

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,
ON 11/03/15 AT 4.00 PM**

Attendance

Cr David Wright (Mayor - in the chair), Jeff Johnson, Keith Williams (arrived at 4.28 pm), Keith Johnson, Susan Meehan, Ken Johnston, Paul Worth, Ben Smith and Robyn Hordern.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Civil Services Group Manager), Rod Willis (Development and Environmental Health Group Manager), Steve Barnier (Strategic and Community Facilities Group Manager), Peter Morgan (Manager Finance and Governance), Neil Weatherson (Airport Manager), Sandra Bailey (Secretary) and Sarah Carden (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were four staff members in the gallery at this time.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Jeff Johnson.

Cr Keith Williams indicated he would be late to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Keith Johnson)

That such apologies be accepted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Keith Williams

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Deputations

Nil

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4. Committee Reports

4.1 Ballina Byron Gateway Airport - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report on the update of the long term financial plan for the Ballina – Byron Gateway Airport.
2. That Council notes the details of the proposed expression of interest for funding under the State Government's Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund for Regional Airports.
3. That Council provides in principle support for a \$500,000 contribution to the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) - Regional Airports Program, subject to this contribution being funded by loans, with the loan repayments being repaid in full by additional contributions from the airlines.
4. That the Airport capital budget include \$15,000 for the installation of display space for the Northern Rivers Community Gallery for 2015/16.

Cr Keith Williams arrived at the meeting at 04:28 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

4.2 Rating Structure 2015/16 - New Land Valuations

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council, for the 2015/16 Draft Operation Plan, include a base rating structure, modelled on the existing 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 20% income from the rate yield to be sourced from the business category properties
 - d) 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).

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2. That Council notes the indicative figures for this rating structure for 2015/16, are as per tables Seven and Eight within this report and as outlined below:

Table Seven: Proposed 2015/16 Rating Structure

Rating Category	2015/16 - 5.41% Increase	
	Base Amount	Rate in Dollar
Residential	450	0.181039
Business	450	0.710141
Farmland	450	0.143762
Mining	450	0.710141

Table Eight: Proposed 2015/16 Income per Category (Cat.) at 5.41%

Rate Category	2014/15			2015/16		
	Income 2.3% increase	Cat % of yield	Ave Rate	Income 5.41% increase	Cat % of yield	Ave Rate
Residential	13,195,414	72.38	859	13,869,085	72.38	901
Business	3,646,177	20.00	2,869	3,832,117	20.00	2,961
Farmland	1,389,342	7.62	1,314	1,459,558	7.62	1,387
Mining	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	18,230,933	100.0	1,030	19,160,760	100.00	1,080

3. That a Councillor briefing be held to carry out a detailed review of Multiple Occupancy Developments (MOD) and their impact on rates, with a view to developing a solution for presentation to the State Government.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

4.3 Drainage Charge - Evaluation

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Keith Williams/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the introduction of an annual drainage charge and accepts that there is no direct financial benefit in introducing the charge as it forms part of Council's ordinary rate notional yield calculation.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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4.4 Investment Portfolio - Review

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Susan Meehan)

1. That Council continue to manage the portfolio in accordance with the adopted Investment Policy.
2. That the General Manager has approval to sell the following Floating Rate Notes (FRN) and Transfer Deposit (TD), subject to it being economical to do so on the day of sale:
 - Westpac FRN maturing in 2017
 - National Wealth Management Holdings FRN maturing 2026
 - CBA TD maturing 2018
3. That the General Manager seek external independent portfolio advice, as and when required.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

4.5 Occupation of Council Owned Property

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council defer this item until more information is provided by FSGA detailing their youth activities programs for the Ballina Shire into the future.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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4.6 Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council endorses the inclusion of the DWM and LRM long term financial plans, as attached to this report, and the following waste charging structure, in the draft 2015/16 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition:

Table Five – LRM Waste Charges

Charge Type	2014/15 (\$)	2015/16	% Change
Kerbside Non Domestic Mixed Waste (Annual)	360	369	2.5
Kerbside Non Domestic Recycling (Annual)	178	182	2.2
Kerbside Non Domestic Green Waste (Annual)	315	322	2.2
DWM Gate Fee Mixed Waste	264/tonne	256/tonne	(3)
Self-Haul Mixed Waste Under 300kg	216/tonne	221/tonne	2.3
Over 300kg	250/tonne	256/tonne	2.4
***DWM Gate Fee Recyclates	210/tonne	215/tonne	2.4
***Self-Haul Recyclates	86/tonne	88/tonne	2.3
Gate fees Recyclates >500kg	210/tonne	215/tonne	2.4
Gate Fees Recyclates <500kg	86/tonne	88/tonne	2.3
Self-Haul Green Waste	68/tonne	70/tonne	2.9
Remaining Gate Fees	Various up to 10%	Various up to 5%	Up to 5%
Waste Operations Annual charge	70	72	2.9

*** Fee shown for reference only. It will not form part of the 2015/16 fees and charges.

Domestic Waste Charges

Charge Type	2014/15 Charge \$	2015/16 Charge \$	% Increase
DWM - Rural (excludes green)	307	314	2.3
DWM – Urban (all three collections)	352	360	2.3
Additional Extra Mixed Waste Urban – Fortnight	105	108	2.8
Additional Mixed Waste Rural – Weekly	210	215	2.4
Additional Domestic Recycling	105	108	2.8
Additional Green Waste Collection - Urban Only	210	215	2.4
DWM – Vacant Land	38	39	2.6

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FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ken Johnston

4.7 Community Infrastructure - Recurrent Projects

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council endorses the community infrastructure priorities identified in this report for inclusion in the draft 2015/16 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for exhibition; i.e.
 - Stormwater
 - Street Lighting
 - Footpaths
 - Roads and Bridges
 - Playground Equipment
 - Sports Fields
 - Community Buildings
 - Depot
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to call tenders for the replacement of the air conditioning at the Council Administration Centre.
3. That Council receive a report to the April Finance Committee meeting with regard to the cost of completing the sealing of Tweed Street, Ballina.
4. That Council receive a report on the design options for the Beachfront Parade, East Ballina works to be funded in 2017/18.
5. That Council write to Crowley and St Andrews Retirement Villages inviting expressions of interest for funding of street seats along Cherry Street, Ballina.
6. That Council receive a report to the April Finance Committee meeting on options to fund the finalisation of the Sneaths Road, Wollongbar footpath from the footpath capital works program.
7. That the footpath construction program be revised to include Quays Drive, West Ballina (\$8,000) in 2015/16.
8. That Council receive a report on options for mitigating and funding the periodic flooding of Burns Point Ferry Road.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson and Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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4.8 Community Infrastructure - Non-recurrent Projects

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council endorses the inclusion of the draft funding strategy for the Regional Boating Plan, as per table five of this report, in the draft Long Term Financial Plan with consultation to be undertaken with the Ballina RSL and the Wardell Progress Association in respect to the funding sources for this Plan. The Wardell consultation is also to consider whether there is support for the following two projects to be funded from the Wardell Town Centre Reserve in 2015/16:
 - Footpath Carlisle Street \$70,000
 - Footpath Byron Street \$55,000
2. That Council endorses for financial planning purposes only, the draft cashflows and works program as per attachment five of this report, subject to any amendments arising from this report or other reports within this Finance Committee meeting agenda.
3. That in respect to the proposed Ocean Pool project, Council provides its in principle support for the project, however as Council has no forward funding allocated for the works, it accepts that this needs to be a project driven by the community, both from an approval and capital funding perspective.
4. That Council receive a report to the April Finance Committee meeting on options to fund the Lennox Head Main Street Upgrade Concept Plan Project in 2015/16.
5. That Council receive a report for the April Finance Committee meeting whereby the skate park funding for Wollongbar be brought forward to 2015/16.
6. That Council receive a report to the April Finance Committee Meeting on options to progress the sports and event centre within the short-term.
7. That Council receive a report to the April Finance Committee meeting on the merits of the Brunswick Street boat ramp.

Cr Ken Johnston left the meeting at 06:20 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ken Johnston

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4.9 Fit for the Future - Council Response

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Keith Williams)

That Council defer this matter to a Councillor briefing.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ken Johnston

4.10 Northern Rivers Community Gallery - Review

RECOMMENDATION

(Cr Susan Meehan/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council provides its in principle support for an additional allocation of \$36,000 to the 2015/16 operational budget for the Northern Rivers Community Gallery, to provide 18 hours (3 days) of administrative and customer service support to the Gallery Co-ordinator, with these funds to be made recurrent over the long term financial plan. However the allocation of these funds is subject to a further report to Council identifying options for funding this additional recurrent cost either through savings in other programs, additional revenues or a combination of both.
2. That Council provides its support for a capital amount of \$10,000 to be considered for inclusion in future annual budgets to provide improvements to the shop in the existing Gallery Foyer.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Ken Johnston

MEETING CLOSURE

6.50pm