



CHARTERS TOWERS
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Budget

2024-25





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Table of Contents

Mayor's Message _____	3
Our Organisation _____	4
Budget Snapshot _____	5
Major Projects _____	6
Executive Summary _____	7
Functional Responsibilities _____	7
Budget Contents _____	8
Financial Sustainability and Accountability _____	8
Financial Management, Planning and Accountability _____	9
Contracting Principles _____	9
Governance _____	9
Investment Policy _____	11
Debt Policy _____	15
Revenue Policy _____	17
Revenue Statement _____	19
Councillor Discretionary Fund _____	37

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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Mayor's Message

Investing for a Stronger Tomorrow

I am pleased to present the 2024-25 Budget to our community on behalf of Charters Towers Regional Council.

This year's budget is titled 'Investing for a Stronger Tomorrow' as our highest budget priority remains ensuring the long-term sustainability and prosperity of our Region. This budget focuses on sustained investment in maintaining and enhancing essential infrastructure, while taking into account the economic circumstances affecting our Region and the implications for our ratepayers, residents, and businesses.

Council and staff have worked very hard to keep the rate rise to its absolute minimum and we as a team have taken a very close look at how we maintain the rise to what is essential to the economic viability of our community. We are all ratepayers in this regional council area and are keenly aware our ratepayers are struggling with cost-of-living increases.

Your elected members and the entire team at council understand that things are very difficult at this time, and we have worked together to ensure that the 2024-25 budget will see minimal increases in general rates with a 2.5% residential rate increase. There will be a higher rate rise for general rates, water, wastewater, and garbage utility charges across the region. However, it is important to remember when looking at the general rates increase that no council is legally permitted to charge more than what it costs to provide the service. Council will continue to offer residents a choice of either Allocation or Two-Part Tariff for water charges, with the annual allocation amount remaining at 750kL per year.

Council's Capital Works Program for 2024-25 is \$16.8m. We will continue to prioritise maintaining and renewing our current ageing infrastructure and delivering the best possible services to the community within our budgetary limitations.

Key highlights of the budget include:

- Dalrymple Saleyards improvements will continue (supported by Works for Queensland) including the renewal of the cattle weighbridge, main water pumping system, and main water storage tank.
- Many of the community's shared open spaces will be upgraded including the replacement of playground and furniture equipment in Lissner Park with community engagement to form part of this project.
- Pentland community public, sport, and

recreation amenities refurbishment (supported by Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS)).

- Many of Council's ageing fleet vehicles will be replaced to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, reduce maintenance costs, and downtime. It is important to note that these fleet replacements are for operational plant equipment and NOT small fleet for the use in the urban workforce.
- The road network improvement program including Valley of Lagoons floodway upgrades (supported by DRFA / QRA), Myola Road upgrade (supported by Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme) and Dotswood Road reseal (supported by the Australian Defence Force).
- Lissner Park CCTV Fibre Project (supported by Works for Queensland).
- Creation and Implementation of Charters Towers CBD and Pentland Community Masterplans (supported by Works for Queensland) and will include diverse community engagement.
- Water Supply Network improvements and upgrade.
- Water reticulation duplication and reservoir upgrades (supported by Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program).
- Improvement works to the Burdekin Weir (supported by Works for Queensland).

This is the first budget of this Council's term, and I believe that the 2024-25 budget effectively addresses the Region's needs. We, as a Council, will continue to pursue the best opportunities to foster investment for a stronger tomorrow. We, as your elected members have heard and understand that things are tough and your council organization will endeavour, as in the past, to attract as much grant funding as possible so that we can significantly limit any financial impact on rate payers of this region whilst providing residents with the required services and upgrades to facilities that we deserve.

I encourage residents to review the 2024-25 Charters towers Regional Council Budget in detail and to ask questions so that we can provide you with the best understanding of how decisions are made during the budgetary process.

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 Plan



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 & Ranger Services
- > 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



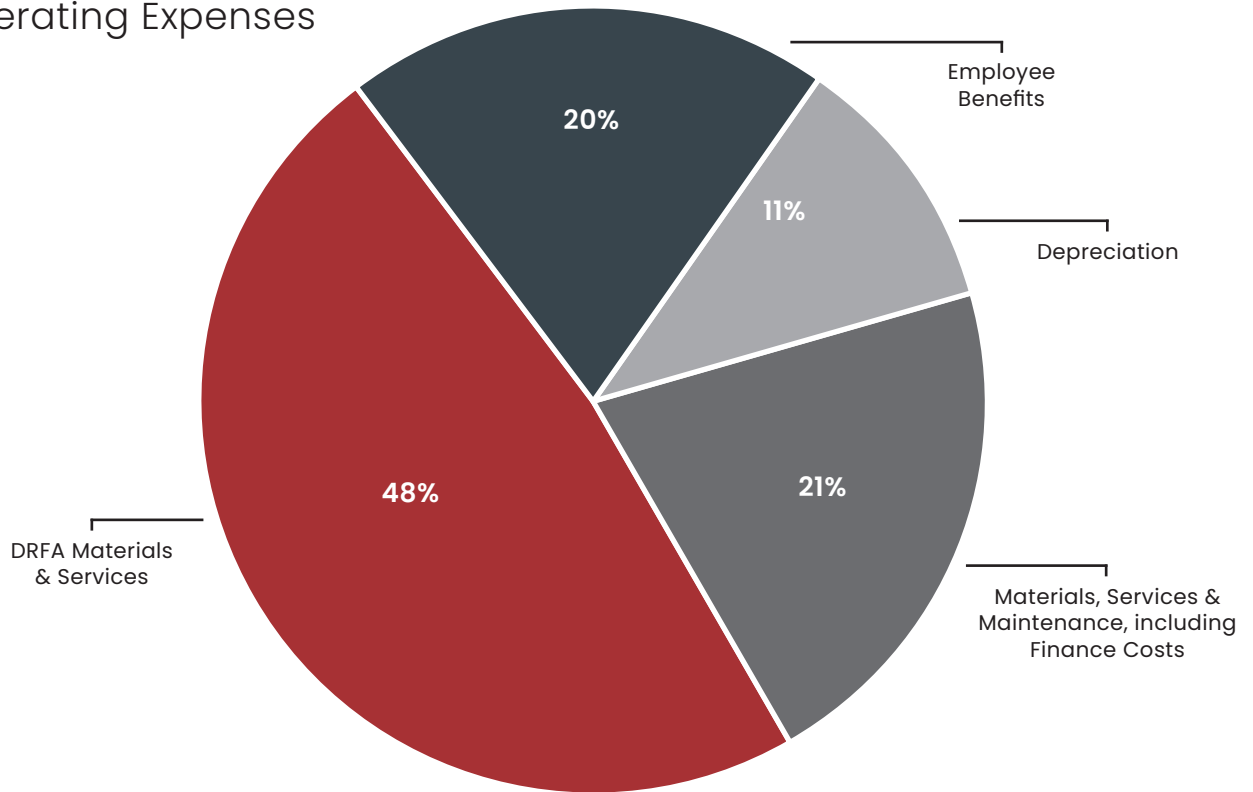
Julie Mathews

Councillor

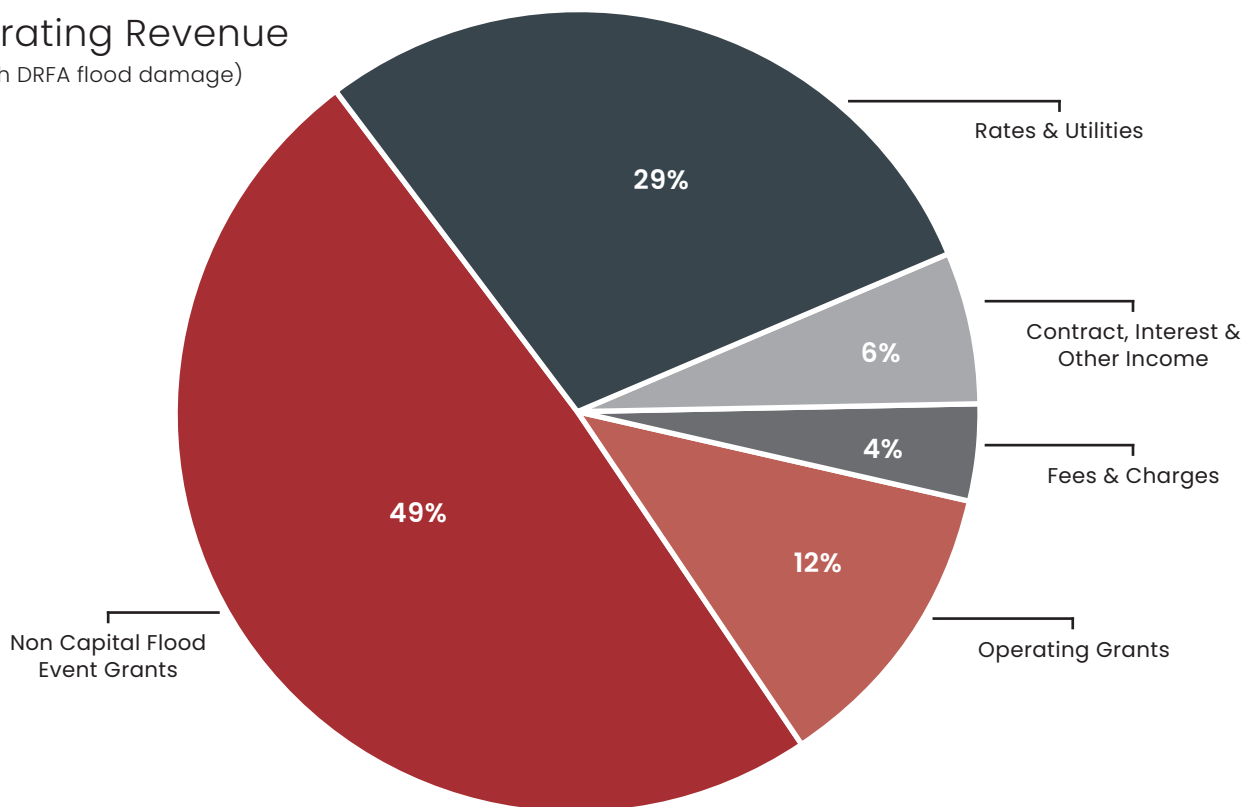
- > Community Services & Events
- > Sport & Recreation
- > Destination Management Plan
- > Arts & Culture

Budget Snapshot

Operating Expenses



Operating Revenue (with DRFA flood damage)





\$17M

CAPITAL
WORKS



3.99%

AVERAGE RATE BILL
INCREASE ACROSS
THE REGION



5,823

RATEABLE
PROPERTIES



\$50M

DRFA RESTORATION
WORKS ON
REGIONAL ROAD
NETWORK



\$6.17M

INFRASTRUCTURE
OPERATIONS
(INC ROADS)



\$1.3M

WATER ASSURANCE
PROJECT



\$1.7M

COMMUNITY &
COUNCIL FACILITIES
CAPITAL WORKS



\$3.35M

WATER SUPPLY NETWORK
& SEWERAGE NETWORK
INFRASTRUCTURE
RENEWALS

Executive Summary

The budget document for the 2024–25 financial year has been prepared in accordance with legislation and with the Budget Guidelines released from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer.

Each year the budget process is the most important part of the Corporate Calendar.

Copies of the relevant sections of the legislation and the requirements of councils have been included in this document for the purpose of informing the community of this obligation.

Charters Towers Regional Council has taken this responsibility seriously and has been working to ensure that while this is a legislative requirement, it is also good governance and management practice to ensure that the Council remains financially viable and planning becomes part of the way that we regularly do business.

Legislation changes in 2009 saw a move from a very prescriptive 1993 local government Act to legislation that gave Council more autonomy.

However, with autonomy comes accountability and the Queensland Government provided a set of five local government principles.

To ensure the system of local government is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable, Parliament requires -

- (a) anyone who is performing a responsibility

under this Act to do so in accordance with the local government principles; and

- (b) any action that is taken under this Act to be taken in a way that -
 - i. is consistent with the local government principles; and
 - ii. provides results that are consistent with the local government principles, in as far as the results are within the control of the person who is taking the action.

The local government principles are -

- (a) transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and
- (b) sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and
- (c) democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and
- (d) good governance of, and by, local government; and
- (e) ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.

Charters Towers Regional Council's 2023–24 Budget has been prepared in accordance with these guiding principles.

Functional Responsibilities

The Operational Plan has been structured in accordance with the functional responsibilities of the Charters Towers Regional Council.

These functions are as follows:

Councillors

Charters Towers Regional Councillors are responsible for the good rule and local government of the Council area. They are responsible for representing the current and future interests of the community and for setting the strategic direction of the local government. The responsibilities of Councillors are clearly articulated in the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Office of the Chief Executive Officer

The Office of the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the organisational leadership, administration and strategic management of the organisation.

This includes executive and administration services, internal audits, strategic and business continuity planning, governance, media and communications, corporate brand, organisational brand, community leasing, corporate properties commercial operations, tenancy, native title, advocacy, disaster management, major project development, day-to-day management of all functions of Council and to ensure that the decisions and policy of Council is carried out. The Chief Executive Officer also provides advice to the Councillors and is the custodian of records and documents of Council.

Community Building

Community Building provides the following functions; planning & land development, regulatory compliance, local laws, economic development, tourism and events, records management, customer service, community services, community relations programs including grants administration and management, arts and library services.

Human Resources

Human Resources provides the following functions; recruitment, development and training, human resources, Payroll and industrial relation advice.

Organisational Services

Organisational Services provides the following functions; insurance administration, customer service, risk management, asset management, financial services, rating, information technology, planning and land development, local laws, procurement, stores, tenders and contracts, project management, workplace health and safety.

Infrastructure Services

Infrastructure Services provide the following functions; water and sewerage, resource recovery, engineering design and projects, roads and urban services, facilities management, major project development, fleet and depot management, environmental services, land care, open space and stock route management.

Budget Contents

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012* section 169 the following documents are to be included in the budget presented to Council –

- (a) Financial position.
- (b) Cash flow.
- (c) Income and expenditure.
- (d) Changes in equity.

The budget must also include –

- (a) A long-term financial forecast.
- (b) A revenue statement.
- (c) A revenue policy.

The statement of income and expenditure must state each of the following:

- (a) Rates and utility charges excluding discounts and rebates.
- (b) Contributions from developers.
- (c) Fees and charges.
- (d) Interest.
- (e) Grants and subsidies.
- (f) Depreciation.
- (g) Finance costs.
- (h) Net result.
- (i) The estimated costs of
 - i. The local government's significant business activities carried on using full cost pricing basis.

- ii. The activities of the local government's commercial business units.
- iii. The local government's significant business activities.

The budget must include each of the relevant measures of financial sustainability for the financial year for which it is prepared and the following nine financial years, being –

- (a) Asset sustainability ratio.
- (b) Net financial liabilities ratio.
- (c) Operating surplus ratio.

The budget must include the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget.

For calculating the rates and utility charges levied for a financial year, any discounts and rebates must be excluded. The budget must be consistent with the following documents of the local government –

- (a) Its Community Strategic Plan (Corporate Plan).
- (b) Its annual Operational Plan.

In this section – Financial management (sustainability) guideline means the document called 'Financial Management (Sustainability) Guidelines 2013', made by the department.

Financial Sustainability and Accountability

A local government must ensure it is financially sustainable. To do this, a local government must implement systems to meet the following sustainability criteria;

- (a) Manage financial risk prudently;
- (b) Financial policies are to be formulated:
 - i. To ensure a reasonable degree of equity, stability and predictability.
 - ii. So that current services, facilities and activities are financed by the current users of the services, facilities and activities.
 - iii. Having regard to the effect of the policies on the future users of services, facilities and activities.

- (c) Full, accurate and timely information about the local government's finances and infrastructure is to be made available to the public on the local government's website.

A local government is financially sustainable if the local government is able to maintain its financial capital and infrastructure capital over the long term.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* section 104, each local government must establish a system of financial management that complies with the requirements prescribed under a regulation and must regularly review the performance of its system of financial management.

Financial Management, Planning and Accountability

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* section 104 the system of financial management established by a local government must include –

- (a) The following financial management documents prepared for the local government –
 - i. An annual budget.
 - ii. A general purpose financial statement.
 - iii. A long-term financial forecast.
 - iv. An asset register.
 - v. A revenue statement.
- (b) the following planning and accountability documents prepared for the local government –
 - i. An annual report.

- ii. A 5-year corporate plan, incorporating community engagement.
 - iii. An annual operational plan.
 - iv. A long-term asset management plan.
 - v. A report on the results of an annual review of the implementation of the annual operational plan, 5-year corporate plan and long-term community plan.
- (c) the financial plan includes the following policies –
- i. An investment policy.
 - ii. A debt policy.
 - iii. A revenue policy.

Contracting Principles

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* section 104(1)(a) when entering into a contract for:

- i. The supply of goods or service; or
- ii. The disposal of assets.

The local government must have regard to the sound contracting principles under section 104(3).

The sound contracting principles are –

- (a) Value for money;

- (b) Open and effective competition;
- (c) The development of competitive local business and industry;
- (d) Environmental protection; and
- (e) Ethical behaviour and fair dealing.

To remove any doubt, it is declared that section 104(1)(a) does not require equal consideration to be given to each of the sound contracting principles.

Governance

A local government must carry out a review of the implementation of the Annual Operational Plan, 5-year Corporate Plan and its financial policies annually.



Investment Policy

NUMBER:	S0037
ACT:	BANKING ACT 1959 (CWTH) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012 STATUTORY BODIES FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT ACT 1982 STATUTORY BODIES FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS REGULATION 2019
POLICY TITLE:	INVESTMENT POLICY 2024-25

POLICY

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to provide Council with investment guidelines 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 (1) Investment power under Part 6 of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982* (SBFAA) and section 7 of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019* (SBFAR).

2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY

2.1 This Policy will commence from 1 July 2024. It replaces all other policies relating to investment activities (whether written or not).

3. APPLICATION OF POLICY

3.1 This Policy applies to everyone 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 <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> . 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).
Illiquid Investment	Securities or assets that cannot be easily sold or exchanged for cash without a substantial loss in value.
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.
Negotiable Certificate of Deposit	Certificates of deposit are negotiable bearer debt securities. They are issued at a discount to the face value and do not require endorsement when sold.
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.

For these purposes, illiquid investments are defined as investments that are not publicly traded in sufficient volume to facilitate, under most market conditions, prompt sale without severe market price affect. Examples include:

- a) Investment in private placements.
- b) A security that is not supported or priced by at least two approved brokers/ securities dealers.
- c) Sub investment grade - that is, a lower than rating BBB- (S&P's or equivalent), and in most cases, BBB rated investments.
- d) Unrated securities.

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

5.6.1 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 at 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 CFO 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.

5.13 Breaches

Any breach of this policy must be reported to the CEO and 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

6.1 CTRC 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.*
- *CTRC Investment Register*

Debt Policy

NUMBER: S0001
ACT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012
POLICY TITLE: DEBT POLICY 2024-245

POLICY

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Policy is 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 2024 and replaces all other policies relating to debt (whether written or not).

3. APPLICATION OF POLICY

- 3.1 This Policy applies to everyone acting for or 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:
- i. 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 any new borrowing, and even if using existing funds only defers the need to borrow for a short period of time.
 - ii. Council will not use long-term debt to finance operating activities or recurrent expenditure. A working capital facility or overdraft may be utilised to help fund short-term cash flow requirements that may arise from time to time.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. Council will endeavour to fund all capital renewal projects from operating cash flows in the first instance and borrow for new and upgrade capital projects.
 - v. Where borrowing is constrained, borrowings for infrastructure that provide a return on capital will take precedence over borrowings for other assets.
 - vi. 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.
 - vii. Council will closely monitor the level of debt to ensure relevant financial sustainability indicators do not exceed the targets recommended by Queensland Treasury Corporation.
 - viii. The amount of new debt to be borrowed in a financial year must be approved as part of the annual budget process, excluding working capital and bank overdraft facilities. New borrowing applications must also be approved by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government, and Planning.

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 – 2024-25	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 2 – 2025-26	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 3 – 2026-27	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 4 – 2027-28	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 5 – 2028-29	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 6 – 2029-30	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 7 – 2030-31	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 8 – 2031-32	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 9 – 2032-33	No Borrowings	Nil
Year 10 – 2033-34	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 2025 will be \$334,193.
- Anticipated loan principal repayment for the year ended 30 June 2025 is \$160,267.

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 and would be raised through Queensland Treasury Corporation by way of an overdraft facility.

5. VARIATIONS

5.1 CTRC 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*
- Adopted Budget
- Revenue Statement
- Revenue Policy
- Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Financial Strategy

Revenue Policy

NUMBER:	S0002
ACT:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012
POLICY TITLE:	REVENUE POLICY 2024-25

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 THIS POLICY

- 2.1 This Policy will commence 1 July 2024 and is applicable for the 2024-25 financial year.

3. APPLICATION OF THIS 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 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 the rates, fees, and charges, Council will:
- Have regard to the Financial Strategy, including the long-term financial plan, 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.
 - Offer an early payment discount to provide an incentive for the timely payment of rates and charges.
- 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. Council considers that in almost all instances it is both appropriate and in the community interest to apply full cost recovery to its water, sewerage, and refuse and recycling utility charges. This includes obtaining a return on capital for assets used in the delivery of these services. In accordance with section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, cost-recovery fees will also be set for other services and activities where Council believes it is appropriate.
- 4.4.2. A return on capital will only be charged where permissible under the *Local Government Act 2009* or *Local Government Regulation 2012*. By imposing charges that accurately reflect the full cost of the provision of services Council will promote efficiency in both provision and use of the services.
- 4.4.3. Council may choose to subsidise the charges from other sources (e.g., general rate revenue) when Council believes that 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

- 5.1 *CTRC 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 2024-25

Revenue Statement

NUMBER:	S0003
ACT:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012 MINERAL RESOURCES ACT 1989
POLICY TITLE:	REVENUE STATEMENT 2024-25

POLICY

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 The Revenue Statement 2024-25 is prepared in accordance with Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Sections 169 and 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to accompany the 2024-25 budget, outlining revenue measures adopted in that budget.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Revenue Statement is to set out:
- The rates and charges to be levied in the financial year 2024-25.
 - The concessions for rates and charges to be granted in the financial year 2024-25.
 - The limitations and increases in rates and charges.
 - The criteria for cost recovery fees.

2. COMMENCEMENT OF REVENUE STATEMENT

- 2.1 This Revenue Statement will commence from 1 July 2024 and replaces all other Policies relating to the Revenue Statement (whether written or not).

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 2024-25.

4. DEFINITIONS

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

Act	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>
Council	Charters Towers Regional Council
Department	Department of Resources
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 47 categories of rateable land in the financial year 2024-25 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.

RESIDENTIAL

Category 1 - Urban Residential < 9,000m²

Properties used for residential purposes with an area less than 9,000m², including all townships.

Category 2 - Large Homesites < \$90,000 Rating Valuation

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m² situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation less than \$90,000.

Category 3 - Large Homesites \$90,000 to \$184,999 Rating Valuation

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m² situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation between \$90,000 and \$184,999.

Category 4 - Large Homesites \$185,000 to \$289,999 Rating Valuation

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m² situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation between \$185,000 and \$289,999.

Category 5 - Large Homesites >= \$290,000 Rating Valuation

Properties used for residential purposes on sites with an area greater than 9,000m² situated within 8 kilometres of the Charters Towers central business district with a rating valuation greater than or equal to \$290,000.

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 > 1,500m2 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 1,500m2 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 >= 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 outside of commercial 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 49.

The following Differential Rates have been made for the financial year 2024–25:

CAT	DESCRIPTION	RATE IN DOLLAR	MINIMUM
RESIDENTIAL			
1	Urban Residential (<9,000m ²)	\$0.0291	\$1,187
2	Large Homesites <\$90,000 Rating Valuation	\$0.0264	\$1,378
3	Large Homesites \$90,000 to \$184,999 Rating Valuation	\$0.0206	\$2,378
4	Large Homesites \$185,000 to \$289,999 Rating Valuation	\$0.0147	\$3,801
5	Large Homesites >= \$290,000 Rating Valuation	\$0.0103	\$4,256
6	Rural Residential properties >8kms from Charters Towers central business district	\$0.0117	\$1,198
7	Multi-unit Residential 2 flats	\$0.0294	\$1,798
8	Multi-unit Residential 3-4 flats	\$0.0294	\$2,696
9	Multi-unit Residential 5-6 flats	\$0.0294	\$4,494
27	Multi-unit Residential 7-8 flats	\$0.0294	\$6,292
28	Multi-unit Residential 9-10 flats	\$0.0294	\$8,089
29	Multi-unit Residential 11-14 flats	\$0.0440	\$9,887
30	Multi-unit Residential >= 15 flats	\$0.0440	\$13,482
LARGE RETAIL			
13	Drive-in Shopping > 1,500m ² gross floor area	\$0.0749	\$16,560
RURAL			
15	Rural Agricultural	\$0.0066	\$1,438
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL			
10	Commercial Retail and Business <8kms from Charters Towers central business district	\$0.0440	\$1,798
11	Industrial, Transport & Storage Category <8kms from Charters Towers central business district	\$0.0352	\$1,798
12	Noxious or Hazardous Industries	\$0.0440	\$2,696

CAT	DESCRIPTION	RATE IN DOLLAR	MINIMUM
14	Other Commercial/Industrial land	\$0.0660	\$1,438
24	Workforce Accommodation 25-49 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.4403	\$10,350
31	Workforce Accommodation 50-99 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.4403	\$20,700
32	Workforce Accommodation 100-149 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.4403	\$41,400
33	Workforce Accommodation 150-199 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.4403	\$62,100
25	Workforce Accommodation 200-299 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.8806	\$82,800
34	Workforce Accommodation 300-399 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.8806	\$124,200
35	Workforce Accommodation 400-499 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$0.8806	\$165,600
36	Workforce Accommodation 500-599 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$1.3208	\$207,000
37	Workforce Accommodation 600-699 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$1.3208	\$248,400
38	Workforce Accommodation >= 700 Rooms/Suites/Caravan Sites	\$1.3208	\$289,800
RESOURCES AND ENERGY			
16	Mines >200 employees and/or contractors	\$0.9686	\$26,965
17	Mines - 101 to 200 employees and/or contractors	\$0.9686	\$21,572
18	Mines - 50 to 100 employees and/or contractors	\$0.4843	\$7,191
19	Mines - 25 to 49 employees and/or contractors	\$0.3522	\$4,494
20	Mine/Quarry < 25 employees and/or contractors, >=\$15,000	\$0.1431	\$2,157
21	Other Mine/quarry or extractive land use (not falling within Category 16 to 20)	\$0.0660	\$1,438
41	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 10-24MW	\$0.0110	\$8,280
42	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 25-49MW	\$0.0110	\$20,700
43	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 50-99MW	\$0.0220	\$41,400
44	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 100-149MW	\$0.0220	\$82,800
45	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 150-199MW	\$0.0220	\$124,200
46	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 200-249MW	\$0.0220	\$165,600
47	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 250-299MW	\$0.0220	\$207,000
48	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility 300-349MW	\$0.0220	\$248,400
49	Power Generation/Renewable Energy Facility >= 350MW	\$0.0220	\$289,800
OTHER			
22	Water Storage	\$0.0771	\$1,438
23	Special Uses	\$0.0330	\$1,079
26	Other	\$0.0220	\$1,079

Limitation on Increase in Rates

Pursuant to Section 116 of the *Regulation*, in relation to properties categorised in the Differential Rating Categories listed below, Council has resolved that the general rates levied will be limited to an amount no more than an amount equal to the amount of general rate levied for the previous financial year (year ending 30 June 2024), increased by the applicable percentage:

Increased by 7.5%

- Category 15

Increased by 10%

- Categories 1-12
- Category 14
- Category 23

Increased by 20%

- Category 27

The foregoing is commonly referred to as “capping”. The proposed capping to apply in the financial year 2024-25 is 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 is not available retrospectively and will only apply from the beginning of a financial year.
- If ownership of the land to which capping applies is transferred in the period after 1 July of any year, then capping will cease to apply for the following year (*e.g., If rates-capped land is sold during 2024-25, capping will not apply in 2025-26 but will apply in 2026-27 if Council resolves to apply a rates cap for that year (unless the land is sold again after 1 July 2024).*)

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 GPO – 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 = 3 units per pedestal.
 - (iii) From 16 or over pedestals or urinals = 2 unit per pedestal.

The Sewerage Charges per unit to be made and levied for the rating period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 are specified in the opposite table.

UTILITY GROUP	GROUP DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL CHARGE PER UNIT For Sewerage
31	Charters Towers Reserve - Residential	\$243
32	Charters Towers Reserve - Non-Residential	\$243

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 the acquisition, 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
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 m ²)	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 2024 to 30 June 2025 are specified in the table below.

UTILITY GROUP	GROUP DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL CHARGE PER UNIT For Bin Collection	LANDFILL USAGE
31	Charters Towers Reserve - Residential	\$238	Fees apply
32	Charters Towers Reserve - Non-residential	\$280*	Fees apply

*Includes the Queensland Waste Levy annual charge of \$39 per bin collected 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	\$46	Pay per use	\$46
32	\$46	Pay per use	\$46

5.3.4 Regional Water Charges
 The basis of the water charge is:

Residential: Ratepayers can choose between the Allocation Tariff or Two Part Tariff
Non-Residential: 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 year 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 Special Water Unit Charges Schedule (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 as averaged across the previous three years.

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 8km 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.

See Annexure B “Greenvale Water Area” & “Pentland Water Area”.

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 2024 to 30 June 2025 are specified in the below Water Charges Schedule.

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 Special Water Unit Charges Schedule (Annexure A).

WATER CHARGES SCHEDULE ACROSS THE REGION

WATER UNIT SCHEDULE ACROSS THE REGION (per parcel)		UNITS
a.	All Vacant Land Not Connected	4
Residential		
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
Non-Residential		
f.	Community Clubs & Organisations	4
g.	Clubs – Private	6
h.	Commercial and Industry	6
i.	Religious Organisation	4
As per Special Water Unit Schedule (Annexure A)		
j.	Schools/ Education	
k.	State Government	
l.	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 2023/24	Used in 2024/25
31	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$339	\$1.92	\$2.09
34	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$335	\$1.92	\$2.09
38 - Greenvale	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$343	\$1.92	\$1.92
38 - Pentland	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$285	\$1.92	\$2.09
38 - Ravenswood	Residential	187.5 kilolitres	\$301	\$1.92	\$2.09

* 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	\$211	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09
32	Non-Residential	\$185	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09
32	Non-Residential	\$236	Connection - No Meter - Access & Usage		
34	Residential	\$211	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09
35	Non-Residential	\$185	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09
38-Greenvale	Residential	\$194	\$1.07	187.5 kl	\$2.09
38-Pentland	Residential	\$211	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09
38-Ravenswood	Residential	\$211	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09
38-Greenvale	Non-Residential	\$170	\$1.07	187.5 kl	\$2.09
38-Pentland	Non-Residential	\$185	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09
38-Ravenswood	Non-Residential	\$185	\$1.16	187.5 kl	\$2.09

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

VACANT – Water Available – Not Connected

All Groups	Vacant	\$211
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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 and then reticulated from the storage reservoir on Towers Hill. Some locations are reticulated prior via 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. As this infrastructure is now owned by Council, the maintenance and replacement of these assets lies with Council to fund.

Ravenswood

Ravenswood water supply is 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 2024 to 30 June 2025 are specified below. One unit covers a weekly collection of one 240 litre mobile bin for a twelve-month period.

UTILITY GROUP	ANNUAL CHARGE PER ONE UNIT	WHEN CHARGE TO APPLY
34	\$238	A dwelling to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.
35	\$280*	A non residential premise to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.

UTILITY GROUP	ANNUAL CHARGE PER ONE UNIT	WHEN CHARGE TO APPLY
38 - Greenvale	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Greenvale Garbage Area (see Annexure C "Greenvale Garbage Area").
38 - Pentland	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Pentland Garbage Area (see Annexure C "Pentland Garbage Area") to which a collection service is practically available, as determined by Council, from the date of provision of service.
38 - Ravenswood	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Ravenswood Garbage Area (see Annexure C "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	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Hervey Range Garbage Area (see Annexure C "Hervey Range Garbage Area") as from date of provision of service.
39 - Balfes Creek	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Balfes Creek Garbage Area (see Annexure C "Balfes Creek Garbage Area") as from date of provision of service.
39 - Homestead	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Homestead Garbage Area (see Annexure C "Homestead Garbage Area") as from date of provision of service.
39 - Mingela	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Mingela Garbage Area (see Annexure C "Mingela Garbage Area") as from date of provision of service.
39 - Sellheim	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Sellheim Garbage Area (see Annexure C "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	\$315	A land parcel with a dwelling within the defined Reid River Garbage Area (see Annexure C "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.

*Includes the Queensland Waste Levy annual charge of \$39 per bin 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.

Waste Collection Charges for Non-residential Services in Groups 36 to 39 will be levied \$342 per annum.

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
Sewerage Utility Groups 34 to 39	
Vacant Land	1.8
Dwellings	2
Accommodation Units and Flat – per unit/flat	2
Business premises	2
Café	3
Dwelling combined with business premises	3

LAND USE	NO. OF UNITS
School	6
Hotel	10
Hall	2
Church	2
Caravan Park	8
Racecourse	2
Rodeo Grounds	2
Sports Club	2
Motel	10
Shopping Centre – per shop/business within the centre	2
Service Station	3
Industrial – Light and Heavy	3
Golf Course	2
Police Station and Residence	4
Not otherwise defined	4
Specific	
Greenvale Swimming Pool	4
Greenvale Fire and Ambulance	4
State Emergency Service Facilities	4

The Sewerage Charges per unit to be made and levied for the rating period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 are specified in the below table.

UTILITY GROUP	ANNUAL CHARGE PER UNIT (Refer Utility Units Table)	WHEN CHARGE TO APPLY
38 - Greenvale	\$363 per annum	Upon connection to mains
38 - Ravenswood	\$363 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:

- All properties within Utility Groups 34 and 35 – the closest landfill is Stublely Street, Charters Towers.
- All properties within Utility Group 38 – the closest landfill is either Greenvale, Pentland, or Ravenswood.
- Properties within Utility Group 39 that have a waste collection service – the closest landfill is either Greenvale, Pentland, or Ravenswood.
- Despite assumption 3, certain properties within Utility Group 39 that have a waste collection service are located closest to the Stublely Street Landfill.
- 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.
- The Stublely Street Landfill has a 'user pay policy'.
- The Greenvale, Pentland or Ravenswood landfills do not have a 'user pay policy'.

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	\$46.00	Pay per use	\$46.00
2	\$37.00	\$18.75	\$54.00
3	\$37.00	\$18.75	\$54.00
4	\$46.00	\$0.00	\$46.00
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 of the following conditions must apply:

- 5.4.1.1 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 (Department of Social Services) are not eligible under this scheme, as these cards are issued for a limited specified period of time only; and
- 5.4.1.2 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
- 5.4.1.3 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
- 5.4.1.4 The applicant must be approved to receive the State Government pensioner rates subsidy; and
- 5.4.1.5 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:

- 5.4.2.1 Discount on pensioner rate accounts is calculated on the nett levy, after state and council concessions and subsidies are applied.
- 5.4.2.2 Council pensioner rebates are limited to pensioners who pay their rate account in full by the discount date of each levy.
- 5.4.2.3 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 \$189.00 if levied half yearly and \$378.00 if levied once per year.

5.4.3 State Government Subsidy

In accordance with the Queensland Government Pensioner Rate 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:

- 5.4.4.1 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 excess water levies incurred across period 19 December to 17 June. The 2nd levy rate notice will include excess water levies incurred across the period 18 June to 18 December.

The 1st levy rate notice will also be accompanied by hardcopies of the Rates & Charges booklet and other standard inclusions. Property owners are requested to retain this booklet for reference. Copies will be available on Council's website.

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 12.35%, being the maximum interest rate, in accordance with the *Regulation*; unless interest free instalment arrangements are approved in accordance with the terms stated within this document.

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 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.

Further information on interest on Rate Arrears is available on the Queensland Government's Local Government website.

5.5.3 Discount on Rates and Charges

Pursuant to the *Act*, a discount of 6% is granted on gross rates and charges (less Council and State pensioner rebates and subsidies, rate arrears, interest and fire levies), to any persons liable to pay the rates and charges levied, provided payment is made within the approved thirty (30) day discount period. To receive the benefit of discount, payment in full must be receipted by Council on or before the due date.

5.5.4 Fire Levy and/or Emergency Management Levy

Local Governments are a collection agency only for the State Government Emergency Management, Fire & Rescue 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 Department of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

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. To qualify for an interest free arrangement, applications must be received on or before the due date of the rates notice unless an 'Ongoing Periodic Authority' is in place, noted on signed arrangement paperwork. Rate accounts containing arrears 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

and resolved 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 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 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.

In the instance where a water meter is found to have stopped, 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 or other reasonable methodology as determined by the CFO or CEO.

5.5.8 Excess Water
Excess water charges are applied per water meter connected to a property, on the basis of all water used in excess of the annual allowance applicable to the Utility Group allocated to the property, or under the Two Part Tariff, applicable for usage which exceeds the 1st 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. Initially, Council will determine them in the General Meeting of Council the month prior to the annual statutory budget meeting and will reflect Council's commitment to establishing criteria to decide the amount of all Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges. Fees and charges will be updated throughout the year as necessary.

5.6.1 Criteria for Identifying Cost-Recovery Fees

5.6.1.1 Council's cost-recovery fees relate to an action in respect of:

- a) an application for the issue or renewal of a licence, permit, registration, or other approval under a Local Government Act; or
- b) recording a change of ownership of land;
- c) giving information kept under a Local Government Act;
- d) seizing property or animals under a Local Government Act;
- e) the performance of another responsibility imposed on the local government under the *Building Act* or the *Plumbing and Drainage Act*.

5.6.1.2 A cost-recovery fee must not be more than the cost to the local government of taking the action for which the fee is charged.

5.6.2 **Criteria for Deciding Business Activity Fees**

Council has the power to conduct business activities and make business activity fees for services and facilities it provides on this basis. Business activity fees are made where Council provides a service and the other party to the transaction can choose whether or not to avail itself of the service. Business activity fees are a class of charge which are purely commercial in application and are usually subject to the Commonwealth's Goods and Services Tax. Business activity fees are accordingly determined having regard to these factors and Council's competitive neutrality obligations, as identified in the Act and *Regulation*.

6. VARIATIONS

6.1 CTRC reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- S0002 Revenue Policy 2024-25

7. ANNEXURES

- Annexure A – Water Units Schedule
- Annexure B – Township Water Supply Areas
- Annexure C – Regional Refuse Collection Areas



Councillors' Discretionary Fund

NUMBER: S0052/OCEO

ACT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012

POLICY TITLE: COUNCILLORS' DISCRETIONARY FUND STATUTORY POLICY

POLICY

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that 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:
- for capital works for the local government that are for a community purpose.
 - to a community organisation for a community purpose.
 - 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 –

- before the allocation is made, it is approved by –
 - if the Councillor is the Mayor – the Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer; or
 - otherwise – the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer; and
- 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 –

- the funds are allocated
 - to a community organisation that has applied for the funds in the way stated in the availability notice under section 201B(4); and
 - in a way that is consistent with the local government's community grants policy; and
- 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 2024.

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.

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., \$1,000.00 is requested from one organisation and four Councillors wish to contribute to this request. The amount is divided by four and \$250.00 is used from each 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.
6. **VARIATIONS**
- 6.1 *Charters Towers Regional 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*
- *F0237 Councillors Discretionary Fund Authority Form*

COUNCILLORS' DISCRETIONARY FUND AUTHORITY FORM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNCILLOR:

Donation Requested by:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor ER Schmidt _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cr KF Hastie _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cr AP Barr _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cr KS Farmer _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Cr GJ Lohmann _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cr SD Plant _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cr JD Mathews _____ |
|--|--|

Date of request: _____ / _____ / _____

Purpose of Donation: _____

(A written request from the Community Organisation is to be attached to this form.)

Amount of Donation \$ Amount _____

Is GST applicable Yes No Amount of GST \$ Amount _____

Donation to be made payable to: Organisation _____

By EFT (please provide bank details) BSB: _____ ACCOUNT: _____
 Cheque – payable to: _____

Authorised by Chief Executive Officer (Signature): _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ACTIONING OFFICER:

Discretionary Funds - Job Number Allocation:

Councillor	Allocation	(please tick)
Mayor ER Schmidt	(\$1000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr KF Hastie	(\$1000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr AP Barr	(\$1000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr KS Farmer	(\$1000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr GJ Lohmann	(\$1000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr SD Plant	(\$1000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr JD Mathews	(\$1000)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community Organisation notified of donation:

ECM Doc #: _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Publication of Donation: (refer LGR 2012 s202,3(a) & (b) and (8):

Council noticeboard: _____ / _____ / _____ Website: _____ / _____ / _____

Upon completion:

- Original form and supporting documentation to be registered in ECM.
- Copy of form to accompany the purchase requisition covering the donation (together with a copy of the Council Resolution if applicable).
- Copy of form to be provided to relevant Councillor, upon request.

NOTICE TO COMMUNITY REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF COUNCILLORS' DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

In accordance with *Local Government Regulation 2012 S202 (2)*, Charters Towers Regional Council has established Councillor Discretionary Funds in support of community purposes and meeting requests for financial assistance from community organisations.

The amounts as set out below have been allocated for each Councillor's Discretionary Fund.

Community organisations which are eligible under the CTCRC Councillors' Discretionary Funds Policy may make an application directly to a Councillor for funding. To apply, please contact the Councillor directly by email or telephone as set out below:

NAME	AMOUNT	EMAIL	PHONE
Mayor Liz Schmidt	\$1000	crschmidt@charterstowers.qld.gov.au	0436 308 372
Deputy Mayor Kate Hastie	\$1000	crhastie@charterstowers.qld.gov.au	0439 771 828
Councillor Alan Barr	\$1000	crbarr@charterstowers.qld.gov.au	0429 336 225
Councillor Kim Farmer	\$1000	crfarmer@charterstowers.qld.gov.au	0458 564 550
Councillor Graham Lohmann	\$1000	crlohmann@charterstowers.qld.gov.au	0487 129 711
Councillor Steven Plant	\$1000	crplant@charterstowers.qld.gov.au	0447 814 355
Councillor Julie Mathews	\$1000	crmathews@charterstowers.qld.gov.au	0447 745 174

In accordance with Section 202A of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council will as soon as practicable after an amount has been allocated and paid from a councillor's discretionary funds, publish a notice stating:

- a) the amount and purpose of the allocation; and
- b) where an amount has been allocated to a community organisation, the name of that community organisation.

For further information, please refer to the following documents (published on Council's website, or available on request).

- Statutory Policy No S0052/OCEO Councillors' Discretionary Funds
- Record of Councillors' Discretionary Funds





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