

# Budget

2026 - 2027





# *Acknowledgement of Country*

We at Charters Towers Regional Council acknowledge the first nations people of the land on which Charters Towers and its greater region are located, and where we conduct our business. We pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We are committed to a positive future for all.

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Front Cover: Weir Road, Charters Towers

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# Message from the Mayor

## Financial Resilience

I am pleased to present the Charters Towers Regional Council 2026–27 Budget on behalf of Council, a Budget firmly grounded in Financial Resilience and responsible financial management.

In today's environment of rising costs and increasing demand for services, financial resilience is more important than ever. It means making sound, considered decisions now so Council remains strong, stable, and well-positioned to meet the needs of our community into the future.

This Budget ensures we continue to deliver the essential services our residents rely on, maintain our critical infrastructure, and invest strategically in projects that will support the long-term growth and liveability of our Region. At the same time, we remain focused on living within our means and being accountable for every dollar we spend.

For 2026–27, Council has adopted a \$28.4 million Capital Works Program, reflecting our commitment to maintaining and upgrading infrastructure in a planned and sustainable way. These investments are carefully prioritised to ensure they deliver real value and benefit to our community, both now and into the future.

Key highlights of the budget include:

- Flood Warning Infrastructure Network supported by North Queensland Resilience Program
- Water and Sewer monitoring activities partially supported by North Queensland Resilience Program
- All Hazards Risk Study supported by North Queensland Resilience Program
- Road upgrades: Ewan Road, Laroona Road and various road reseals and rehabilitation works supported by Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and Roads to Recovery Program
- Bridge Replacement and Arterial Road Floodway Upgrades supported by North Queensland Resilience Program
- Water supply network works including water main replacement, infrastructure renewal and upgrades supported by Works for Queensland

- Major Water Infrastructure – Water for Growth supported by Local Government Grant and Subsidies Program
- Wastewater Renewal and improvements supported by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) Community Recreational Assets Recovery and Resilience Program
- Public Facilities and Open Spaces delivery: Ongoing renewals, upgrades and improvements of amenities supported by Works for Queensland

Residents will continue to have flexibility in managing their water charges, with the option to choose between an Allocation Tariff and a Two-Part Tariff. The annual water allocation remains unchanged at 750kL, providing certainty and choice for households.

General rates will increase by 4.7%, a necessary adjustment that allows Council to continue delivering core services while maintaining financial sustainability. Water and wastewater charges will continue to be applied on a cost-recovery basis, ensuring these essential services are funded in line with the actual cost of delivery.

This Budget reflects a balanced approach, combining disciplined financial management with targeted investment in community priorities. It ensures Council remains sustainable, responsive, and capable of meeting the evolving needs of our Region.

We also remain strongly committed to securing external funding wherever possible. By continuing to pursue grants and other funding opportunities, we can reduce pressure on local ratepayers while maximising the value of every investment made in our community.

This approach allows us to deliver more, without compromising our commitment to financial responsibility.

I encourage residents to take the time to review the 2026–27 Budget and learn more about how Council is investing in the future of the Charters Towers Region. Your interest, feedback, and involvement are always welcome.

*Mayor Liz Schmidt*

# Our Organisation

## Council



### Liz Schmidt

#### Mayor

- > Federal & State Advocacy
- > Regional & State Representation
- > Inter-Government Relations
- > Investment Attraction
- > Community Strategic Plan
- > Community Engagement Strategy
- > Four-Year Delivery Program
- > Ex-Officio Representative on all Portfolios



### Kate Hastie

#### Deputy Mayor

- > Strategic Asset Management
- > Community Engagement Strategy
- > Council Facilities
- > Economic Development Strategy



### Alan Barr

#### Councillor

- > Water & Wastewater
- > Biosecurity Plan
- > Workplace Health & Safety



### Kim Farmer

#### Councillor

- > Financial Sustainability
- > ICT Strategy
- > Workforce Strategy
- > Commercial Activities



### Graham Lohmann APM

#### Councillor

- > Strategic Land Use
- > Planning Scheme
- > Local Laws
- > Strategic Risk Management
- > Disaster Management



### Steven Plant

#### Councillor

- > Roads Policies
- > Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
- > Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC)
- > Open Spaces inc. Cemeteries
- > Waste Management
- > Flying Fox Management Plan



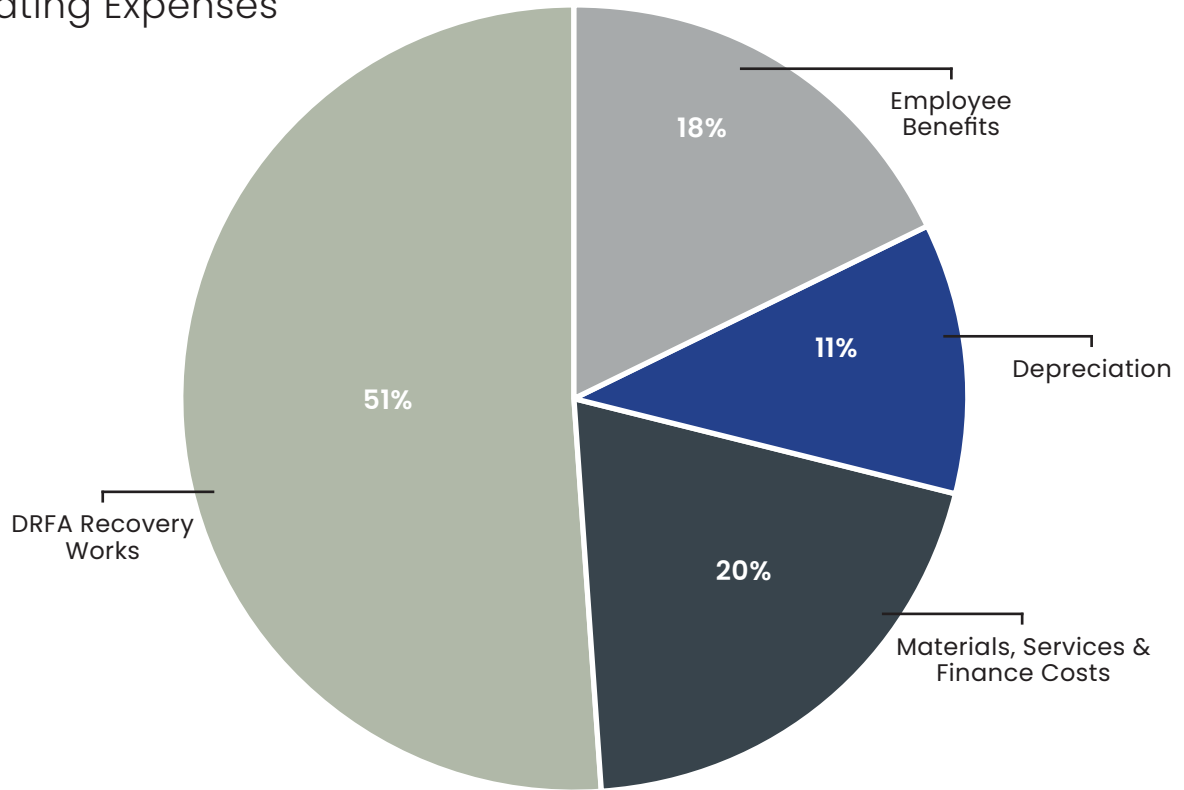
### Julie Mathews

#### Councillor

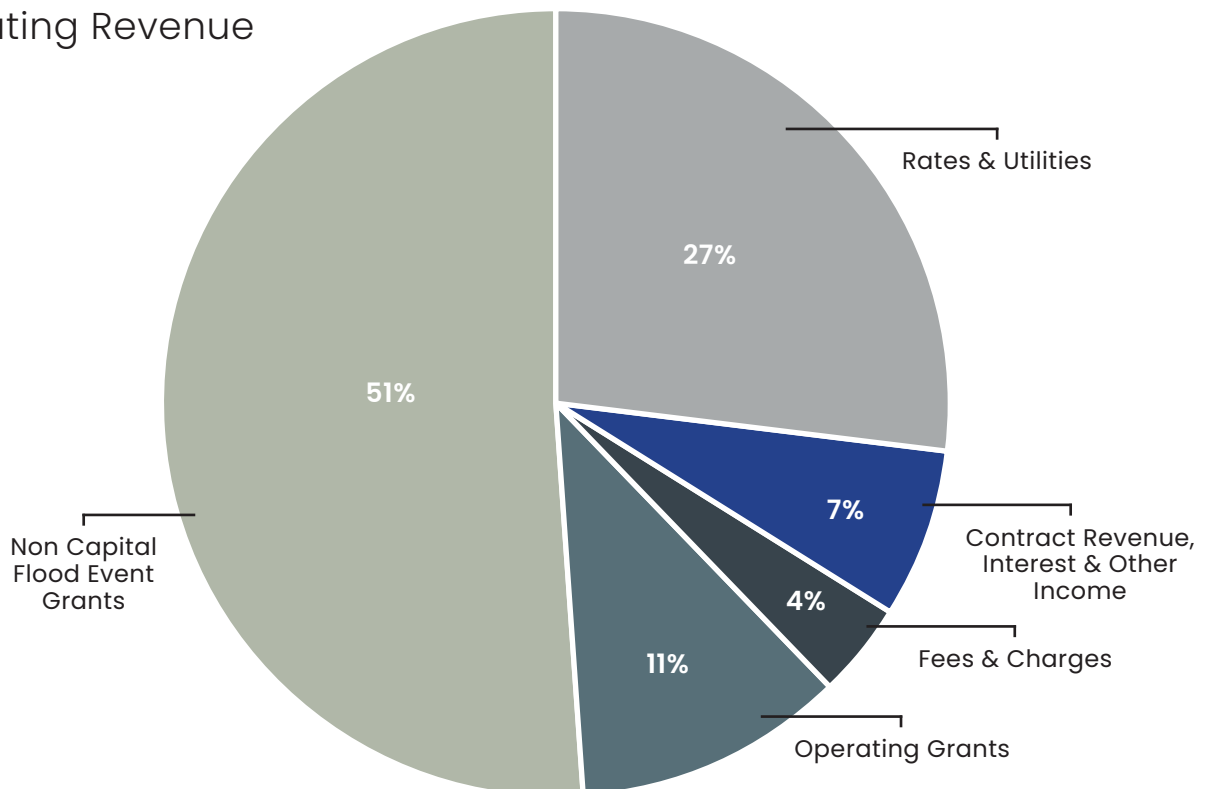
- > Community Services & Events
- > Sport & Recreation
- > Destination Management Plan
- > Arts & Culture

# Budget Snapshot

## Operating Expenses



## Operating Revenue





**\$28.4M**

CAPITAL  
WORKS



**4.70%**

GENERAL RATE  
INCREASE



**5,825**

RATEABLE  
PROPERTIES



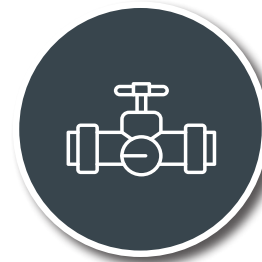
**\$67.8M**

DRFA RECOVERY  
WORKS ON  
REGIONAL ROAD  
NETWORK



**\$5.8M**

ROAD NETWORK  
IMPROVEMENTS



**\$11.5M**

MAJOR WATER  
INFRASTRUCTURE



**\$1.8M**

COMMUNITY &  
COUNCIL FACILITIES  
CAPITAL WORKS



**\$4.3M**

WATER SUPPLY NETWORK &  
WASTEWATER NETWORK  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
RENEWALS



**\$2M**

WORLD THEATRE FACILITY  
REFURBISHMENT AND  
RECTIFICATIONS WORKS

# Financial Strategy

NUMBER: S0099

STRATEGIC POLICY TITLE: FINANCIAL STRATEGY

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## STRATEGIC POLICY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

The Financial Strategy (Strategy) is Council's long-term financial plan that is derived from a series of policies, plans, risk responses and associated financial stability and sustainability targets to measure financial performance. The Strategy establishes the financial framework under which sound and sustainable financial decisions are made. It is reviewed annually with the inclusion of a 10-Year Long Term Financial Forecast (LTFF) in accordance with section 171 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Regulation).

Council's Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 contains an objective of long-term financial sustainability, and this strategy is the primary document that sets out how this will be achieved.

The Strategy informs the Long Term Financial Forecast (LTFF). The LTFF is Council's ten-year financial forecast which comprises the long-term financial modelling based on a series of assumptions, and includes income, expenditure, cash flow projections, assets, liabilities, and community equity projections.

Council refers to the Strategy when considering long term financial decisions, examples being consideration of any new borrowings, long term operational income and expenditure projections, and future capital expenditure forecasts. The LTFF is continually revised and amended following formal budget reviews, government announcements that impact Council, changes in operating procedures, and in conjunction with the annual budget development process.

Council's Financial Strategy and LTFF are elements within the Integrated Planning, Performance, and Reporting (IPPR) framework that includes the:

- Community Strategic Plan (CSP).
- Community Engagement Strategy (CES).
- Resourcing Strategy (RS)
- Delivery Program (DP).
- Operational Plan (OP) (includes annual budget and revenue statement).
- Annual Report (AR).
- State of the Region Report.

It is important all asset class capital components are effectively managed, ensuring an integrated approach, to sustainably deliver the desired service levels over the long term. Focusing on only one asset class could have a detrimental effect on others. This means Council needs to continue to generate sufficient finances to fund operations without eroding its physical asset base.

#### 1.2 Strategy Objectives

The primary objective of the Strategy is to ensure Council remains financially sustainable as defined by section 104(2) of the Local Government Act 2009 (Act): "A local government is financially sustainable if the local government is able to maintain its financial capital and infrastructure capital over the long-term".

'Financial capital' is the productive capacity provided by the difference between current assets and current liabilities (working capital).

'Infrastructure Capital' is the productive capacity provided by significant asset classes (e.g., roads, water, sewerage, buildings etc.) that provide or support public services. This is represented by the non-current assets and financing liabilities (e.g., debt). 'Long term' refers to a period of ten years or more.

This strategy will ensure considered financial decision making which creates and safeguards the financial legacy of the Council. This legacy is founded on prudent and responsible fiscal management.

#### 1.3 Metrics

The Strategy has three aspirational metrics to ensure Council's financial sustainability over the long term. These metrics are in addition to the prescribed metrics set by the State Government and outlined under section 7.

Maintain a five-year average operating result of more than 0%	This will be controlled through strong financial governance and budget management that balances revenue generation with expenditure efficiencies.
Renew and maintain assets within a sustainable range by having the asset consumption ratio above 60% for each asset class by the end of the forecast period	The funding allocated to the annual asset renewal program will be prioritised above new assets and programmed to be aligned to the equivalent level of depreciation per asset class. Funding will also be applied to asset maintenance programs that align to documented service standards. It should be noted Council is currently updating and developing a full suite of asset management plans to increasingly inform this metric.
Maintain a strong cash position by having a \$10m buffer above Council's Minimum Cash Requirement at all times.	By maintaining a strong cash position and maintaining reserves in line with internal policies, Council is well positioned to respond to fiscal shocks. This also assists with generating revenue and ensures Council has sufficient assets to cover liabilities.

#### 1.4 Service Levels

Present levels of service aim to strike a balance between the community's desired level of service and Council's resource capacity and strategic priorities. This Strategy assumes, in most cases, that current service levels will be maintained throughout the period of the LTFF.

Council's annual capital works program includes a base component of renewal of existing infrastructure (based on depreciation levels) and upgrade and affordable expansion programs which are aligned with Community Strategic Plan objectives and priorities.

Council prioritises and schedules the delivery of nominated projects in line with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Delivery Program, Project Management Framework and LTFF. Service levels will be subject to ongoing review throughout the life of this Strategy.

## 2. FISCAL STRATEGIES

The first two strategies are the primary strategies identified in Council's Community Strategic Plan. The additional strategies are complimentary to the primary strategies. Collectively, these will be employed to manage financial sustainability and sustainability risks.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN THEME	STRATEGY
Civic Leadership	Adequate, secure funding from the Queensland and Australian Governments to deliver needed community services
Civic Leadership	Growth in the region's rate base to support service delivery
Our Community	Proactively support and encourage community engagement and collaboration to guide future investment decisions.
Civic Leadership	Provide a transparent account of Council's financial position and fiscal strategy.
Our Community	Reviewing services and service levels, including divesting or impairing assets no longer fit for purpose or surplus to requirements.
Civic Leadership	Allocating sufficient funds annually by prioritising, maintaining and renewing existing assets at established service levels.
Civic Leadership	Internally restricting cash for future investment in priority areas.
Civic Leadership	Recognising whole of life costs (WOLC) when new assets or upgraded assets are acquired or constructed so the LTFF captures the true cost of owning such assets.
Civic Leadership	Establishing fees and charges on a full cost recovery basis and apply the "user pays" principle to Council services and activities as appropriate.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN THEME	STRATEGY
Civic Leadership	Consider the appropriate balance of contributions for services provided between user pays and the general rate.
Civic Leadership	Investment decisions are mindful of a degree of stability in the level of the rates burden. Where significant investment is required, revenue generation is achieved over multiple years.
Civic Leadership	Where appropriate, utilising debt as a means of funding long term assets, ensuring intergenerational equity so the financial burden does not adversely impact current or future ratepayers.
Civic Leadership	Generating organisational efficiencies through innovation, service delivery improvement and prioritising discretionary operating projects.

### 3. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

Forecasting over a 10-year time frame is challenging. Council makes key assumptions and is informed by externally sourced indices. It must be noted that forecasts and financial projections may vary in the future, particularly in the latter years of the LTFF due to national and/ or global economic conditions. There are also key income and expenditure projections which are outside of Council's control such as State and Federal Government grant programs and taxes.

To develop the LTFF several assumptions must be made which require continual review and reassessment. The current LTFF is based upon the following assumptions with the rationale detailed below.

#### 3.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income - Revenue

Rates, levies and charges	Increases in general rates and charges are expected to be between 2.5% and 5.5%. These increases are aligned to expected investment requirements and expected asset valuations over the next 10 years. Water and Wastewater charges are set across the 10-year LTFF based on established price paths for the next two years and expected investment requirements thereafter. Whilst still maintaining a discount, the early payment discount is forecast to further reduce during the LTFF.
Fees and charges	Increases in Statutory fees and charges are expected to increase in line with expected labour costs across the 10-year LTFF. Commercial fees will be set based on appropriate market conditions and internal return metrics.
Interest received	Interest on investments is directly related to the value of Council's investment portfolio and cashflow movements. Estimates based on the Reserve Bank of Australia forecast cash rate have been utilised in the consideration of interest projections, noting that where funds are held at call, the rate will fluctuate from month to month.  Interest on overdue rates and charges is forecast to be consistent with current levels over the forecast period.
Grants and subsidies	It has been assumed Council will continue to receive Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) over the duration of the LTFF consistent with current levels. As the FA Grant is indexed annually, the current 4% increase in the pool outlined in the Federal budget papers has been applied over the life of the forecast. It is not assumed Council will continue to access Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements (DRFA) at current levels. These grants are reliant on the occurrence of disasters and therefore are not included in Council's forward planning.  Other grants, though non-competitive are not assumed to continue into future years unless there are State or Federal Government commitments within the current election cycle. Competitive grants occur on an ad hoc basis and are applied for where they align with Council's Community Strategic Plan and associated Operational and/or Delivery Programs. Those projects that could only be delivered with co-funding from higher levels of government, are included in LTFF to highlight the possibility of there not being delivered in the long term.

Sales – contract and recoverable works	Sale contract and recoverable works are based on current delivery levels and on contractually negotiated unit rates.
Developer contributions	<p>Developer Contributions (also referred to as Infrastructure Charges) are levied by local governments on approved development, where the development generates additional demand on trunk infrastructure identified in the Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) Under the Planning Act 2016. These contributions are not indexed under Council’s Infrastructure Charges Resolution 2020 and therefore not indexed in the LTFF. Volumes of infrastructure charges collected is expected to be consistent over the life of the LTFF.</p> <p>Funds collected through infrastructure charges are quarantined and must be used for the planning, design, and delivery of trunk infrastructure projects identified in the LGIP.</p>
Other income	Other revenues increase annually by CPI for the duration of the LTFF.

### 3.2 Statement of Comprehensive Income – Expenditure

Employee benefits	<p>Employee numbers are based on the Workforce Strategy Plan with additional positions included only if they can be fully funded and are affordable. Wages levels are based on negotiated Certified Agreement increases and CPI beyond this.</p> <p>A reduction in employee benefits is included for unplanned vacancies based on the prior year vacancy rate for year 1. Future years are based on a vacancy rate that is 50% lower than the current vacancy rate.</p>
Materials and services	<p>Costs required to deliver Council’s services are estimated to increase annually by CPI. There is no provision in the LTFF for increases in expenditure across work programs beyond this, other than WOLC.</p> <p>Non-recurrent costs for operational projects will be identified separately and an estimate based on prior years spend will be used in future years.</p> <p>WOLC will be captured and identified separately on new and upgraded assets over the forecast period.</p>
Depreciation	<p>Depreciation expense has been calculated based on expected acquisitions and commission dates for new assets and the expected useful lives of existing assets. Indexation for annual revaluations has been forecast based on current Producer Price Indices (PPI) in year 1 and a 10-year average of relevant construction indices (index 3101) thereafter.</p> <p>Assets held at cost which are written down to zero and due for replacement have been factored into the annual depreciation budget.</p>
Finance costs	Existing loans are minimal, and repayment of interest and principal of the existing loan are known from current repayment schedules. Should the Financial Forecast require additional borrowings, a provision for borrowing costs will be included based on expected period of the loan and interest rate. As the rate available is difficult to predict, the expected interest rates over the LTFF will be based on the current fixed rate offered by Queensland Treasury Corporation.

### 3.3 Statement of Financial Position – Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	Council's minimum cash requirements are estimated at \$15m. Council's targeted minimum cash balance is \$25m. If cash is forecast to be below \$25m, borrowings should be considered.
Receivables	Payment terms remain unchanged for the duration of the forecast period
Contract assets	Council does not expect to carry contractual asset balances over the LTFF.
Property, plant and equipment	Additions and disposals are from the expected 10-year capital works program.  The expected annual revaluation increases are set based on a 10-year average of the construction indices (index 3101).
Inventories and prepayments	Maintained at current levels for the duration of the LTFF.

### 3.4 Statement of Financial Position – Liabilities

Trade and other payables	Payment terms remain unchanged for the duration of the forecast period.
Contract liabilities	Council does not expect to carry contractual liabilities balances over the LTFF.
Borrowings	New borrowings are considered for long term assets with intergenerational considerations and when existing cash is limited in accordance with Council's Debt Policy.
Employee - provisions	There are no expected changes to leave taken patterns over the forecast period.
Restoration and rehabilitation	Asset remediation/restoration changes are based on the Stublely Street landfill calculations.

### 3.5 Summary of Key Assumptions

The following table provides details of the key assumptions made over the lifetime of the LTFF.

Year	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36
Inflation	4.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Wages	4.5%	4.0%	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Rate growth	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Rate revenue	4.5%	4.6%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	4.5%	4.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Interest on investments	4.2%	4.7%	4.2%	3.7%	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Asset indexation	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%

### 3.6 Rationale Behind Key Assumptions

#### 3.6.1 Inflation

Inflation continues to be a substantial contributor to the increased costs for the council, often impacting the cost of delivering works scoped in a previous period. The 2026/27 Budget considers the result of March 2026 CPI and PPI indices. Future years in the LTFF are based on the RBA's forecast and thereafter the mid-range of the RBA's target band of 2-3%. Where appropriate in year 1, Council also considers the Council Cost Index released by the LGAQ.

As the current global conflict and associated macro-economic impacts have not fully been felt in the inflationary data for the 12 months to March, it's possible that inflationary impacts for the 12 months to June may be higher. However, the RBA's forecast suggests that this will be temporary. Council has therefore relied on the indices at March 2026 as the broad inflation factor in its budget. There will be some direct and tangible impacts to Council's budget because of significant inflation across the transport sector. These increases have been built directly into the upcoming budget.

- 3.6.2 **Wages**  
The Enterprise Bargaining offer to staff has been used as the basis for the first three years of the forecast. Outer years beyond 2029 have used CPI to predict likely outcomes of wage increases, however this forecast does not pre-empt any future wage increases under the Enterprise Agreement for staff and is simply used for forecasting purposes only.
- 3.6.3 **Growth**  
Rates growth has historically been low. However, Council has a strategy to grow its rate base to support service delivery, therefore a modest increase in utilities and waste services has been forecast over the LTFF.  
  
Fee and charges volumes are expected to remain consistent over the forecast period.  
  
There is no growth in the forecast period for increases in services or levels of service.
- 3.6.4 **Rate Revenue**  
Rates have been set to maintain an operating result that is within the State Government benchmark. The forecast covers investment requirements over the life of the plan including materials costs, labour costs, increases in asset values, operational projects and whole of life costs associated with capital investment. These forecasts do not pre-empt future decisions of Council around rate parameters and is simply used for forecasting purposes only.
- 3.6.5 **Interest**  
Predicted rates are subject to economic conditions, inflation and market expectations. Further, the disaster rectification works for 2026/27 are forecast to be substantial with delivery heavily influenced by weather conditions, making cashflows difficult to predict. Accordingly, a conservative interest rate has been applied in year 1. Year 2 is based on the RBA forecast cash rate and thereafter wound down over time to reflect more conservative earnings.
- 3.6.6 **Asset Indexation**  
March 2026 PPI are referenced for the current year asset fair values, relevant to the appropriate asset class. Future years are based on 10-year average of the relevant construction index (index 3101) for each asset class. Construction costs can fluctuate over the short term; Accordingly, a 10-year average has been used to provide a more stable outlook on future increases in asset values.

#### 4. **COST RECOVERY**

Council operates several services in which it aims to cover costs including Waste Management, Water, Wastewater and Saleyards. Council does not apply full cost recovery in accordance with section 19 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 as these activities do not meet the prescribed thresholds, however it aims to apply the principles including ensuring appropriate estimates of indirect costs are captured so that revenue settings can be fully considered and that the full cost of delivering the services is recovered. Currently, indirect costs are not captured against services, therefore Council intends on undertaking a reform project to assess indirect cost allocations and review revenue settings over the next 2 years.

#### 5. **CASH RESERVES**

Council has internally allocated most of its cash for future investment requirements to ensure there is sufficient cash available when these investments become due. These allocations are based on historic priorities, and it's intended to revisit the investment priorities of Council in the upcoming year to ensure cash is available when needed based on the Council's current Community Strategic Plan priorities.

#### 6. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

During the development of the LTFF consideration is given to key risks likely to impact financial performance.

Council's financial risk appetite is at Avoid level. The risks noted below therefore have mitigation strategies set to minimise the risk ratings. These risks are identified as:

Risk	Type	Risk Rating	Mitigation Strategy	Residual Rating
Community needs and expectations	Community	High	Community engagement including community surveys.	Medium
Local economic conditions	Community	Medium	Rate recovery policy that encourages payment arrangements.	Low

Risk	Type	Risk Rating	Mitigation Strategy	Residual Rating
Interest rate fluctuations	External	Medium	Diversify investments to maximise returns.	Low
Inflation	External	High	Assess levels of service and ensure appropriate management of supplier contracts.	Medium
Changes to government regulation/policy i.e cost shifting and government funding	External	High	Continued advocacy for maintaining funding programs and minimising government interventions that have a negative fiscal impact.	Medium
Natural Disasters	External	Extreme	Appropriate internal controls that ensure disaster relief funding is managed appropriately.	Low
Introducing unplanned assets or services	Internal	High	Project decision framework that prioritises investment decisions and transparently outlines WOLC associated with those decisions.	Medium
Workforce management staffing levels, and employment conditions	Internal	High	Workforce Strategy Plan and Enterprise Agreement negotiations.	Low
Loss from an uninsured event	Internal	High	Undertaking an annual review of potential insurance gaps	Low
Outdated systems and erroneous calculations	Internal	High	Investment in contemporary systems and ensuring assumptions and calculations are reviewed annually.	Low

In addition to the risks listed above, the following are identified as the areas at the highest risk of impacting the future financial performance in the LTFF.

Rates and charges	The LTFF includes assumptions that rates and charges increases will be set to cover expected investment forecasts. If this does not occur, this will impact Council's ability to meet operational costs and maintain the operating result targets.
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Interest on investments	The calculation of interest revenue is derived from Council's investment portfolio and the return on investment that can be obtained. Council is limited to the investment options within its Investment Policy which is risk based. This policy is governed under the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 and Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019. Interest rates, as determined by Reserve Bank policy and financial market conditions, will directly impact the returns earned by Council's investment portfolio and decreases in interest rates are likely to have a material impact on the operating result.
Employee benefits	The Enterprise Agreement is reviewed every three years. Any wage increases exceeding planning assumptions would impact the operating result.
Inflation	CPI and PPI have largely been used as the measure of inflation in the LTFF. Significant increases in the actual inflation Council experiences in procuring goods and services as compared to the estimate will impact the results of the forecast.
Capital Grants and Subsidies	The LTFF includes provision for unsecured funding for some significant capital projects. If these funding applications are unsuccessful, Council needs to decide whether to proceed with the project. Any decisions to proceed will have a material impact on the financial position and result of Council.
Capital Expenditure	Estimates provided for the capital works programs have more accuracy for the first three years than those for later years with some costing based on refined scope of works, market quotations and engineering estimates. Programs are also continuously subject to change, depending on new priorities, emerging works, emergency works, priorities of the elected council and availability of new funding sources like grants. These changes can materially impact the operational base and consequently the financial performance reflected in the LTFF.

## 7. Performance Monitoring and Review

Council has a strong focus on achieving its strategic goals and financial objectives and this Strategy facilitates effective financial decision making. It assists Council to identify opportunities, anticipate future financial issues early and determine how Council can best achieve outcomes agreed with the community.

The LTFF provides transparency and accountability to the community by forecasting the financial impacts of Council's plans, strategies, and initiatives over a 10-year period, which can in turn be used to support the operational and capital decisions Council makes as part of the annual budget process. Council reviews the Strategy and LTFF annually as part of the development of the Budget, Operational Plan and Delivery Program and adjusts risks, assumptions and strategies as appropriate.

In addition to the three aspirational fiscal metrics, Council utilises key performance ratio benchmarks set by the State Government to monitor and review financial performance and financial sustainability. These include:

RATIO/ INDICATOR	OVERVIEW	TARGET	REPORTING
Council Controlled Revenue	Indicator of Council's financial flexibility, ability to influence its operating income, and capacity to respond to unexpected financial shocks	Contextual	Single Year Result 5-year Average Result
Population Growth	Key driver of Council's operating income, service needs, and infrastructure requirements into the future	Contextual	Single Year Result 5-year Average Result
Operating Surplus	Indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses. Any operating surplus would be available for capital funding or other purposes	Greater than (2%)	Single Year Result 5-year Average Result
Operating Cash	Measure of Council's ability to cover its core operational expenses and generate a cash surplus excluding depreciation, amortisation, and finance costs	Greater than 0%	Single Year Result 5-year Average Result
Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover	Indicator of the unconstrained liquidity available to Council to meet its ongoing and emergent financial demands, which is a key component of solvency. It represents the number of months Council can continue operating based on current monthly expenses	Greater than 4 months	Single Year Result
Asset Sustainability	Approximates the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by Council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives	Greater than 90%	Single Year Result 5-year Average Result
Asset Consumption	Approximates the extent to which Council's infrastructure assets have been consumed compared to what it would cost to build a new asset with the same benefit to the community	Greater than 60%	Single Year Result 5-year Average Result

RATIO/ INDICATOR	OVERVIEW	TARGET	REPORTING
Leverage	Indicator of Council's ability to repay its existing debt. It measures the relative size of Council's debt to its operating performance	0 – 3 times	Single Year Result 5-year Average Result

**8. CONCLUSION**

This Strategy provides the roadmap for how Council can maintain financial sustainability and the risks it should consider. The LTFF statements provide a forecast which is driven by key metrics, assumptions, and inputs as well as core information contained within the IPPR.

The LTFF provides an indication of Council's future financial position from 2026-27 to 2035-36 if it follows the actions outlined in the Community Strategic Plan and has been developed with continuation of 'business as usual'.

The financial modelling undertaken for the LTFF indicates Council is in a good position given the current economic climate in meeting the State targets. However, there are challenges over the forecast period as demonstrated by Council not currently meeting two of its three aspirational fiscal metrics. This reflects the Council's desire to improve its resilience to Long Term Financial Sustainability risks. The LTFF projects the operating result aspirational target of surpluses will be achievable in the latter part of the forecast with some modest revenue increases during the life of the LTFF. Council's ability to meet its aspirational target of having all asset classes above the 60% asset consumption ratio during the next 10 years, will be better understood once the development of asset management plans is complete. The financial position is supported by sustainable outcomes of cash over the ten-year LTFF.

The LTFF reflects that financial sustainability targets can largely be met across the period, however Council may require decisions on service levels in the future given the current spend on existing assets in some asset classes.

# Investment Policy

NUMBER: S0037

POLICY TITLE: INVESTMENT POLICY 2026-27

## POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to provide council with an Investment Policy based on an assessment of risk within the legislative framework of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982. This includes:

- a) Investing Council funds not immediately required for financial commitments.
- b) Maximising earnings from authorised investments after assessing counterparty, market, and liquidity risks.
- c) Actively managing the net debt position with core surplus funds.
- d) Ensuring appropriate records are kept and adequate internal controls are in place to safeguard public funds.

The Policy applies to the investment of surplus funds held by Council in accordance with Category One (i) Investment power under Part 6 of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 and section 7 of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019.

### 2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY

2.1 This Policy will commence from 1 July 2026.

### 3. APPLICATION OF POLICY

3.1 This Policy applies to all people acting for and on behalf of the Charters Towers Regional Council, including Councillors, employees, consultants, and contractors.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

4.1 To assist in interpretation, the following definitions shall apply:

At Call Investment	Refers to investments that can be redeemed within 30 days without penalty.
Authorised Deposit-taking Institution (ADI)	Institutions (banks, building societies and credit unions) that take deposits and are supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA).
CEO	Chief Executive Officer – A person who holds an appointment under section 194 of the Local Government Act 2009. This includes a person acting in this position.
Counterparty	The other individual or institution to an agreement or contract.
Credit Risk	The risk that arises through the inability of the counterparty to meet its financial obligations resulting in a financial loss to Council.
Employee	Local government employee: (a) The CEO; or (b) A person holding an appointment under section 196 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
Financial Institution	An authorised deposit-taking institution within the meaning of Section 5 of the <i>Banking Act 1959</i> (Commonwealth).
Interest Rate Risk	The risk that Council will suffer financial loss or reduced earnings due to the adverse movements in interest rates.
Investments	Arrangements that are undertaken or acquired with the expectation of achieving a financial return through interest, profit, or capital growth.
Investment Risk Management	Is defined as the management of the liquidity of the Council to ensure that the financial assets are managed in an economic and efficient manner, whilst maximising the return on surplus funds within acceptable levels of risk.
Liquid Investments	Investments that are not publicly traded in sufficient volume to facilitate, under most market conditions, prompt sale without severe market price effect.

Liquidity Risk	The risk that an unforeseen event or miscalculation in the required liquidity level will result in poor interest income earnings.
Operational Risk	Exists where inadequate or inappropriate policies and procedures lead to financial mismanagement or fraud.
QTC	Queensland Treasury Corporation.
SBFAA	<i>Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982.</i>
SBFAR	<i>Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019.</i>
S&P's	Standard & Poor's - Company known as the creator of financial market indices, and an issuer of credit ratings for companies and debt obligations.
Term Deposit	An investment where money is placed for a fixed period at a stated rate of interest, which will apply for the durations of the term.
Treasurer	State Treasurer.

## 5. POLICY PROVISIONS

### 5.1 Authority

Investment of Council funds is in accordance with the relevant power of investment under the SBFAA and SBFAR and their subsequent amendments and regulations. Investment officers manage the investment portfolio not for speculation, but for investment and in accordance with this Investment Policy. Investment officers avoid transactions that might harm confidence in Council.

### 5.2 Delegation of Authority

Authority for the implementation of the Policy is delegated by Council to the CEO in accordance with section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009 .

Authority for the day-to-day management of Council's Investment Portfolio is sub-delegated in accordance with section 259 of the *Local Government Act 2009* by the CEO to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and the Financial Services Coordinator (FSC).

### 5.3 Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Investment officers and employees shall refrain from personal activities that conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's investment portfolio. This includes activities that would impair the investment officers' ability to make impartial decisions.

This Policy requires that investment officers and employees disclose to the CEO any conflict of interest that could be related to the investment portfolio.

### 5.4 Investment Objectives

Council's overall objective is to invest funds at the most advantageous rate of interest available at the time, for that investment type, and in a way that it considers most appropriate given the circumstances.

In order of priority, the order of investment activities is preservation of capital, maintenance of liquidity, and return on investments.

#### 5.4.1 Preservation of capital

Preservation of capital is the principal objective of the investment portfolio. Investments are performed in a manner to ensure security of principal of the overall portfolio. This includes managing credit risk and interest rate risk within the given risk management parameters and avoiding transactions that would prejudice confidence in Council or its associated entities.

#### 5.4.2 Credit risk

Council evaluates and assesses credit risk prior to investment. Credit risk is the risk of loss due to the failure of an investment issuer or guarantor. The investment officer minimises credit risk in the investment portfolio by pre-qualifying all transactions including the brokers/securities dealers they do business with, diversify the investment portfolio and limit transactions to secure investments.

#### 5.4.3 Interest rate risk

Investment officers seek to minimise the risk of a change in the market value of the investment portfolio because of a change in interest rates. This is achieved by considering the cash flow

requirements of Council and structuring the investment portfolio accordingly. This avoids having to sell securities prior to maturity in the open market. Secondly, interest rate risk can be limited by investing in shorter term securities.

#### 5.4.4 Maintenance of liquidity

The investment portfolio maintains sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated operating cash flow requirements of Council, as and when they fall due, without incurring significant transaction costs due to being required to sell an investment.

#### 5.4.5 Return on Investments

The investment portfolio is expected to achieve a market average rate of return and take into account Council's risk tolerance and current interest rates, budget considerations and the economic cycle. Any additional return target set by Council will also consider the risk limitations, prudent investment principles and cash flow characteristics identified in this policy.

#### 5.5 Support of Local Business

While ensuring appropriate security, liquidity and return on investment, Council will, where possible, support the development of local businesses through the allocation of investment to locally based financial institutions.

#### 5.6 Investment Parameters – Investable funds

For the purposes of the Policy, investable funds are the surplus funds available for investment at any one time, including Council's bank account balance. However, the Policy does not apply to monies held on trust for third parties where those funds are subject to specific conditions.

The investable funds should match the cash flow needs of Council, as determined by the CFO after preparing Council's budget. In this regard, it is appropriate for the CFO to be conservative so that where possible, investments should not be broken to meet cash flow obligations.

#### 5.7 Authorised Investments (per SBFAA)

Section 44(1) of the SBFAA provides Council with the power to invest in authorised investments which include:

- a) Deposits with a financial institution.
- b) Investment arrangements accepted, guaranteed, or issued by or for the Commonwealth or a State or a financial institution.
- c) Other investment arrangements secured by investment arrangements accepted, guaranteed or issued by or for the Commonwealth or a State or a financial institution.
- d) Investment arrangements, managed or offered by QTC, prescribed under a regulation for this paragraph.
- e) An investment arrangement with a rating prescribed under a regulation for this paragraph; and
- f) Other investment arrangements prescribed under a regulation for this paragraph.

#### 5.8 Prohibited Investments

This policy prohibits any investment carried out for speculative purposes. The following investments are prohibited:

- a) Derivative type investments (excluding floating rate notes).
- b) Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially nil or negative cash flow.
- c) Standalone securities issued that have underlying futures, options, forward contracts, and swaps of any kind.
- d) Securities issued in currencies other than Australian dollars.

#### 5.9 Portfolio Investment Parameters

The amount invested with institutions or fund managers should not exceed the following percentage ranges of average annual funds invested. When placing investments, consideration will be given to the relationship between credit rating and interest rate.

SHORT TERM RATING (S&P'S)	INDIVIDUAL COUNTERPARTY LIMIT	TOTAL PORTFOLIO LIMIT
QTC Cash Funds	No Limit	No Limit
A1+	30%	No Limit
A1	15%	50%
A2 (Financial Institutions only)	10%	30%
A3 (Financial Institutions only)	5%	10%
Unrated	Nil	Nil

- 5.10 **Maturity**  
The maturity structure of the investment portfolio reflects the maximum term to maturity of one (1) year.
- 5.11 **Liquidity Requirement**  
Given the nature of the funds invested, no more than 30% of the investment portfolio is in illiquid securities and as least 20% of the portfolio can be called at no cost or will mature within a maximum of seven days.
- 5.12 **Internal Controls**  
The Chief Financial Officer establishes internal controls and processes to ensure investment objectives are met and investment portfolios are protected from loss, theft, or inappropriate use. The established processes include the regular update of the Investment Register, the preparation of a monthly reconciliation report and a quarterly compliance report. As a minimum the internal controls address the following:
- a) Approved banks.
  - b) Portfolio performance.
  - c) Compliance and oversight of investment parameters.
  - d) Maintenance and safekeeping of investment records.
  - e) Delegation of control.
  - f) Access to third party platforms/systems.
- 5.13 **Breaches**  
Any breach of this policy must be reported to the CFO and rectified within seven (7) days of the breach occurring.

Where Council holds an investment that is downgraded below the minimum acceptable rating level, as prescribed under Regulation for the investment arrangement, Council shall, within 28 days after the change becomes known, either obtain Treasurer approval for continuing the investment arrangement or exit from the investment arrangement.

## 6. **VARIATIONS**

Council Reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time.

### **Associated Documents**

- *Local Government Regulation 2012.*
- *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangement Act 1982.*
- *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangement Regulation 2019*

# Debt Policy

NUMBER: S0001

POLICY TITLE: DEBT POLICY 2026-27

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## POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The purposes of the Policy are to:

- Ensure compliance with legislative requirements.
- Establish when borrowings will be made by Council and for what purpose.
- Provide a view of any long-term debt requirements.
- Demonstrate to lending institutions that Council adopts a disciplined approach to borrowing.

1.2 Council's Financial Strategy including debt management is based on sound financial management guidelines.

### 2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY

2.1 This Policy will commence from 1 July 2026.

### 3. APPLICATION OF POLICY

3.1 This Policy applies to all people acting for and on behalf of the Charters Towers Regional Council, including councillors, employees, consultants, and contractors.

### 4. POLICY PROVISIONS

4.1 Borrowings are only available for capital investment purposes and are based on the following considerations:

4.1.1 Council will initially consider meeting capital investment requirements by first using any surplus cash available (including if any surplus is only short-term) before undertaking a new borrowing, and even if using existing funds only defers the need to borrow for a short period of time.

4.1.2 Council will not use long-term debt to finance operating activities or recurrent expenditure. Approval may be sought for a working capital facility to help fund short-term cash flow requirements that may arise from time to time.

4.1.3 Council will consider the need to borrow by determining the additional cost incurred by the community when assets are acquired through borrowings, with the benefit gained by future generations from those same community assets.

4.1.4 Council will endeavour to fund all capital renewal projects from operating cash flows in the first instance and only borrow for new and upgrade capital projects.

4.1.5 Where borrowing is constrained, borrowings for projects that provides a revenue to Council will take precedence over borrowings for other assets.

4.1.6 When Council finances capital projects through borrowings, it will repay the loans in a term not exceeding the life of those assets and in accordance with Queensland Treasury Corporation's borrowing guidelines.

4.1.7 Council will closely monitor the level of debt to ensure relevant financial sustainability indicators do not exceed the targets recommended by the State Government.

4.1.8 The amount of new debt to be borrowed in a financial year must be approved as part of the annual budget process. New borrowing applications must also be approved by the State Government.

### 5. PLANNED BORROWINGS

In accordance with section 192 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, details of the planned borrowings for the budget year and the following nine (9) financial years are presented at Council's annual budget meeting. The details include the planned borrowings for each year, the purpose of the borrowings, and the term of repayment of existing and planned borrowings.

Planned Borrowings are as follows:

YEAR	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Year 1 - 2026-27	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 2 - 2027-28	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 3 - 2028-29	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 4 - 2029-30	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 5 - 2030-31	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 6 - 2031-32	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 7 - 2032-33	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 8 - 2033-34	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 9 - 2034-35	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 10 - 2035-36	No Borrowings	Nil

#### Loan Repayment Timeframes

- The repayment term of new loans is up to 20 years.
- Council currently has one existing QTC loan that is a 10-year loan which will mature in June 2027.
- The amount of outstanding debt at 30 June 2026 will be repaid in full in the 2026/27 year.

#### Short Term Financing

Council may, from time to time, seek State Treasury approval for short-term finance for operational cash-flow purposes. Borrowings of this type are only contemplated in cases of an emergency nature by Council resolution and would be raised through Queensland Treasury Corporation by way of a working capital facility.

## 6. VARIATIONS

Council Reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time.

#### Associated Documents

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*
- *Strategic Asset Management Plan*
- *Financial Strategy*

# Revenue Policy

NUMBER: S0002

POLICY TITLE: REVENUE POLICY 2026-27

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## POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 This Policy sets out the principles that Council will apply for the financial year for:
- The levying of rates and charges.
  - Granting concessions on rates and charges.
  - Recovering overdue rates and charges.
  - Cost-recovery methods.
- 1.2 This Policy also states the purpose for concessions granted and the extent to which physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development are to be funded by charges for the development.
- 1.3 The principles contained in this Policy are applied in the determination of rates, fees, and charges as detailed in the Revenue Statement.

### 2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY

- 2.1 This Policy will commence from 1 July 2026 and is applicable for the 2026-27 financial year.

### 3. Application Of Policy

- 3.1 This Policy applies to all people acting for and on behalf of the Charters Towers Regional Council, including Councillors, employees, consultants, and contractors.

### 4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 The principles used for the levying of rates and charges are:
- 4.1.1 That in determining rates, fees, and charges, Council will seek to achieve financial sustainability while having regard to the local economy.
- 4.1.2 That Council will have regard to the principles of:
- Transparency in making and levying of rates and charges.
  - A rating regime that is simple, equitable, and inexpensive to administer.
  - A fair and consistent application of lawful rating and charging principles without bias.
- 4.1.3 That Council accepts that land valuations are generally an appropriate basis to achieve equitable distribution of general rates, with differential rating categories determined by land use, ownership, availability of services, consumption of, and demand for services. This includes whether any attribute of the land (including the status of the land under the Planning Scheme) gives rise to, or is likely to give rise to, increased costs for Council, whether at that land or elsewhere.
- 4.1.4 That when levying rates, fees, and charges, Council will:
- Have regard to the Financial Strategy, including the long-term financial forecast, when setting rates, fees, and charges.
  - Seek to minimise the revenue required to be raised from rates and charges by:
    - Maximising income from available grants and subsidies.
    - Imposing cost-recovery fees in respect of services and activities for which it believes cost recovery is appropriate.
  - Have regard to the prevailing national, state, and local economic conditions, and where possible, limit increases to avoid significant price escalation in any one year.
  - Where possible, offer an early payment discount to provide an incentive for the timely payment of rates and charges that does not compromise Council's financial capacity to deliver services in the region.
- 4.1.5 Levy special rates and charges to minimise the extent to which the general community subsidises the unique costs arising from the provision of local government benefits or services to particular land, where appropriate.
- 4.2 The principles used for recovering overdue rates and charges are that:
- 4.2.1 Council will exercise its rate recovery powers to reduce the overall rate burden upon ratepayers while:

- Making clear the obligations of ratepayers and the process used by Council in assisting them to meet their financial obligations.
- Making the processes used to recover outstanding rates and utility charges clear, simple to administer, and cost effective.
- Endeavouring to treat ratepayers with similar circumstances in a consistent way.
- Offering appropriate concessional arrangements to ratepayers experiencing financial hardship.
- Flexibly responding when necessary to events such as natural disasters or changes in the local economy.

4.3 The principles used for granting concessions on rates and charges, and the purposes for the concessions are that:

4.3.1 Council will support desirable community objectives by providing concessions for certain categories of landowners, and in respect of properties used for certain purposes, when those concessions:

- Reduce the financial burden of rates and charges payable by pensioners.
- Support community activities of not-for-profit organisations, encourage the economic or development of all or part of the local government area.
- Support entities that provide assistance or encouragement for arts or cultural development.
- Encourage the preservation, restoration or maintenance of land that is of cultural, environmental, historic, heritage or scientific significance to the local government area.

4.3.2 Council remits rates for Pensioner Concession Card Holders on the same basis as permitted by the State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme.

4.3.3 In considering the application of concessions, Council will be guided by the principles of:

- Equitable treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances.
- Transparency by making clear the requirements necessary to receive concessions.
- Flexibility to allow Council to respond to local economic issues.

4.4 With respect to cost-recovery methods:

4.4.1 In accordance with section 97 of the Local Government Act 2009, cost-recovery fees will be set to recover the direct costs of services. Council may choose to set some lower than the direct cost for a service. By imposing charges that accurately reflect the direct cost of the provision of services Council will promote efficiency in both provision and use of the services.

4.4.2 Council may choose to subsidise the charges from other sources (e.g., general rate revenue) when Council believes that it is in the community interest.

4.5 With respect to the funding of new development:

4.5.1 To the fullest extent permissible by law, Council will fund the physical and social costs of any new development by levying charges upon that development. Council considers that current legislation strikes a reasonable balance between minimising costs for new developments and managing the burden of new developments upon existing ratepayers, and promotes efficiency by and competition between developers, and achieves development at the least overall cost to the community.

4.5.2 Council may choose to subsidise the charges payable for the development from other sources (e.g., general rates) when Council believes that it is in the community interest to do so.

## 5. VARIATIONS

Council Reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time.

### Associated Documents

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *S0003 Revenue Statement 2026-27*

# Revenue Statement

NUMBER: S0003

POLICY TITLE: REVENUE STATEMENT 2026-27

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## POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The Revenue Statement 2026-27 is prepared in compliance with Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Sections 169 and 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as part of the 2026- 27 budget documents, outlining revenue measures adopted in the budget.

1.2 The purpose of the Revenue Statement is to set out:

- The rates and charges to be levied in the financial year;
- The concessions for rates and charges to be granted in the financial year;
- The limitations and increases in rates and charges; and
- The criteria for cost recovery fees.

### 2. COMMENCEMENT OF REVENUE STATEMENT

2.1 This Revenue Statement will commence from 1 July 2026.

### 3. APPLICATION OF REVENUE STATEMENT

3.1 This Revenue Statement will apply to all rateable land within the Charters Towers Regional Council local government area for the financial year 2026-27.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

4.1 To assist in interpretation the following definitions shall apply:

TERM	DEFINITION
Act	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>
Council	Charters Towers Regional Council
Department	Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development
Mine	Land that is the subject of a mining lease (issued pursuant to the <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i> ) or other form of tenure that was used, is used, or intended to be used: a) as a mine (or for purposes ancillary or associated with mining such as, for example, washing down, processing, stockpiling, haulage, water storage and rehabilitation); or b) in conjunction with other land (the subject of a mining lease or other mine tenure) as part of an integrated mining operation.
Regulation	<i>Local Government Regulation 2012</i>
Townships	Pentland, Greenvale, or Ravenswood
Integrated mining operation	Land contained in more than one mining lease (issued pursuant to the <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i> ) or other form of tenure which land was used, is used, or intended to be used in an integrated manner for the purposes of mining or purposes ancillary or associated with mining such as, for example, washing down, processing, stockpiling, haulage, water storage and rehabilitation.
Workforce Accommodation	Land used for intensive accommodation capable of accommodating persons (other than the ordinary travelling public) in rooms, suites or caravan sites specifically built or provided for this purpose. This type of land use is commonly known as "workers accommodation", "single persons quarters", "work camps", "accommodation village" or "barracks".

### 5. POLICY PROVISIONS

5.1 Differential General Rates

Council has 48 categories of rateable land in the financial year 2026-27 as stated and described below. Pursuant to Section 80 of the Regulation, the following Differential Rating Categories have been determined having regard to a number of factors, including:

- Land use as determined by Council and the Department;
- Parcels similarly valued which are used for the same or similar purpose and receive similar services;
- Location;
- Valuation.

In accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, owners of rateable land will be informed of the general rating category in which their land has been included and that they have the right of objection to the category to which their land is allocated. All objections must be submitted to Council within 30 days of the issuance date on the rate notice and the only basis for objection will be that at the date of issue of the rate notice, having regard to the descriptions adopted by Council, the land should be in another rating category.

## RESIDENTIAL

### **Category 1 - Urban Residential <9,000m<sup>2</sup>**

Properties used for residential purposes with an area less than 9,000m<sup>2</sup>, including in all townships.

### **Category 2 - Large Homesites <\$105,000 Rating Valuation**

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m<sup>2</sup> situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation less than \$105,000.

### **Category 3 - Large Homesites \$105,000 to \$239,999 Rating Valuation**

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m<sup>2</sup> situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation between \$105,000 and \$239,999.

### **Category 4 - Large Homesites \$240,000 to \$379,999 Rating Valuation**

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m<sup>2</sup> situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation between \$240,000 and \$379,999.

### **Category 5 - Large Homesites >= \$380,000 Rating Valuation**

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m<sup>2</sup> situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation greater than or equal to \$380,000.

### **Category 6 - Rural Residential properties >8kms from Charters Towers central business district**

Properties used for rural residential purposes situated beyond 8 kilometres from the Charters Towers central business district, including all townships.

### **Category 7 - Multi-unit Residential 2 flats**

Properties used for the purpose of multiple residential units, maximum of 2 flats, including properties situated in townships.

### **Category 8 - Multi-unit Residential 3-4 flats**

Properties used for the purpose of multiple residential units, 3-4 flats, including properties situated in townships.

### **Category 9 - Multi-unit Residential 5-6 flats**

Properties used for the purpose of multiple residential units, 5-6 flats, including properties situated in townships.

### **Category 27 - Multi-unit Residential 7-8 flats**

Properties used for the purpose of multiple residential units, 7-8 flats, including properties situated in townships.

### **Category 28 - Multi-unit Residential 9-10 flats**

Properties used for the purpose of multiple residential units, 9-10 flats, including properties situated in townships.

### **Category 29 - Multi-unit Residential 11-14 flats**

Properties used for the purpose of multiple residential units, 11-14 flats, including properties situated in townships.

**Category 30 – Multi-unit Residential >= 15 flats**

Properties used for the purpose of multiple residential units, 15 flats or greater, including properties situated in townships.

**LARGE RETAIL****Category 13 – Drive-in Shopping > 1,500m<sup>2</sup> < 4,500m<sup>2</sup> gross floor area**

Properties used for a drive-in shopping centre, or a single shop or retail business, having a gross floor area between 1,500m<sup>2</sup> and 4,500m<sup>2</sup> and onsite car parking spaces.

**Category 50 – Drive-in Shopping > 4,500m<sup>2</sup> gross floor area**

Properties used for a drive-in shopping centre, or a single shop or retail business, having a gross floor area greater than 4,500m<sup>2</sup> and onsite car parking spaces.

**RURAL****Category 15 – Rural Agricultural**

Properties situated beyond 8 kilometres from the Charters Towers central business district used primarily for agricultural purposes.

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL****Category 10 – Commercial Retail and Business <8kms from Charters Towers central business district**

Properties zoned or used in part or in full for commercial, retail or business purposes situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district.

**Category 11 – Industrial, Transport & Storage Category <8kms from Charters Towers central business district**

Properties used for industrial, transport or storage purposes situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district.

**Category 12 – Noxious or Hazardous Industries**

Properties used for noxious or hazardous industry purposes.

**Category 14 – Other Commercial/Industrial land**

Properties used for other commercial or industrial purposes situated greater than 8 kilometres from the Charters Towers central business district, including properties situated in townships.

**Category 24 – Workforce Accommodation 25–49 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 25–49 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 31 – Workforce Accommodation 50–99 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 50–99 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 32 – Workforce Accommodation 100–149 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 100–149 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 33 – Workforce Accommodation 150–199 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 150–199 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 25 – Workforce Accommodation 200–299 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 200–299 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 34 – Workforce Accommodation 300–399 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 300–399 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 35 – Workforce Accommodation 400–499 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 400–499 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 36 – Workforce Accommodation 500–599 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 500–599 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 37 – Workforce Accommodation 600–699 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 600–699 accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**Category 38 – Workforce Accommodation  $\geq$  700 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Workforce Accommodation containing 700 or more accommodation rooms, suites and/or caravan sites.

**RESOURCES AND ENERGY****Category 16 – Mines  $>200$  employees and/or contractors**

Land which is:

- a) a mining lease issued pursuant to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* which forms part of a Mine with more than 200 employees and/or contractors, or
- b) used, in whole or in part, for the purpose of a Mine with more than 200 employees and/or contractors.

**Category 17 – Mines – 101 to 200 employees and/or contractors**

Land which is:

- a) a mining lease issued pursuant to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* which forms part of a Mine with between 101 and 200 employees and/or contractors, or
- b) used, in whole or in part, for the purpose of a Mine with between 101 and 200 employees and/or contractors.

**Category 18 – Mines – 50 to 100 employees and/or contractors**

Land which is:

- a) a mining lease issued pursuant to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* which forms part of a Mine with between 50 and 100 employees and/or contractors, or
- b) used, in whole or in part, for the purpose of a Mine with between 50 and 100 employees and/or contractors.

**Category 19 – Mines – 25 to 49 employees and/or contractors**

Land which is:

- a) a mining lease issued pursuant to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* which forms part of a Mine with between 25 and 49 employees and/or contractors, or
- b) used, in whole or in part, for the purpose of a Mine with between 25 and 49 employees and/or contractors.

**Category 20 – Other Mine/quarry or extractive land use – less than 25 employees and/or contractors**

Land which is:

- a) a mining lease issued pursuant to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* with a rateable valuation greater than \$14,999, which forms part of a Mine with less than 25 employees and/or contractors, or
- b) has a rateable valuation greater than \$14,999 that is used or is capable of being used in whole or in part, for the purpose of a Mine or quarry with less than 25 employees and/or contractors.

**Category 21 – Other Mine/quarry or extractive land use (not falling within Category 16 to 20)**

Land which is:

- a) a mining lease issued pursuant to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, and does not fall into Categories 16 to 20, or
- b) used or is capable of being used, in whole or in part, for the purpose of a Mine or quarry and does not fall into Categories 16 to 20.

**Category 41 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 10–24MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 10–24 megawatts.

**Category 42 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 25–49MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 25–49 megawatts.

**Category 43 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 50–99MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 50–99 megawatts.

**Category 44 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 100–149MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 100–149 megawatts.

**Category 45 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 150–199MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 150–199 megawatts.

**Category 46 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 200–249MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 200–249 megawatts.

**Category 47 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 250–299MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 250–299 megawatts.

**Category 48 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 300–349MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 300–349 megawatts.

**Category 49 – Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility >= 350MW**

Land used or intended for use, in whole or in part, and whether predominantly or not, for Power Generation and/or Renewable Energy Facility, with approved output capacity of 350 or more megawatts.

**OTHER****Category 22 – Water storage**

Land used for the purposes of, or associated with, water storage, delivery, and drainage, including land used for associated recreational purposes at water storage sites.

**Category 23 – Special Uses**

Properties with uses for non-residential purposes not including commercial purposes identified in any other categories such as sporting or other special uses or community groups.

**Category 26 – Other**

Properties which do not fall into categories 1 to 25 or 27 to 50.

The following Differential Rates have been made for the financial year 2026–27:

CAT	DESCRIPTION	RATE IN DOLLAR	MINIMUM
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>			
1	Urban Residential (<9,000m <sup>2</sup> )	\$0.02942	\$1,243
2	Large Homesites <\$105,000 Rating Valuation	\$0.02356	\$1,429
3	Large Homesites \$105,000 to \$239,999 Rating Valuation	\$0.01769	\$2,470
4	Large Homesites \$240,000 to \$379,999 Rating Valuation	\$0.01173	\$4,234
5	Large Homesites >= \$380,000 Rating Valuation	\$0.00733	\$4,469
6	Rural Residential properties >8kms from Charters Towers central business district	\$0.00953	\$1,243
7	Multi-unit Residential 2 flats	\$0.02942	\$1,865
8	Multi-unit Residential 3–4 flats	\$0.02942	\$2,797
9	Multi-unit Residential 5–6 flats	\$0.02942	\$4,660
27	Multi-unit Residential 7–8 flats	\$0.02942	\$6,525
28	Multi-unit Residential 9–10 flats	\$0.02942	\$8,389
29	Multi-unit Residential 11–14 flats	\$0.04408	\$10,253
30	Multi-unit Residential >= 15 flats	\$0.04408	\$13,982
<b>LARGE RETAIL</b>			
13	Drive-in Shopping 1,500m <sup>2</sup> to 4,500m <sup>2</sup> gross floor area	\$0.06397	\$18,642
50	Drive-in Shopping > 4,500m <sup>2</sup> gross floor area	\$0.08523	\$74,567

CAT	DESCRIPTION	RATE IN DOLLAR	MINIMUM
<b>RURAL</b>			
15	Rural Agricultural	\$0.00314	\$1,491
<b>COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL</b>			
10	Commercial Retail and Business <8kms from Charters Towers central business district	\$0.04261	\$1,865
11	Industrial, Transport & Storage Category <8kms from Charters Towers central business district	\$0.03193	\$1,865
12	Noxious or Hazardous Industries	\$0.03413	\$2,797
14	Other Commercial/Industrial land	\$0.04261	\$1,491
24	Workforce Accommodation 25-49 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.21317	\$10,836
31	Workforce Accommodation 50-99 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.21317	\$21,673
32	Workforce Accommodation 100-149 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.21317	\$43,346
33	Workforce Accommodation 150-199 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.21317	\$65,019
25	Workforce Accommodation 200-299 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.42634	\$86,692
34	Workforce Accommodation 300-399 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.42634	\$130,037
35	Workforce Accommodation 400-499 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.42634	\$170,242
36	Workforce Accommodation 500-599 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.85257	\$216,729
37	Workforce Accommodation 600-699 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.85257	\$260,075
38	Workforce Accommodation >= 700 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.85257	\$303,421
<b>RESOURCES AND ENERGY</b>			
16	Mines >200 employees and/or contractors	\$0.51156	\$74,567
17	Mines - 101 to 200 employees and/or contractors	\$0.42634	\$37,284
18	Mines - 50 to 100 employees and/or contractors	\$0.31975	\$18,642
19	Mines - 25 to 49 employees and/or contractors	\$0.19181	\$8,389
20	Mine/Quarry < 25 employees and/or contractors, >=\$15,000	\$0.10658	\$2,331
21	Other Mine/quarry or extractive land use (not falling within Category 16 to 20)	\$0.06397	\$1,584
41	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 10-24MW	\$0.01068	\$8,669
42	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 25-49MW	\$0.01068	\$21,673
43	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 50-99MW	\$0.02136	\$43,346
44	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 100-149MW	\$0.02136	\$86,692
45	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 150-199MW	\$0.02136	\$130,037
46	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 200-249MW	\$0.02136	\$173,383
47	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 250-299MW	\$0.02136	\$216,729
48	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 300-349MW	\$0.02136	\$260,075
49	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility >= 350MW	\$0.02136	\$303,421
<b>OTHER</b>			
22	Water Storage	\$0.04261	\$1,491
23	Special Uses	\$0.02984	\$1,118
26	Other	\$0.02136	\$1,118

### **Limitation on Increase in Rates**

Pursuant to Section 116 of the *Regulation*, Council will limit the increase in the general rates adopted for the differential rating categories identified in sub-paragraph (a) below, subject to the conditions and other limitations in sub-paragraph (b) below, so that the general rates levied in the applicable differential rating category will be limited to an amount that is no more than the amount equal to the general rate levied in the previous financial year (ending 30 June 2026), increased by the applicable percentage.

- a. For the preceding paragraph, the applicable percentage is 60% for the following differential rating categories:
- Categories 1-12
  - Categories 14-15
  - Category 23
- b. In all cases these limitations (commonly referred to as “capping”) are subject to the following conditions:
- Capping will apply only to general rates;
  - Capping will apply only to land categorised in the differential rating categories listed above;
  - Capping will not apply where there has been a change in valuation (other than the revaluation of the Council’s entire local government area) during the current or previous financial year;
  - Capping will not apply where there has been a change in land area of the rateable parcel of land during the current or previous financial year, unless that change is the result of the Council or a State Government entity acquiring (by agreement or compulsory acquisition) part of a parent parcel;
  - Capping will not apply where there has been a change in the differential rating category during the current or previous financial year;
  - Capping will not apply where a property has a discounted valuation under Chapter 2, (Section 50) of the *Land Valuation Act 2010*;
  - Capping will not apply where a property has a discounted valuation under Chapter 2, (Section 50) of the *Land Valuation Act 2010* which has ceased;
  - Capping will not apply if ownership of the land to which capping applies is transferred in the current or previous year (other than transfer by death to the remaining owner/s);
  - Capping is not available retrospectively and will only apply from the beginning of a financial year.

## 5.2 Utility Group Definitions

### **Group 31 – Charters Towers Reserve – Residential**

A parcel of land contained completely within the Town Reserve area of Charters Towers, which is not zoned commercial and is either vacant or used for residential purposes.

### **Group 32 – Charters Towers Reserve – Non-Residential**

A parcel of land contained completely within the Town Reserve area of Charters Towers, which is zoned commercial and vacant, or used for non-residential purposes.

### **Group 34 – Within 8 km radius of CBD Charters Towers: Residential**

A parcel of residential land, not within Utility Group 31, located partly or completely within an eight (8) kilometre radius of the CBD in Charters Towers.

### **Group 35 – Within 8 km radius of CBD Charters Towers: Non-Residential**

A parcel of non-residential land, not within Utility Group 32, located partly or completely within an eight (8) kilometre radius of the CBD in Charters Towers.

### **Group 38 – Townships – Pentland, Ravenswood & Greenvale**

Township – a parcel of land contained partly or completely within the defined Township Reserves of Pentland, Ravenswood, or Greenvale.

### **Group 39 – Outside 8 km radius of the Townships – All others not in Group 38**

All other parcels of land contained within the region of Charters Towers and not contained within any other Utility Group.

## 5.3 Utility Groups 31 and 32

### 5.3.1 Sewerage Charges – Utility Groups 31 & 32

A Sewerage Charge will be levied in accordance with the Sewerage Charge Schedule, on each surveyed parcel of land, vacant and occupied, that Council has or is able to provide with sewerage services. The charge may also be levied on those areas where construction of the service infrastructure has commenced but access is not yet available to the sewerage service.

The sewerage charge will be set to recover all annual operating costs associated with the provision of

sewerage and wastewater services provided by Council. These costs include loan interest, asset depreciation and the cost of ongoing maintenance and operation of the system, including treatment plant operations.

The adopted Sewerage Charges Schedule is as follows:

1. Surveyed parcel of vacant land = 3.6 units.
2. 1 pedestal or urinal = 4 units. (Base Charge)
3. Residential Properties, including residential lots under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act, such as a house or strata title unit, shall be levied a base sewerage charge per dwelling and shall be entitled to unlimited pedestals.
4. Residential properties consisting of flats or units, covered by a single title, shall be levied a sewerage charge on a per dwelling basis.
5. Non-Residential connected to the Sewerage system:
  - (i) The first 5 pedestals or urinals = 4 units per pedestal.
  - (ii) From 6 to 15 pedestals or urinals = 2.4 units per pedestal.
  - (iii) From 16 or over pedestals or urinals = 1.3 units per pedestal.

The Sewerage Charges per unit to be made and levied for the rating period 01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 are specified in the table below.

UTILITY GROUP	GROUP DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL CHARGE PER UNIT For Sewerage
31	Charters Towers Reserve - Residential	\$242
32	Charters Towers Reserve - Non-Residential	\$242

### 5.3.2 Waste Collection Charges – Utility Groups 31 & 32

A Waste Collection Charge will be levied in accordance with the Waste Collection Schedule on each parcel of land or structure occupied or capable of being occupied for which Council is prepared to provide a waste collection service. Where there is more than one structure on land capable of separate occupation a charge will be made for each structure.

For domestic and non-residential users, the charge will be for a weekly collection of a 240-litre mobile bin. Charges will be made for additional collections per week from domestic or non-residential properties, referred to in the fees as Extra Waste Collection, or additional bins can be provided and collected at the weekly collection.

If any collection of industrial and bulk waste is required by Council, this will be charged based on volume and frequency of collection in accordance with market rates.

No refund of any charges in respect of a regular service duly made and levied in respect of a year or part thereof shall be made or given by Council for the reason that premises are unoccupied.

The costs incurred in the operation and maintenance of all waste management functions provided by Council, will primarily be funded by waste collection charges. The charges, together with the Landfill Management levy will fund operation and maintenance of Council's Landfill and recycling activities, the collection of waste from street side rubbish bins, the removal of dead animals and abandoned motor vehicles and environment protection activities related to waste generally.

A unit charge covers the provision of one 240 litre mobile bin in accordance with the following Schedule:

WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE			UNITS	MIN	MAX
a.	Dwellings		1	1	
b.	Multiple Dwellings	Per unit/dwelling	1	1	
c.	Accommodation Units	Per 2 pedestals	1	2	10
d.	Motels, Caravan Parks, Hotel/Motels	Per 2 pedestals	1	2	20
e.	Hotel and Taverns	Per 2 pedestals	1	1	
f.	Clubs, Community Groups/Churches	Per 2 pedestals	1	1	2
g.	Education	Per 2 pedestals	1	1	20
h.	Childcare	Per 2 pedestals	1	1	4

WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE			UNITS	MIN	MAX
i.	Hospitals, Nursing Home & Place of Retirement	Per 2 pedestals	1	1	20
j.	Non-residential Premises, Shops	Per shop/premise, whichever is greater	1		
k.	Supermarket (Gross floor area >800 m2)	Per pedestal	1	6	
l.	Other non-residential		1	1	

The Waste Collection Charges per unit be made and levied by the Council for the rating period 01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 are specified in the table below.

UTILITY GROUP	GROUP DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL CHARGE PER UNIT For Bin Collection	LANDFILL USAGE
31	Charters Towers Reserve – Residential	\$259	Fees apply
32	Charters Towers Reserve – Non-residential	\$305*	Fees apply

\*Includes the Queensland Waste Levy in accordance with the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

#### 5.3.3 Landfill Management Levy – Utility Groups 31 & 32

The Landfill Management Levy is broken into two components being Provision and Use. In Utility Groups 31 and 32, the levy assumes that properties will use the Stubley Street Landfill where a ‘user pay policy’ has been implemented.

UTILITY GROUP	PROVISION	USE	ANNUAL LEVY
31	\$50	Pay per use	\$50
32	\$50	Pay per use	\$50

#### 5.3.4 Regional Water Charges

The basis of the water charge is:

Residential (excluding Multiple Dwellings):	Ratepayers can choose between the Allocation Tariff or Two-Part Tariff
Non-Residential and Multiple Dwellings:	Two-Part Tariff only

**Allocation Tariff** is an annual fixed charge combining an access charge with an annual allowance of water use and is levied per unit per parcel as set out in the Water Charges Schedule.

#### Two-Part Tariff

First Part	Flat Charge covering Access or Availability (levied in advance)
Second Part	Charge per kilolitre Used (levied in the rating period following meter read).

**Residential Properties** can choose annually between tariffs. A defined timeframe will be advertised each year, following water meter readings, during which time a request to transfer to the other tariff can be submitted online, or via a hardcopy Transfer Form. Transfer requests will not be accepted outside of the defined advertised ‘Transfer Period’.

All such charges levied shall be used to cover the cost of constructing the water supply facilities, including the payment of loan interest, asset depreciation and the costs associated with the operation, maintenance, and management of the water supply system.

The charges are also made on a specified basis set out in the Non-Standard Water Allocations (Annexure A) in respect of any land or other structure, building, individual shop, or place on land to which water is supplied that is not rateable under the Act.

**Multiple Dwellings** shall be levied as set out in the Water Charges Schedule. In cases where the consumption by individual lots and the common property cannot be individually measured, consumption charges will be levied on a per lot basis in accordance with the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997*. It will be necessary for Council to apportion the consumption of the scheme land in accordance with the schedule of lot entitlements in the Contribution Schedule contained in the Community Management Statement.

**Meter Readings** – Water Meters are read on a bi-annual basis. See 5.5.6 for more details.

**Stopped Meter** – Should a meter be found to have stopped, usage for the current year will be levied based on the calculation under section 5.5.7.

**Undetected Leak** – In the case where there is an undetected leak within the property boundaries, assessment will come under the guidelines within Council's Concealed Leak Policy, and subject to approval, the associated method of charging will apply.

#### **WATER CHARGES – Utility Groups 31 & 32**

A Water Charge will be levied in accordance with the Water Charges Schedule, on each surveyed parcel of land, both vacant and occupied, that Council has or is able to provide with a water service. 'Able to provide' means the property is within 100 metres of a water main. The charge may also be levied on those areas where construction of the service infrastructure has commenced but access is not yet available to the water service.

#### **WATER CHARGES – Utility Groups 34 to 39**

##### **Group 34 – 35 – Within 8 km of the CBD of Charters Towers & not in Groups 31-32**

Water charges apply to all parcels to which supply is provided.

##### **Group 38 – Ravenswood**

Water charges apply to all parcels to which supply is provided.

##### **Group 38 – Greenvale and Pentland**

Water charges apply on availability of water as per the defined water areas.

Refer service area maps available on Council's website

<https://www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au/Services/Water-and-sewerage/Declared-water-and-sewerage-areas>

#### **ANNUAL WATER LEVIES ACROSS THE REGION**

The Water Rates and Charges to be made and levied by the Council for properties in all Utility Groups for the rating period 01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 are specified in the Water Charges Schedule below. The Water Unit Schedule specifies the units applied per surveyed parcel of land for each land use, excluding properties referred to in items j) to m) of the schedule. For those properties, the units are specified in the attached Non-Standard Water Allocations (Annexure A).

#### **WATER CHARGES SCHEDULE (ALL PROPERTIES WITHIN CHARTERS TOWERS REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA)**

<b>WATER CHARGES SCHEDULE (per parcel)</b>	<b>UNITS</b>
a. All Vacant Land Not Connected	4
<b>Residential</b>	
b. Dwelling	4
c. Multiple Dwelling Single Parcel – 1st unit/flat	4
- all remaining units/flats	4
d. Multiple Dwellings Separate Parcels (Per unit)	4
e. Multiple Dwellings:(Per unit) Exempt general rate levies under the LG Act	4
<b>Non-Residential</b>	
f. Community Clubs & Organisations	4
g. Clubs – Private	6
h. Commercial and Industry (Per Shop/Business Unit)	6
i. Religious Organisation	4
<b>As per Special Water Unit Schedule (Annexure A)</b>	
j. Schools/ Education	
k. State Government	

WATER CHARGES SCHEDULE (per parcel)		UNITS
I.	State Government Corporations	
m.	Special Allocations (all other properties specified in Annexure A)	

#### Water Allocation Tariff (Residential Only)

UTILITY GROUP	CATEGORY	ANNUAL ALLOWANCE PER UNIT	ANNUAL CHARGE PER UNIT For Water	EXCESS WATER CHARGE PER KILOLITRE*	
				Used in 2025/26	Used in 2026/27
31	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$402	\$2.27	\$2.47
34	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$402	\$2.27	\$2.47
38 - Greenvale	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$383	\$1.97	\$2.15
38 - Pentland	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$357	\$2.27	\$2.47
38 - Ravenswood	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$377	\$2.27	\$2.47

\* to be charged per kilolitre (kl) or part thereof over the applicable annual allowance per unit

#### Water Two-Part Tariff

UTILITY GROUP	CATEGORY	AVAILABILITY OR ACCESS CHARGE PER UNIT	CHARGE PER KILOLITRE USED UNDER THRESHOLD	EXCESS THRESHOLD PER UNIT	EXCESS WATER CHARGE PER KILOLITRE*
31	Residential	\$250	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47
32	Non-Residential	\$219	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47
32	Non-Residential	\$280	Connection - No Meter - Access & Usage		
34	Residential	\$250	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47
35	Non-Residential	\$219	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47
38-Greenvale	Residential	\$217	\$1.20	187.5 kl	\$2.15
38-Pentland	Residential	\$250	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47
38-Ravenswood	Residential	\$250	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47
38-Greenvale	Non-Residential	\$190	\$1.20	187.5 kl	\$2.47
38-Pentland	Non-Residential	\$219	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47
38-Ravenswood	Non-Residential	\$219	\$1.38	187.5 kl	\$2.47

\* to be charged per kilolitre or part thereof over the applicable annual allowance per unit

#### VACANT – Water Available – Not Connected

All Groups	Vacant	\$250
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#### Water Supplies

##### Charters Towers

Council reticulates treated water via infrastructure fully installed and owned by Council. Water is sourced from the Burdekin River, pumped to the treatment plant for treatment and then reticulated from the storage reservoir on Towers Hill. Some locations are reticulated prior to water travelling to the reservoir.

##### Pentland

Council reticulates treated water to a defined area of Pentland Township from ground water bores.

##### Greenvale

Council reticulates treated water to the whole of the Greenvale Township by way of a mains reticulation system originally installed by Queensland Nickel Ltd. This infrastructure is now owned by Council. The maintenance and replacement of these assets is Council's responsibility.

**Ravenswood**

Ravenswood water supply was originally sourced from the Burdekin River by the Ravenswood Gold Mine (the Mine). Water is pumped to a “turkey nest” dam before the Mine provides treated water to the township. Council is responsible for the maintenance of these assets and currently pays the Mine to operate and provide the service.

## 5.3.5 Utility Rating Groups 34 to 39

## 5.3.5.1 Waste Collection Charges – Utility Groups 34 to 39

The Waste Collection Charges for each property to be made and levied by the Council for the rating period 01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 are specified below. One unit covers a weekly collection of one 240 litre mobile bin for a twelve-month period.

Waste collection charges apply to defined Garbage Areas. Refer service area maps available on Council’s website <https://www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au/Services/Waste-management/Waste-collections>

UTILITY GROUP	ANNUAL CHARGE PER ONE UNIT	WHEN CHARGE TO APPLY
34	\$259	A dwelling to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.
35	\$305*	A non-residential premise to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.
38 - Greenvale	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Greenvale Garbage Area
38 - Pentland	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Pentland Garbage Area to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.
38 - Ravenswood	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Ravenswood Garbage Area with a dwelling to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.
39 - Hervey Range	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Hervey Range Garbage Area as from date of provision of service.
39 - Balfes Creek	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Balfes Creek Garbage Area as from date of provision of service.
39 - Homestead	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Homestead Garbage Area as from date of provision of service.
39 - Mingela	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Mingela Garbage Area as from date of provision of service.
39 - Sellheim	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Sellheim Garbage Area with a dwelling to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from date of provision of service.
39 - Reid River	\$343	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Reid River Garbage Area with a dwelling to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from date of provision of service.
38 & 39 Non-Residential - Waste	\$372*	A non-residential premise to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.

\*Includes the Queensland Waste Levy collected in accordance with the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

Pro rata charges will be levied where services are commenced, or made available, during the financial year. A service is defined as the collection of one domestic bin per week per domicile.

### 5.3.5.2 Sewerage Charges – Utility Groups 34 to 39

The following schedule of units applies to Sewerage utility charges for the relevant utility groups, per surveyed parcel of land.

LAND USE	NO. OF UNITS
<b>Sewerage Utility Groups 34 to 39</b>	
Vacant Land	3.6
Dwellings	4
Accommodation Units and Flat – per unit/flat	4
Business premises	4
Café	6
Dwelling combined with business premises	6
School	12
Hotel	20
Hall	4
Church	4
Caravan Park	16
Racecourse	4
Rodeo Grounds	4
Sports Club	4
Motel	20
Shopping Centre – per shop/business within the centre	4
Service Station	6
Industrial – Light and Heavy	6
Golf Course	4
Police Station and Residence	8
Not otherwise defined	8
<b>Specific</b>	
Greenvale Swimming Pool	8
Greenvale Fire and Ambulance	8
State Emergency Service Facilities	8

The Sewerage Charges per unit to be made and levied for the rating period 01 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 are specified in the table below.

UTILITY GROUP	ANNUAL CHARGE PER UNIT (Refer Utility Units Table)	WHEN CHARGE TO APPLY
38 – Greenvale Residential/Non-Residential	\$195 per annum	Upon connection to mains
38 – Ravenswood Residential/Non-Residential	\$195 per annum	Upon connection to mains

Pro rata charges will be levied where services are commenced, during the financial year.

### 5.3.5.3 Landfill Management Levy – Utility Groups 34 to 39

The following levies are based on their associated assumption 1 to 5 and the two generic assumptions 6 & 7:

1. All properties within Utility Groups 34 and 35 – the closest landfill is Stubley Street, Charters Towers.
2. All properties within Utility Group 38 – the closest landfill is either Greenvale, Pentland, or Ravenswood.

3. Properties within Utility Group 39 that have a waste collection service - the closest landfill is either Greenvale, Pentland, or Ravenswood.
4. Despite assumption 3, certain properties within Utility Group 39 that have a waste collection service are located closest to the Stublely Street Landfill.
5. Properties within Utility Group 39 that do not have a waste collection service and whose owner/ occupiers manage their own landfills on their property will not be levied a landfill management levy.
6. The Stublely Street Landfill is a user pays facility.
7. The Greenvale, Pentland or Ravenswood landfills are not user pays facilities.

Where assumption 4) above applies, and a property within Utility Group 39 is located closer to the Stublely Street Landfill and therefore incurs 'user pay fees' when using the landfill, a reduced landfill management levy will apply on application and subsequent approval.

ASSUMPTION	PROVISION	USE	ANNUAL LEVY
1	\$50.00	Pay per use	\$50.00
2	\$39.25	\$19.75	\$59.00
3	\$39.25	\$19.75	\$59.00
4	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
5	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

#### 5.4 Concessions on Rates and Charges

Concessions will be determined on an annual basis on the adoption of each budget and will reflect Council's desire to continue to assist Pensioners with their rates payments, while also assisting Sporting/Cultural and Welfare Groups with their rates payments.

##### 5.4.1 Pensioner Rebates

To qualify for the following rebates, all the following conditions must apply:

- The applicant must be the holder of a Pensioner Concession Card or Repatriation Health Card for all Conditions (Gold Card) issued by the Australian Government Services Australia or the Commonwealth Department of Veteran's Affairs. Holders of Health Care Cards (Services Australia) are not eligible under this scheme, as these cards are issued for a limited specified period of time only; and
- The applicant must be the owner (either solely or jointly) of property in the Charters Towers Region which is his/her principal place of residence, and the property shall not be utilised for non-residential activities, including home-based occupations; and
- The applicant must have, either solely or jointly with a co-owner, the legal responsibility for payment of rates and charges as defined herein which are levied in respect of the said property by Council; and
- The applicant must be approved to receive the State Government pensioner rates subsidy; and
- Such concession of rates will only apply if the applicant/s remains a pensioner/s and also retains ownership of the property in respect of which concession is sought, for the whole of the financial year.

##### 5.4.2 Council Rebate

Policies for pensioner rate accounts across the region are as follows:

- Discount on pensioner rate accounts is calculated on the nett levy, after State and Council concessions are applied.
- Council pensioner rebates are limited to pensioners who pay their rate account in full by the discount date of each levy.
- The Council Pensioner Remission is calculated on the general rate only, to a maximum of 27% of the general rate levy applicable to the rating category designated, capped at \$198 if levied half yearly and \$396 if levied once per year.

##### 5.4.3 State Government Subsidy

In accordance with the Queensland Government Pensioner Rates Subsidy Scheme, as existing at the time of rating, a Pensioner Subsidy of 100%, capped at the State Government's approved maximum of an anticipated \$200 per annum, will be allowed on General rates as levied for residential properties. Pensioners wishing to apply for subsidy are required to initially complete the necessary application form. Council will then confirm ongoing eligibility on a yearly basis, via reconciliation with the records held by the State Government.

- 5.4.4 **Sporting/Cultural/Welfare Groups Concessions**  
Pursuant to the Act, Council will continue to provide financial assistance to approved Sporting, Cultural and Welfare Groups as budgeted, with the basis of concession being as follows; subject to nett rates and charges, after concession applied, being paid in full by the due date as printed on the rates notice:
- 50% of the General Rate;
  - 50% of the Sewerage Charge;
  - Nil concession on Water Charges unless otherwise determined by Council and
  - 50% of the calculated Excess Water Charge when an organisation has an approved Water Management Plan, subject to a defined period, if required.
- 5.4.5 **Concealed Leak Concession**  
Council may grant a rebate to allow financial relief from water consumption charges that have arisen as a result of a proven concealed water leak in accordance with its Concealed Leak Policy to ratepayers who meet the eligibility criteria set out in the policy.
- 5.5 **Other Rates, Charges and Rating Matters**
- 5.5.1 **Issue of Rates Notices**  
Council will issue Half Yearly Rates Notices:
- 1 In August/September (1st levy) for the billing period 1 July to 31 December; and
  - 2 In February/March (2nd levy) for the billing period 1 January to 30 June.
    - The 1st levy rate notice will include two-part tariff and excess water levies incurred across period 19 December to 17 June.
    - The 2nd levy rate notice will include two-part tariff and excess water levies incurred across the period 18 June to 18 December.
- 5.5.2 **Interest on Arrears**  
Pursuant to the Act, rates and charges which are unpaid as of the due date will incur interest at the approved rate of 12.19%, being the maximum interest rate, in accordance with the Regulation. The above interest rate has been calculated using the following methodology:
- Section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* prescribes the way that the maximum interest rate on overdue rates and charges is calculated. The prescribed method is based on the calculation used for the interest charged on unpaid State taxes under the *Tax Administration Act 2001* and *Taxation Administration Regulation 2012* (the Reserve Bank 'bank bill yield rate plus a fixed margin of 8%'); and
- The adoption of the prescribed method is required to partially offset the time spent by Council's Rates team in managing rates arrears. A lower interest rate would be a further burden on ratepayers who pay their rates by the due date, should Council choose to adopt interest rate based on the prescribed method.
- 5.5.3 **Discount on Rates and Charges**  
Pursuant to the Act, a discount is granted on gross rates and charges (less Council and State concessions, rate arrears, interest and emergency management levies), to any persons liable to pay the rates and charges levied, provided payment is made within the approved, thirty (30) days from the date of issue, discount period.  
Discount will be granted as follows:
- Properties in differential rate categories 1-9, 15 and 27-30 – five percent (5%);
  - All other rateable properties – three percent (3%);
  - Residential non-rateable properties (utility charges only) – five percent (5%);
  - Non-Residential non-rateable properties (utility charges only) – three percent (3%).
- To receive the benefit of discount, payment in full must be receipted by Council on or before the due date.
- 5.5.4 **Emergency Management Levy**  
Local Governments are a collection agency only for the State Government Emergency Management Levy on improved and vacant land. All levies collected by local governments throughout Queensland are forwarded on to the State Government. Premises are levied in accordance with the approved schedule, as issued annually, by the Queensland Fire Department (QFD).
- 5.5.5 **Rate Instalment Arrangements**  
Pursuant to the Act, Council may approve a conditional Rate Instalment Arrangement to pay a rate account by weekly, fortnightly, or monthly instalments. As part of each application approval, the agreed 'Method of Payment' will be determined. Overdue rate accounts shall incur interest. Council also recognises financial hardship exists in some cases in relation to Rates and Charges and is willing to consider applications from eligible property owners for relief in accordance with accepted parameters which are set out in Council's Rates and Hardship Policy available on Council's website.

- 5.5.6 Water Meter Readings  
Water Meter Readings will be undertaken bi-annually.

In accordance with s102 of the *Regulation*, adoption of this policy confirms “a meter is taken to have been read during the period that starts 2 weeks before, and ends 2 weeks after, the day on which the meter is actually read”.

*Example –*

*In calculating utility charges for a period ending on 31 December, if a meter is read on 12 January, the meter reading is taken to be the meter reading on 31 December.*

Where water is connected, Water Notices showing usage against allocation between 19 December and 17 June will be in the first half yearly rates notice issued each financial year and Water Notices showing usage against allocation between 18 June and 18 December will be issued in the second half yearly notices issued each financial year.

The 1st half yearly rates notice will be issued in August/September and will contain Two-Part Tariff and excess water levies across the previous 6-month period plus 50% of the allocation water levy for the current financial year.

The 2nd half yearly rates notice will be issued in February/March and will contain Two-Part Tariff and excess water levies across the previous 6-month period and the remaining 50% of the allocation water levy for the current financial year.

Please refer to 5.3.4 for details on the levying of the Two-Part Tariff.

- 5.5.7 Water Meter Reading Averaging  
A Meter Replacement program takes place annually. The program is aimed at replacing all water meters when 5,000 kilolitres has passed through them, or when the meter reaches nine years of age, whichever comes first. This program has resulted in stopped or slowed meters becoming less common.

However, faults do still occur, and when they do it is important that it does not result in lost revenue, or inequities whereby property owners do not pay for the water they use. To avoid this, averaging water usage is required.

Usage on the meter will be averaged based on the Property owner’s previous consumption history as recorded by the Council over the immediately preceding three (3) financial year billing periods. If there has been a change in property ownership within the three (3) year financial year billing periods, the average of the usage during the ownership period will be used. If there are other circumstances in which using the three (3) preceding financial year billing periods is impractical, another reasonable method will be used as determined by the Chief Financial Officer or Chief Executive Officer.

- 5.5.8 Excess Water  
Excess water charges are applied based on all water used in excess of the annual allowance allocated to the property. Properties levied under the Two-Part Tariff will have excess water charges applied for usage which exceeds the 1<sup>st</sup> tier threshold.
- 5.6 Schedule of Fees and Charges  
In accordance with section 97 of the *Act*, cost-recovery fees will be determined on an annual basis by Council resolution. Fees and charges will be updated throughout the year as necessary.
- 5.6.1 Criteria for calculating Cost-Recovery Fees  
Council’s cost-recovery fees will be set to recover the direct costs of services Council may choose to set some fees lower than the cost for a service; however, the cost-recovery fee must not be more than the cost to the local government for taking the action for which the fee is charged.

#### ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- *Local Government Act 2009.*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012.*
- *S0002 Revenue Policy 2026-27.*

#### 6. ANNEXURES

- Annexure A – Non-Standard Water Allocations



# Annexure A

"Annexure A to Revenue Statement"  
 CHARTERS TOWERS REGIONAL COUNCIL WATER UNIT CHARGES SCHEDULE 2026-27  
 NON STANDARD ALLOCATIONS ACROSS THE REGION - Utility Rating Groups 31 to 38

RATE ASSESS	RATE PID	CATEGORY	PREMISES	ADDRESS	TOTAL UNITS
11836	2314	CAT: j) SCHOOLS/EDUCATION	KUDJULA PLAYGROUP	10 BENNETT ST	4
11288	1529	Pre-schools	BLACKHEATH & THORNBURGH COLLEGE KINDERGARTEN	10 BRIDGE ST	6
10307	298	Private/Boarding School	C.C.C. (ST MARYS)	59-69 MARY ST	111
11345-05	1613		C.C.C. (MOUNT CARMEL)	6-8 HACKETT TCE	189
11470	1753		BLACKHEATH & THORNBURGH COLLEGE	55-59 KING ST	150
12565-8	3607		ALL SOULS ST GABRIELS SCHOOL	30 DR GEORGE ELLIS DR	150
11965	2476	State Schools	MILLCHESTER STATE SCHOOL	57 PHILIPSON RD	240
12043-02	2613		SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION	15-23 BRISK ST	240
12317	3087		RICHMOND HILL STATE SCHOOL	36-42 BAKER ST	240
10040	42		CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL	39-47 HIGH ST	240
10050	52		STATE HIGH SCHOOL	97-113 TOWERS ST	240
20270-2	23092		RAVENSWOOD STATE SCHOOL	40 ELPHINSTONE ST	10
21010	20962		PENTLAND STATE SCHOOL	18 MILL ST	6
21267	21174		GREENVALE STATE SCHOOL	4 CASSIA CRT	6
11644	1979	CAT: k) STATE GOVERNMENT	RAILWAY STATION, COMPOUND, DWELL & GOODS SHED	ENTERPRISE RD	16
10147	156		CHARTERS TOWERS HOSPITAL	135-138 GILL ST	400
11731-92	2141		CHARTERS TOWERS REHABILITATION UNIT	35 GLADSTONE RD	330
12387	3220		EVENTIDE RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE	54-76 DALRYMPLE RD	660
11940-5	2440		MINES DEPARTMENT DEPOT	2-8 NAGLE ST	6
12127-14	2760		TROPICAL WEEDS RESEARCH CENTRE and RESIDENCES	27-41 NATAL DOWNS RD	28
10128	137		POLICE STATION - CHARTERS TOWERS	51-55 GILL ST	12
20225-74	22104		POLICE STATION - RAVENSWOOD	1 TOWNSVILLE ST	6
21083	21023		POLICE STATION - PENTLAND	33-35 PATERSON ST	6
21176	21098		POLICE STATION & DWELLING - GREENVALE	8 ACACIA DRIVE	10
10111	117		CHARTERS TOWERS MAGISTRATES & DISTRICT COURT	28-32 HODGKINSON ST	12
10031	32		STATE WORKS DEPT DEPOT	45 VULTURE ST	12
10079-3	81		DEPT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES	109-111 HODGKINSON ST	6
12442-1	3398		DEPT OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES	15 MACPHERSON ST	12
12460-05	22847		DALRYMPLE TRADE TRAINING CENTRE	11 MACPHERSON ST	6
11769	2223	CAT: l) STATE GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS	ERCON ENERGY - DEPOT	7 NEW QUEEN RD	6
11971-2	2489		ERCON ENERGY - SUB STATION	251 BLUFF RD	6
12564-2	3586		ERCON ENERGY - SUB STATION	51 DR GEORGE ELLIS DR	6
10646-1	660		TELECOM EXCHANGE	11-13 BOW ST	6
10121	131		AUSTRALIA POST - CHARTERS TOWERS (2 FLOORS)	17 GILL ST	10
10153	160		AMBULANCE STATION - CHARTERS TOWERS (2 X Res)	149-157 GILL ST	14
10194	195		RURAL FIRE (FORMER OFES STATION) BUILDING (2 X Res)	204-206 GILL ST	14
10485-9	4105		PROSPECT COMMUNITY SERVICES (OWNED BY STATE OF QLD)	3 POWELL LANE	6
12468-8	3451		RURAL FIRE BRIGADE (OWNED BY STATE OF QLD)	19 BURDEKIN ST	6
11815	2291		CHARTERS TOWERS FIRE STATION	3-5 ENTERPRISE RD	6
1475	1475	CAT: m) SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS	DALRYMPLE VILLA INC	15-23 FRASER ST	100
12165	2858	Per Connection for other purposes such as an animal trough	Across the Region		4
11731-94	4004	CHARTERS TOWERS CARAVAN PARK		37 MT LEYSHON RD	16
11345-2	1614	BODY CORPORATE FOR KERNOV CHARTERS TOWERS COMMUNITY TITLES SCHEME		23-33 GLADSTONE ROAD	120
12193	2890	HILLVIEW MOTEL		3 HACKETT TERRACE	12
10140	151	COUNTRY ROAD MOTEL		4 MT LEYSHON RD	20
		MCDONALDS RESTAURANT		113-119 GILL ST	12

# Councillors' Discretionary Fund

NUMBER: S0052

POLICY TITLE: COUNCILLORS' DISCRETIONARY FUND STATUTORY POLICY

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## POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to ensure a fair, equitable, and transparent framework applies in relation to the allocation of monies from the Councillors' Discretionary Funds for community purposes that benefit the community of the Charters Towers Region.

1.2 Pursuant to section 202(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a Councillor may use any councillor discretionary funds in the following ways:

- a) for capital works for the local government that are for a community purpose.
- b) to a community organisation for a community purpose.
- c) for another community purpose.

Section 202(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states a Councillor may make an allocation under subsection (1)(a) only if –

- a) before the allocation is made, it is approved by –
  - i) if the Councillor is the Mayor – the Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer; or
  - ii) otherwise – the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer; and
- b) the amount stated in the availability notice under section 201B(4)(d)(i) is not exceeded if the allocation is made.

Section 202(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states a Councillor may make an allocation under subsection (1)(b) only if –

- a) the funds are allocated
  - i) to a community organisation that has applied for the funds in the way stated in the availability notice under section 201B(4); and
  - ii) in a way that is consistent with the local government's community grants policy; and
- b) the amount stated in the availability notice under section 201B(4)(d)(ii) is not exceeded if the allocation is made. Section 202(4) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states a Councillor may make an allocation under subsection (1)(c) only if the amount stated in the availability notice under section 201B(4)(d)(ii) is not exceeded if the allocation is made.

### 2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY

2.1 This Policy will commence from 1 July 2026.

### 3. APPLICATION OF POLICY

3.1 This Policy applies to Councillors and employees of the Charters Towers Regional Council and directs the application of Councillors' Discretionary Funds as determined by Councillors for community purposes within the Charters Towers Region.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

Community Organisations	(a) an entity that carries on activities for a public purpose; or (b) another entity whose primary object is not directed at making a profit.
Discretionary Funds	Are funds in the local government's operating fund that are budgeted for use by a Councillor at the Councillor's discretion for a community purpose.
Exempt Government Agencies	Schools in the Charters Towers Region and Parents and Citizens Associations

### 5. POLICY PROVISIONS

This Policy is to provide a framework for the allocation of funds from any Councillor Discretionary Fund pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

5.1 Each year the Council may determine what funds shall be set aside in each new budget for the purpose of meeting requests for financial assistance from community organisations as decided upon by the Mayor and Councillors.

5.2 Section 201B (3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states the amount of discretionary funds a local government budgets for allocation by each councillor in a financial year must be the same for all councillors.

5.3 Separate expenditure accounts shall be established for the Mayor and each Councillor within the budget for this purpose and funds will be allocated to each expenditure account in accordance with the Council's Annual Budget.

- 5.4 Councillors can combine a joint contribution for allocating funds to the one organisation (e.g., \$750 is requested from one organisation and four Councillors wish to contribute to this request. The amount is divided by four and is used from each contributing Councillors' discretionary funds).
- 5.5 Councillors can only support a maximum of \$250 per Councillor, per request, or a maximum of \$700 in total from all Councillors per request.
- 5.6 Section 202 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* prescribes the requirements that Councils must follow in administering Councillors' discretionary funds.
- 5.7 In accordance with clause 3 of this policy, the Mayor and each Councillor is authorised to recommend funding allocation not exceeding the annual allocation adopted by Council in its annual budget, subject to the eligibility criteria in paragraph 5.9.
- 5.8 Section 202B(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states that a councillor must not allocate discretionary funds starting from 1 January in the year a quadrennial election is to be held. However, discretionary funds allocated before 1 January may be distributed during the caretaker period.
- 5.9 Following the quadrennial local government election the remaining councillor discretionary funds will be made pro-rata and equally re-allocated to the newly elected mayor and councillors until the new financial year when the full discretionary fund allocation will be reinstated.
- 5.10 The following eligibility criteria will apply to all requests:
- a) Funding must be allocated in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009, Local Government Regulation 2012*.
  - b) Not-for-profit organisations must be community based and provide services and activities of benefit to the Charters Towers Region.
  - c) Not-for-profit organisations operating gaming machines will not be eligible for financial assistance.
  - d) Political parties are ineligible for funding.
  - e) Government agencies will not be eligible for financial assistance with the exception of local Schools in the Charters Towers Region and Parents and Citizens Associations.
  - f) Applicants shall have no outstanding debt or funding acquittals with Council (including rates).
  - g) Council's funding involvement and support must be appropriately acknowledged with opportunities provided for Council publicity and participation at key activities.
- 5.11 Having satisfied themselves that a request complies with paragraph 5.9 above, the Mayor and Councillors shall be authorised to recommend allocations from their individual Discretionary Fund as set out below:
- a) The Discretionary Fund requests shall be by way of a "Councillors Discretionary Fund Authority Form" (F0237), completed by the Councillor and referred to the Chief Executive Officer who will be responsible for:
    - i) assessing the application against this policy and Council's STRAT 0002 *Community Grants Policy*; and
    - ii) where appropriate, authorising the processing of the Councillor's recommended allocation.
- 5.12 In accordance with section 202A of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Chief Executive Officer will maintain a record of all allocations approved under the Mayor and Councillors' Discretionary Fund and will publish on Council's website within 7 business days the amount and purpose of any allocation and where an amount has been allocated to a community organisation, the name of that community organisation.
- 5.13 In accordance with section 189 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Chief Executive Officer will keep a record of Grants to Community organisations under the Councillor Discretionary Fund and ensure that the details of expenditure are included in Council's Annual Report. This record will also be displayed on Council's website.
6. **VARIATIONS**
- 6.1 *Council reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this policy from time to time.*

#### ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *P0030 Procedure for Councillors Discretionary Funds*
- *F0237 Councillors Discretionary Fund Authority Form*







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REGIONAL COUNCIL

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