

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREET, BALLINA,  
ON 8/04/14 AT 4.00 PM**

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**Attendance**

Cr David Wright (Mayor - in the chair), Jeff Johnson (arrived at 4.02 pm), Sharon Cadwallader, Keith Williams, Keith Johnson, Susan Meehan (arrived at 4.03 pm), Ken Johnston, Paul Worth, Ben Smith and Robyn Hordern.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Civil Services Group Manager), Vince Hunt (Acting Development and Environmental Health Group Manager), Steve Barnier (Strategic and Community Facilities Group Manager), Peter Morgan (Manager Finance and Governance), Neil Weatherson (Airport Business Manager), Paul Tsikleas (Commercial Services Manager) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were two people in the gallery at this time.

**1. Apologies**

Nil

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Deputations**

- **Ian Duncan** – spoke in relation to Item 4.7 – Draft 2014/15 General Fund Budget – Other Considerations and in particular to Newrybar Parking and Traffic.

Cr Jeff Johnson arrived at the meeting at 04:02 pm.

Cr Susan Meehan arrived at the meeting at 04:03 pm.

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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 approves the inclusion of the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the Ballina – Byron Gateway Airport, as attached to this report, in the Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2014/15.
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to proceed with the construction of the car park extension as outlined in this report, with this expenditure to be financed from a loan / overdraft facility that allows the debt to repaid within a relatively short time frame.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Susan Meehan, Cr Paul Worth, Cr Robyn Hordern and Cr Ben Smith

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Ken Johnston

**Adjournment**

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 5.01 pm

The meeting resumed at 5.18 pm

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**4.3 Fees and Charges - 2014/15**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the draft schedule of fees and charges for 2014/15, as attached, including the following amendment.

Swimming Pool Fees

Adult ten entry ticket – 2014/15 fee - \$34

Seniors ten entry ticket – 2014/15 fee - \$28

2. That Council receive a further report on the proposed pricing for the Water and Wastewater Connection Fees.
3. That clarification be sought on the Wollongbar Urban Expansion area sewerage charges.

Cr Jeff Johnson left the meeting at 05:30 pm.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

**4.7 Draft 2014/15 General Fund Budget - Other Considerations**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Susan Meehan)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to other considerations for the General Fund budget.
2. That Council allocate \$30,000 in the 2014/15 budget to assist the Newrybar community to build a carpark, with funds to be allocated from the roads budget.
3. That Council receive a report on options for the introduction of an annual charge for drainage works in respect to Richmond River County Council for 2015/16 onwards.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson

Cr Jeff Johnson returned to the meeting at 05:47 pm.

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**4.2 Regional Express Airlines - Fees and Charges Review**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Paul Worth)

That Council notes the contents of this report on the Regional Express Airlines fees and charges review.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**5. Confidential Session**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council moves into committee of the whole with the meeting closed to the public, to consider the following item in accordance with Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

**5.1 Regional Express Airlines - Fees and Charges Review - Details**

**Reason for Confidentiality**

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c) (d) of the Local Government Act 1993. which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:-

- c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; and
- d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
  - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
  - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
  - (iii) reveal a trade secret

and in accordance with 10D(2)(c), on balance, the discussion of the matter in an open meeting is not considered to be in the public interest as the release of confidential information could result in the Council, acting on behalf of the community, not achieving the optimum financial outcome for the community..

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

(The Council moved into Confidential Session at 5.47 pm).

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**Open Council**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Ken Johnston)

That Council move into Open Council and out of Committee of the Whole.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

(The Council moved into Open Council at 5.53 pm).

The General Manager reported to the Open Meeting the recommendation made while in Confidential Session:

**5.1 Regional Express Airlines - Fees and Charges Review - Details**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council adopts and authorises the passenger charges and landing fees based upon the terms and conditions as outlined in this report for Regional Express to apply from 1 July 2014.
2. That Council authorises the Council seal to be attached to any agreements relating to these fees.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**Adoption of Recommendation from Confidential Session**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Keith Johnson)

That the recommendation made whilst in Confidential Session, be adopted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Robyn Hordern)

- 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 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition, subject to further reporting:

**LRM Waste Charges**

Charge Type	2013/14 Charge \$	2014/15 Charge \$	% Increase
Kerbside Non Domestic Mixed Waste (Annual)	333	360	8
Kerbside Non Domestic Recycling (Annual)	165	178	8
Kerbside Non Domestic Green Waste (Annual)	292	315	8
DWM Gate Fee Mixed Waste	245/tonne	264/tonne	8
Self Haul Mixed Waste Under 300kg Over 300kg	200/tonne 217/tonne	216/tonne 250/tonne	8 15
DWM Gate Fee Recyclates	194/tonne	210/tonne	8
Self Haul Recyclates	79/tonne	87/tonne	10
DWM Green Waste	245/tonne	264/tonne	8
Self Haul Green Waste	63/tonne	73/tonne	10
Remaining Gate Fees	Various	Various up to 10	Up to 10

**Domestic Waste Charges**

Charge Type	2013/14 Charge \$	2014/15 Charge \$	% Increase
DWM - Rural (excludes green)	364	377	3.5
DWM – Urban (all three collections)	408	422	3.5
Additional Extra Mixed Waste Urban- Fortnightly	152	157	3.5
Additional Mixed Waste Rural - Weekly	303	314	3.5
Additional Domestic Recycling	147	152	3.5
Additional Green Waste Collection - Urban Only	265	274	3.5
DWM – Vacant Land	37	38	3.5

- That Council write to the State Government expressing its concerns in respect to the possible re-application of the waste levy.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Robyn Hordern/Cr Keith Johnson)

That Council endorses the inclusion of the draft water long term financial plan, as attached to this report, and the following water charging structure, in the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2013/14 \$</b>	<b>2014/15 \$</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Water Access Charge - 20mm meter	178	194	9
Water Consumption under 350kl	1.91	2.08	9
Water Consumption over 350kl	2.87	3.12	9
Vacant Land Charge	178	194	9

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Susan Meehan)

1. That Council endorses the inclusion of the draft wastewater long term financial plan, as attached to this report, and the following wastewater charging structure, in the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2013/14 \$</b>	<b>2014/15 \$</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Residential Annual Charge	734	807	10
Vacant Land	553	608	10
Annual Non Residential Access	553	608	10
Annual Non residential Usage Charge	1.86	2.05	10

2. That Council hold a Councillor briefing to review the Wastewater Long Term Financial Plan and associated strategies, prior to the adoption of the 2014/15 fees and charges at the June 2014 Ordinary Council meeting.

3. That staff report on the feasibility of implementing the draft motion below:

That a Wastewater Productivity Working Party be set up, tasked with examining and analysing opportunities to increase wastewater operations revenue, reduce costs, improve financial management strategies, and generally develop the best cost effectiveness possible for Ballina's wastewater systems.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

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**4.8 Special Rate Variation - Options**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Williams/Cr Robyn Hordern)

1. That Council provides in principle support for a proposal to seek a special rate variation to finance the refurbishment and redevelopment of the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.
2. That based on Council's current information the special variation would need to be a 5.5% increase in the rate pegging limit for 2015/16 and 2016/17, assuming a base rate pegging increase of 3% (i.e. 2.5% special variations).
3. That Council include points one and two in the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long Term Financial Plan for exhibition purposes.
4. That Council receive a further report on how these actions are to be implemented following the completion of the exhibition period for the draft 2014/15 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**4.9 Delivery Program and Operational Plan - Exhibition**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Keith Williams)

1. That Council approves the exhibition of the Draft Delivery Program / Operational Plan, as attached, inclusive of any amendments arising from this meeting and subject to the finalisation of both documents.
2. That Council hold public meetings as part of the exhibition process at Lennox Head and Wardell.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

**MEETING CLOSURE**

6.38 pm