

**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 9/03/26 AT 4:15 PM**

Attendance

Crs Sharon Cadwallader (Mayor - in the chair), Michelle Bailey, Simon Kinny, Damian Loone (Online), Therese Crollick, Simon Chate, Erin Karsten, Eva Ramsey and Kiri Dicker.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), Troy Anderson (Director - Civil Services Division), Matthew Wood (Director - Planning and Environmental Health Division), Caroline Klose (Director - Corporate and Community Division) and Nikki Glassop (Executive Assistant - General Manager and Mayor) were in attendance.

There was one person in the gallery at this time.

Request to attend meeting online

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Simon Kinny/Cr Erin Karsten)

That Cr Damian Loone be permitted to attend this meeting online.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phil Meehan

1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Cr Phil Meehan.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Simon Chate/Cr Therese Crollick)

That such apology be accepted and leave of absence granted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Eva Ramsey and Cr Phil Meehan

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3. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Cr Eva Ramsey arrived to the meeting at 4.19 pm.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 North East Weight of Loads Group (NEWLOG)

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Kiri Dicker/Cr Therese Crollick)

That Council endorses the draft NEWLOG budget for 2026/27 and Long-Term Financial Plan, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

AGAINST – Cr Eva Ramsey.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phil Meehan

4.2 Land Valuations and Rating Structure - 2026/27

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Therese Crollick/Cr Eva Ramsey)

1. That for the draft 2026/27 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 18.65% income from the rate yield to be sourced from the business category properties
 - d) Farmland rate in the dollar is approximately 81% 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 the rating structure for the 2026/27 rating year, applying a 6.0% Special Rate Variation, as per Table Five of this report. If the Special Rate Variation is not approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), the 3.4% rate peg already set by IPART for 2026/27, will apply.

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FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phil Meehan

4.3 Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Simon Kinny/Cr Michelle Bailey)

That Council endorses the draft fees and charges and Landfill and Resource Management and Domestic Waste Management long term financial plans, as per Attachments 1, 2 and 3 to this report, for exhibition in the draft 2026/27 to 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phil Meehan

4.4 Wastewater Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Simon Kinny/Cr Erin Karsten)

That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, and the long term financial plan, as per Attachments 1, 2 and 3 to this report, for the Wastewater Operations, for exhibition in the draft 2026/27 to 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.

Charge Type	2025/26 \$	2026/27 \$	% Increase
Residential Availability Charge	1,106	1,128	2.0
Vacant Land Charge	835	852	2.0
Non-Residential Usage Charge	2.82	2.88	2.1
Non-Residential Access Charge	Variable based on meter size		
Recycled Water	80% of potable water step 1		

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phil Meehan

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4.5 Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Simon Chate/Cr Therese Crollick)

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 2026/27 to 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.

Charge Type	2025/26	2026/27	% Increase
Water Access Charge 20mm meter	265	281	6.0
Water Consumption under 350kl	2.99	3.17	6.0
Water Consumption over 350kl	4.49	4.76	6.0
Vacant Land Charge	265	281	6.0

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Phil Meehan

MEETING CLOSURE

4.47pm.