

Funding surety for essential organisations and projects

Community Wellbeing and Environment charge

Ratepayers will have noticed a line on their rates notice called the Community Wellbeing and Environment charge which is \$50 per notice (or \$100 each year).

This charge is separate to the collection of general rates and is dedicated to delivering targeted initiatives that support public safety, enhance natural environments and promote community wellbeing.

It encompasses a broad scope of projects and initiatives that directly contribute to the delivery of Council's Corporate Plan, which outlines Council's vision of a liveable, vibrant and connected community.

The aim of the charge was to create greater transparency about the services Council provides funding to which can be outside of the ordinary scope of local government, while also ensuring funds are available for important community and environmental projects.

Among specific projects which are allocated funding under the charge each year, the Community Wellbeing and Environment charge supports outcomes aligned to the Corporate Plan's key strategic themes.

This includes financial support for the services offered by organisations like:

- Surf Life Saving Queensland
- SES
- LifeFlight
- Rural Fire Service
- Royal Flying Doctors Service

In 2026 – 2027 the Community Wellbeing and Environment charge will support:

Community wellbeing and environment initiatives

Public safety

State Emergency Services
Rural Fire Brigades
Surf Life Saving
Safe Spaces, Thriving Places
Bundaberg CBD and Safe Night Precinct – CCTV upgrade
Disaster Management
Lifeflight
Royal Flying Doctor Service
Stock control
Water safety and boating

Community Wellbeing

Health inspections, illegal dumping and vector control
Disability compliance installations (community halls)
Cultural development
Rural future study

Natural areas enhancement

Washpool Creek Naturalisation
Nielson Park – Design and construction – Stage 1
Bundaberg Cemetery – Tree of life embellishment
Weed and pest management
Rubbish removal from waterways
Dunal management

The charge has not increased above \$100 per year since its introduction in 2021.

