

GENERAL MANAGER

Craig Deasey**1. INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK
EF09/142**

Precis:

Reporting on the public exhibition periods of the amended Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Councillors in accordance with the resolution of the May ordinary meeting held 19 May 2015 to publicly exhibit the Councils 2015-2016 Operational Plan which included the 2015-2016 budget and statement of revenue policy. The exhibition period for these documents closes on Thursday 25 June 2015 at 4.30 pm.

At the time of preparation of this report the Council has not received any submissions in relation to the Operational Plan, should any submissions be received prior to the close of the exhibition period they will be submitted to Councillors for their consideration.

Prior to the adoption of the Operational Plan the Council must consider all submissions that it receives before adopting the Operational Plan.

The Councils budget for 2015/2016 is going to be subjected to a series of major movements as a consequence of the 20/21 April 2015 natural disaster event. Whilst collation of damage impacts continue and some of the major ticket items such as Torryburn Bridge are known the full extent of the financial impact is yet to be ascertained as we still need decisions made by our insurers as regards Alison Court. Natural Disaster Recovery Arrangements will supplement the Councils workload in 2015/2016 it is important to note that the funding provided is for replacement with like for like and not betterment. In some circumstances Council staff may need to negotiate with funding authorities which could well change the Councils works program as we endeavour to achieve a better outcome on some works.

As previously reported the freeze on the Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) has had a detrimental impact upon the Councils forecast budget cash deficit position, however there will be a number of carry-over funded projects which should ultimately decrease the forecast deficit cash position in 2015/2016, particularly where there was a labour component involved.

The 2015/2016 financial year will result in a specific focus on a special rate variation as the Council needs to address the infrastructure backlog as well as implement an asset renewal process, both of which can only occur with a significant increase in funding. This will also coincide with a major service review of the Councils operations and activities, the business merger case has already highlighted that the Council is under-resourced from a staffing perspective and the Council seriously needs to consider as to why we undertake certain activities and why we provide certain facilities and why do we maintain certain assets aside from what alternative options are available into the future.

This also includes a review of the Councils governance role, ward structure and Councillor numbers, committees etc., all of which are likely to be challenged in the reports on the new Local Government Act.

The legal case against the operators of the Martins Creek Quarry looms as one financial risk that we are unable to provide any reliable prediction upon the outcome or the degree of financial exposure that the Council could well face. The budget was varied at the December

2014 review to bring into the financial reports an estimate of \$180,000 to provisionally make an allowance for this potential exposure.

As part of the process of adopting the Councils Operational Plan, under the revenue policy the Council is also required to make the rates and set the interest charges for 2015/2016 in accordance with the Local Government Act and are submitted as separate reports to the Council.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The Operational Plan identifies a cash deficit budget of \$242,757 Project carry-overs will have cash restricted at 30 June 2015 and will not adversely impact on the forecast 30 June 2016 position with the potential exception of the outcome of the Alison Court insurance matter and also the Martins Creek Quarry legal case.

The Councils 2014/2015 budget was initially reported at a deficit of \$82,371 the revised position at 31 March 2015 is \$273,601 the increase in the deficit is mainly as a consequence of \$180,000 added to the projected result as a consequence of the decision by Council in respect of Martins Creek Quarry.

Statutory

Encapsulated within Chapter 13 Part 2 Strategic Planning of the *Local Government Act (NSW) 1993*

Consultative

The public exhibition at this stage has resulted in no responses from the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Operational Plan 2015-2016 including the Statement of Revenue Policy and 2015-2016 budget be adopted.

**2. FIT FOR THE FUTURE – MERGER BUSINESS CASE
EF14/107**

Precis:

Reporting on the outcomes of the report prepared by consultants in relation to the proposed merger business case.

As previously reported to Council the initial recommendations of the Local Government Independent Review Panel was that to seek evidence based responses from Hunter & Central Coast Councils to the panels proposal for mergers.

Both Maitland & Dungog Shire Councils acted in accordance with the NSW Government's Fit for the Future announcements and subsequently resolved at meetings to explore the merger business case option through the engagement of consultants Morrison Low.

The final report from Morrison Low will be tabled at the meeting and outlines that a merger of the two Councils results in an insufficient revenue base from day one to fund the requirements of the new local government entity. Accordingly the merged entity would need to look at a special rate variation to cover the revenue shortfall on top of maintaining the existing IPART special rate variation decision granted to Maitland City Council.

In view of the two very lean (staffed) organisations at present there would be a need to grow the staff numbers from day one of the merged entity as opposed to potential savings in wages costs that have been experienced by the consultants in reviewing other merger proposals.

It is not my intention to report extensively on the findings of the consultants report as the Council has insufficient time to meet the 30 June 2015 deadline for submission of a template outlining how the Council will become fit for the future.

What the report does highlight is that if the two entities were merged the ratepayers of Dungog Shire Council would be paying significantly more from day one, the community would lose their current level of local representation and the new entity would still not meet all of the Fit for the Future benchmarks.

On page 35 of the report the following commentary is important to note:

“Whilst the merged Council has a number of efficiencies modelled in over the short, medium and longer term the short term costs arising from the merger and the costs that arise in the medium term are not overcome by benefits in the medium and longer term and as a result the financial performance remains poor throughout the period being modelled. The trend over the period modelled is for the operating result (excluding grants and contributions for capital purposes) to steadily decrease and stay below the required benchmark for the operating performance ratio.”

Obviously the merger business case has been presented late to both Councils as a consequence of the natural disaster event. This event has also prevented Council from engaging with our community on the business case before deliberating on the matter however IPART has not approved an extension of time in view of their reporting obligations to the NSW Government.

The outcomes of the merger business case come as no surprise in light of Dungog Shire Councils asset base and low revenues, whereas Maitland City Council has already

progressed a special rate variation through IPART and has spent a number of years improving their asset management systems to refine the quality of their data. In other words merging a relative “fit/improving Council” with a Council that has been identified as having a weak financial sustainability ratio and negative outlook by NSW TCorp, coupled with a distressed infrastructure audit rating the end result was not going to be positive. From my discussions with the General Manager of Maitland City Council I anticipate that Maitland will not entertain a merger with Dungog Shire Council in light of the reports findings, as it would not be in the best interests of their community.

Accordingly the challenge going forward for Dungog Shire Council will be in terms of meeting the community’s expectations and delivering on basic service levels. The Councils staff complement is so low yet we are facing increasing pressure to deliver more outcomes and be more responsive and strategic, yet we do not have the manpower or the money to deliver. This is aside from the limited opportunity that a small rural Council has to diversify revenue streams.

Ultimately the NSW Government wins as Councils will be left to significantly lift their general rates base as grant funding is constrained and the opportunities for small rural Councils to generate additional income from other sources are very much dependent upon where they are situated and what business activities they have been fortunate to participate in in the past.

The issues surrounding scale and capacity as flagged within the various reports will be the biggest challenge for Dungog Shire Council along with financial sustainability, the Council has no option either within a newly merged entity or standing alone but to increase the rates by a significant percentage to the community of Dungog Shire.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The NSW Government offered \$5Mil where 2 Councils were merging, the sum offered in comparison to the combined reported (harmonised cost within the merger business case) cost to bring to satisfactory the infrastructure assets of both Councils is reported at \$54Mil.

Community

Should a merger eventuate under the Fit for the Future program it will have a significant impact upon the communities of the Dungog LGA one way or the other, ultimately it will be in the hip pocket as revealed within the merger business case.

The business case highlights that ratepayers of Dungog Shire would endure significant increases in rates, just working on the current rating structure of Maitland the disparity is outlined as follows and is modelled on the 2015/2016 rates levy:

Sub Categories	Land Value utilised	DSC rates	MCC rates	%age
Dungog Residential	\$100,000	\$655.35	\$877.61	34%
Clarence Town Res	\$100,000	\$600.75	\$877.61	46%
Village Non urban	\$100,000	\$504.65	\$774.72	35%
Rural Res – Non urban	\$200,000	\$832.90	\$1,357.82	63%
Farmland	\$500,000	\$1,728.65	\$2,529.23	46%
Dungog Business	\$100,000	\$846.50	\$1,954.20	130%
Clarence Town Bus	\$100,000	\$803.95	\$1,954.20	143%
Village Business	\$100,000	\$654.10	\$1,954.20	198%

If a merger was to proceed the transition committee may have been required to look at the rating structure however the above table reflects the stark reality and the basis behind the differing levels of service provided by the two Councils. These results will differ from the merger business case as the consultants have endeavoured to harmonise the rating structure which is why the report reflects a lowering of the Maitland rates in comparison with the jump in Dungog Shires rates as reflected in the graphs presented in the report.

Consultative

At this point in time delays as a consequence of the natural disaster event has prevented the Council from actively engaging on the Fit for the Future program in a structured manner. The newsletter forwarded to all residents in early March resulted in only one written response to Council.

The business merger case will be publicly available on the Councils website and should be used in future discussions with the community as the Councils improvement proposal will involve a significant special rate variation in the 2016/2017 financial year.

Risk

The risk elements are outlined within the report, however the need to undertake the business case was in part to recognise what the impacts would be upon both communities should a merger of the two Councils eventuate as a consequence of resolution by both parties or what could be legislatively imposed sometime in the future.

SUMMARY

No recommendation will be provided by the General Manager on this matter, the decision needs to be made by the elected representatives on behalf of the community.

The reason behind such approach is that any recommendation afforded by the General Manager could be perceived as a significant conflict of interest as the General Managers position of Dungog Shire would in all likelihood be terminated in the event of a merger on one hand, the other it could be alleged that the General Manager has biased the report towards the protection of his employment contract.

It is envisaged that Maitland City Council would not resolve to merge with Dungog Shire Council in light of the outcomes of the report and potentially exposing their communities to further rate increases above what has already been determined by IPART. Maitland City Council will make their decision on this matter at a meeting on 29 June 2015.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

Submitted for Councils determination

**3. FIT FOR THE FUTURE – IMPROVEMENT PLAN
EF14/107**

Precis:

Reporting on need to lodge an improvement plan with IPART as a consequence of the Fit for the Future program.

As a consequence of previous reports to Council and the engagement of Morrison Low consultants to develop the merger business case, the consultants were also asked to assist with the development of an improvement plan working on the base improvement plan template but also looking at the elements associated with the Rural Council template.

The merger business case report that precedes this report highlights that Maitland City Council is not supportive of a merger with Dungog Shire. Accordingly the default position for both Councils is to submit a Fit for the Future proposal, in Maitland City Councils case their only option is the submission of Template 2 Improvement Plan, whereas Council had the option of considering either Template 2 or Template 3 Rural Council model template.

At the conclusion of the Councillor workshop on Wednesday 24 June 2015 an Extra Ordinary meeting was conducted to determine which template the Council would submit in the event that the merger proposal between the two Councils would not progress. There was considerable discussion as regards the merits of the Rural Council Model (template 3) and the improvement plan (template 2), however there is still considerable uncertainty in relation to what the future Local Government Act will encapsulate as regards legislative provisions for a "Rural Council".

Many of the intentions of the Independent Review Panel associated with lessening the burden on a Rural Council, such as reduced reporting provisions can at this stage only be considered in the context of the Local Government Act and not all the other reporting obligations which a Council has to fulfil under a raft of other legislative provisions outside the jurisdiction of the Minister for Local Government.

Council determined to progress the lodgement of a Template 2 Improvement Plan to IPART in accordance with the required time-frame of 30 June 2015, as IPART has advised Council that they would not grant the Council an extension of time. (**Annexure 'A'**).

It has been emphasised to IPART, The Minister for Local Government and the Office of Local Government that the natural disaster event has prevented the Council progressing any community engagement on either the merger business case and/or a Council improvement proposal.

The decisions being made by the Council do need to be discussed with the community and Council will need to convey that feedback to IPART by the end of August 2015. As outlined at the workshop where an improvement plan was discussed the Council will need to progress a significant special rate variation to become "Fit for the Future" as the consultants report identifies that the Council has an asset funding gap and requires in the order of an additional \$4.5Mil pa. to address the gap over the next 5 years.

The improvement plan will encapsulate the special rate variation provision which is modelled over a six year period with annual increases of 13%p.a.

As reported previously to Council the outcomes of the Fit for the Future program either within the business merger case or improvement plan identify that the communities of Dungog Shire Council will pay more in rates as a consequence.

Utilisation of the financial modelling based upon the pricing path mentioned before would result in Dungog Shire Council achieving 6 of the 7 Fit for the Future benchmarks by 2019/2020, all the benchmarks can be achieved by 2020/2021 according to the consultants modelling.

Obviously as part of any process to progress an improvement plan the Council will need to have a detailed look at the way we do business now and where possible identify potential efficiencies and/or savings into the future. From an asset management perspective there will also need to be further discussions with the community as regards service levels, potential disposal or divestment of under-utilised assets aside from looking at the future investment into assets that can derive the Council a positive economic return.

The Councillors will also need to contemplate what they will do if there is a high level of community dissatisfaction with what is proposed as the Council has very limited options available to it. If the Council cannot become Fit for the Future then the Council will be compromising the future of the communities of Dungog Shire as the NSW Government has advised that Fit for the Future Councils will have opportunities to partner with Government, access to grant funding, access to cheaper borrowing facilities and a streamlined approach for special rate variations into the future.

What is provided to Councillors (**Attachment '1'**) is the consultants draft proposal/response in regards to the Councils improvement plan, the report itself is still a draft however elements thereof will be utilised in responding to IPART through the template process that has to be lodged by 30 June 2015. That template document is at this moment a work in progress and a copy of the submitted document will be supplied to Councillors once it is lodged, the Council is meant to resolve the endorsement of the improvement proposal and the date recorded on the return.

The improvement proposal will be lodged without the Councils endorsement in light of the decision to not grant the extension to Council as what is being proposed within the document will need to be discussed in further detail with all Councillors.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

Previously outlined within the report as regards the needs for significant rate increases to enable the Council to meet the asset renewal requirements and address the infrastructure backlogs that exist within the Dungog LGA.

Community

The Fit for the Future program will have an impact upon the communities of the Dungog LGA one way or the other, ultimately it will be in the hip pocket as reflected in the report on the merger business case.

Consultative

At this point in time delays as a consequence of the natural disaster event have prevented the Council from actively engaging on the Fit for the Future program. Discussions and submissions have been made to Government concerning such.

The Council will now need to determine its consultation strategy and provide the community's response by the end of August to IPART.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

1. That the General Managers report be received and noted.
2. That the General Managers actions as regards lodgement of the improvement proposal without the resolution of Council be endorsed.

**4. MAKING OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING
1 JULY 2015
EF08/537**

Précis:

Council is required to make the rates and charges for the financial year commencing 1 July 2015 in accordance with Sections 535, 537 & 538 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Council's 2015/2016 Operational Plan, inclusive of the Estimates and Statements with respect to each Ordinary and Special Rate and Charge proposed to be levied, was resolved to be placed on public exhibition by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 19 May 2015 (*Minute No. 36768*).

For the year 2015/2016 Ordinary Rates will be levied on all rateable land under the following categories/sub-categories:-

- Farmland
- Residential
- Residential - Clarence Town
- Residential - Dungog
- Residential - Village
- Business
- Business - Clarence Town
- Business - Dungog
- Business - Village

All Ordinary Rates will be subject to various base amounts and various ad valorem (rate in dollar) rates as detailed in the recommendation. A charge in respect to the Hunter Catchment Contribution is applicable to all assessments within the Hunter catchment area.

Annual Charges for stormwater management, domestic and other waste management services, domestic & other recycling, waste management & sanitary services will be levied.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Chapter 15 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make the following rates and charges for the year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016:-

(A) ORDINARY RATES

(i) The Farmland Category of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-

(a) the Base Amount shall be **three hundred and six dollars and fifteen cents (\$306.15)** on all rateable land within the category, within the Shire; and

the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Farmland Category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **14.11%**.

- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point two eight four five (0.2845) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the category, within the Shire.
- (ii) The Residential Category, excepting Sub-categories Clarence Town, Dungog and Village, of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-
- (a) the Base Amount shall be **three hundred and twenty five dollars and seventy cents (\$325.70)** on all rateable land within the category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Residential Category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **32.03%**.
- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point two five three six (0.2536) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the category, within the Shire.
- (iii) The Residential - Clarence Town Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-
- (a) the Base Amount shall be **three hundred and eleven dollars and forty five cents (\$311.45)** on all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Residential - Clarence Town Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **49.22%**.
- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point two eight nine three (0.2893) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire.
- (iv) The Residential - Dungog Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-
- (a) the Base Amount shall be **one hundred and thirty seven dollars and fifteen cents (\$137.15)** on all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Residential - Dungog Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **21.34%**.
- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point five one eight two (0.5182) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire.
- (v) The Residential - Village Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-

- (a) the Base Amount shall be **two hundred and fifty four dollars and fifteen cents (\$254.15)** on all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Residential - Village Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **46.25%**.
- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point two five zero five (0.2505) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire.
- (vi) The Business Category, excepting Sub-categories Clarence Town, Dungog and Village, of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-
- (a) the Base Amount shall be **four hundred and forty one dollars and thirty five cents (\$441.35)** on all rateable land within the category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Business Category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **46.22%**.
- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point four one three eight (0.4138) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the category, within the Shire.
- (vii) The Business - Clarence Town Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-
- (a) the Base Amount shall be **four hundred dollars and forty five cents (\$400.45)** on all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Business - Clarence Town Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **49.83%**.
- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point four zero three five (0.4035) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire.
- (viii) The Business - Dungog Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-
- (a) the Base Amount shall be **three hundred and sixty seven dollars and thirty cents (\$367.30)** on all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Business - Dungog Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **40.61%**.

- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point four seven nine two (0.4792) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire.
- (ix) The Business - Village Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate shall consist of a Base Amount to which an ad valorem amount is added, as follows:-
- (a) the Base Amount shall be **three hundred and twenty five dollars and seventy cents (\$325.70)** on all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire; and
- the percentage of the total amount payable by the levying of the Rate for the Business - Village Sub-category of the Ordinary Rate that the levying of the Base Amount will produce, is **49.77%**.
- (b) the ad valorem amount shall be **zero point three two eight four (0.3284) cents in the dollar** applied to the land value of all rateable land within the sub-category, within the Shire.

(B) HUNTER CATCHMENT CONTRIBUTION

- (i) That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Land Services Act 2013 and the regulations made thereunder, Council makes for the year commencing 1 July 2015, a Charge of **zero point zero one three one (0.0131)**, to be applied to the Land Value of land contained in the portion of the Authority District within the boundaries referred to in Schedule 2 of the said Act, as is located within the Shire; having a Land Value in excess of three hundred dollars (\$300.00); and is rateable for the time being under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993.

(C) CHARGES

- (i) Domestic Waste Management Services
- (a) In pursuance of Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993 an Annual Domestic Waste Management Charge of **two hundred and thirty six dollars and forty five cents (\$236.45)** for a weekly service to domestic premises will be levied as follows:-

No. of Services per Assessment	Annual Charge per Assessment
1.	\$236.45
2.	\$472.90
3.	\$709.35
4.	\$945.80
5.	\$1182.25
6.	\$1418.70
7.	\$1655.15

- (b) An Annual Domestic Waste Management Charge of **thirty two dollars and fifty cents (\$32.50)** for each vacant parcel of rateable land for which the service is available in pursuance of Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

(ii) Waste Management Services

- (a) In pursuance of Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993 an annual Waste Management Charge of **two hundred and seventy dollars and fifteen cents (\$270.15)** for a weekly service to business/commercial premises will be levied as follows:-

No. of Services per Assessment	Annual Charge per Assessment
1.	\$270.15
2.	\$540.30
3.	\$810.45
4.	\$1080.60
5.	\$1350.75
6	\$1620.90
7	\$1891.05
8	\$2161.20
9	\$2431.35
10	\$2701.50
11	\$2971.65
12	\$3241.80

- (b) A Waste Management Charge of **two hundred and seventy dollars and fifteen cents (\$270.15)** per service per annum to non-rateable properties where the weekly service is provided in pursuance of Section 502 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

(iii) Recycling Services

- (a) In pursuance of Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Annual Recycling Charge of **one hundred and nine dollars and fifty cents (\$109.50)** for a fortnightly service will be levied on domestic premises that are subject to the charge.

- (b) In pursuance of Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993 an annual Recycling Charge of **one hundred and nine dollars and fifty cents (\$109.50)** per annum for a fortnightly service will be levied to business/commercial premises where the service is provided.

- (c) In pursuance of Section 502 of the Local Government Act, 1993 a Recycling Charge of **one hundred and nine dollars and fifty cents (\$109.50)** per annum for a fortnightly service will be levied to non-rateable properties where the service is provided.

(iv) Sanitary Services

- (a) In pursuance of Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993 an annual charge of **one thousand six hundred and thirty dollars (\$1630.00)** per regular service for the weekly removal of nightsoil will be levied as follows:-

No. of Regular Services per Assessment	Annual Charge per Assessment
1.	\$1630.00

- (b) In pursuance of Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993 an annual charge of **two thousand one hundred and sixty nine dollars (\$2169.00)** per enhanced service for the weekly removal of nightsoil will be levied as follows:-

No. of Enhanced Services per Assessment	Annual Charge per Assessment
1.	\$2169.00

- (V) Stormwater Management Charge

In pursuance of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 a levy of **twenty five dollars (\$25.00)** per urban rateable property for planning and provision of urban stormwater management services, with the exception of those properties exempted under the Regulation.

5. CLOSED COUNCIL

Précis:

Report referring matters to Closed Council.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government General Regulation 2005*, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Sec 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Set out below is Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* in relation to matters which can be dealt with in the closed part of a meeting.

The matters and information are the following:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed:
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law
- (f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege
- (h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.

GENERAL MANAGER**1. LOTS A, B & C DP 160253; LOT 18 DP 664135; LOT 171 DP 505211; LOT 3 DP 702324**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under Sec 10A (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

This matter is classified confidential because it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business

IMPLICATIONS***Legislative***

The matters are referred to in the context of Sec 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Consultative

Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Council meeting before any part of the meeting is closed, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council resolve into Closed Council to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. That pursuant to section 10A (1)-(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified as confidential under the provisions of Sec 10A(2) as outlined above.
3. That correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by Sec 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ANNEXURE 'A' TO ITEM NO. 3 - GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

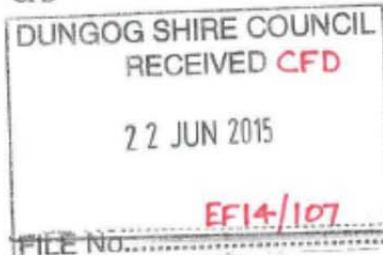


Our reference: 15/403
Your reference: EF14/107 - CFD

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18 June 2015

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Dear Mr Deasey

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

I refer to your letters to the Premier, the Minister for Local Government and the CEO of the Office of Local Government regarding your Fit for the Future proposal that is due to be submitted by 30 June 2015. Copies of these letters have been provided to IPART for response.

I note that you have requested a two month extension to the deadline due to delays in consultation resulting from your recent natural disaster event.

Unfortunately, due to our reporting obligations, we are unable to accommodate any extensions to the 30 June deadline and I urge you to submit your proposal by that date.

Any additional information we require to make our assessment will be requested by my staff in the weeks after the submission deadline so I would encourage you to continue with your proposal preparations so that you are able to provide that information when requested.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your proposal or the process please contact Lucy Garnier, Executive Director Local Government.

Yours sincerely

Hugo Harmstorf
Chief Executive Officer