



MINUTES

**Special Council Meeting
Thursday, 20 July 2023**

**MINUTES OF WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL BOARD ROOM
ON THURSDAY, 20 JULY 2023 AT 8:03AM**

PRESENT: Cr Gavin Baskett (Mayor), Cr Tina Elliott (Deputy Mayor), Cr Anne Seymour, Cr Cathy White, Cr Shane Mann, Cr Frank Standfast.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Dirk Dowling (Chief Executive Officer), Miss Shannon Van Bael (Executive Manager Community Services), Mr Roger Naidoo (Director of Works), Miss Kirby Reents (Minutes Secretary).

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor recited the Acknowledgement of Country.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Baskett invited Councillors to declare any relevant "Interest" to respective items.

NIL

4 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Preparing the Winton Shire Council Annual Budget is a difficult process considering we have many competing priorities & challenges, and this year has been no different. If anything, it's been made harder by the ever-increasing inflation figures and the National Housing and Health Crisis that have applied financial pressures upon all levels of Government. Council took all the challenges facing our community into consideration when preparing the budget and have done a great job in delivering a balanced and responsible budget. This budget has a heavy focus on maintaining our workforce and delivering a Capital Works Program that's achievable, while continuing to upgrade ageing infrastructure.

The Budget for 23/24 will comprise a total revenue of \$39.822m (including grants) and an anticipated expenditure of \$26.084m. The budget should have a net operating surplus of \$13.737m, with the Capital works Program to come in at \$24.805m and depreciation will be \$5.408m.

When preparing the budget, a major challenge is our small rate base and the limited opportunities to generate revenue, while being considerate of essential services to the community, and maintaining security for our workforce. Another challenge is the ever-increasing costs to deliver Services and Capital Works Projects. Across the state, according to Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Data, Council's costs will rise approximately 4.7% to operate "Business as Usual" in the 23/34 Financial Year. With this in mind, Council has decided to raise the Rates and Utility charges by 3%. This is a lower rate rise than most communities in Queensland and well below current inflation rates. While increasing rates have an impact on all landowners in our shire the lowest rate increase will be \$20.45/annum. The 15% discount for rates paid on or before the due date has been retained with interest on overdue rates now being 11.64%.

Council will continue to grant a rebate of rates and charges to pensioners who hold a Queensland pensioner concession card, for land owned and permanently occupied by the pensioner. The amount of the “pensioner” rates and charges rebate, offered by council, will rise to \$300 per annum which brings the total rebate, including the State Governments contribution, to \$500. This budget has maintained a focus on our elderly residence with the continued upgrade of footpaths and crossovers for easy access to pathways when crossing the road. There will also be an electrical upgrade at Diamantina Gardens and the continued renovation of units. We’re also developing an “Aged Care Strategy” to evaluate the liveability in our community for aged residents. This will be an all-encompassing document from living unassisted in our community to high care needs in the MPHS and everything in between.

Rates and Utility Charges make up approximately 11% of our total budget with grants and funding contributing most of the income. The grants & funding is essential in assisting Council to remain sustainable and helps maintain the operational arm of Council. A significant amount of operational expenditure goes into delivering and maintaining services that, over the years, have been cost shifted to Council from State and Federal Governments, such as;

- Airports
- Child Care
- Community Care Packages
- Sport & Rec
- Stock Routes
- Pests & Weeds
- Biosecurity, to name a few.

We believe that delivering these services and many others, maintains the liveability of our community for all ages. While Council would never consider not supplying essential community services, cost shifting from both levels of government has put undue pressure on our bottom line.

The Capital Works Program this financial year totals \$26m with a large portion being road projects throughout the shire. This portion of the budget was once again challenging, with the many projects Council wants to achieve for the Winton community. When deciding on what projects to complete during this financial year, we weighed up the needs versus wants and the capacity we have in the community to complete these works. It’s been evident since COVID hit our shores that we’ve had challenges in completing our Capital Works Program and have taken this onboard for the 23/24 Budget. We have reduced the number of projects by approximately 50% to make the deliverables achievable. With the hope of receiving funding throughout the year, and the prospect of completing the Capital Works Program, we’ll have a list of shovel ready projects ready to proceed with.

A lot of work goes into preparing a budget, especially in these challenging times. Not everyone is going to agree with the approach Council takes and the decisions made to finalise this budget but be rest assured that every decision made, by Council, is to make Winton a community that people enjoy living and working in.

I would like to thank Councillors, the CEO, and staff of Winton Shire Council for their efforts and hard work in bring this budget together.

Gavin Baskett
Mayor
Winton Shire Council

4 DECISIONAL REPORTS

4.1 2023-2024 BUDGET ADOPTION

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Budget and set the Rates and Charges for the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

The Budget has been developed in consultation with management and Councillors through a range of workshops undertaken on the 25 May, 26 May, 9 June, 16 June and 26 June 2023.

The 2023/2024 Budget and Rates and Charges have been developed to be consistent with the Corporate Plan (2022-2027), the Long-term Financial Forecast and the proposed Operational Plan (2023/2024). Adoption of the Budget and Rates and Charges give authority to Council's revenue raising powers and outlines the planned expenditure to fund the delivery of services to the community and investment in new and existing infrastructure.

Council's external accountants, Peter Gogsch Accountants have prepared the statutory budget statements as legislatively required.

23.07.01

Moved: Cr F Standfast
Seconded: Cr S Mann

1. That the report be received.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.02

Moved: Cr T Elliott
Seconded: Cr A Seymour

2. That pursuant to Section 196 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Organisational Structure be adopted by Council on 23 April 2023 (Attached) be confirmed as the current Council Organisational Structure for 2023/2024.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.03

Moved: Cr S Mann
Seconded: Cr T Elliott

3. DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES

- (a) That in accordance with Section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council hereby adopts a categorisation of land for differential general rates for 2023/2024. The five (5) categories have been identified as:

Differential Rate Category	Description
1	Winton
2	Middleton/Corfield
3	Rural/Eastern

5	Mining Leases
6	Rural/Western

The description of each of the rating categories is:

Category 1 Winton is land that is used for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes in the areas designated as the Winton township. The areas are urban in nature and have a homogeneous collective character that defines the grouping from the surrounding rural properties.

Category 2 Middleton and Corfield are small, isolated villages used for residential and commercial purposes that have a very low population base and enjoy very few services beyond a raw bore water supply and road access.

Category 3 Rural/Eastern is grazing and livestock land, land that is used for commercial purposes and for grazing livestock. It is traditionally the high valued sheep/wool raising area that is featured by rich Mitchell, Flinders and button grass plains interspersed by creeks lined with coolabah trees.

Category 5 Mining Leases is the Mining area. Opal and gypsum mining operations on small leases, scattered through the southern and western section of the area.

Category 6 Rural/Western is grazing and livestock land, land that is used for commercial purposes and for grazing livestock. It is traditionally the cattle raising area that has a wide variation in landscape features. There are large areas of open forest country consisting of gidyea, lancewood, coolabahs and scrub. The red soil country also features mesas and jump ups covered with spinifex and mulga.

(b) That Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power, pursuant to Sections 81(4) and 81(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to identify the rating category to which each parcel of rateable land belongs.

(c) That pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 80 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to increase all 5 differential rating categories by three percent (3 %) and the differential general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category and, pursuant to Section 77 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the minimum general rate to be made and levied for each differential general rate category for 2023/2024, is as follows:

Category	Differential Category	Differential Rate	
No.	Description	Cents in \$	Minimum \$
1	Winton	3.71512	701.33
2	Middleton/Corfield	11.25188	701.33
3	Rural/Eastern	0.97847	701.33
5	Mining Leases	0.48754	277.67
6	Rural/Western	0.97861	701.33

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.04

Moved: Cr F Standfast

Seconded: Cr A Seymour

4. That in accordance with Section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council

hereby allows a discount for payment of rates or charges before the end of the discount period of fifteen percent (15%).

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.05

Moved: Cr S Mann

Seconded: Cr T Elliott

5. That in accordance with Section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves that discount does not apply to any state fire / emergency management levy or excess water charges.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.06

Moved: Cr F Standfast

Seconded: Cr A Seymour

6. Pursuant to Section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves interest is payable on overdue rates or charges and the interest rate charged for the 2023/2024 financial year will be 11.64% with effect from 1 July 2023.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.07

Moved: Cr S Mann

Seconded: Cr C White

7. That in accordance with Section 107 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and section 114 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, Winton Shire Council rate notices inclusive of any applicable State Emergency Management Levy will be issued by instalments twice annually. The first rates notice will be issued in September for the period 1st July to the 31st December. The second rates notice will be issued in March for the period 1st January to the 30th June. The payment must be made within 30 days after the date of the rate notice.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.08

Moved: Cr S Mann

Seconded: Cr A Seymour

8. That in accordance with Section 120 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council will grant a rebate of rates and charges to pensioners who hold a Queensland pensioner concession card or a Department of Veteran Affairs "repatriation card" with full entitlements, for land owned and permanently occupied by the pensioner. The amount of the "pensioner" rates and charges rebate shall be \$300 per annum for 2023/2024.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.09

Moved: Cr T Elliott

Seconded: Cr F Standfast

9. That in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to increase Waste and Garbage

Charges by three percent (3%), hereby adopting charges for Waste and Garbage Management for 2023/2024 of:

- \$434.91 per annum for one collection of one bin for residential consumers once per week, and
- \$434.91 per annum for one collection consisting of a maximum of 5 bins by the number of pickups per week for commercial consumers.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.10

Moved: Cr S Mann

Seconded: Cr F Standfast

10. That in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to increase Sewerage Charges by three percent (3%), hereby adopting utility charges for sewerage for 2023/2024 of:

- \$587.76 per annum for first pedestal.
- Nil per annum for second pedestal in a private dwelling.
- \$444.86 per annum for second and subsequent pedestals; and
- \$630.94 per annum for vacant Land.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.11

Moved: Cr A Seymour

Seconded: Cr C White

11. That in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to increase Water Charges by three percent (3%), hereby adopting utility charges for water of \$42.13 per unit for Infrastructure Charges and \$151.66 per unit for the allowable usage charge for 2023/2024 in accordance with the schedule of allocated units as follows:

SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATED UNITS 2023-2024							
		\$42.13			\$151.66		
The Schedule of Allocated Units		Units	KL Allowed	Infrastructure Charge before Discount	Allowable Usage Charge	Total Water Rates	\$ After Discount
Vacant Land	Units	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33
Commercial	Units	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33
Residential	Units	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33
Rural Residential	Units	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33
Rural	Units	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33
Rural under Water Access Agreement	Units	12	3,000	\$ 505.56	\$ 1,819.92	\$ 2,325.48	\$ 1,976.66

Commercial on more than one allotment	Unit plus 1 unit per allotment	5	1,250	\$ 210.65	\$ 758.30	\$ 968.95	\$ 823.61
Nursery	Unit	12	3,000	\$ 505.56	\$ 1,819.92	\$ 2,325.48	\$ 1,976.66
Extra Residence or Extra Industry	Unit	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33
Golf Club	Unit	20	5,000	\$ 842.60	\$ 3,033.20	\$ 3,875.80	\$ 3,294.43
Convent School	Unit	30	7,500	\$ 1,263.90	\$ 4,549.80	\$ 5,813.70	\$ 4,941.65
Hotel	10 Units per HA + 0.5 Units per room	Min 12	3,000	\$ 505.56	\$ 1,819.92	\$ 2,325.48	\$ 1,976.66
		Max 24	6,000	\$ 1,011.12	\$ 3,639.84	\$ 4,650.96	\$ 3,953.32
Motel (Major) 25 Units or more + Restaurant	0.5 Unit per Room (inc, Caretaker Residence) +20 Units per HA +5 Units for Restaurant	Min 8	2,000	\$ 337.04	\$ 1,213.28	\$ 1,550.32	\$ 1,317.77
		Max 40	10,000	\$ 1,685.20	\$ 6,066.40	\$ 7,751.60	\$ 6,588.86
Motel (Standard) 24 Units or less, no Restaurant	0.5 Unit per Room (inc, Caretaker Residence) +20 Units per HA	Min 8	2,000	\$ 337.04	\$ 1,213.28	\$ 1,550.32	\$ 1,317.77
		Max 40	10,000	\$ 1,685.20	\$ 6,066.40	\$ 7,751.60	\$ 6,588.86
Swimming Pool (Council)	Unit	36	9,000	\$ 1,516.68	\$ 5,459.76	\$ 6,976.44	\$ 5,929.97
Waltzing Matilda Centre	Unit	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33

Australian Age of Dinosaurs	Unit	20	5,000	\$ 842.60	\$ 3,033.20	\$ 3,875.80	\$ 3,294.43
Council Workshop	Unit	6	1,500	\$ 252.78	\$ 909.96	\$ 1,162.74	\$ 988.33
Hospital	Unit	90	22,500	\$ 3,791.70	\$ 13,649.40	\$ 17,441.10	\$ 14,824.94
Caravan Park	20 Units per HA + 0.5 Unit per Cabin + 0.25 Unit per Caravan Site	Min 13	3,250	\$ 547.69	\$ 1,971.58	\$ 2,519.27	\$ 2,141.38
		Max 68	17,000	\$ 2,864.84	\$ 10,312.88	\$ 13,177.72	\$ 11,201.06
State School	Unit	102	25,500	\$ 4,297.26	\$ 15,469.32	\$ 19,766.58	\$ 16,801.59
Residents can apply to increase their unit allocation if water to 9 units subject to written request and council approval.							
All water used in excess of this allowance is to be charged at 62 cents per kilolitre.							

CARRIED 6-0**23.07.12**

Moved: Cr S Mann
 Seconded: Cr T Elliott

- 12 THAT Council resolves to grant the following concession of water charges to the following three organisations:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Concession</u>
Winton Golf Club	20 units	11 units
St Patricks Catholic School	30 units	12 units
Winton State School	102 units	18 units

CARRIED 6-0**23.07.13**

Moved: Cr F Standfast
 Seconded: Cr A Seymour

13. THAT in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves all water used in excess of the standard allowance for 2023/2024 be charged at 62 cents per kilolitre.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.14

Moved: Cr F Standfast

Seconded: Cr C White

15. THAT in accordance with Sections 169 and 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council's Budget for the 2023/2024 financial year, incorporating:

1. The statement of financial position.
2. The statement of cash flow.
3. The statement of comprehensive income and expenditure.
4. The statement of changes in equity.
5. The long-term financial forecast.
6. The revenue statement.
7. The revenue policy (adopted by resolution 20 July 2023).
8. The relevant measures of financial sustainability; and
9. The total value of the change (expressed as a percentage), in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget,

as tabled with this report be adopted.

CARRIED 6-0

4.2 2023 - 2024 BUDGET POLICIES**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to adopt the supporting policies required under legislative compliance and execution of Council's financial functions for the 2023/2024 financial year. Council is legislatively required to at least annually review the policies outlined in this report. The policies contained in this report are required to be adopted in conjunction with the Council's annual budget.

23.07.15

Moved: Cr T Elliott

Seconded: Cr S Mann

That the report be received.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.16

Moved: Cr A Seymour

Seconded: Cr S Mann

That Council:

1. Pursuant to Section 191 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the Investment Policy as detailed in Attachment 1. WSC-FIN-POL-005 Investment Policy.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.17

Moved: Cr C White
Seconded: Cr A Seymour

2. Pursuant to Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the Debt (Borrowing) Policy as detailed in Attachment 2. WSC-FIN-POL-003 Debt (Borrowing) Policy with amendment.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.18

Moved: Cr T Elliott
Seconded: Cr S Mann

3. Pursuant to Section 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the Revenue Policy as detailed in Attachment 3. WSC-FIN-POL-010 Revenue Policy with amendments.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.19

Moved: Cr T Elliott
Seconded: Cr C White

4. Pursuant to Section 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the Revenue Statement as detailed in Attachment 4. WSC Revenue Statement 2023-2024 with amendments.

CARRIED 6-0

23.07.20

Moved: Cr F Standfast
Seconded: Cr A Seymour

5. Pursuant to Sections 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopt the Rates Concessions Policy as detailed in Attachment 5. WSC-FIN-POL-008 Rates Concession Policy with amendments.

CARRIED 6-0

4.3 2023-2024 FEES AND CHARGES**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Fees and Charges for the 2023/2024 financial year.

23.07.21

Moved: Cr S Mann
Seconded: Cr C White

1. That Council in accordance with Section 97 and Section 262 (3)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, adopt the 2023/2024 Fees and Charges Schedule as detailed in Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED 6-0

The Meeting closed at 8.22am

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Winton Shire Council held on 17 August 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON