
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF MARANOA REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD AT ROMA ADMINISTRATION CENTRE ON 31 JULY 2017 COMMENCING AT 9.02AM

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Cr. T D Golder chaired the meeting with Deputy Mayor Cr. J L Chambers, Cr. N H Chandler, Cr. P J Flynn, Cr. G B McMullen, Cr. W M Newman, Cr. C J O'Neil, Cr. D J Scheffe, Cr. J M Stanford, Chief Executive Officer – Julie Reitano, Communications Officer/Team Coordinator - Jane Frith, and Kelly Rogers – Minutes Officer in attendance.

AS REQUIRED

Director Infrastructure Services – Cameron Castles, Director Development, Facilities & Environmental Services – Rob Hayward, Director Corporate, Community & Commercial Services – Sharon Frank, Contractor Accounting Services – Claire Alexander.

WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 9.02 am.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for the meeting.

BUSINESS

The Mayor delivered a speech to all present, presenting his proposed budget for the 2017/18 financial year for Council's formal consideration. Mayor Golder stated as follows:-

"It is with great pleasure that I present my proposed 2017/18 Budget for this, the second year of this Council term.

Totalling \$81.4 million, I believe the budget that I am presenting for consideration today provides a strong platform for economic stability, by incorporating a proposed rates freeze and some reductions of rates to allow business growth, build confidence and to stabilise and encourage growth throughout the Maranoa.

Make no mistake – I believe that the rates freeze or reduction in rates for the whole of the Maranoa is very affordable, when put in context. It will approximately equate to 39% of Council's expected spend on the planned multi-purpose facility of the Roma Saleyards.

Rate payers with rural properties, business owners, home owners and rate payers who own multiple rental properties all tell me about the effect of rates becoming a growing part of people's economic costs and personal budgets. As Mayor, my plan for Council is to reset rates, so that they are a manageable part of life in the Maranoa, in turn drawing people to reside here and enjoy our wonderful lifestyle, rather than rates being an obstacle to be overcome.

The proposed budget that I am presenting to Council today also incorporates the introduction of Local Area Managers for Wallumbilla/Yuleba/Jackson/Noonga, Mitchell/Amby/Mungallala/Dunkeld, Injune/Bymount, Surat/Begonia/Teelba and Roma & surrounds. This aims to continue my plan of going back to local. If adopted by Council today, the local area manager will be available to the community at large and will also operate as a crucial communications link to the highest levels within Council. Money saving suggestions from locals which may lead to a more effective and efficient operation will be investigated.

Economic development is also featured in the proposed budget which will, if approved by Council, see each area – Injune/Bymount, Surat/Begonia/Teelba, Mitchell/Amby/Mungallala/Dunkeld, Wallumbilla/Yuleba/Jackson/Noonga and Roma & surrounds hosting 3 major events, totalling 15 events per year throughout our region. This initiative, if approved, will allow communities either to further develop and expand their existing events, or to identify opportunities to create new events. I believe this would be a catalyst for economic development and visitor influx across the Maranoa.

The budget that I am presenting today includes a proposed new initiative to give residents the opportunity to sign up for the Tidy Yards reduction. Under this proposal, residents who are willing to, or are already maintaining their footpath and verge/nature strip as well as keeping a tidy yard would be eligible to receive a discount off the water access charge for that property.

Two new projects proposed are a bitumen seal for the Touch Football Club in Roma which will reduce dust for residents and the long awaited bitumen seal, leading to Southwest Drags and Moto X clubs. This project, if approved today, will give a better impression to the many competitors and visitors who come from all over our State to compete at Roma, by not having to use the small section of gravel road with its major dust issues at competition times.

Legal expenses have been reduced as part of my proposed budget. I aim to do this by forging better relationships between community and local Council leading to reduced need for legal advice and services.

A trial of LED Street Lighting has been proposed to give Council a taste of 'going off the grid' with a simple solution to fix blackspot concerns for residents and pedestrians.

The proposed budget also includes an initiative to reduce the volume of cats in Roma's CBD through a rehoming or euthanizing program.

The budget that I am presenting for consideration today proposes a major initiative to impact the amount of roaming and/or lost dogs in the Roma area. The introduction of a contract 24 hour dog catcher is proposed to patrol the Roma area during peak walking times of morning and afternoon. Over time, my plan is that residents will feel a higher sense of safety and security which will encourage more to go back to simply enjoying the daily habit of walking. Options can also be looked at for other towns in the Maranoa.

The proposed budget also incorporates a contribution to ground breaking research, which will explore treatments for the native Pimelea plant toxin. This toxin has seen major devastation for a large part of the Maranoa in losses to cattle herds. With a treatment so close, similar to the successful preventative treatment of cattle exposed to the toxic Leucaena plant, our Council's contribution to AgForce would show leadership by assisting with funding for this important work for our producers, as well as strengthening the overall economic region.

A proposed new tourism initiative is a lantern tour of Roma by Night, with award winning technology which will allow participants to experience the history of Roma with retellings of eventful stories, past characters, and local anecdotes and bushranger flashbacks. Following the initial launch in Roma, plans of a similar nature for the other towns of the Maranoa could be explored.

Roma's first Off Leash Dog Park has also been included in the proposed budget.

The Capital Roadworks budget includes a proposed total value of \$14.869 million.

Maintenance on Rural Roads is budgeted at \$9.042 million.

Finally a major initiative is a 10% saving proposed within the operational budget, which will continue for 3 years and result in bringing the budget back into surplus. The whole of Council will need to be on board to find savings initiatives through every aspect of the organisation without affecting service levels. My plan is to harness the great people that work for the Maranoa Regional Council team to find ways to accomplish tasks in a smart way, with heightened efficiency and a slimming down of Council without sackings, except in cases of dishonesty, performance issues etc.

In short, my proposed Budget is targeted to serve the people of the Maranoa."

Item Number:

3.1

File Number: D17/54416

SUBJECT HEADING:

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT BUDGET 2017/18, DRAFT FORWARD ESTIMATES FROM 2018/19 TO 2026/27 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2017/18

Officer's Title:

Mayor

Executive Summary:

The report presented the draft budget for 2017/18 and draft forward estimates from 2018/19 to 2026/27 for Council's consideration.

Discussion:

The Mayor spoke in favour of the motion, indicating that it was time that Council looked at taking the pressure off rate payers in the community, and said that this was his plan until the end of the Council term. He also indicated that a range of other cost saving initiatives were proposed that would benefit the community, taking into account the number one (1) focus – to reduce Council's costs while reducing the direct pressure on ratepayers into the future.

Cr. Chambers spoke against the motion, and delivered the following statement:

"State Government takes all councils' financial sustainability very seriously and as a Council we need to be making responsible financial decisions.

To adopt the budget presented by the Mayor would mean we would not be making a responsible financial decision.

To reduce Council's gross revenue by \$818,000 and to not increase all other service charges and levies to cover rising costs is not acceptable, and also puts at risk another \$600,000 by increasing workers camps rating by 44.2%.

I am now in my fourteenth (14th) year as a Councillor and today we are experiencing something totally different to all previous budgets, in that the Mayor chose to present his own budget. The Local Government Act refers to the budget as being the Mayor's budget, but the usual process is that all Councillors, including the Mayor and staff have a series of workshops throughout the budget process to come to a consensus on what will be contained in the budget and then the Budget Meeting is the formal process of adoption of the Budget.

The rating option presented by the Mayor was a promise that the Mayor had made during election time. Decisions are made by nine (9) individual Councillors, each with an equal vote."

The Mayor in 'summing up' debate indicated that he totally understood that the State Government is looking at finances of councils, certainly Council has some work to do. The Mayor closed by saying that he believed his proposed budget would see a better future for the community, and a return to surplus in three (3) years, an improvement on where Council is now.

Moved Cr Golder

Seconded Cr McMullen

That:

- 1. The Draft Budget 2017/18 and Draft Forward Estimates from 2018/19 to 2026/27 as presented be adopted, comprising:**
 - **Section 4: Council Budget 2017/18**
 - **Section 5: Directorate Budgets 2017/18**
 - **Section 6: Revenue Policy 2017/18**
 - **Section 7: Revenue Statement 2017/18**
- 2. The Operational Plan comprising Sections 1, 2, 3 and 13 be adopted.**

3. The Work Program (Operational Plan) and Budget Highlights be endorsed (Implementing the Corporate Plan).

MOTION LOST

2/7

Mayor Golder called for a division of the vote.

The outcomes were recorded as follows:

Those in Favour of the Motion	Those Against the Motion
Cr. Golder	Cr. Chambers
Cr. McMullen	Cr. Chandler
	Cr. Flynn
	Cr. Newman
	Cr. O'Neil
	Cr. Scheffe
	Cr. Stanford

Discussion:

Cr. Chambers put forward an alternate draft motion as recorded below, and a copy of the budget with amendments was distributed.

Cr. Chambers spoke in favour of the motion, and delivered the following statement:

"The single biggest challenge for this year's budget was how best to review our rating structure to take into account the significant changes in land values advised by the State Valuer-General in March 2017.

The new valuations that come into effect for this financial year showed significant swings across the various categories of land. Council therefore needed to undertake a detailed review and consider how to recover the cost of operations in an equitable way.

In South West Queensland there were two (2) key impacts on land valuations:

- *One (1) was the result of the Surat Basin moving into a production phase, and property markets continuing to slow; and*
- *The second (2nd) the strengthening of beef commodity prices having a positive impact on rural values.*

The Valuer-General's report showed an overall reduction of 3.2% in land values for the Maranoa region, compared to the state-wide overall increase of 5.8%. However, with these two (2) key impacts, there were significant swings within and between land categories for our region. For instance, the Valuer-General reported a drop in the median residential land value of land of 54.6%, while the median value of Rural Residential land went up by 1.7%.

Other significant swings included: Commercial drop of 16.2%, Industrial drop of 33.3%, Primary Production/Rural increase of 24.3%

Arriving at the end result for the rating was a difficult challenge. We know that there have been rating increases in the past as a result of significant rises in Industrial land values in Roma, and rises in Residential values in Roma and Injune because of the gas activity in the region. We are mindful also that for many years producers have been in drought, and some areas of our region have still not had relief.

Another factor in the mix was that Residential A and Rural Rates are very low relative to other council areas. This was evident by an independent review of Council's rating structure, and comparisons done as part of the budget deliberations.

In the rating structure workshopped by Councillors, we have tried to achieve the right balance across rating categories. For those that had seen significant rates rises in the past, there will be some relief and for rural that has seen an overall rise of 24.3% in valuations, we have tried to keep the revenue for this category to an increase of 8.9%.

The total general rates revenue, as proposed, will see a 1.84% increase.

For a Residential A property, this will equate to a total increase of \$52.54 for the year, just over a dollar a week.

All ratepayers also need to be aware that in each and every category there will be swings against the trend, and this comes about because of differing valuations, capping, minimums and banding.

We have taken steps to reduce our costs over recent years, however, some costs continue to be outside Council's control. We are no different to households in that we also have electricity, fuel and insurance, and we also need to pay for goods, services and materials for operating, maintenance and construction activities. Costs in general continue to rise and local government is not immune to this financial stress.

In recent years we have had the additional challenge of falling revenue. Our opportunities to raise non-rating revenue have reduced significantly with the fall in activity within the region, and it is therefore imperative that our rating, at a minimum, keep pace with the cost of living and other input costs. We simply cannot afford to go backwards, even for one year.

As resolved by Council at the last General Meeting, we will be continuing to work on improving our bottom line with productivity increases and other initiatives – this year's target will be a 10% reduction in operating budgets and follow on from the previous "What's my 5%?" program. However to remain financially sustainable in the future, we need to be working on all parts of Council's operations – both expenditure and income.

We have seen the Auditor-General Report to Parliament last financial year about local governments' long term financial sustainability. The State Government takes all councils' financial sustainability very seriously, and as a Council we need to be making responsible financial decisions.

The rating revenue that is tabled as part of the proposed amendments considers the challenges of the new valuations, Council's falling revenue due to a decline in activity in the region, and the rising costs felt by all businesses and households.

Highlights of the amended budget in regards to capital and one-off projects will be part of many media releases in the following weeks."

The Mayor spoke against the motion, indicating that in his discussions with community he had received the opposite feedback. He further said that he believed the alternate draft budget had too much impost on ratepayers when coupled with the oil price crash and its effect on communities. In closing, he said that he believed now was not the time for rate increases and as such he would not give his support in voting for the alternate budget.

Cr. Stanford spoke in favour of the motion, and delivered the following statement:

"Thank you Mayor Golder for the opportunity to speak, and thank you Cr Chambers for the information you have put forward for consideration.

As a newer Councillor I acknowledge that this budget process is a huge amount of work and takes a lot of time and deliberation, but I also acknowledge that Council should always be duly aware of the responsibility to form a budget that can deliver essential services to our communities, whilst trying to also ensure that rates and charges are kept to a minimum.

The budget process has seen a significant amount of time and work from all Councillors and staff over the past months and weeks to attempt to minimise the impacts of the recent land valuations on the ratepayers.

It is paramount that Council always tries to achieve equity for our present and future ratepayers when considering levying rates and charges by taking into account services that will be provided and also ensuring there is sufficient revenue to maintain these services at an appropriate standard now and into the future.

There is ultimately the responsibility to ensure cost recovery of services as these costs have increased for Council.

It is extremely important for our region's economy to have increasing numbers of visitors and tourists with caravans and motor-homes and such like coming to our communities, but there is also an impact on Council's roads, public amenities, camping reserves and the need for provision of improved Information Centres, and this all needs to be taken into consideration in the mix.

Seeking funding for Capital upgrades for all Council owned and Community facilities, and tourist attractions and sporting areas, should all be done with due consideration not only for today but for the future of the generations to come.

Community Initiatives – comments on some of these:

- Stray Cat Trapping – I would be happy to look at this in the future as has been discussed at workshop, but it needs to be looked at within the Community Safety area and exact costs confirmed.
- Contract Dog Catcher – The concept is worth consideration, but there needs to be more appropriate costings done and planning around operational requirements, as the \$337,200 in my opinion is too much of a cost for this financial year, and we also have a responsibility to look at the animal welfare requirements.
- Roma by Night – The concept to develop this has merit but needs more consideration into the future, as Council needs to give due consideration to improve current attractions at the Big Rig and this should be the first priority and any new tour developments added in.
- Pimelea Research – whilst taking into consideration the devastation and impact caused to the cattle graziers in our region, this is not Council's core responsibility around weed management as it is a native species, and AgForce have secured funding and are managing this aspect at this time. Council is currently not able to fully meet its legislative requirements around introduced species of weeds and need to be concentrating on how we can make improvements within our weed management plans to do this.
- Touch Football – Internal road access upgrade design has already been considered in the budget process and \$20,000 has been allocated for design and further consideration can be undertaken appropriately in quarterly reviews and capital project considerations.
- Drags Club/Motocross – Kimbler Road upgrade/seal has not been one of the items on capital project plans, and therefore has not been given formal consideration amongst the many previous requests by other people that have been waiting.
- Keep Maranoa Beautiful Financial Reward – supportive of this concept and I'm certainly very appreciative and thankful for the people that assist Council and our communities by keeping their verges maintained. However, this requires further detail as to how this will be monitored and what is the criteria to determine who gets this for fairness, for example do you just do it once and get paid the benefit?
- Going back to local program – 'Going back' is not something I personally look favourably on, and Council should always look at 'moving forward' and finding ways to improve processes.
- Local Development Events (\$300,000) – This is a substantial cost to Council and the ratepayers, and I'm in no way saying that our communities aren't worth it, but to have 15 events annually is a massive workload and especially for the smaller communities. It would be more appropriate that Council considers increasing our community grants allocations to enable community groups to take up options and have ownership of current and future events to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives.

That's all that I have to put forward at this time thank you Mr Mayor."

With no further speakers against or for the draft motion, the motion was put to the vote, with the outcome recorded as follows:

Resolution No. SMB/07.2017/01
Moved Cr Chambers
Seconded Cr Stanford
That Council adopt the 2017/18 Budget, Forward Estimates from 2018/19 to 2026/27, Operational Plan and Highlights incorporating the following amendments:

	Legislative Reference	Amendments	Background for Amendment
Work Program & Budget Highlights (Implementing the Corporate Plan)	LGR 2012 - S169 (8)	Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 1 – Page 6 – Pimelea Research – Contribution towards AgForce Research (\$100,000) 	
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 2 – Page 8 under new or expanded initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Expenses - Target reduction - \$200,000 Savings Target - 10% reduction in operating budgets - \$5.87 million 	<p>The individual budget line items for legal expenses have been significantly reduced already when compared to the expenditure for 2016/17.</p> <p>GM/07.2017/40 - At Council's General Meeting on 26 July 2017, it was resolved that:</p> <p><i>Further to the previous "What's my 5%? program", that this be increased to 10% as a priority for this financial year.</i></p> <p>Council voted unanimously that the previous initiative be updated to 10%.</p> <p>As this will be the 3rd year where Council has been working to reduce costs, it is considered prudent to reflect the additional savings as they are realised, rather than before.</p>
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 3 – Page 9 – Going Back to Local Program (\$250,000) 	<p>Whilst supportive of the addition of local area management roles, it is proposed that these roles be filled by existing local staff members performing both local and regional functions. It is proposed that these be funded through savings from vacant positions.</p>
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 4 – Page 10 – Touch Football – Internal access road/carpark upgrade (\$100,107) 	
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 4 – Page 10 - Drags Club/Motocross – Kimbler Road upgrade/seal (\$109,200) 	
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 4 – Page 11 - Pilot Study for LED Lighting (Roma) – Trial by Council separate to the current Ergon trial (\$75,000) 	
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 5 – Page 13 – Stray Cat Trapping (\$5,000) 	
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 5 – Page 13 – Contract Dog Catcher (Removing both \$187,200 and \$150,000) 	
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 7 – Page 15 – Sheep Selling Yards investigation under new or expanded initiatives. 	
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 7 – Page 15 – Roma by Night – Graveyard Tours Development (\$80,000) 	
Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 7 – Page 15 – Local Development Events (\$300,000) 			

	Legislative Reference	Amendments	Background for Amendment
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priority 7 – Page 15 – Keep Maranoa Beautiful Financial Reward (\$62,000) 	<p>The idea of an opt-in financial incentive has been informally discussed previously within Council, but how this can be implemented needs further consideration. It is proposed that this be considered in further detail during 2017/18 in preparation for next year's budget deliberations.</p>
Directorate & Department Work Programs 2017/18			
Section 1: Annual Tasks	LGR 2012 - S169 (8)		
Section 2: Objectives & Targets	LGR 2012 - S169 (8)	<p>Page 61 - Strong, vibrant, connected communities</p> <p>Remove 'Going Back to Local' and rename dot points as follows:</p> <p>Local Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement of cross departmental working groups meeting monthly in each town (Local Development, Town & Surrounds, Customer Service, Rural Land Services, Rural Roads and Emergency Management) <p>Local & Regional Phone Numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing residents with the option to once again be able to connect with Council through their local Council office with a local phone number, or the regional 1300 number. (Implementation of new local numbers during 2017/18). <p>Local & Regional Customer Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reshaping the roles for Council's Customer Service officers in each of the Council offices to become 'case managers' for their local area – looking after requests from beginning to end. Local people, local knowledge. Continuing to work together to provide regional services for all our towns and communities. <p>Add: Local Area Management Roles Nomination of local area management roles, with these roles being filled by existing local staff members performing both local and regional functions. In addition to their regional role, at a local level the Area Managers will have the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally – Being a point of contact for residents who want to speak with someone locally; Internally – On the ground link to the management team about key opportunities and issues at a local level; Internally – As chair of the Local Working Group to expand communication networks across departments operating in each of our towns. <p>Add: Community Updates on Council Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement innovative ways of keeping our communities up to date on Council projects – on line and in print form. 	<p>We need to be committed to moving forward, and continuing to build on the significant work already done to keep local content in our regional local government.</p> <p>One of Councillors' key responsibilities (s 12 (1)) is to <i>represent the current and future interests of the residents of the local government area.</i></p> <p>Therefore, the revised wording reflects that this is about providing our residents with additional choice, now and in the future, rather than looking backwards.</p>

	Legislative Reference	Amendments
Section 3: Projects – Capital Works & One-Off Initiatives	LGR 2012 - S169 (1)(b)(i), (ii)	Page 67 – One Off Projects Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stray Cat Trapping (\$5,000)
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Dog Catcher \$187,200 (Year 1 boost)
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma by Night / Graveyard Tours Development (\$80,000)
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pimelea Research (\$100,000)
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Study for LED Lighting (Roma) (\$75,000)
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Works for Resident’s Drainage Concern / Amby (Maintenance Budget)
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Selling Yards Investigation / Operational Plan
		Page 68 – Capital Projects Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimbler Road upgrade / seal / Drags Club / Motocross (\$109,200)
		Remove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal access road/carpark upgrade / Touch Football (\$100,107)

	Legislative Reference	Amendments	Background for Amendment
Section 4: Council Budget 2017/18	<p>LGR 2012 – s 169 (1)(a), (1) (b) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)</p> <p>LGR 2012 - s 169 (2) (a)</p> <p>LGR 2012 - s 169 (4)</p> <p>LGR 2012 - s 169 (5)</p> <p>LGR 2012 - s 169 (6)</p> <p>LGR 2012 - s 171</p> <p>LGA 2009 - s 104 (5) (a) (iii)</p>	<p>Replace: Pages 88 - 108</p> <p>Budget Overview</p> <p>Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income and Expenditure)</p> <p>Statement of Financial Position</p> <p>Statement of Changes in Equity</p> <p>Statement of Cash Flows</p> <p>Sustainability Ratios</p> <p>Change in Rates & Charges 2017/18</p> <p>Long Term Financial Forecast</p> <p>Note: Also inserting new pages 107 (Statement by Business Unit), 108-109 (Statement by Fund) and 110-111 (Reserves Budget).</p>	<p>The tabled documents emanate from the Budget Workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Overview Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income and Expenditure) Statement of Financial Position Statement of Changes in Equity Statement of Cash Flows Sustainability Ratios Change in Rates & Charges 2017/18 Long Term Financial Forecast <p>These have the effect of processing the amendments to revenue and expenditure, including the removal of the Target Savings.</p> <p>As this will be the 3rd year where Council has been working to reduce costs, it is considered prudent to reflect the additional savings as they are realised, rather than before.</p>
Section 5: Directorate Budget 2017/18	<p>LGR 2012 – s 169 (1) (a), (b) (iii)</p> <p>LGR 2012 - s 169 (3) (a) to (h)</p>	<p>Page 113 – Directorate Budgets</p> <p>Remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Reduction in Legal Expenses (-\$200,000) <p>Remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep Maranoa Beautiful Financial Reward for Residents (\$62,000) <p>Remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Going back to Local” Program (\$250,000) <p>Remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Events (3 per year per community) in addition to the current program (\$300,000) <p>Remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Dog Catcher – Early morning and evening patrols and on-call service (\$150,000). 	<p>The proposed budget also includes \$654,088 for Local Development (Page 136) and \$128,000 for events (Page 137). This is considered sufficient.</p>

	Legislative Reference	Notes	Amendments	Background for Amendment
Policies 2017/18				
Section 6: Revenue Policy	LGR 2012 - s 169 (2) (c) LGA 2009 - s 104 (5) (c) (iii)		No amendment	
Section 7: Revenue Statement	LGR 2012 s 169 (2) (b) LGR 2012 s 172 LGA 2009 - s 104 (5) (a) (iv)	This document also flows through to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in Rates & Charges 2017/18 Statement of Income and Expenditure and Cash Flow Long Term Financial Forecast 	<p>Pages 178 – 195 Replace (All pages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue Statement <p>Noting that:</p> <p>(1) Each of the line items for the Change in Rates & Charges 2017/18 (Page 99) are replaced.</p> <p>(2) Key changes to the budgeted statements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated net rates, levies and charges and projections/long term forecasts (Income and Expenditure) (Pages 94 and 100-101) Receipts from customers (Cash Flow) and projections / long term forecasts (Pages 97 and 104-105) <p>(3) Relevant line items in the Directorate budgets – e.g. Corporate Revenue (Page 130 and total on Page 131)</p> <p>Each of the replacement statements incorporate the revised rating figures:</p> <p><i>Budget Overview</i></p> <p><i>Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income and Expenditure)</i></p> <p><i>Statement of Financial Position</i></p> <p><i>Statement of Changes in Equity</i></p> <p><i>Statement of Cash Flows</i></p> <p><i>Sustainability Ratios</i></p> <p><i>Change in Rates & Charges 2017/18</i></p> <p><i>Long Term Financial Forecast</i></p>	The tabled document (Revenue Statement) emanates from the Budget Workshops.

CARRIED

7/2

Mayor Golder called for a division of the vote.

The outcomes were recorded as follows:

Those in Favour of the Motion	Those Against the Motion
Cr. Chambers	Cr. Golder
Cr. Chandler	Cr. McMullen
Cr. Flynn	
Cr. Newman	
Cr. O'Neil	
Cr. Scheffe	
Cr. Stanford	

Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
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Item Number: 3.2 **File Number:** D17/54421

SUBJECT HEADING: FEES & CHARGES 2017/18

Officer's Title: Specialist - Strategic Finance

Executive Summary:

Council initially considered and adopted the schedule of Fees & Charges at its meeting on 28 June 2017. The full schedule was presented to Council for re-adoption with approved updates.

Resolution No. SMB/07.2017/02

Moved Cr O'Neil

Seconded Cr Newman

That Council:

1. Adopt the fees in Section 12 of the Operational Plan (Work Program) and Budget document presented.
2. Resolve that, in relation to those cost-recovery fees to which Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2009* applies:
 - (i) the applicant is the person liable to pay these fees; and
 - (ii) the fee must be paid at or before the time the application is lodged; and
3. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to amend commercial charges to which section 262 (3) (c) of the *Local Government Act 2009* applies.

CARRIED

9/0

Responsible Officer	Specialist - Strategic Finance
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Item Number: 3.3 **File Number:** D17/54424

SUBJECT HEADING: PENSIONER RATE CONCESSION POLICY

Officer's Title: Specialist - Strategic Finance

Executive Summary:

The report tabled an updated policy for Council's consideration, to enable rate concessions to be granted to eligible pensioners. The policy, which draws on the same criteria as the State Government, will also provide clarity for officers who administer the pensioner subsidy program.

Resolution No. SMB/07.2017/03	
Moved Cr Stanford	Seconded Cr Scheffe
That Council adopt the Pensioner Rates Concession Policy.	
CARRIED	9/0

Responsible Officer	Rates Officer / Team Coordinator
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Item Number: 3.4 **File Number:** D17/54419

SUBJECT HEADING: DEBT (BORROWINGS) POLICY

Officer's Title: Specialist - Strategic Finance

Executive Summary:

It is a requirement of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Section 192) that a local government prepare and adopt a debt policy for a financial year. The section defines what should be included in the policy – i.e.:

- (a) the new borrowings planned for the current financial year and the next 9 financial years; and*
- (b) the period over which the local government plans to repay existing and new borrowings.*

Resolution No. SMB/07.2017/04	
Moved Cr Newman	Seconded Cr Scheffe
That Council adopt the Debt (Borrowings) Policy incorporated in Section 8 of the Operational Plan (Work Program) and Budget document.	
CARRIED	9/0

Responsible Officer	Specialist - Strategic Finance
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Item Number: 3.5 **File Number:** D17/54420

SUBJECT HEADING: INVESTMENT POLICY

Officer's Title: Specialist - Strategic Finance

Executive Summary:

Local Government Act 2009 (Section 101 and Section 104 (5) (c) (i)) and Local Government Regulation 2012 (Section 191) state that a local government must prepare and adopt an investment policy.

Council has a number of responsibilities when investing funds. These responsibilities are outlined in Section 47 and Section 48 of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982.

Resolution No. SMB/07.2017/05	
Moved Cr Chambers	Seconded Cr Chandler
That the Investment Policy incorporated in Section 10 of the Operational Plan (Work Program) and Budget document be adopted.	
CARRIED	9/0

Responsible Officer	Specialist - Strategic Finance
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Item Number: 3.6 **File Number:** D17/59668

SUBJECT HEADING: COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS RATES & CHARGES - REBATES & CONCESSIONS

Officer's Title: Specialist – Strategic Finance

Executive Summary:

This report tabled the Community Organisations Rates & Charges – Rebates & Concessions Policy.

Resolution No. SMB/07.2017/06	
Moved Cr Newman	Seconded Cr Chandler
That Council adopt the Community Organisations Rates & Charges - Rebates & Concessions Policy.	
CARRIED	9/0

Responsible Officer	Rates Officer / Team Coordinator
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Item Number: 3.7 File Number: D17/54423

SUBJECT HEADING: CATEGORISATION OF LAND FOR DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES

Officer's Title: Chief Executive Officer

Executive Summary:

The report tabled a listing of all parcels of land within the region, and details the proposed categorisation for the purposes of calculating the differential general rates.

Discussion:

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that the presented schedule was in line with the Councillors' discussions during the budget workshops in relation to rating.

Resolution No. SMB/07.2017/07

Moved Cr Flynn

Seconded Cr Newman

That Council adopt the amended categorisation of land parcels in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED

9/0

Responsible Officer

Rates Officer / Team Coordinator

CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked Council for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.43 am.

These Minutes are to be confirmed at the next General Meeting of Council to be held on 16 August 2017, at the Roma Administration Centre.

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 Mayor.

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 Date.