LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Budget

This budget is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Local Government Act 2009
Chapter 4 – Finances and accountability
Part 3 – Financial Planning and accountability
Section 104:
(5) The system of financial management established by a local government must include –
(a) the following financial planning documents prepared for the local government –
   (i) a 5-year corporate plan that incorporates community engagement;
   (ii) a long-term asset management plan;
   (iii) a long-term financial forecast;
   (iv) an annual budget including revenue statement;
   (v) an annual operational plan; and
(b) the following financial accountability documents prepared for the local government –
   (i) general purpose financial statements;
   (ii) asset registers;
   (iii) an annual report;
   (iv) a report on the results of an annual review of the implementation of the
   annual operational plan; and
(c) the following financial policies of the local government—
   (i) investment policy;
   (ii) debt policy;
   (iii) revenue policy.

Local Government Regulation 2012
Chapter 5 – Financial planning and accountability
Part 2 – Financial planning documents, Division 3 – Annual budget
Section 169 – Preparation and content of budget
(1) A local government’s budget for each financial year must –
(a) be prepared on an accrual basis; and
(b) include statements of the following for the financial year for which it is prepared and the
next 2 financial years—
   (i) financial position;
   (ii) cash flow;
   (iii) income and expenditure;
   (iv) changes in equity.
(2) **The budget must also include—**
(a) a long-term financial forecast; and
(b) a revenue statement; and
(c) a revenue policy.

(3) **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 a full cost pricing basis; and
   (ii) the activities of the local government’s commercial business units; and
   (iii) the local government’s significant business activities.

(4) **The budget must include each of the relevant measures of financial sustainability for the financial year for which it is prepared and the next 9 financial years.**

(5) **The relevant measures of financial sustainability are the following measures as described in the financial management (sustainability) guideline—**
(a) asset sustainability ratio;
(b) net financial liabilities ratio;
(c) operating surplus ratio.

(6) **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.**

(7) **For calculating the rates and utility charges levied for a financial year, any discounts and rebates must be excluded.**

(8) **The budget must be consistent with the following documents of the local government—**
(a) its 5-year corporate plan;
(b) its annual operational plan.
Rating

In accordance with the Revenue Policy adopted at Council’s Meeting on 21 May 2013, Council’s rates and charging structures are based on the following principles:

4.1 Principles used for the making of Rates and Charges

In deciding the General Rate, Council will consider the total projected expenditure and other revenues received when providing its services to the community. Where possible, Council will be guided by the principle of user pays for the making of Rates and Charges for Water, Sewerage and Waste Collection to minimise the impact of rating on the efficiency of the local economy.

In accordance with the Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990, Council is required to collect a fire levy on behalf of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Services. The levy is not a Council charge and the funds collected are remitted to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Services after deducting a small administration fee.

Council will also have regard to the principles of:

- Transparency in the making of rates and charges;
- Having in place a rating regime that is simple and inexpensive to administer;
- Equity by taking account of the different levels of capacity to pay within the local community;
- Flexibility to take account of changes in the local economy.

In making Water Service Charges, Council may consider the community benefits (health, safety, aesthetics, etc.) gained by classes of landowner using this service.

The principles for the making of rates and charges are set out in the attached Revenue Statement and Rates and Charges for 2013/2014.