

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING`  
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,  
ON 13/03/24 AT 4:00 PM**

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**Attendance**

Crs Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor - in the chair), Kiri Dicker (joined on-line at 4.22pm), Simon Chate (on-line), Eoin Johnston, Stephen McCarthy, Eva Ramsey and Rodney Bruem.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Director, Civil Services Director), Matthew Wood (Director, Planning and Environmental Health Division), Caroline Klose (Director, Corporate and Community Division), Linda Coulter (Manager Financial Services) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were two people in the gallery at this time.

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

In opening the meeting the Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Nigel Buchanan.

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Eoin Johnston/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That such apologies be accepted and leave of absence granted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nigel Buchanan and Cr Phillip Meehan

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**4. Deputations**

- **Derek Audus, Rotary Satellite Club** – spoke in favour of Item 5.3 – Waste Operations – Long Term Financial Plan and in favour of an automated recycling facility.

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**Change in Order of Business**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Eva Ramsey)

That the Committee change the order of business to deal with the item as per the Deputation received.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nigel Buchanan and Cr Phillip Meehan

**5. Committee Reports**

**5.3 Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Eva Ramsey)

1. That Council endorses the draft fees and charges and Landfill and Resource Management and Domestic Waste Management long term financial plans, as per the Attachments 1, 2 and 3 to this report, for exhibition in the draft 2024/25 to 2027/28 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
2. That Council investigate options for a bulk return and earn scheme in Ballina Shire, including a Council managed operation.

Cr Kiri Dicker joined the meeting on-line at 04:22 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nigel Buchanan and Cr Phillip Meehan

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**5.1 North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Eoin Johnston/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

That Council endorses the draft NEWLOG budget for 2024/25, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nigel Buchanan and Cr Phillip Meehan

**5.2 Rating Structure - 2024/25**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Eoin Johnston)

1. That for the draft 2024/25 Operational Plan, Council approves the application of a base rating structure, which applies the following principles:

- a) Marginally less than 50% of the rate income for the residential category of properties being generated from the base amount
- b) Business, farmland and mining categories to have the same base amount as the residential base amount
- c) A total of 18.85% income from the rate yield to be sourced from the business category properties
- d) Farmland rate in the dollar is approximately 89% of the residential rate in the dollar
- e) The mining category rate in the dollar to be set as the same rate as the business category (currently no mining category properties in the shire).

2. That Council notes the indicative figures for this rating structure for the 2024/25 rating year, are as per Tables Eight and Nine of this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nigel Buchanan and Cr Phillip Meehan

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**5.4 Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Stephen McCarthy/Cr Rodney Bruem)

That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, as well as the long-term financial plan, as per Attachments 1, 2 and 3 to this report, for the Water Operations, for exhibition in the draft 2024/25 to 2027/28 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Water Access Charge 20mm meter	236	250	5.9
Water Consumption under 350kl	2.66	2.82	6.0
Water Consumption over 350kl	3.99	4.23	6.0
Vacant Land Charge	236	250	5.9

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nigel Buchanan and Cr Phillip Meehan

**5.5 Wastewater Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Rodney Bruem/Cr Stephen McCarthy)

1. That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, as well as the long term financial plan, as per Attachments 1, 2 and 3 to this report, for the Wastewater Operations, for exhibition in the draft 2024/25 to 2027/28 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2023/24 \$</b>	<b>2024/25 \$</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Residential Availability Charge	1,063	1,074	1.0
Vacant Land Charge	803	811	1.0
Non-Residential Usage Charge	2.71	2.74	1.0
Non-Residential Access Charge	Variable based on meter size		
Recycled Water	80% of potable water step 1		

2. That Council notes the inclusion of a non-compulsory dividend from Wastewater Operations to the General Fund, with a report to be provided back to Council prior to adoption of the 2024/25 to 2027/28 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, confirming whether Council meets requirements to include this dividend.

Cr Eva Ramsey left the meeting at 05:04 pm.

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FOR VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy and Cr Rodney Bruem  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nigel Buchanan, Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phillip Meehan

**MEETING CLOSURE**

5.07pm