



Agenda  
Special Ordinary Council Meeting  
31 July 2024





## CERTIFICATION

"I certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendation provided to Council with this agenda:

1. The advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation, and;
2. Where any advice is given directly to Council by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person."

Note:

S65(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the General Manager to ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the Council (or a Council Committee) is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation. S65(2) forbids Council from deciding any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering that advice.

Dated this 26 July 2024

Warren Groves  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



# Table of Contents

<b>1 Attendance .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Acknowledgement of Country .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Public Question Time .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 Conflicts of Interest .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Finance .....</b>	<b>6</b>
6.1 Rates and Charges Resolution for 2024-2025 .....	6
6.2 Budget Estimates 2024-2025 .....	9
<b>7 Governance .....</b>	<b>11</b>
7.1 Annual Plan 2024/2025 .....	11
<b>8 Closure of Meeting .....</b>	<b>12</b>



## 1 Attendance

Venue	Flinders Arts and Entertainment Centre
Commencing	09:30am

### Elected Members

Position	Name	Attendance
Mayor	Rachel Summers	
Deputy Mayor	Vanessa Grace	
Councillor	Garry Blenkhorn	
Councillor	Aaron Burke	
Councillor	Carol Cox	
Councillor	Ken Stockton	

### Apologies

Councillor	Peter Rhodes	Apology
------------	--------------	---------

### Staff and Consultants

Officer Name	Position	Item Attendance
Warren Groves	General Manager	
Jade Boyes	Corporate Services Coordinator	
Sammi Gowthorp	Community Services Coordinator	
Richard Harley	Airport Operations Officer	
Jacci Smith	Development Services Coordinator	
Oliver Ward	Works and Services Coordinator	
Sue Mythen	Executive Officer (Minute Taker)	

## 2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor will begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the palawa people of the trawulwai Nation. She will recognise their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture of this island, and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging.


## 3 Public Question Time

*In accordance with Section 31 (1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 and the Flinders Council Public Question Time – Council Meeting Procedure, the following are to be adhered to at public question time.*

*Public Question Time is permitted at Ordinary Council Meetings, during which, members of the public may ask questions of the Council relating to Flinders Council matters.*

*The basis on which questions may be asked is:*

- 1. All questions will be addressed through the Chair (being the Mayor in normal circumstances) who will answer them as she/he sees fit. Under no circumstances will*



*members of the gallery be permitted to address or question either elected members or officers of the Council. The Chair may delegate answers to the appropriate Councillor or staff member if required.*

2. *Persons addressing the Chair must pay the respect due to that office. Failure to do so may mean their address is terminated without notice.*
3. *Where the answer cannot be provided immediately, it will be provided in writing within 14 days and tabled at the following Ordinary Council Meeting.*
4. *All questioners are encouraged to register their intent to question with the General Manager before the meeting. Preference will be given to those who have so registered.*
5. *Question time shall not extend longer than 30 minutes and may be divided into two 15 minute sessions.*
6. *The actual timing of the session(s) is to be immediately after the opening of the meeting and advertised with the notice of meeting.*

#### **4 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

*In accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, Councillors are required to declare any pecuniary interest that they, or any of their close associates, may have in any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, before any discussion on that matter.*

#### **5 Conflicts of Interest**

*In accordance with Part 2, paragraph 6 of the Local Government (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2016, Councillors are required to declare any conflict of interest, be in actual, perceived or potential, that they may have regarding any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda before any discussion on that matter commences.*



## 6 Finance

### 6.1 Rates and Charges Resolution for 2024-2025

<b>Action</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Officer</b>	Marissa Walters - Contract Accountant
<b>File Reference</b>	FIN/0701 Budget / FIN/1205
<b>Annexures</b>	1. Draft Rates Resolution 2024 25v20240724 [6.1.1 - 2 pages]

#### Introduction

The rates resolution has been prepared in line with the Long-Term Financial Management Plan and the draft Budget 2024-25.

#### Previous Council Consideration

Nil

#### Previous Council Discussion

24 July 2024	Council Workshop
16 July 2024	Council Workshop
26 June 2024	Council Workshop
12 June 2024	Council Workshop
08 May 2024	Council Workshop
20 March 2024	Council Workshop

#### Officer's Report

This year the Office of the Valuer General (OVG) has conducted a Municipal revaluation of all properties, with new values effective for rating purposes from 1 July 2024. As each property has been individually revalued the movement in valuations across the Municipality is significant and varied.


For this reason, a number of models have been considered by Council in recent months and a number of changes have been proposed, including varying all 'public purpose' properties to the same rate as commercial properties.

The Rates Resolution includes a Waste Management charge that has been backed out of what would otherwise be charged in the General Rates. The Waste Charge is set to \$160 per property for all rateable properties on Flinders Island. The charge will not apply to Cape Barren or Bass Strait Island properties.

The revenue from the charge will contribute towards the operational expenditure of the waste service, including management of the landfill site, transfer stations, resource recovery and provision for future rehabilitation.

Introduction of the Waste Management charge has enabled the fixed general rate to be reduced to \$380 per property, which applies equally to all rateable land.

Natural growth (through development) for the past year has seen a lift in the rate base of 1.5%. Whilst overall growth from property valuation movements came in at 49%. Council has reviewed all the general rates in the \$ Assessed Annual Valuation (AAV) charged by land use



and location to contain the increase in the general rate to 2.4%. However, this will vary property by property given the individual movements in property values.

In line with the draft Budget 2024-25, presented for adoption at this meeting, the increase in total rate revenue (general and waste) required is 10% on last year's (2023-24) rates raised.

The Fire Levy minimum has been increased \$1 by the State Government from \$48.00 to \$49.00 per rateable property. Overall, the revenue from the Fire Levy collected on behalf of the State is increasing 2.21%

The average increase across all rateable land in the total rates payable (general rates, waste management charge and fire levy) will be 13%, with the median residential house (Flinders Island) increase being 6.5% or \$100 per annum (less than \$2 per week) and for primary production (Flinders Island) the median increase \$213 per annum or 13.7% (\$4.10 per week), Any increase at a property level will vary depending on the valuation movement of that property.

Due to these varied movements in properties and introduction of the waste charge around 22% of rateable properties will see a decrease in their rates, another 50% will see an increase of less than \$5 per week, 17% between \$5-\$10 per week, leaving 10% with higher increases due to higher than average increases in property valuations.

Council is not involved in the setting of property values. All property values are set by the Valuer General and if any property owner is concerned that the valuation issued for their property is not correct, they may lodge an objection with the Office of the Valuer General to request a review within 6 weeks of receiving their valuation notice.

### **Statutory Requirement**

#### *Local Government Act 1993*

In accordance with s90 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Council is required to set the rates by 31 August of each year.

### **Strategic Alignment**

#### **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**4.1** An organisation that provides good governance, effective leadership and high-quality services, within our means

**4.1.1** Council meets its statutory obligations to manage risk, achieve financial sustainability and model good governance.

### **Budget and Financial Implications**

The rates presented in the Rates Resolution are in line with the draft Budget 2024/25 presented to Council for consideration at this meeting and are also in line with the Long-Term Financial Management Plan.

### **Risk/Liability**

If Council does not adopt the Rates Resolution at this meeting, the item will need to be deferred until the August meeting to adopt an alternative resolution no later than by 31 August 2024 to comply with the requirements of the Act.



**Voting Requirement**

Absolute Majority

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council, by absolute majority, adopts the Rates Resolution for 2024/25, as detailed in Annexure 1.**





## 6.2 Budget Estimates 2024-2025

<b>Action</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Officer</b>	Marissa Walters - Contract Accountant
<b>File Reference</b>	FIN/0701 Budget / FIN/1207
<b>Annexures</b>	1. Budget 2024-2025 - DRAFT Council special meeting July 2024 [6.2.1 - 6 pages]

### Introduction

The current Budget for 2024-2025 has been prepared in line with a review of the current Long-Term Financial Management Plan.

### Previous Council Consideration

Nil

### Previous Council Discussion

24 July 2024	Council Workshop
16 July 2024	Council Workshop
26 June 2024	Council Workshop
12 June 2024	Council Workshop
08 May 2024	Council Workshop
20 March 2024	Council Workshop

### Officer's Report

This past year has seen another year of increased inflation on Council's costs. It is forecast that this will continue into the coming year with hopefully an improving position over the coming years.


Council's allocation of the Financial Assistance Grants for 2023/2024 was received 100% in advance in June 2023. Council has recently received 85% Financial Assistance Grants in advance for 2024/2025.

The forecast position for the current year is expected to be an operating loss of \$227,472 an improvement on the budgeted position of an operating loss of \$1,114,610.

The budgeted position for 2024/2025 is an operating loss of \$844,094.

A downturn in airport movements has seen a reduction in user fees and this is putting increased pressure on the Council resources. Airport depreciation alone makes up \$690,000 of the budgeted loss above.

Waste Management continues to be a growing cost area for Council with significant improvements required to ensure compliance and suitable services for the Island. Works have been underway and more detailed strategic planning is expected to occur during the year as well as investment in more infrastructure and plant. Council have been able to secure \$167,000 in grant funding to assist with operations, which will contribute somewhat towards the operating cost of \$875k. The balance will be partially subsidised by the introduction of the Waste Management charge. The Waste Management charge will raise \$197,000, almost 23%



of the operational costs. Council are conscious that this needs to reach full cost recovery over time to ensure that waste is not creating a generational issue into the future.

Council's cash position, including investments, is expected to decrease from a forecast \$10.5m at 30 June 2024 to \$9.3m at 30 June 2025. This is largely due to the significant Capital Works program for 2024/2025 of \$13.2m, this includes \$11.3m in grant funded programs and \$1.94m in Council funded projects. Council's cash position will remain in a healthy position above minimum requirements.

A key requirement of the proposed budget and the Long-Term Financial Management Plan is that Council is able to secure 100% grant funding for required capital works at the Airport. The grant funding required of \$3m in the 2024/2025 budget is not yet secured and is unlikely to be announced until the end of the calendar year.

At this stage Council is not intending to take out any new loans in 2024/2025, with the current loan heading into its final year; overall borrowings remain low.

### **Statutory Requirement**

*Local Government Act 1993*

In accordance with s82 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), Council is required to set the budget estimates by 31 August of each year

### **Strategic Alignment**

Long-Term Financial Management Plan

Long-Term Asset Management Plan

Annual Plan

Strategic Plan

### **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**4.1** An organisation that provides good governance, effective leadership and high-quality services, within our means

**4.1.1** Council meets its statutory obligations to manage risk, achieve financial sustainability and model good governance.

### **Budget and Financial Implications**

The budget has been prepared in line with a review of the Long-Term Financial Management Plan.

### **Risk/Liability**

Corporate: There are a number of internal and external factors that influence the budget which are highly uncertain in the current times, like CPI and cost of fuel, materials and services. It is therefore expected that a midyear budget review may be required, along with close monitoring of Council's financial performance to budget and cash position during the year.

### **Voting Requirement**

Absolute Majority

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That by absolute majority, Council adopts the Budget Estimates 2024/25, as presented in Annexure 1.**



## 7 Governance

### 7.1 Annual Plan 2024/2025

<b>Action</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Officer</b>	Warren Groves - General Manager
<b>File Reference</b>	ADM/0200 Annual Plan
<b>Annexures</b>	1. ANNUAL PLAN 2024.25 - Council Meeting 2024.07.31 [7.1.1 - 24 pages]

#### Introduction

Section 71 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to prepare an Annual Plan for the municipal area each financial year. An Annual Plan is to be consistent with the Strategic Plan and include a statement of the manner which Council is to meet the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan. A summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to its public health goals and objectives, is also required.

#### Previous Council Consideration

Annually

#### Previous Council Discussion

24 July 2024 Council Workshop

16 July 2024 Council Workshop

12 June 2024 Council Workshop

#### Officer's Report

The Annual Plan is the document upon which Council's operations and service delivery will be based for 2024/2025. The Plan sets out actions, tasks and projects to be undertaken in the year ahead and how these relate to Council's Strategic Plan.

Of utmost importance is that this document forms part of the budget process. The Annual Plan identifies Council's significant service delivery activities and provides the link between the budget, strategic objectives and measurement tools to track achievements towards these outputs.

The 2024/2025 year will see Council continue to provide cost-effective and community-focused service provision, through grant-funded projects and waste management strategy outcomes, as well as information technology improvements and increased advocacy for Council's Priority Projects.

Council has a statutory requirement to align its services and operations with a Strategic Plan. This Plan is critical to ensuring that the goals and aspirations of the Municipality are considered when Council sets its annual priorities, operational plans and budget allocations.

Adoption of the Annual Plan is recommended.

#### Statutory Requirement

*Local Government Act 1993*



## **Strategic Alignment**

### **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**4.1** An organisation that provides good governance, effective leadership and high-quality services, within our means

**4.1.1** Council meets its statutory obligations to manage risk, achieve financial sustainability and model good governance.

### **Budget and Financial Implications**

Minimal. Budget implications are contained in the Budget Estimates.

### **Risk/Liability**

No unforeseen risks based on the adoption of the Annual Plan.

### **Voting Requirement**

Simple Majority.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and adopts the Flinders Council Annual Plan 2024/2025 and authorises the General Manager to:

1. Make a copy of the Annual Plan available for public inspection at the Council office during ordinary business hours; and
2. Provide the Director of Local Government and the Director of Public Health with a copy of the Annual Plan.

## **8 Closure of Meeting**