



City of **Ipswich**

AGENDA

COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, 27 June 2024
at 9:00 AM - Annual Plan and Budget

Council Chambers, Level 8
1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich

SONIA COOPER
Chief Executive Officer

The purpose of the meeting is to consider:

1. Annual Plan 2024-2025 (This item will be available prior to the meeting)
2. Adoption of the 2024-2025 Budget and associated matters (This item will be available prior to the meeting)
3. Overall Plan for the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge
4. Rates Timetable for 2024-2025
5. Rates Concessions - Charitable, Non-Profit/Sporting Organisations
6. Adoption of refuse and recycling centre fees and other minor fee amendments

BUSINESS

1. OPENING OF MEETING:
2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:
3. OPENING PRAYER:
4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE:
5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA:
6. OFFICERS' REPORTS:
 - 6.1 Annual Plan 2024-2025 (This item will be available prior to the meeting)
 - 6.2 Adoption of the 2024-2025 Budget and associated matters (This item will be available prior to the meeting)
 - 6.3 Overall Plan for the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge..... 5
 - 6.4 Rates Timetable for 2024-2025..... 13
 - 6.5 Rates Concessions - Charitable, Non-Profit/Sporting Organisations..... 17
 - 6.6 Adoption of refuse and recycling centre fees and other minor fee amendments 29

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Doc ID No: A10150097

ITEM: 6.3

SUBJECT: OVERALL PLAN FOR THE RURAL FIRE RESOURCES LEVY SPECIAL CHARGE

AUTHOR: TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER

DATE: 19 JUNE 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the adoption of an Overall Plan for the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge (**the Overall Plan**). The Overall Plan is made in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* for the special benefited area adopted by Council in the 2024-2025 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Ipswich City Council adopt the Overall Plan, as detailed in this report, for the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge.

RELATED PARTIES

- The related parties associated with this report include:
- Rural Fire Service
- Ipswich area Rural Fire Brigades
- Local Area Finance Committee
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

IFUTURE THEME

A Trusted and Leading Organisation

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires Council to make an overall plan for the implementation of a special charge. The overall plan must be adopted by resolution of Council either before or at the same time Council resolves to levy the special rate or charge. Additionally, the Budget resolution making a special rate or charge must make mention of the overall plan.

An overall plan must include the following:

- (i) describe the service, facility or activity;
- (ii) identify the rateable land to which the special rates or charges apply;

- (iii) state the estimated cost of carrying out the overall plan; and
- (iv) state the estimated time for carrying out the overall plan.

RURAL FIRE RESOURCES LEVY SPECIAL CHARGE OVERALL PLAN

Service, Facility or Activity

The specially benefited area will receive the benefit of activities and improvements funded by the Rural Fire Brigades in the Ipswich City Council local government area, including:

- (i) the purchase of equipment not usually supplied by the Queensland Government;
- (ii) maintenance of equipment;
- (iii) additional training;
- (iv) funding of administration and day-to-day operating expenses;
- (v) promotion of the Rural Fire Services in the community and the attractive opportunity to participate as a volunteer;
- (vi) grading of fire tracks to ensure adequate access for firefighting equipment; and
- (vii) capital improvements to rural fire brigade depots.

Identification of the rateable land to which the Special Rates or Charges apply

In accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is of the opinion that each parcel of rateable land within the Ipswich local government area that is not within the boundaries of the Rosewood Levy District and Ipswich Levy District (the Urban Fire Boundaries), as defined by the QFES and detailed in Attachment 1, will receive a special benefit from the services, facilities and activities funded by the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge.

Estimated cost of carrying out the Overall Plan

The total cost of carrying out the Overall plan is estimated to be \$395,000. This includes both operating and capital expenditure components.

Estimated time for carrying out the Overall Plan

The estimated time for carrying out this Overall Plan is one year, being 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 inclusive.

Other information relevant to the Overall Plan

On the basis that this Overall Plan is for a period of not more than 1 year, an annual implementation plan, as required under section 94(7) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, is not considered necessary and has not been prepared.

Table 1 details the number of properties that have been subject to the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge in recent years.

Table 1

Year	Properties
2023	2,212
2024	3,170
2025 (Estimated)	3,170

Table 2 details the collections and disbursements related to the special charge for 2023-2024. It also includes the estimated revenue for 2024-2025 from the special charge if adopted at \$39 per annum for each parcel of rateable land as well as the estimated disbursements.

Table 2

2023-2024	
Unspent separate charges carried forward from 2022-2023	\$10,521
add special charges levied from the 2023-2024 Overall Plan	\$107,454
less disbursements under the 2023-2024 Overall Plan	\$321,703
add funding received from separate charges levied	\$279,475
Unspent separate charges to be carried forward	\$75,747
2024-2025	
Unspent separate charges carried forward from 2023-2024	\$75,747
add special charges estimated from the 2024-2025 Overall Plan	\$123,630
less disbursements estimated under the 2024-2025 Overall Plan	\$395,000
Estimated deficit to be funded from separate charges	\$195,623

The estimated deficit for 2024-2025 is proposed to be funded by Council through the continuation of the Rural Fire Resources Levy Separate Charge at \$3 per annum levied on all rateable land within the local government area.

To remove any doubt, under this Overall Plan, any special charges levied will be disbursed before any separate charges levied. On the basis that the estimated disbursements will exceed the estimated special charges, no surplus funds from special charges are estimated.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy matters relevant to this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The rateable land located within the benefited area continues to benefit from the services, facilities and activities provided by the Ipswich area Rural Fire Brigades. The continuation of the special charge in the 2024-2025 financial year is considered appropriate.

The growth in rateable land within the benefited area needs to be monitored on a regular basis and Council liaise with QFES regarding future revisions to the boundaries of the Rosewood Levy District and Ipswich Levy District, noting that these boundaries were last reviewed by QFES in 2019.

The continuation of any separate charge, levied on all rateable land within the local government area, will be subject to an annual review and adoption by Council. Any separate charge levied on all rateable land within the local government area for the purposes of providing funding for the services, activities and facilities under this Overall Plan, it is not subject to this Overall Plan.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Disbursements under this Overall Plan are estimated to be \$395,000. The Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge does not fully fund the estimated disbursements to the Ipswich area Rural Fire Brigades for their services, activities and facilities and is intended to be supplemented with funds raised by the Rural Fire Resources Levy Separate Charge.

The Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge and the Rural Fire Resources Levy Separate Charge are included with Council's proposed budget for 2024-2025.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The financial needs of the Ipswich area Rural Fire Brigades have been communicated to Council for consideration. The continuation of the special charge is consistent with previous years.

While no specific consultation has occurred in relation to the special charge, Council has a broad understanding of community expectations in providing support for the local area Rural Fire Brigades. Consultation with the property owners within the benefited area, the Ipswich area Rural Fire Brigades as well as all other landowners in the local government area, remains an ongoing opportunity for Council to understand community expectations in

regard to the services, facilities and activities provided by the Ipswich area Rural Fire Brigades and funded, in part, by this special charge.



CONCLUSION

The rateable land within the benefited area, being rateable land outside the Urban Fire Boundaries, continue to specially benefit from the services, facilities and activities funded by the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge. As such, continuation of the special charge is appropriate.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	The Recommendation proposes adoption of an Overall Plan for the Rural Fire Resources Levy Special Charge for 2023-2024.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by this decision. The charges are reflective of costs and applied in an objective manner to the properties which benefit from the services provided.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	QFES District Boundaries  
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Paul Mollenhauer

TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Jeffrey Keech

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matt Smith

GENERAL MANAGER (CORPORATE SERVICES)

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Doc ID No: A10149181

ITEM: 6.4
SUBJECT: RATES TIMETABLE FOR 2024-2025
AUTHOR: TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER
DATE: 19 JUNE 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the issuance date, as well as the discount and due date, for payment for the quarterly rates for the 2024-2025 year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That in accordance with section 118 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Ipswich City Council decide the dates by which rates and charges for 2024-2025 must be paid, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1

Period	Due Date for Payment
July to September 2024	Thursday 22 August 2024
October to December 2024	Thursday 14 November 2024
January to March 2025	Thursday 13 February 2025
April to June 2025	Thursday 15 May 2025

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related party matters associated with this report.

IFUTURE THEME

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PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Council adopts a timetable for the issue of rates notices as well as the discount and due date for payment for each quarter of the financial year. Where practical, a 13-week cycle between due dates in successive quarters is maintained. Due to the date of the adoption of the 2024-2025 budget, and the time required to update the system with the new parameters, the rates generation and consequently the issue date, for July to September 2024 has been extended a week. Consequently, the period between the last issue date and July to September 2024 rates issue is 14 weeks. The October to December 2024 rates issue will be 12 weeks to bring it back in line with the normal cycle. Each quarter after that will revert back to the normal 13 week cycle.

Each quarterly rates notice needs to be issued at least 30 days before the due date.

The following is the proposed timetable for the 2024-2025 financial year. The proposed timetable takes into account sufficient time to print and issue rates notices as well as “regular post” postage service times.

Period	Issue Date	Discount and Due Date for payment	Period from last Due Date
July to September 2024	Friday 19 July 2024	Thursday 22 August 2024	14 weeks
October to December 2024	Friday 11 October 2024	Thursday 14 November 2024	12 weeks
January to March 2025	Friday 10 January 2025	Thursday 13 February 2025	13 weeks
April to June 2025	Friday 11 April 2025	Thursday 15 May 2025	13 weeks

The issue date of the next quarter’s rates notice is displayed on each rates notice.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications related to this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As this report relates only to the timing of rates and rates notices rather than the setting of rates charges, there are no specific financial or resource implications of note associated with this report. Council’s proposed 2024-2025 budget and financial modelling takes into account the proposed quarterly rating schedule.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

No community consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report. No material changes have been proposed to current rating practice.

CONCLUSION

The proposed issue date, discount and due date for payment for the quarterly rates notices continue to be timed around a 13-week cycle, where possible.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	The Recommendation requests that Council decide the dates by which rates and charges for 2024-2025 must be paid
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected, as this decision relates only to the timing of the issuance and payment of rates notices, and the timing is applicable to all ratepayers equally.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

Paul Mollenhauer
TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Jeffrey Keech
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matt Smith
GENERAL MANAGER (CORPORATE SERVICES)

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Doc ID No: A10151487

ITEM: 6.5
SUBJECT: RATES CONCESSIONS - CHARITABLE, NON PROFIT/SPORTING ORGANISATIONS
AUTHOR: TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER
DATE: 19 JUNE 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the annual review and approval of rates concessions to eligible Charitable and Non-Profit/Sporting Organisations in accordance with Ipswich City Council's (**Council**) Rates Concession Policy.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- A.** That having satisfied the criteria in s120 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as well as the Rates Concession Policy, the properties as detailed in Attachment 1 be granted a 100% concession of the differential general rates for the 2024-2025 financial year.
- B.** That having satisfied the criteria in s120 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as well as the Rates Concession Policy, the properties as detailed in Attachment 2 be granted a 100% concession of the differential general rates for the 2024-2025 financial year.

RELATED PARTIES

- Mayor and Councillors should consider those entities listed in the attachments to this report.
- Consultation has been undertaken with the Mayor and Councillors in relation to any related party disclosures and has been subsequently updated based on recent advice for any potential conflicts of interest, accordingly Attachments 1 and 2 have been prepared.

IFUTURE THEME

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PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012* describes the circumstances where Council may approve a concession for rates and charges levied for a particular class of properties or to owners of specific properties.

The remission of rates for pensioners is an example of a concession available to a class of property owners. The remission of rates for pensioners is not detailed in this report.

Council has adopted a Rates Concession Policy which outlines the criteria used to determine eligibility of organisations and properties for a concession. Currently there are 111 properties that have been previously approved for a concession of 100% of the differential general rates levied. These properties are described in Attachments 1 and 2. For convenience a copy of the Rates Concession Policy is included at Attachment 3.

In accordance with the policy, a review of properties and organisations receiving a concession is undertaken annually. This involves a review of the land use of the subject property, the ownership of the land and the operations of the organisation concerned. This review has been undertaken and no changes to the eligibility for a concession under the policy, have been identified for the properties listed in Attachments 1 and 2.

Council exempts properties from being assessable from Council rates in accordance with s93(3) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and s73 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. Land that is exempt from rates is considered and determined in accordance with the relevant legislation. This report does not consider exemption from rates.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is consistent with the annual review as part of the Rates Concession Policy

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The annual equivalent of general rates concessions in 2023-2024 was approximately \$782,000. The value of concessions for 2024-2025 will be determined at the time of each quarterly rates generation and is anticipated to be an annual equivalent of approximately \$825,000, subject to any future application by eligible property owners and the subsequent approval of Council.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The contents of this report did not require any community consultation. The proposed concessions are granted consistent with adopted policy.

CONCLUSION

Council has adopted a Rates Concession Policy for approving of concessions to qualifying organisations and properties. Currently there are 111 properties that have been previously approved for a concession of 100% of the differential general rates levied. Following a review of the legislative and policy criteria, those properties continue to be eligible for a concession in 2024-2025

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Recommendations A and B request the approval of rates concessions to eligible Charitable and Non-Profit/Sporting Organisations in accordance with Ipswich City Council’s (Council) Rates Concession Policy.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected. The concessions detailed in this report are not provided to individuals. This decision seeks to provide financial relief from the payment of differential general rates to eligible ratepaying organisations which are expected to provide a charitable or other benefit to the local community through the use of that rateable property. Eligibility is based on the attributes of the ratepayer, and as such is not arbitrary.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	List 1  
2.	List 2  
3.	Rates Concession Policy  

Paul Mollenhauer
TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Jeffrey Keech
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matt Smith
GENERAL MANAGER (CORPORATE SERVICES)

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ITEM: 6.6

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REFUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRE FEES AND OTHER MINOR FEE AMENDMENTS

AUTHOR: TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER

DATE: 19 JUNE 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the adoption of charges for waste disposal at Recycling and Refuse Centres (held over from the meeting of 23 May), and other minor amendments to the fees and charges to apply from 1 July 2024.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the proposed revised Fees and Charges, as detailed in Attachment 1, be adopted with an effective date of 1 July 2024

RELATED PARTIES

This report deals with the adoption of the pricing of fees and charges and does not specifically reference any third party. There have been no conflicts of interest declared as at the date of this report. Councillors should consider where fees and charges may impact on their other interests or activities.

IFUTURE THEME

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PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

As part of the annual budget adoption process, Council undertakes a review of all fees and charges prior to the commencement of a new financial year.

Most fees and charges (with the exception of those subject to early adoption), were considered and approved by Council on 23 May 2024.

Fee increases associated with waste disposal at Recycling and Refuse Centres were excluded from the adopted register of fees and charges, pending the provision of further information and opportunity for consultation.

Minor revisions to Temporary Entertainment Event Licences (TEEL) fees and requests for minor alterations to development planning applications after the appeal period are also proposed.

Recycling and Refuse Centre Fees

The charges for waste disposal of general and green waste at Council’s Riverview and Rosewood Recycling and Refuse Centres are proposed to be subject to increases which reflect increasing delivery service costs, in particular legislative changes to the waste levy.

Waste disposal for residential customers (general domestic waste) is proposed to rise from \$14.00 to \$18.00 (an increase of \$4.00 per load up to 500kg). Whilst this is an increase in the gate fee for general waste, it is set against a low base and the charge continues to be heavily subsidised for Ipswich residents. The vast majority of the proposed increase is attributable to the reduction in waste levy rebate which was intended to assist in offsetting the impact of the waste levy on residential customers, and an increase in the levy price.

Excess waste charges are proposed to increase between 3% and 14% per cubic metre or kilogram respectively.

Commercial pricing is already inclusive of the waste levy. The base gate fee that is to apply to Non-Ipswich Residents / Commercial / Industrial Waste customers is proposed to increase by \$2.00. Commercial customers do not benefit from the levy rebate, and as such the reduction in this rebate has no impact on costs for these customer classes.

The fees as outlined in attachment 1 mirror what was discussed at the meeting of 23 May 2024, with the exception of an alignment of volumes for general and green waste at Riverview. Table 1 (below) outlines the proposed general waste gate fees.

Table 1: Summary of general waste gate fees

General Waste	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase (\$)
	2023-2024	2024-2025	
Domestic			
Riverview: first 500kg	\$14.00	\$18.00	\$4.00
Riverview: Excess (per kg over 500kg)	\$0.22	\$0.25	\$0.03
Rosewood: first 2 cubic meters	\$14.00	\$18.00	\$4.00
Rosewood: Excess (per cubic meter)	\$37.00	\$38.00	\$1.00
Non-Ipswich Residents / Commercial / Industrial *			
Riverview: first 300kg	\$74.00	\$76.00	\$2.00
Riverview: Excess (per kg over 300kg)	\$0.22	\$0.25	\$0.03
Rosewood: first 2 cubic meters	\$74.00	\$76.00	\$2.00
Rosewood: Excess (per cubic meter)	\$37.00	\$38.00	\$1.00

* Commercial / Industrial Waste not accepted at Rosewood

Separate fees for green waste disposal are proposed to be introduced from 1 July 2024. The green waste fees are set at a lower rate than general waste, to encourage diversion of garden waste away from general landfill. It has been possible to maintain green waste at the same rates as the 2023-2024 general waste disposal charges, as green waste does not attract the waste levy.

Table 2 (below) outlines the proposed green waste gate fees.

Table 2: Summary of green waste gate fees

Green Waste*	Current Fee (General Waste Disposal Fees)	Proposed Fee	Increase (\$)
	2023-2024	2024-2025	
Domestic Waste			
Riverview: First 500kg	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$0.00
Riverview: Excess over 500kg per kg	\$0.22	\$0.22	\$0.00
Rosewood: First 2 cubic metres of waste	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$0.00
Rosewood: Excess over 2 cubic metres per cubic metre or part thereof	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$0.00
Non-Ipswich Residents / Commercial / Industrial Waste			
Riverview: First 300kg or part thereof	\$74.00	\$74.00	\$0.00
Riverview: Excess over 300kg (per kg)	\$0.22	\$0.22	\$0.00
Rosewood: First 2 cubic metres of waste	\$74.00	\$74.00	\$0.00
Rosewood: Excess over 2 cubic metres per cubic metre or part thereof	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$0.00

* Cars, vans and utilities, including trailers

Temporary Entertainment Event Licences

A note is proposed to be added to the daily rate fees for commercial use of parks and sporting grounds, to clarify that where a TEEL is required, the \$1,350 booking fee usually applicable may be waived. The conditions of the TEEL and the site use have been sufficiently aligned so as to avoid the need for a detailed application process at the time the facility booking is made. This efficiency has meant Council no longer needs to recovery the full cost of both services, and the booking fee can be waived for the applicant, where appropriate.

The associated fee for a TEEL (under Health and Regulatory Services) is proposed to increase from \$755 (as approved on 23 May 2024) to \$1,000. The increased rate of cost recovery for this service is reflective of the additional effort in assessing a TEEL under this new approach.

Minor alterations to development planning applications after the appeal period

A small reduction is proposed to two existing development planning application fees for minor alterations to development planning applications after the appeal period. It is proposed that the fees be reduced by \$5 (from the previously approved rate of \$740 down to \$735) to provide consistency with similar fees for minor planning alterations (see Attachment 1, page 6).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Local Government Act 2009 s97 and 98

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Fees and charges are established in accordance with Councils Revenue Policy. No proposals for policy amendments have been raised as a result of the proposed additional amendments to the register of fees and charges.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

In the event that the proposed new fees are not approved by a resolution of Council, the existing fees will continue to be applicable.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The proposed waste disposal fees have been modelled on a basis which seeks to appropriately balance cost minimisation for local residents with cost recovery objectives for commercial customers. Domestic services remain heavily subsidised.

The proposed minor revisions to other fees presents no material financial impact to Council.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Departments have undertaken consultation with regard to the pricing of fees and scope of available services where possible.

CONCLUSION

Waste disposal fees at Councils Recycling and Refuse Centres have been subject to proposed increases which reflect the reduction in State subsidies intended to offset the impact of the waste levy. The base domestic tip fee remains heavily subsidised, with the commercial fees modelled to reflect cost recovery.


Recommendations with regard to other minor adjustments are also proposed, where efficiency and cost-alignment opportunities have been identified following approval of initial fees in the May 2024 Council meeting.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Recommendation 1 requests that Council approve the proposed additional Fees and Charges for commencement 1 July 2024.
(b) What human rights are affected?	This decision has the potential to impact human rights in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recognition and equality before the law, and- Taking part in public life

(c) How are the human rights limited?	The application of fees and charges has potential to disadvantage some members of the community by limiting their ability to access Council services.
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	<p>The proposed fees and charges do not apply to core Council services or public goods. Fees and Charges apply to services and goods which are optional to take up and benefit an individual. Where charges are applied, this is enabled by, and governed by legislative provisions. For services which can be provided by a Local Government only, Council is required to charge not more than cost recovery. For market- based services, customers can utilise alternative providers if desired, and pricing is set so as to ensure there is no adverse impact on market competition.</p> <p>Where genuine hardship or equity considerations exist, there is provision in the fees and charges for discounts and waivers to ensure access to services is made as broadly available as possible, whilst balancing the regulatory pricing requirements noted above, and other social policy objectives such as the user pays principle.</p>
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1	Proposed RRC waste disposal fees and other amendments to the register of fees and charges for 2024-2025 ↓ 
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Paul Mollenhauer
TREASURY ACCOUNTING MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Jeffrey Keech
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matt Smith
GENERAL MANAGER (CORPORATE SERVICES)

“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”

