

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,  
ON 14/03/18 AT 4.00 PM**

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**Attendance**

Crs David Wright (Mayor - in the chair), Phillip Meehan, Sharon Parry, Jeff Johnson, Eoin Johnston, Stephen McCarthy, Nathan Willis, Keith Williams and Ben Smith.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Group Manager Civil Services), Matthew Wood (Group Manager Development and Environmental Health), Linda Coulter (Manager Financial Services), Paul Tsikleas (Manager Commercial Services) and Kylie Hardy (Airport Chief Operating Officer) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were no people in the gallery at this time.

**1. Apologies**

An apology was received from Cr Sharon Cadwallader.

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Williams)

That such apology be accepted and leave of absence granted.

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

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- **Cr Phillip Meehan** – declared an interest in Item 4.10 – Community Infrastructure – Recurrent Projects and Funding which mentions the overpass at Angels Beach. (Nature of Interest: non significant, non pecuniary – he lives at Angels Beach). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matter is discussed and voting on the matter.
- **Cr Stephen McCarthy** – declared an interest in Item 4.8 – Property Reserves – Review and Item 4.11 – Community Infrastructure – Non-recurrent Projects and Funding. Both reports mention the indoor sports centre. (Nature of Interest: non significant, non pecuniary – he was previously a member of the Ballina Basketball Committee). He will be remaining in the meeting while the matters are discussed and voting on the matters.

**3. Deputations**

Nil

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**4. Committee Reports**

**4.1 Water Pricing Structure - Two Step Consumption Charge Review**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Phillip Meehan and seconded by Cr Sharon Parry

1. That Council supports the removal of the two-step pricing structure for water consumption, by adopting a staged approach whereby the current 50% premium will be reduced to nil over a period of five years (i.e. 10% reduction each year – 40%, 30%, 20%, 10%).
2. That Council continue to monitor the balance of water income received from annual charges and consumption charges with the long term objective being to achieve 75% or more of the total income from these two sources from consumption charges, as per the State Government's best practice guidelines.
3. That Council endorses this pricing approach for the preparation of the water pricing for the exhibition of the 2018/19 Operational Plan.

The **Motion** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Sharon Parry and Cr Eoin Johnston

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Williams/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That the existing price structure for 2018/19 be retained.
2. That Council investigate the Brisbane City Council tariff model.
3. That Council continue to monitor the balance of water income received from annual charges and consumption charges with the long term objective being to achieve 75% or more of the total income from these two sources from consumption charges, as per the State Government's best practice guidelines.

FOR VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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**4.2 Water Pricing Structure - Access Charge Review**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Phillip Meehan)

1. That for the purposes of exhibiting the draft 2018/19 Operational Plan Council approves an amendment to the water access charging structure from a water connection size based system to a standard charge based on tenements, for residential properties.
2. The draft 2018/19 water access charges are to remain the same as the 2017/18 charges, to recognise that Council will generate additional income if the change in point one is implemented. The draft 2018/19 Operational Plan is also to include a statement confirming that Council may index the 2017/18 access charges if the change in the charging structure outlined in point one is not implemented.
3. That Council write to all properties impacted by the proposed change in point one, as part of the exhibition of the draft 2018/19 Operational Plan, with all submissions received to be reported back to Council prior to Council adopting the 2018/19 Operational Plan.

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Nathan Willis)

That Council endorses the access and consumption pricing charges, as per the following table, for exhibition in the draft 2018/19 Operational Plan, as well as the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report, for the water operations:

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>% Increase / (Decrease)</b>
Water Access Charge - 20mm meter	204	204	0%
Water Consumption under 350kl	2.18	2.23	2.3%
Water Consumption over 350kl	3.27	3.35	2.3%
Vacant Land Charge	204	204	0%

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Phillip Meehan)

That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, for exhibition in the draft 2018/19 Operational Plan, as well as the long term financial plan, as per the attachments to this report, for the wastewater operations:

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2017/18 \$</b>	<b>2018/19 \$</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Residential Availability Charge	953	975	2.3%
Vacant Land Charge	718	735	2.3%
Non Residential Usage Charge	2.41	2.47	2.3%
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 Sharon Cadwallader

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

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Ben Smith and seconded by Cr Nathan Willis

That Council endorses the inclusion of the LRM and DWM long term financial plans and draft fees and charges, as attached to this report, in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Jeff Johnson

That Council endorses the inclusion of the LRM and DWM long term financial plans and draft fees and charges, as attached to this report, in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition, with amendments to the draft fees and charges as follows:

- Additional recycling bin charge reduced to \$50
- Additional waste bin charge to be \$180

The **Amendment LAPSED**.

The **Motion was CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Nathan Willis)

That Council endorses the inclusion of the LRM and DWM long term financial plans and draft fees and charges, as attached to this report, in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

**4.6 Rating Structure and Land Valuations - 2018/19**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That for the draft 2018/19 Operational Plan, Council approves the inclusion of a base rating structure, modelled on the 2017/18 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) Farmland rate in the dollar is approximately 85% 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 2018/19, as per Tables Two and Three of this report.
3. That Council notes that the draft 2018/19 Operational Plan will also include a rating structure based on a 2.3% rate peg limit on the assumption that Council's proposed special rate variation may not be approved.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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**4.7 Ballina - Byron Gateway Airport - Long Term Financial Plan**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Eoin Johnston and seconded by Cr Ben Smith

That Council approves the inclusion of the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the Ballina – Byron Gateway Airport, as attached to this report, in the draft 2018/19 to 2021/22 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, subject to the solar panel works being fully funded in 2019/20.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Phillip Meehan and seconded by Cr Sharon Parry

1. That Council approves the inclusion of the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the Ballina – Byron Gateway Airport, as attached to this report, in the draft 2018/19 to 2021/22 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, subject to the solar panel works being fully funded in 2019/20.
2. That the \$100,000 dividend be delayed until the completion of the solar panel works and the reserve is back to a positive balance.

The **Amendment** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Sharon Parry

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis, Cr Keith Williams and Cr Ben Smith

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Eoin Johnston/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council approves the inclusion of the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the Ballina – Byron Gateway Airport, as attached to this report, in the draft 2018/19 to 2021/22 Delivery Program and Operational Plan, subject to the solar panel works being fully funded in 2019/20.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

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**4.8 Property Reserves - Review**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Phillip Meehan/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council notes the contents of this update on the Property Reserves.
2. That Council receive a further report on options to finance high priority development projects such as the Wollongbar Urban Expansion Area - Stage Three and the release of additional industrial land at the Southern Cross Industrial Estate.

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

**4.9 Dust Sealing Analysis**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Phillip Meehan and seconded by Cr Ben Smith

1. That the General Manager prepare a revised draft of the Road Asset Management Plan for reporting back to Council based on Scenario 3 from the Road Pavement Network Analysis discussed in this report. This will include the addition of a dust sealing program as per the report.
2. That Council takes no further action in respect of the inclusion of the sealing of the whole or part of Houghlahans Creek Road in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan based on the contents of this report.

The **Motion** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Stephen McCarthy and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Jeff Johnson/Cr Phillip Meehan)

That the General Manager prepare a revised draft of the Road Asset Management Plan for reporting back to Council based on Scenario 3 from the Road Pavement Network Analysis discussed in this report. This will include the addition of a dust sealing program as per the report.

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

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**4.10 Community Infrastructure - Recurrent Projects and Funding**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Ben Smith and seconded by Cr Jeff Johnson

That Council include in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan the recurrent capital expenditure priorities as outlined in this report.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Nathan Willis and seconded by Cr Phillip Meehan

1. That Council include in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan the recurrent capital expenditure priorities as outlined in this report.
2. That Council request the Local Traffic Committee to approve a reduction in the speed zone for The Coast Road at Angels Beach to 60 km per hour, due to the safety concerns arising from the pedestrian bridge.

The **Amendment** was **LOST**.

FOR VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Keith Williams

AGAINST VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Parry, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy and Cr Ben Smith

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Jeff Johnson)

That Council include in the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program and Operational Plan the recurrent capital expenditure priorities as outlined in this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader

Cr Keith Williams left the meeting at 06:15 pm.

Cr Sharon Parry left the meeting at 06:16 pm.



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**4.11 Community Infrastructure - Non-recurrent Projects and Funding**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Ben Smith and seconded by Cr Phillip Meehan

That Council authorises the preparation of the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long Term Financial Plan based on the contents of this report, for reporting to the April 2018 Finance Committee meeting, prior to public exhibition.

An **Amendment** was moved by Cr Phillip Meehan

That Council authorises the preparation of the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long Term Financial Plan based on the contents of this report, for reporting to the April 2018 Finance Committee meeting, prior to public exhibition, with an amendment that Point 2(a), as follows be removed.

2. *Ballina Indoor Sports Centre (BISC) - \$3m shortfall – contingency funding for 2018/19 as follows:*

a) *Community Infrastructure Reserve - \$700,000*

The **Amendment LAPSED**.

The **Motion** was **CARRIED**.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Phillip Meehan)

That Council authorises the preparation of the draft 2018/19 Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long Term Financial Plan based on the contents of this report, for reporting to the April 2018 Finance Committee meeting, prior to public exhibition.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan

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

**MEETING CLOSURE**

6.19 pm