of the *Local Government Regulations 2012* Council must adopt an Operational Plan. Section 175 of the *Local Government Regulations 2012* requires that the Operational Plan be consistent with the Council's budget. The proposed 2023/2024 Operational Plan complies with the Regulation's requirements.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the proposed Operational Plan for 2023/2024 as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.15

It was moved Cr Johnston, Seconded Cr Kennedy and carried that Council accept the proposed Operational Plan for 2023/2024 as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Operational Plan

ITEM 4.0 REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION – FEES AND CHARGES 2023/2024

4.1 Fees and Charges

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 97 of the Local Government Act 2009 Council may fix a cost recovery fee under a Local Law or by resolution.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council: accept the proposed Fees and Charges for the 2023-2024 financial year, as presented.

RESOLUTION 20230724.16

It was moved Cr Kuhl, Seconded Cr Fox and carried that Council accept the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/2024 as presented.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

- Fees and Charges

General Business

CEO Peter Bennett requested a sub committee be created to discuss councils financial sustainability. It was agreed that CEO Peter Bennett, DCS Peta Mitchell, Cr Wharton and Cr Kuhl would attend all of the meetings and DCSD Angela Henry, DOW Syed Qadir, and the remaining Councillors would attend subcommittee meetings relevant to their portfolio.

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CLOSE OF MEETING

RESOLUTION 20230724.17

It was moved Cr Fox, seconded Cr Kennedy and carried that the reports be noted.

RESOLUTION 20230724.18

It was moved Cr Fox, seconded Cr Kuhl and carried that the meeting close at 12:19pm.

I hereby confirm that this is a true and correct record of the minutes of the Richmond Shire Council Special Budget Meeting Monday 24 July 2023.



Mayor