



NOTICE OF MEETING

- Meeting:** General Meeting
- Date:** Wednesday, 19th February 2025
- Location:** **Council Chambers,
Georgetown**
- Commencing:** **9.00am**
- Councillors:** Cr Hughes
Cr Royes
Cr Tincknell
Cr Ryan
Cr Carroll

Agenda Attached

Mark Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Local Government Act Qld 2009

Section 4(2) of the *Local Government Act Qld 2009* state that the local government principles are:

- a) Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest
- b) Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services
- c) Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement
- d) Good governance of, and by, local government
- e) Ethical and legal behavior of councilors and local government employees

Local Government Regulation 2012

Section 254(J) Closed meetings:

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters –
 - a) The appointment, dismissal or discipline of a chief executive officer
 - b) Industrial matters affecting employees
 - c) The local government's budget
 - d) Rating concessions
 - e) Legal advice obtained by the Council or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government
 - f) Matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or group of individuals
 - g) Negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government
 - h) Negotiations relating to the taking of land by the local government under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967*
 - i) A matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State
 - j) An investigation report given to the local government under chapter 5A, part 3, division 5 of the Act.
- (4) However, a local government or a committee of a local government must not resolve that a part of a local government meeting at which a decision mentioned in section 150ER(2), 150ES(3) or 150EU(2) of the Act will be considered, discussed, voted on or made to be closed.
- (5) A resolution that a local government meeting be closed must –
 - a) State the matter mentioned in subsection (3) that is to be discussed; and
 - b) Include an overview of what is to be discussed while the meeting is closed. meeting be closed must state the nature of the matters to be considered while the
 - c) meeting is closed.
- (6) A local government or a committee of a local government must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a local government meeting, or a part of a local government meeting, that is closed.

OPEN SESSION AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND SIGNING OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY
3. PRAYER
4. APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS
5. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
6. CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
7. CONSIDERATION OF CEO OPEN SESSION REPORTS
8. CONSIDERATION OF DCS OPEN SESSION REPORTS
9. CONSIDERATION OF DES OPEN SESSION REPORTS
10. CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS
11. CONSIDERATION OF ADDENDUM REPORTS
12. CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS
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UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2025
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Barry Hughes
Cr. Ian Carroll
Cr. Laurell Royes
Cr. Seven Ryan
Cr. Ian Tincknell

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Raju Ranjit, Director of Engineering Services
Mrs. Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services
Miss. Gemma Bethel, Executive Assistant

OPEN GALLERY

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:00am and welcomed all in attendance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

“We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the history, cultural practice, and traditions, of their people.”

PRAYER

“We ask that today you give us wisdom to make good decisions to benefit our communities. Help us see what will benefit our shire and give us hearts to serve others. Amen”.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences:

Council wishes to extend their condolences to the family of Cr Kevin Davies and the Mareeba Shire Council.

Congratulations:

Nil

Apologies:

Nil

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 18th December 2024.

RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 18th December 2024 be confirmed as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

**CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.01
5/0**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Cr Royes

- 24.12.02 – Butchers Paddock Lease
- 24.12.18 – Legal Advice
- 24.12.19 – Governance Advice
- 24.11.20 – TIDS Project Status Report
- 23.11.25 – Lynd Medical Centre Fence

Cr Ryan

- 24.08.07 – Drug and Alcohol Policy

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for morning tea at 10:03am

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10:28am

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

1. Chief Executive Officers Briefing Report

Mark Watt presented a verbal update to Council on activities over the last month including:

1. QRA Presentation
2. Insurance claim relating to Mosquito Creek
3. Gravel Pit – Robin Hood Road
4. QRA Costs – Einasleigh Fires
5. Executive Assistance to CEO – temporary role

ATTENDANCE

Clinton Mervis and Dave Watkins from Shepherd Services joined the meeting at 10:59am.
Raju Ranjit entered the meeting at 11:00am.

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 11:05am, pursuant to section 254J (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to discuss the following items:

1. Zone 5 Flood Damage
2. Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green St, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.02
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Gemma Bethel left the meeting at 11:37am and returned at 11:40am.
Clinton Mervis and Dave Watkins from Shepherd Services left the meeting at 12:03pm.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves to come out of closed session at 12:10pm.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.03
5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to consider tenders ESC2024-041 and ESC2024-042 that lay on the table from the December 2024 General Meeting.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.04
3/2

VOTE

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes requested that their votes be recorded against the above motion.

2. Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the tender of the flood damaged restoration zone 5 (north and south).

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Accepts the schedule of rates tender submitted by Halloran & Sons Earthmoving Pty Ltd for Contract 2024-041 Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5 North for \$1,901,982.09 ex GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates. Accepts the schedule of rates tender submitted by Halloran & Sons Earthmoving Pty Ltd for Contract 2024-042 Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5 South for \$843,563.81 ex GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates.
2. Signs and seals the contracts in the form proposed; and
3. Resolves that this report, its attachments and all discussions in relation to this matter remain confidential, but the resolution be made public immediately.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.05
3/2

VOTE

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes requested that their votes be recorded against the above motion.

3. Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green Street, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the tender of the Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green St, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by CBD Pty Ltd for Contract 2024 -047 Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green St, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility for \$348,200.46 exl GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates.
2. Signs and seals the contracts in the form proposed; and
3. Resolves that this report, its attachments and all discussions in relation to this matter remain confidential, but the resolution be made public immediately.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.06
3/2

VOTE

Cr Ryan and Cr Royes requested that their votes be recorded against the above motion.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

4. Director of Corporate Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and receives the Director of Corporate Services' Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.07
5/0

5. Financial Performance as at 31st December 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a monthly finance report is required to be presented to Council stating the progress made in relation to the budget for the period of the financial year as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting held.

RESOLUTION

That Council receives the financial statements for the period ended 31st December 2024 pursuant to section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.08
5/0

6. Draft Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a draft of the proposed 5-Year Strategy for Culture and the Arts, which outlines a forward-thinking framework to enhance the shires cultural landscape. This strategy focuses on fostering creativity, supporting local artists, and promoting inclusive access to arts and cultural experiences. Key priorities include strengthening Council's capacity, capability and resources; elevating the profile and importance of the arts and cultural development within Council and the community; and diversifying our arts and cultural programming and building new audiences. The strategy aims to ensure sustainability, cultural diversity, and long-term growth, positioning the arts as a central element of community life. Community feedback was sought via survey and community consultation sessions, and further comment on the draft final document will be vital for refining and finalising the plan for adoption.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the draft Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025 – 2030 and publish for public feedback (30 days) before finalising the final document for adoption.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.09
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at 1:10pm

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester left the meeting at 1:10pm.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1:46pm.

7. Quarterly 2024/25 Operational Plan Review – Second Quarter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 174(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, tabled for Council’s reception is the second quarter (1st October – 31st December 2024) progress report on implementing Council’s 2024-2025 Operational Plan.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the second quarterly progress report on Council’s progress toward implementing its 2024/2025 Operational Plan.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

PROCEDURAL MOTON

That Council resolve to let the matter lay on the table until the February 2025 General Meeting.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.10
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

8. Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and receives the Director of Engineering Services’ Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.11
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mark Watt left the meeting at 2:44pm and returned at 2:45pm

9. Independent Living Facility Project Status

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the status of the Independent Living Facility project.

RESOLUTION

1. That Council note and receive the status of the Independent Living Facility project.
2. That Council approves an additional budget of \$422,065.00 to complete the project fully, and a budget variation be included as part of the next quarterly budget review.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.01.12
5/0

<i>GENERAL BUSINESS</i>

Cr Royes	Proposal to include DRFA (Monthly Flood Damage Report) in Open Session Agenda
Cr Royes	Finalisation of MOU Cairns Hinterland Health
Cr Royes	D&D Terry Insurance Claim
Cr Royes	Old Robin Hood Gravel Pit/ Road Reserve
Cr Royes	Payments to Local Sub-Contractors (Overdue/Delayed) (Flood Damage)
Cr Carroll	Percyvale Road
Cr Carroll	Cartage of gravel from Forsayth stockpile.
Cr Carroll	Gravel rule on Cobbold Gorge Road
Cr Tincknell	Letters pertaining to legal matters received by Council

<i>CONCLUSION</i>

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:54pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR

Business Arising				
#	Resolution	Officer	Action Taken	Progress
22nd January 2025 - General Meeting				
25.01.04	That Council resolve to consider tenders ESC2024-041 and ESC2024-042 that lay on the table from the December 2024 General Meeting.	DES		
25.01.05	That Council: 1. Accepts the schedule of rates tender submitted by Halloran & Sons Earthmoving Pty Ltd for Contract 2024-041 Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5 North for \$1,901,982.09 ex GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates. Accepts the schedule of rates tender submitted by Halloran & Sons Earthmoving Pty Ltd for Contract 2024-042 Flood Damaged Roads Restoration Zone 5 South for \$843,563.81 ex GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates. 2. Signs and seals the contracts in the form proposed; and 3. Resolves that this report, its attachments and all discussions in relation to this matter remain confidential, but the resolution be made public immediately.	DES		
25.01.06	That Council: 1. Accepts the tender submitted by CBD Pty Ltd for Contract 2024 -047 Construction of Concrete Road, Driveways, and Stormwater Drainage at the Green St, Georgetown Staff Housing Facility for \$348,200.46 exl GST in accordance with the contract provisions and the schedule of rates. 2. Signs and seals the contracts in the form proposed; and 3. Resolves that this report, its attachments and all discussions in relation to this matter remain confidential, but the resolution be made public immediately.	DES		
25.01.09	That Council receive the draft Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025 – 2030 and publish for public feedback (30 days) before finalising the final document for adoption.	DCS	Uploaded to website for public comment.	Complete
25.01.10	That Council resolve to let the matter lay on the table until the February 2025 General Meeting.	DCS	What matter? This resolution does not stand alone so what is it referring to? Thanks Renee	
25.01.12	1. That Council note and receive the status of the Independent Living Facility projec 2. That Council approves an additional budget of \$422,065.00 to complete the project fully, and a budget variation be included as part of the next quarterly budget review.	DES		
18th December 2024 - General Meeting				
24.12.02	1. In light of the recent deputation by the lessee, Council agree not to review its previous decision to allow a long-term lease with the Department of Resources for lease 0/222075 on Lot 8 SP189943; 2. That the CEO be directed to present a report to Council providing options for future leasing of the land, including a land use study.	CEO	Report to be presented to February General Meeting	Complete
24.12.04	That pursuant to section 235(a) & (b) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council appoint Griffith University as Project Manager for the Australian Government's Growing Regions Program on the following basis and circumstances: 1. Council is satisfied there is only 1 supplier reasonably available to deliver the project owing to their specialised knowledge of the application and acceptance by the Australian Government in applying for funding and delivering the project on behalf of Council; 2. Because of the specialised knowledge of the application, it would be impractical or disadvantageous to invite tenders; 3. Calling tenders would be a waste of time and resources given the intimate knowledge and expertise of Griffith University to commence delivery and project management in a timely manner; 4. The appointment of Griffith University is consistent with an existing contract with Council involving specialised services (not goods) that lead to the application being lodged and accepted for funding.	CEO	Completed with agreements executed and purchase order raised.	Complete
24.12.05	That Council: Adopts the following meeting dates as presented for 2025, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and furthermore Council will publish the notice of meeting dates on Council's website, in the inform newsletter and on display in the Council office.	CEO	Meeting Schedule published on website and circulated to Councillors and Senior Staff	Complete

24.12.13	<p>1. That Council agrees to apply an application of 50/50 funding partnership between Australian Government's Regional Aviation Access Program and Council to upgrade the stock proof fences in Georgetown and Forsyth Aerodromes.</p> <p>2. That Council agrees to apply \$600,000.00 for Georgetown aerodrome and \$700,000.00 for Forsyth aerodrome to carry out following works.</p> <p>a. Forsyth Aerodrome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Installation of animal exclusion fencing (1.8m high x 2890m long fence with two gates) •Construct widened runway end turn pads as part of future works. •Replace the lights and batteries. <p>b. Georgetown Aerodrome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Installation of animal exclusion fencing (1.8m high x 2946m long fence with two gates) •Conduct rolling of sealed surfaces with pneumatic tyred roller in hot weather. •Consider replacement of tie down cable as part of future upgrades. 	DES		
24.12.14	That Council agrees to apply for funds under the SES Support Grant program for \$150,000.00 (100 % funding) to upgrade the existing the SES facility.	DES		
24.12.17	That the consideration of tenders ESC2024-041 and ESC2024-042 flood damaged restoration Zone 5 (north and south) la on the table until further information is obtained.	DES		
24.12.18	That Council direct the CEO to seek legal advice on the claim by D & D Terry seeking compensation against Council in relation to incident on 28th April 2024 on the Cobbold Gorge Road, and report back to Council.	CEO	Report to be presented to February General Meeting	Complete
24.12.19	That Council request the CEO to seek governance advice on Council organizational issues impacting on Council's performance.	CEO	Governance advice being obtained with further updates to follow	In progress
	Council resolved that the Road Register be given priority for review prior to considering tenders for the up-coming flood damage pick up.	CEO	Road register review underway, with further workshop to occur followed by Council report	In progress
20th November 2024 - General Meeting				
24.11.10	That Council receives reports and accepts the tender documents and scope of works, as amended.	DES	Schedule will be emailed to all councilors and executive officers before advertising for the tender	In progress
24.11.11	That Council receive and agree to apply for TIDS funding for Forsyth Road (state-controlled road) for \$1.5 million to reconstruct and seal the 1.84 km from Chainage 23.43 km to Chainage 25.27 km	DES		In progress
24.11.14	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas Policy 2. Amend the 2024-2025 Fees & Charges to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$300 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas - Low Impact and Activity. For consideration by Council. b. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$600 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas – High Impact and Activity. For consideration by Council. c. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$150 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use – Outdoor Dining d. Include an annual fee and subsequent renewal fee of \$147 (Ex-Gst) for granted applications for Commercial Use – Mobil Vending 	CEO	Noted	Complete
24.11.17	That Council receives reports and resolves to establish Council's own crushing and screening plant system subject to an external business review and further budget consideration for the plant replacement fund.	DES	Business case report in progress	In progress
24.11.20	That Council receive and note the project status report as presented and refer the shortfall amount of \$1,461,268 to the half yearly budget review for the period ending 31 December 2024.	DES	will be reviewed in 31 December 2024	In progress
18th September 2024 - General Meeting				
24.09.07	Council resolves to defer the matter until after further Community Consultation is undertaken.	DES	This will be confirmed at the Community Consult meeting in Forsyth scheduled for December.	In progress
Outstanding Business				
14th August 2024 - General Meeting				
24.08.07	That Council resolve to defer the matter of the Drug and Alcohol Policy (A012) to a future meeting/workshop.	CEO	Further review pending commencement of WHSA.	In progress
15th November 2023				
23.11.25	That Council resolve to urgently seek costings for the erection of perimeter fence and remedial work at the Lynd Medical Centre.	CEO	Subject to ownership of land. Quotes have been sought and are planned to be erected prior to EOFY.	In progress
16th August 2023				

23.08.12	<p>That Council receive Ms Taylor's Mt Surprise Land Use Survey Report, and adopt the following recommendations made therein, specifically: -</p> <p>1.The recommendations for Category 1, Category 2, Category 3, Category 4, Category 5, Category 6 and Category 7, outlined in the report, where appropriate; and</p> <p>2.Council make enquiries with the State government in relation to Lot 11 SP252513, area 3.58 hectares, Reserve for Township and Trucking with Council as Trustee, to determine if the Occupation Lease (352OL454) can be cancelled and the lot transferred to Council as freehold land, to facilitate future development opportunities afforded by the Industrial Precinct designation of the lot, which was supported by the State, when preparing the 2020 Planning Scheme for the Shire.</p>	DCS	Referred to consulting Town Planner for action. Matter has been referred back to Council for further consideration of implementation.	In progress

GENERAL MEETING: February 2025

Mayor and Councillors
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12
Georgetown QLD 4871

Councillors,

I present my report for the period of: January 2025

Update

Welcome to the February 2025 CEO Briefing Report.

During the reporting period I have continued to familiarize myself with current projects and priorities. Most of the month involved activities around priorities set by Council such as QRA and flood damage, reviews of liability claims, investigating gravel pits, governance review and other matters requiring research for reports to this meeting.

I continue to spend considerable time with key staff to update and improve financial reporting for the monthly agenda, together with budget reviews and setting up reporting mechanisms to improve work in progress reports. Such changes will improve monitoring of costs and highlight budget and project risks.

Staff issues addressed during the reporting period, as required and recent appointments have been completed within Council's HRM strategy.

Operational Plan Matters

Operationally Council has commenced with the implementation of the strategies set by Council, a copy of such is part of today's agenda being the second quarterly review of the Operational Plan 2024-2025.

Corporate Plan 2025–2029

- Council has now adopted the Corporate Plan which will help frame budget deliberations 2025-2026;
- Myself and the Directors will prepare a revised Operational Plan 2024-2025, which needs to align with the new Corporate Plan. This will be available for review early in the budget process.

Workplace Health & Safety

- No report in the agenda for the reporting period due to change-over of staff.
- Recruitment completed for Work Health & Safety Advisor, with commencement date being finalised.

Projects

I am currently working on the following projects and below is an update for the reporting period:

Etheridge Agg Precinct

- Funding provided under the Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF) by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, being the Etheridge Shire Council Irrigation Precinct Development – North West Queensland.
- Awaiting executed funding agreements.
- Meeting with Greg Mason, DAFF on 30 January to discuss project plan and recruitment.
- Position description completed in draft form and referred to DAFF for review.

Tourism Master Plan – Griffith Uni

Growing Regions Program – Developing Tourism Along the Savannah Way (Aust. Government)

- Received executed funding agreements
- Ongoing discussions with Griffith University
- Agreements executed with Griffith University and Purchase Order raised for project management.

North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy – Tourism Signage

- No further updates, still under consideration by State Government.

NWQROC - North Queensland Resilience Program

No further advice concerning the approved funding. Council is still waiting for confirmation of approved projects. An update on the status of the payment indicates funds were to be paid by late January, however, no payments received to date.

Kidston Hydro & Solar Farm Project

Ongoing discussions regarding a road use agreement (RUD) in conjunction with the Director of Engineering and the Mayor.

Calendar of Events

Attendance

Date	Event	Location
13 January	Returned from leave	Georgetown
16 January	Community Connect & Councillor Workshop	Mt Surprise
17 January	Discussions with office of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Re Visit by Minister	Virtual
20 January	Meeting with Jake Ablitt, QRA	Georgetown
22 January	General Meeting	Georgetown
26 January	Australia Day Event 2025	Mt Surprise
28 January	Internal review - budget working group	Georgetown
28 January	Meeting with LGW – LGW and mutual risk obligations	Teams
29 January	Councillor Workshop	Georgetown
30 January	Meeting with Greg Mason, Dept Primary Industries	Teams
30 January	Internal review - budget working group	Georgetown

Other

During the period I finalised the meetings schedule for 2025, including a list of community connect, Councillor workshops and Council and budget meetings.

A visit is being planned on Tuesday 25 March 2025, by the Regional Advisor, Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers. Proposed supplementary refresher training is scheduled, in the following areas:

- Roles & Responsibilities
 - Councillor responsibilities
 - Employee responsibilities
- Code of Conduct

- Conflicts of Interest & Register of Interests
- Council meetings are where decisions are made.

Training duration is approximately two (2) hours, depending on questions and discussion. The Regional Director, Local Government Division, based in Townsville, may be in attendance.

Regards,
Mark Watt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

General Meeting	19 February 2025
Subject	Term Lease 0/222075
Classification	Open
Author	Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the options available to Council for future leasing of land described as Lot 8 on SP189943, Reserve for Township Purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 57 of the *Land Act 1994*, Council offer the disposal by way of lease over land described as Lot 8 on SP189943, with a five (5) year term.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Resources wrote to Council on 8 July 2024 regarding term lease 0/222075 described as Lot 8 on SP189943 (Reserve for Township Purposes) which was due to expire on 3 July 2025 and requesting Council's views on the matter, given Council is Trustee of the land. The land was leased for the operation of a commercial business within Georgetown and that ownership has now ceased.

At the August Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to advise the Department of Resources that it was Council's preference not to renew the trustee lease at the expiry of the Term Lease to allow for a continuation of tenure and further advise of Council's reasons for objection by no later than 19 August 2024.

Council advised the Department of Resources on 19 August 2024 that entering into a trustee lease with the current lessee at the expiry of the Term Lease is not the aspiration of Council's long-term planning for the following reasons:

- The Lease was initiated in 2005 with Council's support for the operation of a commercial business within Georgetown, whose ownership has since ceased.
- Council wishes to investigate future development of Georgetown and incorporate this reserve for its intention as Reserve for Township Purposes.

The Department sought clarification on 3 September 2024 asking whether Council was opposed to both a renewal of a term lease to the current lessee and the possibility of Council issuing a Trustee Lease over the area.

Council confirmed on 16 September 2024 that it is only opposed to the renewal of the Term Lease. Meetings were held with the Lessee on at least two occasions consisting of a deputation with elected members and a meeting with the CEO on 29 November 2024 where Council's decision was fully explained.

At Council's Ordinary Meeting on 18 December 2024, it was resolved that in light of the recent deputation by the Lessee, Council agree not to review its previous decision to allow a long-term lease with the Department of Resources for lease 0/222075 on Lot 8 SP189943 and that the CEO be directed to present a report providing options for future leasing of the land, including a land use study.

REPORT

The town planning advice from Council's Planner, Elizabeth Taylor provides an overview of the land in terms of permitted activities under the rural zone and land tenure. The opportunities and constraints arising from the report are dictated by the Reserve tenure and Purpose and the Rural zoning of the land under the Planning Scheme. In reviewing the opportunities and constraints from the report, the following options and actions may be considered, with applicable advantages and disadvantages:

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Prepare a Land Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve a better understanding of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost and staff resources • May not achieve desired outcomes

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Call expressions of interest to lease the land in whole or in part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish local interest and potential in the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require tenders from expressions of interest before proceeding Cost to re-survey land into smaller sections
Release a tender to lease the entire site for grazing for 5-years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land leased for 5 years allowing Council time to consider other options Business as usual option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential alternative uses or activities delayed Subject to Department of Resources views

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim 3: A diversified economic development ensures a prosperous Shire. Corporate Outcome 3.1: A variety of land and housing options for the community.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

New revenue stream for Council such as lease fees.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Land Act 1994

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil applicable policies.

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inform landowner and local residents.	Advertise availability of land for leasing.
Inform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

An assessment of this matter through Council's Enterprise Risk Framework determines this is a Low Risk decision.

Risks

- Non-compliance with legislation
- Community perception/political implications

Opportunities

- Improved land management and activity
- Availability of land for community purposes
- Income generation for Council

Report Prepared By:

Mark Watt

Report Authorised By:

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 1/2/25

Date: 1/2/25

ATTACHMENTS

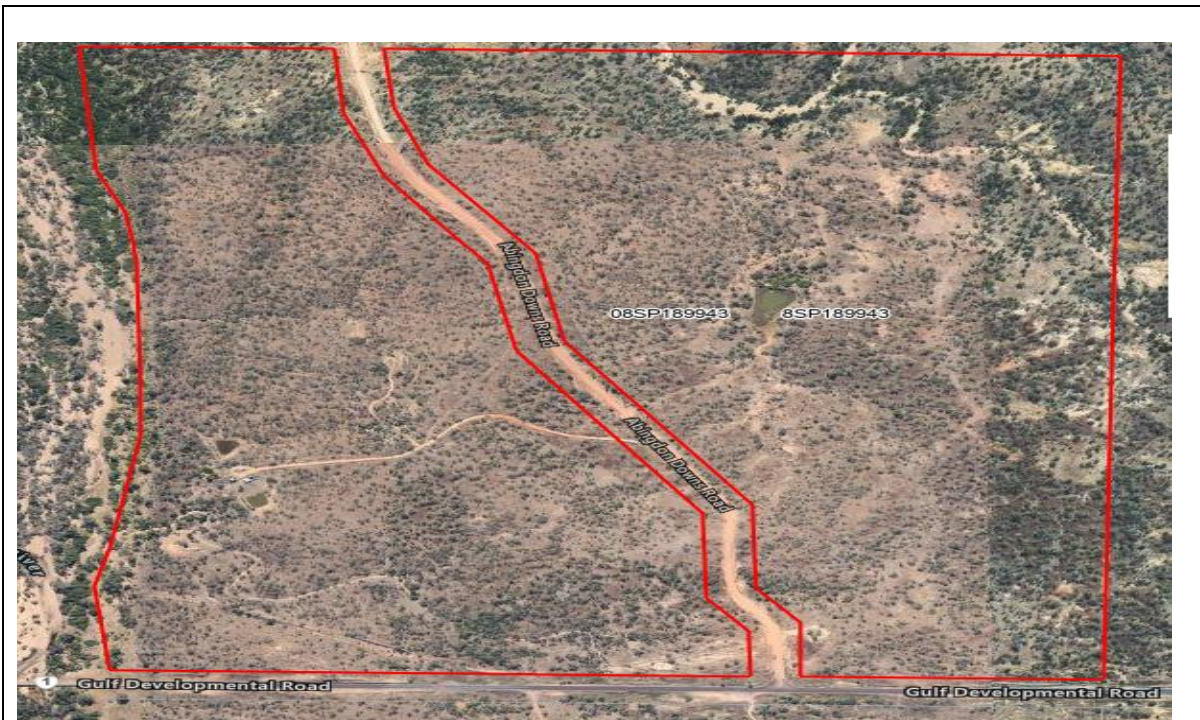
Town Planning advice from Elizabeth Taylor dated 20 January 2025

LOT 8 SP189943 – TOWNSHIP RESERVE, GEORGETOWN ETHERIDGE SHIRE

TOWN PLANNING ADVICE

THE SITE

The site is described as Lot 8 SP189943 and has an area of 140 hectares and an extensive frontage to the Gulf Developmental Road. It is transected by the Abingdon Downs Road, which is constructed as an unsealed access track. An aerial map and an extract map of the site, below, identify two other access tracks off Abingdon Downs Road, one that accesses two dams and various rural buildings and yards, which appear (based on photographs, refer Attachment 1) to be in generally poor condition. Another larger dam is located more centrally on the site.



THE SITE



EXTRACT MAP

The site appears to be generally level and sparsely vegetated and is strategically located on the eastern periphery of Georgetown, sharing a boundary with the Etheridge River.

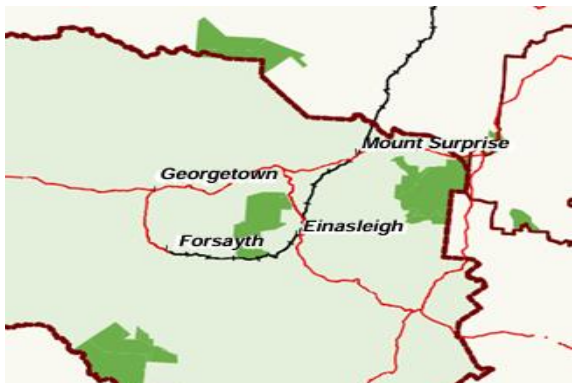
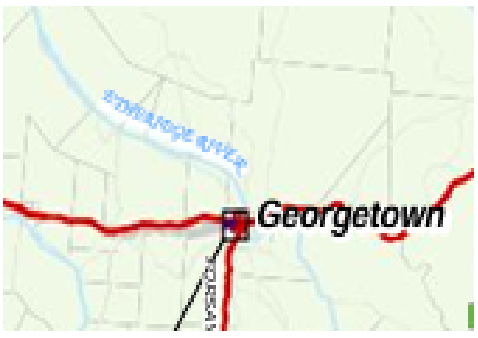
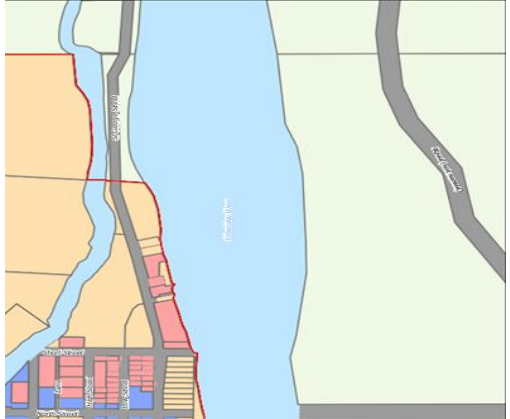

PLANNING SCHEME

Under the Etheridge Shire Planning Scheme 2020 the site has the following designations:

- CM-1 Context Map – Rural;
- SFM – 1 Strategic Framework Map – Rural;
- ZM -2 Georgetown Zone and Precinct Map - zoned Rural and outside the Township Boundary;
- FH – 2 Georgetown Flood Hazard Map – 1% Annual Exceedance Probability Flood Event – (Part) irregular impact, adjoining Etheridge River boundary.

The site is not shown as an area containing places of cultural significance to the Ewamian People on PM -1 Areas of Cultural Significance Map.

Refer extracts from the Planning Scheme maps, below, relevant to the site.

	
<p>CM – 1 Context Map – Pale green denotes Rural land</p>	<p>SFM – 1 Strategic Framework Map – Pale green denotes Rural land</p>
	
<p>ZM- 2 Georgetown Zoning Map - Pale green denotes Rural Zoned land</p>	<p>FH-2 Georgetown Flood Hazard Map – Pale blue shows Etheridge River and to the east, the site with irregular flooding potential mapped</p>

In the Planning Scheme the Purpose of the Rural Zone, states:

The purpose of the Rural zone is to:

- a. *provide for rural uses and activities;*
- b. *Provide for other uses and activities that are compatible with –*
 - (i) *existing and future rural uses and activities;*
 - (ii) *the character and environmental features of the zone;*
- c. *Maintain the capacity of land for rural uses and activities by protecting and managing significant natural resources and processes.*

AND

Etheridge Shire Council's intended purpose for the Rural zone is to also:

- a. *ensure the productive capacity of agricultural and associated rural industries is maximised and maintained, while protecting biodiversity values and allowing for farm diversification and value adding industries to occur in the rural area;*
- b. *recognise the importance of agricultural land identified as Class A or B as shown on SPP mapping – economic growth, agricultural land classification – Class A and B whilst balancing environmental considerations;*
- c. *maintain the character and amenity of the rural and natural environment;*
- d. *include recognised environmental areas such as national parks and reserves, and give protection to the shire's biodiversity;*
- e. *encourage tourism development where it can value-add to the viability of rural enterprises, does not diminish biodiversity values and avoids impacts of flooding and bushfire;*
- f. *ensure that the functional connectivity of the stock route network is maintained and any development within or adjacent to stock routes or reserves provides for their continued function;*
- g. *ensure development protects extractive industry or potential resource sites for future development, and also protects existing rural uses from impacts of proposed extractive industry and associated activities;*
- h. *allow for the development of renewable energy facilities, whilst protecting agricultural and environmental interests;*
- i. *protect existing electricity, telecommunications and emergency services infrastructure.*

The Table of Assessment – MCU for the Rural zone lists a range of land uses that do not require a planning approval to establish on the land. It also includes land uses that are required to comply with relevant Planning Scheme provisions but do not require a planning approval, if compliance is achieved; and it also includes Code assessable and Impact assessable land uses in the Rural zone. A copy of the Table of Assessment- MCU, is attached at [Attachment 2](#).

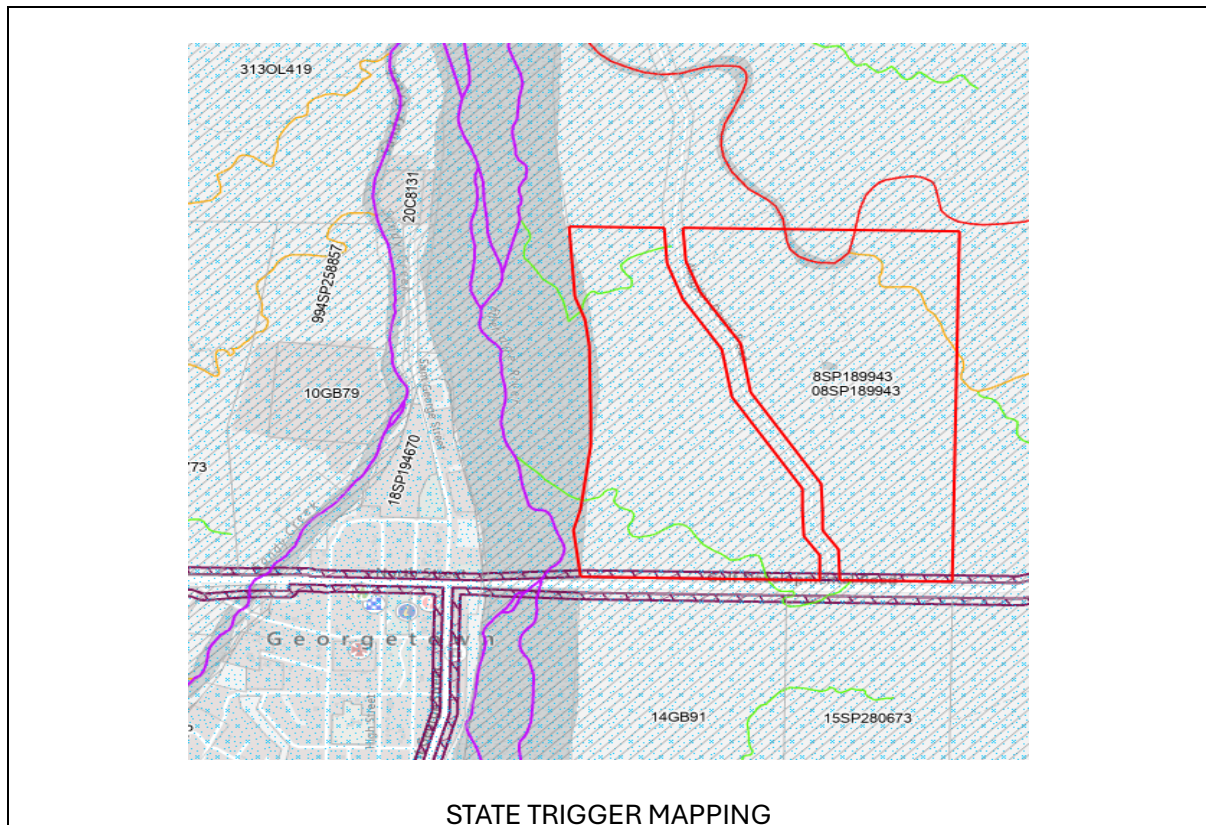
The minimum lot size in the Rural zone is 25000ha, with no minimum road frontage specified.

STATE MAPPING

Under State Trigger Mapping the site has the following designations:

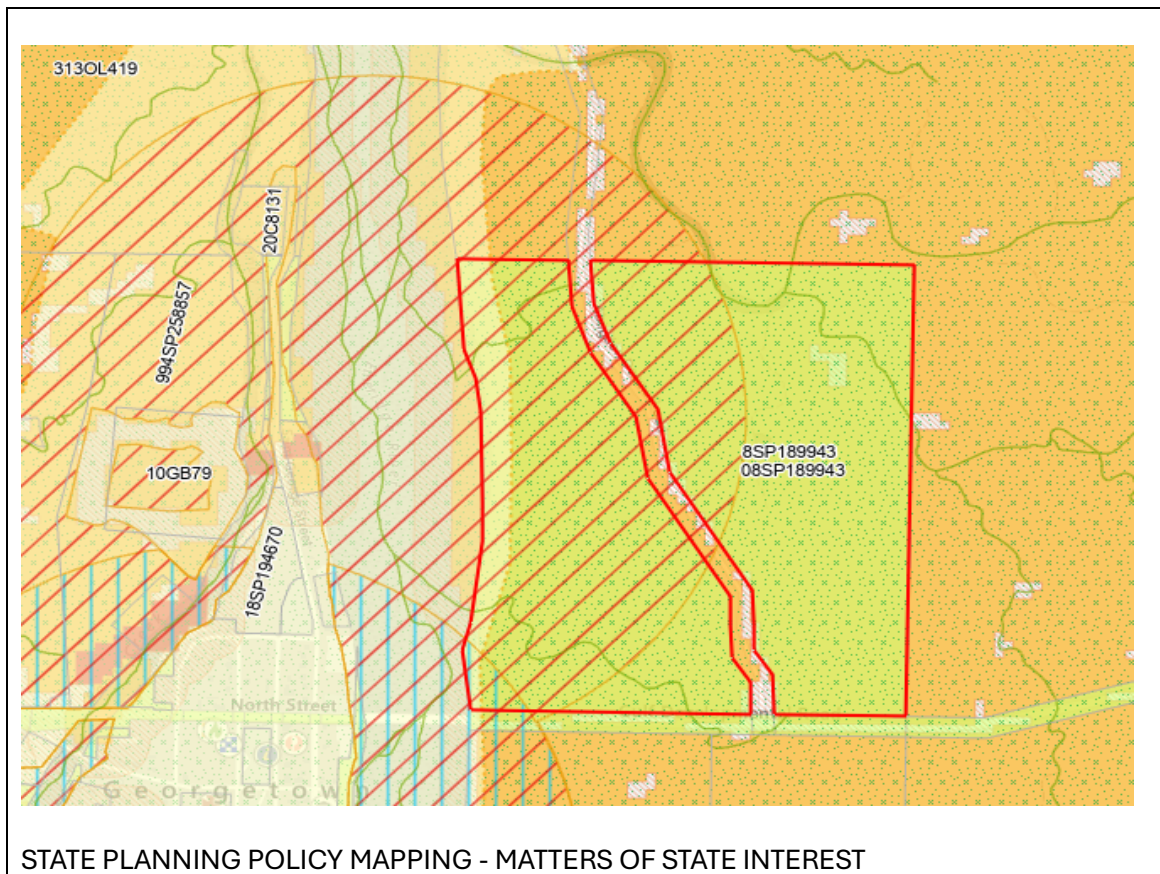
- QLD Waterways for Waterway Barrier Works - Four streams on site, two low risk (green), one moderate risk (orange) and one high risk (red);
- Regulated Vegetation – Category B (entire site);
- Area within 25 metres of a State-Controlled Road (hatched purple along site frontage).

Refer extract from the State Trigger Map, below, relevant to the site.



Under State Planning Policy Mapping the site has the following designations:

- MSES – Wildlife Habitat (endangered and vulnerable) (red hatching);
- MSES – Regulated Vegetation Intersecting a Watercourse (green line);
- MSES Wildlife Habitat (special least concern animal) (aqua hatching);
- Flood Hazard Level 1 (Orange);
- Flood Hazard – Local Government Area (green);
- Stock Route Network (green along roadway);
- Bushfire Prone Area - Medium (Orange along internal roadway).



LAND TENURE

The site is a Reserve for Township Purposes (Township Reserve). Etheridge Shire Council is Trustee of the Reserve.

Township Reserve purposes include:

- Recreation: Parks, gardens, sporting fields and public boat ramps;
- Community facilities: Public halls, community amenities and showgrounds;
- Transportation: Roads, landing places and navigational purposes;
- Environmental protection: special wildlife reserves, heritage protection and open space;
- Strategic Land management: crematoriums, drainage, mortuaries and watering places;
- Travelling stock: reserve for camping, watering and resting stock.

Trustees of Reserves are encouraged to do Land Management Plans (LMP) to develop Reserve land. The LMP can be registered on Title but does not have to be registered. LMP's are used to guide the management and development of Reserve land. A LMP outlines the current state of the Reserve, the desired goals and the actions to be taken to achieve the goals.

Leases over Reserve land can be issued by the Trustee for consistent land uses; meaning uses that are consistent with the Purpose of the Reserve and the zoning of the land under the Planning Scheme. Inconsistent land uses that don't diminish the use of the Reserve for its

dedicated purpose or devalue the Reserve may be considered but must be submitted by the Trustee to the State for approval.

A lease over 10 years in duration is, by definition, a subdivision under the Planning Act and therefore requires Council planning approval.

Community consultation is part of the LMP process.

IN SUMMARY

The site has various opportunities and constraints, as outlined above. Options for the future use of the site, whether as one parcel or several lease areas, will be dictated by the Reserve tenure and Purpose, and the Rural zoning of the land under the Planning Scheme.

Any proposal to rezone the site and include it into the Township Zone would require considerable justification, in terms of the need for more urban land at Georgetown, identifying a range of suitable land uses and possible Precinct designations (if applicable) and the cost of servicing the land, if it was included in the Township zone.

Elizabeth Taylor
Town Planner
28 January 2025.

ATTACHMENT 1:



Attachment 2

4.4 Categories of development and assessment—Material change of use

The following tables identify the categories of development and assessment for development in a zone for making a material change of use.

Table 4.4.1 – Rural zone

Accepted development		
Use term	Assessment category criteria	Assessment benchmarks
Any use listed below as accepted development	If: a) not located on a local heritage place identified in Schedule 3 – Local Heritage Places; or b) located on a local heritage place identified in Schedule 3 – Local Heritage Places and being provided by ESC.	
air service		
animal husbandry		
Caretaker's accommodation	If not located in a flood hazard area identified in Schedule 2 - Mapping or bushfire prone area identified on SPP Mapping – Natural Hazards Risk and Resilience – Bushfire prone area.	
cemetery	If provided by ESC	
cropping	Where located a minimum of 50m away from any waterway	
dwelling house		
environment facility	If provided by a public sector entity	
home-based business	If: a) does not require more than the owner and two (2) employees on-site at any one time; b) does not involve the repair or maintenance of vehicles, other than minor maintenance of vehicles used in conjunction with the home-based business; c) where bed and breakfast, does not exceed three (3) bedrooms; d) where bed and breakfast or a home-based childcare is not located: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in a flood hazard area identified in Schedule 2 – Mapping; • in a bushfire prone area identified on SPP Mapping – Natural Hazards Risk and Resilience – Bushfire prone area. <p><i>Editor's note: depending on the type of home-based business approvals may still be required under other legislation (such as the Food Act 2006).</i></p>	
major electricity infrastructure	If provided by a public sector entity	
outdoor sport and recreation	If provided by ESC	
outstation		

Accepted development (cont.)		
Use term	Assessment category criteria	Assessment benchmarks
park		
permanent plantation	If not located in an 'Important agricultural area' mapped on SPP mapping – Economic Growth - Agriculture.	
renewable energy facility	If provided by ESC Editor's note: wind farms are assessable by the State	
roadside stall	Note - Separate approval is required from the Department of Transport and Main Roads for a Roadside Stall in the State-controlled road reserve under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994.	
substation	If provided by a public sector entity	
telecommunications facility		
utility installation	If: a) provided by a public sector entity; b) not a water treatment plant or waste management facility located in a flood hazard area identified in Schedule 2 – Mapping.	
Accepted development subject to requirements		
Use term	Assessment category criteria	Assessment benchmarks
animal keeping	Where located a minimum of 5km away from the Township zone	Rural zone code General development code
emergency services		
environment facility	If not provided by a public sector entity and is for 100 patrons or less per day.	
major sport, recreation and entertainment facility	If provided by ESC	
motor sport facility	If provided by ESC	
nature-based tourism	If: a) for 16 patrons or less per day where accommodated in a building or self-contained camping or recreational vehicle sites; b) providing a nature-based tourism activity for 100 patrons or less per day; c) no more than four (4) accommodation structures are constructed to facilitate overnight stays.	
short-term accommodation	If for 16 patrons or less	
tourist attraction	If provided by ESC	
tourist park	If: a) for 16 patrons or less per day where accommodated in a building or self-contained camping or recreational vehicle sites; b) no more than four (4) accommodation structures are constructed to facilitate overnight stays.	

Accepted development subject to requirements (cont.)		
Use term	Assessment category criteria	Assessment benchmarks
transport depot		Rural zone code
rural industry		General development code
rural workers' accommodation		
Code assessment		
Use term	Assessment category criteria	Assessment benchmarks
environment facility	Where not accepted development or accepted development subject to requirements	Rural zone code
intensive animal industry	Where located a minimum of: a) 5km away from the Township zone b) 50m away from any waterway	General development code
intensive horticulture		
non-resident workforce accommodation		
winery		
Impact assessment		
Use term		Assessment benchmarks
Any other use not listed in this table. Any use listed in the table and not complying with any of the criteria in the assessment category criteria column. Any other undefined use.		The planning scheme

General Meeting	19 February 2025
Subject	Request Review of Decision – Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas
Classification	Open
Author	Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of a request to review Council's decision at the General Meeting on 20 November 2024 not to approve an application for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas, being boat cruises on Charleston Dam.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1:

That Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours be advised that Council is prepared to re-consider its decision not to approve an application for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas, with the expectation that conditions will be applied to cover the following aspects of the application:

- Fuel spills on dam
- Use of Council facilities
- Use of boat ramp
- Impacts to other public users
- Inability to scale income generation from tour operators based on numbers.

Option 2:

1. That Council decide not to review the decision and uphold its previous action, including providing a statement of reasons as requested by the application pursuant to section 254H of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*; and
2. That Council request the CEO to appoint an external reviewer with the appropriate knowledge, qualifications, skill and experience to review the complaint and bring back a report to Council.

BACKGROUND

On 11 November 2022, Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours wrote to Council with a tourism proposal – Charleston Cruises. Council replied on 15 November 2022 and advised the matter will be discussed at the General Meeting on 16 November 2022.

The CEO's Briefing Report included the following update to the General Meeting on 16 November 2022:

- Finnigan's Rest
 - Late – proposal for development of Charleston Dam
 - I haven't had enough time to understand the potential impact of this proposal
 - I recommend approval in principle subject to possible conditions

At the General Meeting on 16 November 2022, Council resolved to agree in principle to support the development of the tourism proposal submitted by Finnigan's Rest subject to the necessary licences and approvals being in place.

During February and March 2023 emails were exchanged seeking approval and a meeting occurred with the CEO & Mayor at the Goldfields Hotel on 8 March 2023. No response or outcome was forthcoming after the meeting and because the tourism season was commencing, the applicant was unable to instigate contact and no further communication occurred in 2023.

In March 2024, the General Manager (GM), Cobbold Gorge Tours, acting on behalf of Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours, emailed the CEO prior to the 2024 tourist season advising that they had received no further communication in relation to an approval and seeking approval in writing as soon as possible so they can begin to procure a suitable vessel. In April 2024, emails reflect a comment that the CEO was holding off on the matter, pending the new Council election.

On 12 April 2024, the GM emailed the CEO advising that they could source a vessel and seeking advice of approval. In late April 2024, the Mayor was also contacted and advised of the status of the application. The GM acknowledged the Mayor's email on 3 May 2024, however, no further advice was provided by Council.

At the General Meeting on 21 August 2024, the Director of Corporate Services presented a report regarding Use of Council Controlled Areas and Council resolved to amend the Schedule of Fees & Charges to include a fee of \$250.00 for Commercial Activities on Land and adopt the Application Form for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas. This came about from various requests over the previous twelve months, included but not limited to Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours, for commercial use of Council controlled areas and following legal advice from Preston Law.

At the General Meeting 16 October 2024, a report was presented to consider an application by Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas, being use of Charleston Dam for boat cruises. The recommendation was to approve the application subject to execution of a licence for 12 months, monitoring compliance and payment of a fee. Council resolved to consider the matter once advice is received and a comprehensive policy is developed on the Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas.

At the General Meeting on 20 November 2024, report was presented to consider policy adoption and fees for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas. Council adopted the policy and fees, however, set the fees higher than recommended and splitting the fees for low and high impact.

At the General Meeting on 20 November 2024, a report was presented to consider an application by Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours for Commercial Use of Council Controlled Areas, being use of Charleston Dam for boat cruises. The recommendation to approve the application was lost on a vote and no reasons were recorded for the decision to refuse to approve the recommendation.

Council wrote to Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours on 17 December 2024, to advise of the result of the decision. On the 8 January 2025, Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours wrote to Council requesting a review of Council's decision.

REPORT

The letter of complaint from Finnigan's Rest Accommodation and Tours is deemed a complaint under Council's Administrative Action Complaints Policy. A complaint is defined under the policy as '*an expression of dissatisfaction by a person regarding a decision or other action of the Council*'.

Please refer to the attached complaint, which is a confidential item for councillors only.

The framework to handle complaints is outlined in the policy including three (3) stages, as follows:

- Stage 1 involves preliminary procedures review of the complaint in Council service area where administrative action occurred. This is not applicable as there was no service provided. The administrative action in this case was a Council decision at a meeting.
- Stage 2 involves internal review by an officer, or external review by a person who is not a Council officer. The policy also provides for further review by Council, if deemed necessary, which is being recommended in this report prior to further options.
- Stage 3 involves being referred to other review options, such as the Ombudsman, if they are not satisfied with Council's decision.

Therefore, the next steps are presented for Council's consideration:

1. Council to review its decision in light of further information and consider amending it with conditions to address Council's concerns with the application and approve the application, as was recommended in previous reports to Council. Items offered by the applicant to manage the use of the dam and facilities are as follows:
 - (a) Risk management plan to consider compliance with Maritime Safety and Queensland Liquor licensing regulations;
 - (b) Separate departure point, mooring point and bus parking so as not interfere with public use of boat ramp;
 - (c) Appropriate signage.
2. Council decide not to review the decision and uphold its previous action, including providing a statement of reasons as requested by the application pursuant to section 254H of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

- Council may further decide to obtain an external review by a person who is not a Council officer, as outlined in the Complaints Policy. This involves the appointment of a reviewer, with the CEO appointing a suitably qualified person with the appropriate knowledge, qualifications, skill and experience to review the complaint.

If Council decides not to review its decision, and depending on a decision to obtain external review, it is likely the applicant will refer the matter to the Queensland Ombudsman.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence. Corporate Outcome No. 5.2 Council operations support quality service provision and good governance.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Minor impact to budget as a result of engaging external review.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Administrative Actions Complaints Policy

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engagement with applicant	Provide information and follow ethical principles of engagement
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

An assessment of this matter through Council's Enterprise Risk Framework determines this is a Medium Risk decision.

Risks

- Risk to community perception on tourism
- Political reputation of Council

Opportunities

- Review decision and explain reasons
- External review of decision

Report Prepared By:

Mark Watt

Date: 29/1/2025

Report Authorised By:

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date:29/1/2025

ATTACHMENTS

Request for review – Charleston Cruises dated 8 January 2025 (Confidential).

General Meeting 19th February 2025

Subject	Expressions of Interest for Terrestrial Centre Upgrade Tender
Classification	Open
Author	Mark Watt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consideration of the release of a Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Tender for the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade. The Upgrade forms part of the Growing Regions project funded by the Australian Government and is necessary for the re-housing of the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection.

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 228(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council approve the release of a Request for Expressions of Interest for Tender for the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade on the following basis and circumstances:

1. It is in the public interest for Council to invite expressions of interest before inviting written tenders;
2. A Tender EOI process will allow for enhanced specification of the details of the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade prior to entering a contract with the successful bidder which will lead to greater capacity to complete the Upgrade to the Council's satisfaction within the required timeframe and budget limits;
3. Council is required to provide evidence in support of Milestone #1 (due February 7th 2025) of the Growing Regions funding agreement that is has prepared and issued tender processes for the design and construction phase of the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade;
4. A funding payment of \$3,000,000 from the funding provider to Etheridge Shire Council is conditional on the successful completion of the Milestone #1 requirements;

BACKGROUND

The Growing Regions project is funded by the Australian Government, through the Department of Industry, Science and Resources and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, in conjunction with the Queensland Government, through the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.

The Growing Regions project includes four key elements: (1) an extension to the Terrestrial Centre in Georgetown to house the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection exhibition with an immersive interactive display of the collection; (2) construction of a bird sanctuary viewing hub at Cumberland Dam, including a new boardwalk, viewing platforms, bird hides, improved access and consistent signage; (3) installation of walkways, visitor signage and local geographical and heritage information at Copperfield Gorge in Einasleigh; and (4) the creation of 'Our Elders Trail' in the park beside the Terrestrial Centre to showcase First Nations leaders.

The total Growing Regions project budget is \$9,250,000 with \$2,575,000 allocated to the Terrestrial Centre building upgrade. The Terrestrial Centre Upgrade Tender EOI is for the design and construction of an extension and renovation of the existing Terrestrial Centre in order to re-house the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection and enhance the Visitor Centre facilities and operations. The design and fit-out of the revamped Ted Elliot Mineral Collection will be separate and subsequent to this Terrestrial Centre Upgrade Tender EOI, and there is a separate allocation of funds for that Collection fit-out in the Growing Regions project budget.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence. Corporate Outcome No. 5.1: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Expenditure included in available Growing Regions project funding and budgeted pursuant to project plan. Project budget and cashflow forecast provided to demonstrate funding expenditure and cash obligations.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 228(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 permits Council to invite expressions of interest before considering whether to invite written tenders under subsection 7(b) as long as the Council determines that inviting expression of interest would be in the public interest and that Council records its reasons for making the resolution in the minutes of the meeting in which the resolution was made.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Compliance with ESC – S006 Procurement Policy

Project also sits within Council’s Tourism strategy for this project being *Unearthing Etheridge: The Master Plan*, by Griffith University (June, 2022).

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council’s Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Actively seek community input into decision-making processes to foster collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders.	Consultation with residents through community connect to help shape project outcomes.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

An assessment of this matter through Council’s Enterprise Risk Framework determines a Low Risk decision.

Risks

- Delays in commencement of construction due to time spent on selection of preferred supplier

Opportunities

- Enhanced tender specifications to have greater control of the final outcome of the Terrestrial Centre Upgrade
- Exceptional tourism outcome for Shire and Region
- Briefing and project reporting to be provided to Council on a regular basis

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Mark Watt	Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 4/2/25	Date:4/2/25

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

GENERAL MEETING: February 2025

Mayor and Councillors
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12
Georgetown, QLD 4871

Councillors,
I present my report for the period of: January 2025

Current & Future Budgets

1. 2024/2025 Half Yearly Budget Review

Both the ELT & Finance team have worked together to present the Half yearly Budget Review and is included within the February Agenda.

2. 2025/2026 Budget

As Council travel to the different communities throughout the first half of 2025, please take the opportunity to begin future budget discussions. A draft budget schedule has been provided and once confirmed, calendar invitations will be sent. Some changes may occur between now and then, but I will try minimise these.

Audit Update

3. Internal Audit

No further update. Awaiting FY25 Audit Focus which will be finalised at the February Audit Committee Meeting.

4. External Audit

Council have tentatively booked 8th September 2025 for the final 2024/2025 Audit date.

5. Audit Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for 20th February 2025.

Council Projects

6. Council Facility Keyless Entry System

Council has appointed Natashka to be the team project lead. Natashka has finished the development of the website. The contractor was due back on site second week in February to finalise installation however we have been advised on 4th February that the visit will be delayed due to weather. Estimated project completion is March 2025.

7. Independent Living Facility – Housing Infrastructure Grant

Preston Law is currently in the process of drafting tenancy guidelines, agreements and policies. It is a funding requirement that we advertise for the two Affordable Houses before build completion, to ensure they are filled within 3 months. Council will advertise as per Department guidelines through our website, Facebook and inform.

8. Snap Send Solve

No further update since January General Meeting. Council will undergo onboarding and IT & Records will lead this project. Council is aiming for a roll out in early 2025 after our programs are updated to be compatible. Marketing to the public regarding the app to come.

9. Electronic Noticeboards

Council has received three quotations; however, all are over current Capex budget. Will require further direction from Council as to how to proceed. Council is still undergoing investigations into best option for SMS messaging.

10. Commercial Lease Negotiations

Council have begun negotiations with the current tenant and will provide further updates as this situation progresses.

11. Purchase of Lot 4 on CD35 (Lynd Medical Centre)

Council have addressed all obligations including final payment by 2nd October 2024 and are awaiting confirmation from Department of Resources of finalisation. Was lodged for registration of the survey plan with Titles Qld in January. This generally takes approximately one month. Once complete, the Governor will be briefed before Council is issued with the Title Deed. Estimate completion late March.

12. Sustainable Destinations Project

Council has received further documentation regarding an ongoing membership to maintain status with EarthCheck. Management will progress with Council regarding any budgetary considerations required. We have also received information for 2025 Audit & re-certification.

13. Strategy for Culture & the Arts 2025-2030

Final document included within January 2025 Agenda for recommendation to proceed to Community comment for 30 days. Will be presented to March meeting including comments from community (if any).

14. CMS Transition

LGAQ are currently our host for CMS (3 websites – 2 active being Council and Unearth Etheridge). LGAQ advised late last year that their contract with Jadu had expired, and they had finalised the tender process and were moving to Granicus, therefore we are getting a new website provider. I will be liaising to have the transition completed by 30 June.

15. Community Learning Hubs – Mt Surprise & Einasleigh

Council have begun preliminary discussions with suppliers; however further site investigations are required and will be completed throughout early 2025 (current suppliers have a back log with school starting in January).

16. Biosecurity Advisory Committee

Local Law Amendment – No further action taken.

ESC Biosecurity Plan – No further action taken.

Events & Commitments

DATE	ORGANISATION	TOPIC
16/01/2025	ESC	Monthly Community Connect – Mt Surprise
21/01/2025	ESC	Budget Review Meeting
22/01/2025	ESC	January Council Meeting
23&24/01/2025	Personal	Annual leave
28/01/2025	RADF	Mid Year Progress Review
28/01/2025	ESC	Budget Review Meeting
29/01/2025	ESC	Councillor Workshop
30/01/2025	ESC	Budget Review Meeting

Thankyou kindly,
Renee Bester
Director of Corporate Services

Attachments:

1. Draft Budget Program (including Budget Special Meetings)
2. Electronic Signboard Locations

General Meeting 19th February 2025

Subject	Financial Performance as at 31-01-2025
Classification	Open
Author	Laurie Hawker, Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, a monthly finance report is required to be presented to Council stating the progress made in relation to the budget for the period of the financial year as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting held

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council receive and adopt the financial statements for the period ended 31 January 2025.

BACKGROUND

The monthly financial report of Council provides a snapshot of Councils financial performance (Profit and Loss), financial position (Balance Sheet) and cash flow for the reporting period.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate aim No 5 :Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence.
Strategy No 5.3.1 ensure transparency of Council's financial operations and performance and promote awareness within the community of councils financial management and other strategies.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no Budget or resource considerations contained within this report. The Annual budget is provided with the Financial Report for information purposes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires the Chief Executive Officer to present a financial report to the Councils monthly meeting. The financial report is to be as close to the last day of the month of the reporting period as possible.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Advise if called

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Inform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Summary of broad and general risks and opportunities:

- Risk 1- Financial reports are covered by many Laws, regulations and standards and subject to public scrutiny.
- Risk 2- Ensuring our business focus is strategically oriented to adequately and efficiently predict and cover a reasonable range of possible situations and events.
- Risk 3 – To not be restricted unnecessarily by remoteness and access to resources resulting in Council losing its robustness and sustainable edge.

- Opportunity 1- As a responsibility, the Financial Reports are an excellent method to provide information to external parties and stake holders including ratepayers, the public and other interested parties in a simple and easy to understand format.
- Opportunity 2 – Being optimally positioned as a strong, well managed and prominent Far North Queensland mid-sized Council to make best use of any opportunities and possibilities available.

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Laurie Hawker – Finance Manager

Mark Watt

Date:02-02-2025

Date: 02-02-2025

ATTACHMENTS

Financial Reports

Etheridge Shire Council
Index of Attached Reports

January 2024

Index

- 1 Cash position
- 2 Comparative data
- 3 Financial highlights
- 4 Monthly cash flow estimate

Standard Reports

Capital Funding Detail - WIP report
PCS Revenue and Expenditure Budget
PCS Balance Sheet Summary
PCS Statement of Comprehensive Income
PCS Statement of Financial Position
PCS Statement of Cash Flows

Etheridge Shire Council

Financial Highlights

As at 31 January 2025

	Actual		Budget	Percentage
Total revenue	\$ 50,225,328		\$ 56,877,070	88%

Statements are for 7 months of the financial year and generally would represent 58% of the overall budget.

The Recurrent revenue is \$50.225 million which is due to the receipt of \$41 million Grants Revenue including \$33 million Flood Damage grants and \$7.2 million of FAGS grants. 15.6 M was received in December and January.

Total expenditure	-\$ 35,325,393		-\$ 47,938,436	74%
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Statements are for 7 months of the financial year and generally would represent 50% of the overall budget.

Roads flood damage expenditures are the major cash outflow of Council at \$26.4M, closely followed by DTMR expenditures of \$2.3M.

Surplus/Deficit	\$ 14,899,935
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The surplus net operating result is reflecting high revenue cash inflows. Flood damage revenue was \$15.6 M for December and January with \$7.7M of cash outflows for the same period. Consequently the Cash position and the Surplus is slightly skewed in a pos

Monthly Cash Flow Estimate

As at 31 January 2025

	Revenue		Expenditure
Revenue			
Rates	\$ 20,000		
Fees and Charges Billings	\$ 50,000		
Own Roads Program Recoveries	\$ 75,000		
Main Roads Invoiced Recoveries	\$ 64,000		
Grants Expected			
Flood Damage NDRRA	\$ 400,000		
GST	\$ -		
Expenditure			
Payroll		\$ 540,000	
Operating and Contractor Payables		\$ 1,500,000	
PAYG-W; GST		\$ 213,000	
Loan Payments		\$ -	
Capital Acq		\$ -	
Other		\$ -	
	\$ 609,000		\$ 2,253,000
Cash decrease expected during the next period	-\$ 1,644,000		

Etheridge Shire Council

Cash Position

As at 31 January 2025

	Actual
Current Assets	
Bendigo Cash at Bank	\$ 2,823,695
Investments	\$ 11,815,574
22108 Reserve Cash Acc	\$ 279,020
22821 2024 ILP Staff Housing 6Mil	\$ 4,054,444
Cash on Hand	\$ 1,500
	\$ 18,974,233
Cash back Current Liabilities	
Annual Leave Payable	\$ 440,609
Current LSL Payable	\$ 189,165
Accrued Time-in-Lieu	-\$ 8,472
RDO	-\$ 1,621
Restricted cash - grants received not yet spent less grants receivable	\$ 1,075,000
	\$ 1,694,681
Receivables	
Receivables - Debtors	\$ 239,506
Receivables - Rates	\$ 84,064
Receivables - Govt Subsidy	\$ 20,186
	\$ 343,756
Payables	
Accounts Payable	\$ 98,116
Emergency Fire Service Levy	\$ 130,136
Retentions Current	\$ 1,602,673
Current Loan - Forsayth Water	\$ 9,954
ILU Staff Housing	\$ -
	\$ 1,840,878
Working Capital	\$ 15,782,430

Comparative Data

As at 31 January 2025

	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Cash Position	\$ 18,974,233	\$ 16,479,982	\$ 5,653,207
Working Capital	\$ 15,782,430	\$ 16,160,451	\$ 5,163,648
Rate Arrears	\$ 84,064	\$ 210,010	\$ 106,507
Current Debtors	\$ 239,506	\$ 946,956	\$ 343,228
Current Creditors	\$ 98,116	\$ 546,433	\$ 97,941
Current Loan Payable	\$ 9,954	\$ 7,317	\$ 4,491

WIP - January 2025		External Funding Amount	PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%
0400-4150-0000 Land & Land Improvements							
Completed projects							
3255-4500-0000	Land purchase - Purchase of Lynd medical centre land & surveying costs		16,034.42	9,059.12	25,093.54	16,034.42	156%
			16,034.42	9,059.12	25,093.54	16,034.42	156%
0400-4250-0000 Buildings							
3610-4501-0001	FNQRP (24-25) - Coordination Centre (Gtown)	2,000,000.00		4,518.00	4,518.00	200,000.00	2%
3610-4501-0002	FNQRP (24-25) - Housing Project - Independent Living	2,000,000.00				-	0%
3280-4504-0000	Staff Housing Project (SHP)	3,000,000.00	50,655.70	1,945,055.57	1,995,711.27	3,100,000.00	64%
3280-4505-0000	Independent Living Facility (ILF)	3,000,000.00	1,119,497.87	1,911,127.59	3,030,625.46	3,100,000.00	98%
3412-4500-0001	W4Q (24/27) - Multi-Purpose Centre Mt Surprise	1,580,000.00		4,518.00	4,518.00	1,580,000.00	0%
4011-4501-0000	Georgetown Streets - Georgetown Streetscaping & chairs			3,877.20	3,877.20	20,000.00	19%
4013-4500-0000	Einasleigh Streets - Gorge picnic area					50,000.00	0%
6010-4501-0000	Growing Regions - Terrestrial Centre Extension	4,400,000.00				4,653,750.00	0%
6010-4502-0000	Growing Regions - Cumberland Dam	1,880,000.00				2,133,750.00	0%
6010-4503-0000	Growing Regions - Einasleigh Peoples' Museum	1,100,000.00				1,353,750.00	0%
6010-4504-0000	Growing Regions - Our Elders Trail	855,000.00				1,108,750.00	0%
6030-4501-0000	DOE - Hostel - Re-roof, drainage & flooring	50,000.00		86,143.20	86,143.20	113,410.00	76%
Completed projects							
3080-4501-0000	Aged Care Facilities - Advisory		86,798.12		86,798.12	86,798.12	100%
3295-4500-0000	Demountable office - Relocation		3,251.19		3,251.19	3,251.19	100%
3350-4502-0003	Depot - Septic installation		9,136.40		9,136.40	9,136.40	100%
3411-4500-0001	W4Q (21/24) - Georgetown - Streetscaping	400,000.00	366,670.20		366,670.20	400,000.00	92%
3411-4500-0002	W4Q (21/24) - Georgetown Sports Centre	270,000.00	114,393.31	34,846.56	149,239.87	270,000.00	55%
3411-4500-0003	W4Q (21/24) (LRCl3) - Einasleigh - Drainage improvement	250,000.00	213,312.55	9,165.14	222,477.69	250,000.00	89%
3411-4500-0004	W4Q (21/24) - Fors/Gtown - Water Telemetry	100,000.00				-	
3411-4500-0005	W4Q (21/24) - Rural Addressing	100,000.00	39,603.45	78,306.76	117,910.21	100,000.00	118%
3411-4500-0006	W4Q (21/24) - Forsyth Cemetery Fencing	40,000.00				-	
3620-4500-0001	LRCI 3 - Forsyth Transfer Station	500,000.00	569,004.97	26,736.28	595,741.25	575,000.00	104%
3620-4500-0002	LRCI 3 - Gtown Sports center - Parking & drainage	45,602.00	45,452.61		45,452.61	45,602.00	100%
3620-4500-0003	LRCI 3 - Reseals 2	400,000.00	428,053.23		428,053.23	400,000.00	107%
3620-4500-0004	LRCI 3 - Industrial estate	40,000.00	6,024.00	3,451.25	9,475.25	262,888.00	4%
3620-4500-0005	LRCI 3 - Storm water drainage - Forsyth	240,000.00	252,644.99		252,644.99	240,000.00	105%
3620-4500-0006	LRCI 3 - Reseal Baroota Street Einaslei	52,000.00				-	
3620-4500-0007	LRCI 3 - Reseal Terrestrial carpark	40,000.00	9,036.95		9,036.95	40,000.00	23%
5030-4500-0001	Einasleigh - Upgrade Eins Common Stock Yrds		112,975.54		112,975.54	112,975.54	100%
6010-4503-0001	Terrestrial - Ducted airconditioning replacement		34,305.68		34,305.68	34,305.68	100%
			3,460,816.76	4,107,745.55	7,568,562.31	20,243,366.93	37%
0400-4350-0000 Other Structures							
3620-4506-0001	RAUP + FNQRP - Airstrip Einasleigh & Mt Surprise - Fencing	900,000.00		9,484.90	9,484.90	900,000.00	1%
4500-4512-0000	Charleston Dam - Fencing					20,000.00	0%
5151-4500-0000	NWMP Round 2 - Walking path, signage, TO engagement, bush tucker	120,000.00	65,218.14		65,218.14	120,000.00	54%
5151-4501-0000	Griffith Uni Project - Totem structures & boundary signs		448,134.28	18,139.73	466,274.01	448,134.28	104%
5151-4502-0001	All Towns - Electronic Community Notice Boards (SMS)					80,000.00	0%
5151-4504-0000	HVSP - Wash Down Facility	600,000.00	200,368.91	222,090.38	422,459.29	600,000.00	70%
5152-4500-0000	Forsyth - Seating, Signage & Fitness Equipment					25,000.00	0%
5152-4500-0004	Forsyth - Learning Hub					20,000.00	0%
5163-4500-0001	Cemeteries - Improvements			13,413.41	13,413.41	30,000.00	45%
6010-4502-0001	Terrestrial - Security upgrade		36,807.48		36,807.48	36,807.48	100%

WIP - January 2025		External Funding Amount	PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%
Completed projects							
4011-4502-0000	Gtown - Town Fence			27,646.52	27,646.52	-	
4140-4506-0001	Depot - Self bunded Ad blue tank		21,535.41	3,286.09	24,821.50	21,535.41	115%
5151-4507-0000	PTIIP- Mount Surprise Bus Stop	45,000.00	15,994.72	57,911.62	73,906.34	90,000.00	82%
			788,058.94	351,972.65	1,140,031.59	2,391,477.17	48%
0400-4450-00000 Fleet Plant & Equipment							
						-	
Caravan compass GIS 21 ft						100,000.00	0%
Caravan roadster vacationer						100,000.00	0%
Caravan Industrial 2 Man						100,000.00	0%
Caravan Traymark industrial						100,000.00	0%
Caravan Traymark industrial						100,000.00	0%
4150-4500-2630	Fuso Shogun 8 Wheeler - Truck					362,000.00	0%
24-25 replacements (remaining)						895,772.67	0%
Completed projects							
4150-4500-2625	Fuso Shogun 8 Wheeler - Tipper			328,329.48	328,329.48	362,000.00	91%
4150-4500-2635	Fuso Shogun 8 Wheeler - Truck			328,329.48	328,329.48	362,000.00	91%
4150-4500-2650	Fuso FV51 Hooklift			118,608.92	118,608.92	118,608.92	100%
4150-4500-3165	Mower			7,701.48	7,701.48	7,701.48	100%
4150-4500-1385	Prado			76,458.47	76,458.47	76,458.47	100%
4150-4500-1380	Prado			76,458.46	76,458.46	76,458.46	100%
Plant Sales						-	
			-	300,909.08	- 300,909.08	-	
			-	634,977.21	634,977.21	2,761,000.00	23%
0400-4550-0000 Furniture & Other Equipment							
2060-4500-0001	Georgetown Stadium & Pool - Keyless Entry		22,477.55	7,228.80	29,706.35	29,706.35	100%
			22,477.55	7,228.80	29,706.35	29,706.35	100%
0400-4650-0000 Roads Infrastructure							
3610-4502-0001	FNQRP 24-25 - Gilbert River Bridge upgrade		-			500,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0002	LRCI Phase 4 - Recon & Seal Oak Park Road	79,698.00				79,698.00	0%
3620-4505-0003	LRCI Phase 4 - Design and reseal for Hayman	42,100.00				42,100.00	0%
3620-4505-0004	LRCI Phase 4 - Einas Forsayth Rd Ch 9480-18960	68,094.00				68,094.00	0%
3620-4505-0005	LRCI Phase 4 - Cleaning Road Grids	7,900.00		7,572.67	7,572.67	7,900.00	96%
3620-4505-0006	LRCI Phase 4 - Install hip roof MultiPurp Cen	100,000.00		111,057.23	111,057.23	100,000.00	111%
3620-4505-0007	LRCI Phase 4 - Design & Reseal Undara Road	133,447.00		125,917.28	125,917.28	133,447.00	94%
3620-4505-0009	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of Media filter in Water Treatment Plant	50,000.00			-	50,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0011	LRCI Phase 4 - Supply and installation of waste transfer bins.	80,000.00		63,031.12	63,031.12	80,000.00	79%
3620-4505-0012	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of 4 x 1650 mm diameter reinforced concrete pipe-Kidston road @ ch 25.850 km	56,500.00		3,714.80	3,714.80	56,500.00	7%
3620-4505-0013	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of 4 x 1200 mm diameter reinforced concrete pipe @ ch 26.175 km	55,000.00		7,429.60	7,429.60	55,000.00	14%
3620-4505-0014	LRCI Phase 4 - Replacement of 4 x 1050 mm diameter reinforced concrete pipe @ ch 26.398 km	66,000.00			-	66,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0015	LRCI Phase 4 + QRA - Construction of box culvert and concrete floodway at Granite Creek on Gilberton Road	248,000.00		202,198.34	202,198.34	248,000.00	82%
3620-4505-0016	LRCI Phase 4 - Dust pads Einasleigh	50,000.00			-	50,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0017	LRCI Phase 4 - Queenslander Creek upgrade	238,369.00		238,369.01	238,369.01	238,369.00	100%
LRCI Phase 4 - Mt Surprise Remedial Street drainage						198,000.00	0%
3620-4505-0018	Install road name signage zone 5			24,681.38	24,681.38		

WIP - January 2025		External Funding Amount	PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%
4011-4500-0000	R2R - Hayman Street Drainage	90,000.00	3,413.60	903.60	4,317.20	93,413.60	5%
4012-4500-0000	R2R - Resealing work in First street 22/23 survey/design & construction	50,000.00	10,332.92		10,332.92	60,332.92	17%
4012-4501-0000	R2R - Cleaning Road Grids	8,500.00				8,500.00	0%
4014-4500-0000	R2R - Mt Surprise - Drainage - various	252,000.00		234,288.37	234,288.37	246,500.00	95%
4020-4500-0000	LRCI Phase 2 - Sealed Services - Forsyth - Einasleigh Rd Reseal	286,549.00	437,049.58	371,743.00	808,792.58	437,049.58	185%
	Further Signage TBC					40,000.00	0%
4020-4550-0000	Road realignments (Percy vale Road)	40,000.00		5,672.60	5,672.60	-	
4020-4560-0000	R2R - Eins-For Rd Ch 32.57-33.27 R2R		7,890.61		7,890.61	360,351.61	2%
4020-4565-0000	R2R - Forsyth-Eins Rd Ch 34.667 KM - 36.267 KM- Reconstruction	515,000.00		406.83	406.83	460,000.00	0%
4020-4570-0000	R2R 23-24 - Big Joe Bridge Einasleigh R2R - Asphalt work	150,000.00	3,457.78	433.18	3,890.96	3,890.96	100%
4040-4500-0000	TMR BRP - Queenslander Creek upgrade	800,000.00	44,269.63	1,065,398.62	1,109,668.25	1,000,000.00	111%
4060-4500-0010	Replacement of 4 nos - 375 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Dulthara road at chainage 38.152 km	-	4,572.17		4,572.17	4,572.17	100%
4060-4500-0011	Replacement of 4 nos - 375 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Dulthara road at chainage 45.1 km	-	4,512.07		4,512.07	4,512.07	100%
4060-4500-0014	Replacement of 4 nos - 450 mm diameter Pipe culvert in North head road at chainage 21.10 km	-	2,587.32		2,587.32	2,587.32	100%
4060-4500-0015	Replacement of 4 nos - 450 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Vanlee road at chainage 9.46 km	-	1,260.60		1,260.60	1,260.60	100%
4060-4500-0018	R2R - Replacement of 4 nos - 450 mm diameter Pipe culvert in Gilberton road at chainage 51.80 km	16,500.00			-	16,500.00	0%
4060-4500-0019	R2R - Pipe Replace Lake Carlo	28,900.00		16,663.20	16,663.20	28,900.00	58%
4060-4502-0000	Culvert Replacement					66,750.00	0%
4060-4503-0000	Floodways (Granite Creek)	-		8,383.40	8,383.40	-	
4061-4504-0000	Reseals - Georgetown		195,454.65		195,454.65	654,454.65	30%
4140-4505-0001	Depot - Seal top yard (1- Land) (budget in land & improvements)					20,000.00	0%
Completed projects							
4013-4501-0001	Cap Imp - Etheridge River - Remove vegetation			44,864.65	44,864.65	50,000.00	90%
4020-4530-0000	TIDS - Forsyth Einasleigh 23-24 - Survey & design - 27.767 KM - 32.267 KM	874,719.00	3,167,100.37	1,114,603.35	4,281,703.72	4,041,819.37	106%
4020-4535-0000	TIDS + QRA - Forsyth Einasleigh 24-25 - Survey & design - 32.267 k - 37.10 km	1,016,745.32		1,578,607.77	1,578,607.77	1,016,745.32	155%
4020-4540-0000	Forsyth-Eins cap works - sign replacement		170,643.58		170,643.58	170,643.58	100%
4060-4500-0001	R2R - Kidston Road R2R		106,373.80	19,164.08	125,537.88	106,373.80	118%
4060-4500-0002	R2R - Agate Creek Road R2R		191,784.35	12,550.00	204,334.35	191,784.35	107%
4060-4500-0003	R2R - Oakleigh Station Road R2R		3,012.00		3,012.00	3,012.00	100%
4060-4500-0012	R2R - Gilberton Rd at Ch 51.094				-	-	
4060-4500-0013	R2R - Gilberton Rd (Kidston) at Ch 26545				-	-	
4060-4500-0016	R2R - Carpentaria Downs Station Rd		14,890.58		14,890.58	14,890.58	100%
4060-4500-0017	R2R - Conjuboy Road		17,255.25		17,255.25	17,255.25	100%
4060-4501-0000	Floodways		161,298.14		161,298.14	161,298.14	100%
4061-4504-0008	R2R - Re sealing work in Hayman Street	6,424.00		6,449.60	6,424.00	6,424.00	100%
4061-4504-0009	R2R - Re sealing work in Colin Street	8,887.00		8,921.03	8,921.03	10,000.00	89%
4061-4504-0010	R2R - Re sealing work in Cumberland Street	19,261.00		19,337.94	19,337.94	19,338.00	100%
4061-4504-0011	R2R - Re sealing work in Crampton Road	38,377.00		45,056.02	45,056.02	38,377.00	117%
4063-4500-0001	Reseals - Mt Surprise - Cox Lane		12,802.19		12,802.19	12,802.19	100%
4063-4500-0002	Reseals - Mt Surprise - Garnet Street				-	-	
4063-4500-0003	R2R - Reseals - Mt Surprise - Undara Road	8,063.00		8,063.00	8,063.00	8,063.00	100%
4065-4500-0000	Reseals - Oak Park		27,184.96		27,184.96	27,184.96	100%

WIP - January 2025		External Funding Amount	PREVIOUS YEARS (Opening balance)	YEAR TO DATE (ACTUALS)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (ACTUALS)	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%
			4,587,146.15	5,345,481.67	9,932,627.82	11,378,695.02	87%
0400-4750-0000 Water Infrastructure							
4320-4500-0002	Georgetown Water - Replacement of Meters		6,769.74	1,294.21	8,063.95	6,769.74	119%
4320-4500-0004	Georgetown Water - New Water Connections		7,996.66	1,195.77	9,192.43	7,996.66	115%
4320-4501-0006	Georgetown Water - new main to Etheridge River				-	35,000.00	0%
4340-4500-0002	Forsyth Water - Replacement of meters		1,621.28		1,621.28	1,621.28	100%
4340-4500-0004	Forsyth Water - New Water Connection		2,311.05	1,391.04	3,702.09	2,311.05	160%
4500-4506-0001	Charleston Dam Rec Area - Survey Design Playground		85,373.05		85,373.05	363,000.00	24%
4500-4506-0002	Charleston Dam Rec Area - Fencing		150,357.45	3,012.00	153,369.45	150,357.45	102%
Completed projects							
4320-4501-0008	Georgetown Water - Landfill Standpipe		15,631.88		15,631.88	15,631.88	100%
4500-4508-0000	Charleston Dam - Water supply pipelines		13,056.61		13,056.61	13,056.61	100%
			283,117.72	6,893.02	290,010.74	595,744.67	49%
			9,157,651.54	10,463,358.02	19,621,009.56	37,416,024.56	52%

Budget summary		
Carried over projects		9,157,651.54
Current year		17,225,244.95
Reconciliation to project life budget		11,033,128.07
		37,416,024.56
Variance		-

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 59% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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		REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)				
		31 Jan 2025	Budget	31 Jan 2025	Budget	31 Jan 2025	Budget			
1000-0001	Governance									
1000-0002	Elected Members	0.00	0%	0	279,549.15	61%	458,000	(279,549.15)	61%	(458,000)
1010-0002	Governance	0.00	0%	0	483,654.90	65%	740,000	(483,654.90)	65%	(740,000)
1020-0002	Economic Development	300,142.00	14%	2,141,000	116,941.85	47%	250,000	183,200.15	10%	1,891,000
1040-0002	Regulatory Services									
1040-0003	Town Planning	2,355.00	24%	10,000	48,730.74	139%	35,000	(46,375.74)	186%	(25,000)
1041-0003	Building Control	450.00	23%	2,000	0.00	0%	200	450.00	25%	1,800
1042-0003	Environmental Health	1,881.00	21%	9,000	13,398.34	45%	30,000	(11,517.34)	55%	(21,000)
1043-0003	Local Laws	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	5,000	0.00	0%	(5,000)
1040-0002	Regulatory Services	4,686.00	22%	21,000	62,129.08	89%	70,200	(57,443.08)	117%	(49,200)
1050-0002	Disaster Management	1,335,723.52	>999%	45,000	108,956.61	82%	133,000	1,226,766.91	<999%	(88,000)
1060-0002	WH&S	0.00	0%	0	197,802.71	71%	280,000	(197,802.71)	71%	(280,000)
1000-0001	Governance	1,640,551.52	74%	2,207,000	1,249,034.30	65%	1,931,200	391,517.22	142%	275,800
2000-0001	Corporate									
2000-0002	General Rates	2,522,077.31	95%	2,655,000	399,619.56	114%	350,950	2,122,457.75	92%	2,304,050
2010-0002	General Administration	5,874,642.98	87%	6,764,773	1,676,696.11	63%	2,666,500	4,197,946.87	102%	4,098,273
2020-0002	Employee Services	1,520,321.14	69%	2,200,000	1,273,931.65	59%	2,143,000	246,389.49	432%	57,000
2030-0002	ICT	0.00	0%	0	196,405.12	54%	365,000	(196,405.12)	54%	(365,000)
2040-0002	Broadcasting Services	0.00	0%	0	3,064.06	46%	6,600	(3,064.06)	46%	(6,600)
2000-0001	Corporate	9,917,041.43	85%	11,619,773	3,549,716.50	64%	5,532,050	6,367,324.93	105%	6,087,723
3000-0001	Community									
3000-0002	Commercial Rental Properties									
3000-0003	Staff housing	77,708.00	56%	140,000	206,555.31	40%	517,000	(128,847.31)	34%	(377,000)
3002-0003	Savannah House	2,275.00	57%	4,000	16,020.42	55%	29,000	(13,745.42)	55%	(25,000)
3003-0003	Demountable Office (Mary St)	29,000.00	60%	48,000	450.75	8%	6,000	28,549.25	68%	42,000
3004-0003	Independent Living	0.00	0%	1,200,000	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	1,200,000
3000-0002	Commercial Rental Properties	108,983.00	8%	1,392,000	223,026.48	40%	552,000	(114,043.48)	-14%	840,000
3010-0002	Libraries	0.00	0%	6,000	15,641.25	60%	26,200	(15,641.25)	77%	(20,200)
3020-0002	Community Development	26,250.00	109%	24,000	126,598.85	47%	268,000	(100,348.85)	41%	(244,000)
3030-0002	Sport & Recreation	50.00	1%	5,000	261,866.78	57%	455,500	(261,816.78)	58%	(450,500)
3040-0002	Halls	1,145.45	23%	5,000	192,409.23	59%	326,000	(191,263.78)	60%	(321,000)
3050-0002	Medical Centres	0.00	0%	0	14,749.44	30%	49,200	(14,749.44)	30%	(49,200)
3060-0002	Aerodromes	135,000.00	30%	450,000	174,492.11	55%	314,500	(39,492.11)	-29%	135,500
3070-0002	Terrestrial Centre	103,384.82	9%	1,137,000	289,285.14	46%	632,000	(185,900.32)	-37%	505,000

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 59% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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		REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)				
		31 Jan 2025	Budget	31 Jan 2025	Budget	31 Jan 2025	Budget			
3080-0002	Little Gems Child Care Centre	65,817.24	23%	286,000	295,026.07	60%	494,500	(229,208.83)	110%	(208,500)
3090-0002	Georgetown Student Hostel	97,749.63	41%	240,000	162,505.11	45%	361,450	(64,755.48)	53%	(121,450)
3100-0002	Cemeteries	45.45	2%	2,000	14,358.07	72%	20,000	(14,312.62)	80%	(18,000)
3000-0001	Community	538,425.59	15%	3,547,000	1,769,958.53	51%	3,499,350	(1,231,532.94)	<999%	47,650
4000-0001	Infrastructure Services									
4000-0002	Parks Gardens Reserves and Grounds	2,318.30	116%	2,000	381,699.01	61%	625,000	(379,380.71)	61%	(623,000)
4010-0002	Rural Lands Protection	23,852.19	63%	38,000	166,795.77	39%	425,073	(142,943.58)	37%	(387,073)
4020-0002	Street Lighting	0.00	0%	0	5,877.04	34%	17,250	(5,877.04)	34%	(17,250)
4030-0002	Roads									
4030-0003	Shire Roads	3,056,013.61	79%	3,857,650	2,149,700.18	50%	4,336,500	906,313.43	-189%	(478,850)
4031-0003	Town Streets	22,500.00	11%	198,000	91,528.76	14%	654,542	(69,028.76)	15%	(456,542)
4032-0003	Flood Damage	33,203,516.21	103%	32,252,193	26,378,480.33	80%	32,879,049	6,825,035.88	<999%	(626,857)
4030-0002	Roads	36,282,029.82	100%	36,307,843	28,619,709.27	76%	37,870,091	7,662,320.55	-490%	(1,562,249)
4040-0002	Depot and Stores	61,585.71	49%	125,000	524,728.08	48%	1,084,800	(463,142.37)	48%	(959,800)
4050-0002	Recoverable Works									
4050-0003	Private Works	71,902.80	33%	220,000	49,787.01	28%	180,000	22,115.79	55%	40,000
4051-0003	DTMR	2,950,773.13	62%	4,753,901	2,298,290.33	189%	1,218,901	652,482.80	18%	3,535,000
4050-0002	Recoverable Works	3,022,675.93	61%	4,973,901	2,348,077.34	168%	1,398,901	674,598.59	19%	3,575,000
4060-0002	Plant Operations	4,204,894.05	59%	7,120,000	1,945,288.35	53%	3,664,000	2,259,605.70	65%	3,456,000
4000-0001	Infrastructure Services	43,597,356.00	90%	48,566,744	33,992,174.86	75%	45,085,115	9,605,181.14	276%	3,481,628
5000-0001	Utilities									
5000-0002	Water Supply									
5000-0003	Georgetown WTP & Reticulation	349,636.05	88%	395,100	466,959.59	55%	848,900	(117,323.54)	26%	(453,800)
5001-0003	Forsayth WTP & Reticulation	97,501.14	88%	111,200	217,521.73	80%	271,500	(120,020.59)	75%	(160,300)
5002-0003	Charleston Dam	0.00	0%	0	15,993.58	13%	120,000	(15,993.58)	13%	(120,000)
5000-0002	Water Supply	447,137.19	88%	506,300	700,474.90	56%	1,240,400	(253,337.71)	35%	(734,100)
5010-0002	Waste Management									
5010-0003	Georgetown	153,909.13	102%	150,400	146,151.25	48%	305,800	7,757.88	-5%	(155,400)
5011-0003	Forsayth	15,554.33	104%	14,950	10,473.65	14%	75,000	5,080.68	-8%	(60,050)
5012-0003	Einasleigh	11,358.51	108%	10,500	10,007.48	53%	18,885	1,351.03	-16%	(8,385)
5013-0003	Mt Surprise	12,196.95	102%	12,000	5,605.02	68%	8,233	6,591.93	175%	3,767
5010-0002	Waste Management	193,018.92	103%	187,850	172,237.40	42%	407,918	20,781.52	-9%	(220,068)

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 59% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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	REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)	
	31 Jan 2025	Budget	31 Jan 2025	Budget	31 Jan 2025	Budget
5000-0001 Utilities	640,156.11	92% 694,150	872,712.30	53% 1,648,318	(232,556.19)	24% (954,168)
TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE	56,333,530.65	85% 66,634,667	41,433,596.49	72% 57,696,033	14,899,934.16	167% 8,938,633

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 59% of year elapsed. To Details. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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	OPENING BALANCE	YEAR TO DATE 31 Jan 2025		BUDGET	CURRENT BALANCE 31 Jan 2025		BUDGET
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>							
=====							
0300-0001	ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
0300-0002	CASH AND RECEIVABLES						
0300-3000	Bendigo Cash at Bank	404,731.88	2,418,962.77	733%	329,843	2,823,694.65	>999% 200,000
0300-3005	Investments	4,926,978.73	6,888,595.27	-86%	(7,970,363)	11,815,574.00	117% 10,081,485
0300-3006	22108 Ether Reserve CF	276,656.08	2,363.93	1%	270,000	279,020.01	103% 270,000
0300-3007	22821-2024 ILP and Staff Housing	5,008,847.75	(954,403.88)	---	0	4,054,443.87	---
0300-3020	Cash on Hand	1,500.00	0.00	0%	0	1,500.00	100% 1,500
0300-3030	General Fund Bank Error Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3100	Receivables - Rates	170,021.19	(85,957.04)	-105%	81,824	84,064.15	49% 170,540
0300-3110	Rates Receivable Adjustment	53,229.56	(53,229.56)	---	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3120	EOY Receipts-Rates	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3130	Allowance for Impairment - Rates	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3150	Receivables - Govt Subsidy	188.02	19,998.36	---	0	20,186.38	>999% 870
0300-3200	Receivables - Debtors	1,199,067.33	(959,561.50)	-144%	667,543	239,505.83	34% 700,000
0300-3210	Grants Receivable - Roads	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3230	Receivables - Animals	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3240	Bond Receivable	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3250	Debtors Receivable Adjustment	547,667.00	(547,667.00)	---	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3260	EOY Receipts-Debtors	(41,643.60)	41,643.60	---	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3270	Prepaid Expenses	119,508.68	(119,508.68)	---	0	0.00	0% 70,206
0300-3280	Allowance for Impairment - Debtors	(114,875.98)	114,875.98	---	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3290	Debtors Accrual	2,332,503.35	(2,374,347.17)	151%	(1,573,325)	(41,843.82)	-4% 954,918
0300-3300	Stores Inventories	475,095.41	(852.39)	-1%	87,863	474,243.02	86% 550,000
0300-3310	House & Land - Held for Resale GST	0.00	0.00	0%	(53,093)	0.00	0% 0
0300-3320	House & Land -Held for Resale Input	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3330	Store Inventory Accruals	0.00	102.70	---	0	102.70	-17% (619)
0300-3335	Accrued Plant	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% (108,423)
0300-3340	Store Inventory Impairment Provision	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-3400	Contract Receivable	3,520,330.92	0.00	0%	(4,251,181)	3,520,330.92	>999% 20,116
0390-3000	Heritage Mineral Collection	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0% 0
0300-0002	CASH AND RECEIVABLES TOTAL	18,879,806.32	4,391,015.39	-35%	(12,410,889)	23,270,821.71	180% 12,910,593
0300-0001	ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY TOTAL	18,879,806.32	4,391,015.39	-35%	(12,410,889)	23,270,821.71	180% 12,910,593

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 59% of year elapsed. To Details. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

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	OPENING BALANCE	YEAR TO DATE		CURRENT BALANCE	
		31 Jan 2025	BUDGET	31 Jan 2025	BUDGET
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	18,879,806.32	4,391,015.39	-35% (12,410,889)	23,270,821.71	180% 12,910,593
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
=====					
0300-0001 ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
0400-0002 NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
0400-4000 Land & Buildings - Held for Resale	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0400-4050 WIP - Land & Bldgs - Held for Resale	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0400-4100 Land & Land Improvements	2,104,888.62	0.00	0%	2,104,888.62	100%
0400-4150 WIP - Land & Land Improvements	16,034.42	9,059.12	0%	25,093.54	85%
0400-4200 Buildings	34,155,541.64	0.00	0%	34,155,541.64	87%
0400-4210 Accum. Dep. - Buildings	(12,277,332.23)	(590,138.30)	64%	(12,867,470.53)	105%
0400-4250 WIP - Buildings	3,460,816.77	4,107,745.55	<999%	7,568,562.32	107%
0400-4255 Growing Regions Project - Tourism SW	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0400-4300 Other Structures	18,131,875.21	0.00	0%	18,131,875.21	100%
0400-4310 Accum. Dep. - Other Structures	(5,726,207.07)	(290,571.56)	-19%	(6,016,778.63)	105%
0400-4350 WIP - Other Structures	788,058.94	351,972.68	34%	1,140,031.62	102%
0400-4400 Fleet Plant & Equipment	14,033,606.72	0.00	0%	14,033,606.72	100%
0400-4410 Accum. Dep - Fleet Plant & Equipment	(5,435,756.64)	(609,988.31)	-198%	(6,045,744.95)	111%
0400-4450 WIP - Fleet Plant & Equipment	0.00	634,977.21	-21%	634,977.21	127%
0400-4500 Furniture & Other Equipment	2,035,514.29	0.00	0%	2,035,514.29	100%
0400-4510 Accum. Dep - Furniture & Other Equip	(574,371.21)	(36,849.92)	58%	(611,221.13)	106%
0400-4550 WIP - Furniture & Other Equipment	22,477.55	7,228.80	---	29,706.35	66%
0400-4600 Roads Infrastructure	239,453,196.57	0.00	0%	239,453,196.57	100%
0400-4605 Roads Manual adj	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0400-4610 Accum. Dep. - Roads Infrastructure	(40,830,044.76)	(1,677,363.31)	---	(42,507,408.07)	101%
0400-4650 WIP - Roads Infrastructure	4,587,146.14	5,345,481.67	101%	9,932,627.81	118%
0400-4700 Water Infrastructure	36,518,261.45	0.00	0%	36,518,261.45	103%
0400-4710 Accum. Dep. - Water Infrastructure	(5,694,874.02)	(254,006.09)	91%	(5,948,880.11)	104%
0400-4750 WIP - Water Infrastructure	283,117.72	6,893.02	-31%	290,010.74	97%
0400-4800 Heritage Mineral Collection	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0480-4000 Land Improvements	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0480-4100 Land improvements - Accum Depn	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0400-0002 NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	285,051,950.11	7,004,440.56	154%	292,056,390.67	99%
0300-0001 ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY TOTAL	285,051,950.11	7,004,440.56	154%	292,056,390.67	99%

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 59% of year elapsed. To Details. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

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	OPENING BALANCE	YEAR TO DATE 31 Jan 2025		BUDGET	CURRENT BALANCE 31 Jan 2025		BUDGET
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	285,051,950.11	7,004,440.56	154%	4,533,791	292,056,390.67	99%	296,007,750
TOTAL ASSETS	303,931,756.43	11,395,455.95	-145%	(7,877,098)	315,327,212.38	102%	308,918,343
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
=====							
0300-0001 ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY							
0500-0002 CURRENT PAYABLES AND LIABILITIES							
0500-5000 Contract Liability	1,139,682.72	0.00	0%	(7,313,079)	1,139,682.72	-229%	(497,565)
0500-5100 Rates Refund Suspense	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	(8)
0500-5101 Rates receivable In Advance	53,229.56	(53,229.56)	---	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5110 Dishonoured Cheques Refund Suspense	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5120 Debtors Refund Suspense	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5200 Accounts Payable	0.00	98,115.99	-26%	(373,614)	98,115.99	25%	391,522
0500-5210 Accrued Expenses	5,091,933.46	(5,091,858.79)	-382%	1,333,716	74.67	0%	2,476,177
0500-5220 Emergency Fire Service Levy	31,857.99	98,277.69	361%	27,195	130,135.68	210%	62,000
0500-5230 Accrued Time-in-Lieu	63,830.68	(72,302.25)	-267%	27,033	(8,471.57)	-25%	34,000
0500-5235 Payroll Accrual	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	89,124
0500-5240 RDO	16,051.10	(17,672.46)	-614%	2,878	(1,621.36)	-54%	3,000
0500-5250 Payroll Suspense	0.00	(30,682.99)	---	0	(30,682.99)	---	0
0500-5260 Withholding Tax Suspense	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5270 Advance Pay Suspense	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5280 General Suspense	0.00	21,160.92	-683%	(3,100)	21,160.92	---	0
0500-5290 GST Suspense	0.00	213,346.26	---	0	213,346.26	---	0
0500-5295 Input tax GST Account	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5299 Retentions Current	0.00	1,602,672.67	---	0	1,602,672.67	---	0
0500-5300 Annual Leave Payable	504,405.27	(63,796.11)	12%	(530,045)	440,609.16	---	0
0500-5310 Current LSL Payable	294,856.73	(105,691.74)	-153%	69,018	189,164.99	55%	347,000
0500-5400 Current Loan - Workshop	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5410 Current Loan - Forsayth Water	13,560.90	(3,607.15)	37%	(9,810)	9,953.75	269%	3,700
0500-5411 Current ILU Staff Housing 6M	189,589.20	(189,589.20)	---	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-5420 Current Loan - Plant	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0500-0002 CURRENT PAYABLES AND LIABILITIES TOTAL	7,398,997.61	(3,594,856.72)	53%	(6,769,808)	3,804,140.89	131%	2,908,950
0300-0001 ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY TOTAL	7,398,997.61	(3,594,856.72)	53%	(6,769,808)	3,804,140.89	131%	2,908,950

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 59% of year elapsed. To Details. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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	OPENING BALANCE	YEAR TO DATE 31 Jan 2025		BUDGET	CURRENT BALANCE 31 Jan 2025		BUDGET
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	7,398,997.61	(3,594,856.72)	53%	(6,769,808)	3,804,140.89	131%	2,908,950
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES							
=====							
0300-0001 ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY							
0600-0002 LOANS & LIABILITIES NON-CURRENT							
0600-6300 Non-Current LSL Provision	137,347.65	40,153.58	67%	59,704	177,501.23	102%	174,000
0600-6310 Non-Current Annual Leave Provision	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0600-6401 622265 2024 ILP and Staff House loan	5,780,427.90	50,224.93	---	0	5,830,652.83	---	0
0600-6410 Non-Current Loans	3,572.88	0.00	0%	0	3,572.88	0%	5,981,751
0600-6500 Non-Current Landfill - Georgetown	1,278,101.64	0.00	0%	428,047	1,278,101.64	73%	1,747,000
0600-6505 Non Current Landfill Old Georgetown	73,522.00	0.00	0%	0	73,522.00	---	0
0600-6506 Non Current Landfill Sanitary pits	63,665.00	0.00	0%	0	63,665.00	---	0
0600-6510 Non-Current Landfill - Forsayth	232,082.72	0.00	0%	(238,501)	232,082.72	---	0
0600-6520 Non-Current Landfill - Einasleigh	179,580.99	0.00	0%	0	179,580.99	138%	130,315
0600-6530 Non-Current Landfill - Mt Surprise	238,675.64	0.00	0%	0	238,675.64	79%	300,458
0600-0002 LOANS & LIABILITIES NON-CURRENT TOTAL	7,986,976.42	90,378.51	36%	249,250	8,077,354.93	97%	8,333,524
0300-0001 ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY TOTAL	7,986,976.42	90,378.51	36%	249,250	8,077,354.93	97%	8,333,524
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	7,986,976.42	90,378.51	36%	249,250	8,077,354.93	97%	8,333,524
TOTAL LIABILITIES	15,385,974.03	(3,504,478.21)	54%	(6,520,558)	11,881,495.82	106%	11,242,474
NETT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	288,545,782.40	14,899,934.16	<999%	(1,356,540)	303,445,716.56	102%	297,675,869

		OPENING	----- YEAR TO DATE -----		----- CURRENT BALANCE -----			
		BALANCE	31 Jan 2025	BUDGET	31 Jan 2025	BUDGET		
COMMUNITY EQUITY								
=====								
0300-0001	ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY							
0700-0002	SHIRE CAPITAL & RESERVES							
0700-7000	Shire Capital Account	39,500,666.35	0.00	0%	(666)	39,500,666.35	100%	39,500,000
0700-7100	Current Surplus	0.00	14,899,934.16	167%	8,938,633	14,899,934.16	167%	8,938,633
0700-7200	Accumulated Surplus	42,874,488.91	(0.00)	0%	2,811,596	42,874,488.91	84%	50,969,805
0700-7300	Asset Reval Reserve - Roads	158,907,707.47	0.00	0%	(8,654,133)	158,907,707.47	100%	158,473,431
0700-7310	Asset Reval Reserve - Land	2,113,661.06	0.00	0%	852,060	2,113,661.06	100%	2,113,000
0700-7320	Asset Reval Reserve - Buildings	17,460,264.12	0.00	0%	3,444,625	17,460,264.12	90%	19,460,000
0700-7330	Asset Reval Reserve - Water	7,420,590.68	0.00	0%	2,794,465	7,420,590.68	100%	7,420,000
0700-7340	Asset Reval Reserve -Other Structure	10,318,749.35	0.00	0%	2,587,030	10,318,749.35	100%	10,318,000
0700-7350	Asset Reval Reserve-Plant	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7360	Asset Reval Reserve-TERMINERAL	488,854.46	0.00	0%	(854)	488,854.46	100%	488,000
0700-7400	Reserve Recurrent Expenditure Grants	53,502.00	0.00	0%	(53,502)	53,502.00	---	0
0700-7410	Capital Grants Reserve	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7420	Plant Replacement Reserve	872,351.00	0.00	0%	(872,351)	872,351.00	---	0
0700-7430	Future Capital Works Reserve	7,448,875.00	0.00	0%	(7,448,875)	7,448,875.00	---	0
0700-7440	Capital Works Reserves	1,086,072.00	0.00	0%	(1,086,072)	1,086,072.00	---	0
0700-7500	Appn: General Revenue for Capital	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7510	Appn: Profit/Loss on Sale NC Assets	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7520	Appn: Profit/Loss on Land Sales	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7530	Appn: Unfunded Depreciation	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7540	Appn: Constrained Works Reserve	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7550	Appn: Reserve held Future Recur Exp	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7560	Appn: Capital Grants	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7570	Appn: Plant Replacement Reserve	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7580	Appn: Future Capital Works Reserve	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-7590	Appn: Capital Works Reserves	0.00	0.00	0%	0	0.00	0%	0
0700-0002	SHIRE CAPITAL & RESERVES TOTAL	288,545,782.40	14,899,934.16	450%	3,311,956	303,445,716.56	102%	297,680,869
0300-0001	ASSETS LIABILITIES & EQUITY TOTAL	288,545,782.40	14,899,934.16	450%	3,311,956	303,445,716.56	102%	297,680,869
	TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY	288,545,782.40	14,899,934.16	450%	3,311,956	303,445,716.56	102%	297,680,869

Etheridge Shire Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>Orig. 24/25</u>
Income			
Revenue			
Recurrent revenue			
Rates, levies and charges	3	2,746,148	2,892,853
Fees and charges	3	157,576	315,600
Interest Income	3 7	231,945	668,100
Other income	3	41,908	63,150
Rental Income	3 8	108,983	192,000
Sales revenue	3	3,070,547	5,053,901
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	3 4	41,214,562	40,555,966
Total recurrent revenue		47,571,668	49,741,570
Capital revenue			
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4	2,653,659	7,130,500
Total capital revenue		2,653,659	7,130,500
Expenses			
Recurrent expenses			
Employee benefits		(3,996,981)	(6,336,250)
Materials and services		(27,791,796)	(35,285,463)
Finance Interest Costs		(77,699)	(240,000)
Depreciation and amortisation: PP&E	9	(3,458,917)	(6,076,723)
Total recurrent expenses	6 7	(35,325,393)	(47,938,436)
Net Operating Result		14,899,934	8,933,634
Other Expenses			
Total other expenses		0	0
Net Capital result		14,899,934	8,933,634
Other comprehensive income			
Increase / (decrease) in asset revaluation surplus		0	(8,437,846)
Total other comprehensive income for the year		0	(8,437,846)
WIP Cap Exp			
Total WIP (Tsf to Fin Postn)		0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year		14,899,934	495,788

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Etheridge Shire Council

Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>Orig. 24/25</u>
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	18,974,233	8,741,500
Receivables	12	301,913	1,826,328
Contract Assets		3,520,331	4,461,587
Other Current Assets		0	70,206
Inventories	13	474,346	440,958
		23,270,822	15,540,579
Total current assets	2	23,270,822	15,540,579
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4 7	292,056,391	305,684,329
Total non-current assets	2	292,056,391	305,684,329
TOTAL ASSETS		315,327,212	321,224,908
Current Liabilities			
Payables	17	2,024,730	3,056,532
Contract Liabilities		1,139,683	11,809,000
Borrowings	21	9,954	3,700
Provisions	18	629,774	347,000
Total current liabilities		3,804,141	15,216,232
Non-current Liabilities			
Borrowings	21	5,834,226	5,981,751
Provisions	18	2,243,129	2,351,773
Total non-current liabilities		8,077,355	8,333,524
TOTAL LIABILITIES		11,881,496	23,549,756
NET COMMUNITY ASSETS		303,445,717	297,675,152
Community Equity			
Asset revaluation reserve	25	196,709,827	198,272,192
Shire Capital		39,500,666	39,500,000
Retained surplus/(deficiency)		57,774,423	59,903,438
Reserves		9,460,800	0
TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY		303,445,717	297,675,630

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Etheridge Shire Council

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended Jun 30 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>Amend. 24/25</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Receipts from customers		15,633,542	22,849,873
Payments to suppliers and employees		(42,245,672)	(57,377,461)
Interest received		233,147	669,100
Rental income		108,983	192,000
Non-capital grants and contributions		41,086,636	40,212,966
Borrowing costs		(77,699)	(240,000)
Net cash - operating activities	23	14,738,936	6,306,477
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations		2,620,238	7,085,500
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(9,475,757)	(8,975,341)
Net cash - from investing activities		(6,855,519)	(1,889,841)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowings		104,121	(9,810)
Net cash flow - financing activities		104,121	(9,810)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		7,987,538	4,406,826
Add cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year		10,618,714	17,923,505
Cash and cash equivalents - closing	3	18,974,233	10,552,985

The above Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

General Meeting	19 February 2025
Subject	Half Yearly (2 nd Qtr) Budget Review
Classification	Open
Author	Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council must have an annual budget as part of its suite of financial planning documents. Councils budget was adopted on 28th July 2024 and compiled with the requirements of section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

A review of Council’s budget has been completed as of 31 December 2024. It is proposed that Council amend it’s budget to address any organisation change that has occurred since its adoption. Section 170(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* allows Council to amend its budget any time before the end of the financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in accordance with section 170(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, amend its 2024/2025 budget as recommended.

BACKGROUND

A desktop review of Council’s budget has been completed by the CEO, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Engineering, Finance Manager and Senior Finance Officer and further details regarding the Operational and Capital Revenue Expenditure are explained below.

Operational Budget Review

Council adopted an operational budget with a surplus of \$8,933,156.00 in July 2024. At the November General Meeting, a first quarterly budget review was presented to adopt changes with regard to grant revenue received (or expected to be) and estimated expenditure trends. The total surplus change of this budget review was \$701,950.

A depreciation adjustment was made of \$275,423 which was mainly due to assets being sold, revalued or at the end of their depreciable life. The calculation done prior to 30 June 2024 is an estimate only, and Council is only able to run true figures once assets are confirmed by audit (done in October/November). Although the amount of depreciation decreased from \$6.1m to \$5.9m, it is important to remember that this is a non-cash adjustment which affected the projected surplus in a positive way.

The second quarterly review includes adjustments for grant revenue to be received (or already received) and additional expenditure that has occurred. The result of the review is a deficiency of \$440,845. Therefore, total adjustments made to the Operational Budget for the 6 months ended 31st December 2025 is an additional surplus of \$536,528 resulting in a predicted EOFY balance of \$9,469,684. This is an estimate based on current trends and will be reevaluated in April (after 31st March 2025) for a third quarterly review and these figures will also be used as a basis for the FY2025/2026 Budget. Please refer to Attachment 1 for a break down of these items.

	Revenue	Expenditure	Budget Change	Surplus (Deficiency)
Original FY24/25 Budget	\$ 66,629,667.00	\$ 57,696,511.00		\$ 8,933,156.00
1st Qtr Review Amendments	\$ 1,045,000.00	\$ 343,050.00	\$ 701,950.00	\$ 9,635,106.00
1st Quarter Budget	\$ 67,674,667.00	\$ 58,039,561.00		\$ 9,635,106.00
Depreciation Adjustment		-\$ 275,423.00	\$ 275,423.00	\$ 9,910,529.00
2nd Qtr Review Amendments	\$ 901,155.00	\$ 1,342,000.00	-\$ 440,845.00	\$ 9,469,684.00
2nd Quarter Budget	\$ 68,575,822.00	\$ 59,106,138.00	\$ 536,528.00	\$ 9,469,684.00

Capital Budget Review

Attachment 2 outlines where Council is currently at 31st January 2025. The Finance Working Group have discussed the projects not commenced (green) and made recommendations based on current capacity which would reduce the FY24/25 spend by \$577,000. This would include approximately \$57,000 Capital Expenditure Projects be carried forward including Georgetown Streetscaping, Charleston Dam Fencing and Forsayth Seating, Signage and Fitness Equipment.

Furthermore, two projects were removed to the value of \$550,000 being for the Einasleigh Gorge Picnic Area (as it is included within the Growing Our Regions funding for Einasleigh) and the Gilbert River Bridge Upgrade (which was not eligible for FNQRP funding, and a new project was tabled).

One project (Electronic Community Noticeboards) has been quoted and exceeds the original budget therefore options are to either increase budget or decrease scope.

Project Overruns

The below Project Overruns have been noted. Please note that these are actual costs and the effect to Councils Financial Position has already occurred. These Project Overruns were previously reported to Council and endorsed by resolution.

Project	Overrun Amount
Independent Living Facility	\$ 422,065.00
TIDS Forsayth Einasleigh Road	\$ 1,461,268.00
Queenslander Creek Box Culvert	\$ 237,369.00
Forsayth Transfer Station	\$ 83,395.00
Lynd Medical Centre	\$ 16,034.00

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence.

Corporate Outcome No. 5.1: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

The net effect of the proposed Revenue and Expenditure budget amendment is an increase in Council's Total Comprehensive Income by \$440,845. Proposed changes in the current year Capital expenditure program will result in decrease in expenditures of \$577,000.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Please provide below a summary of risks and opportunities including review of likelihood and consequences and how mitigated if high risk.

Summary of risks and opportunities:

- Risk 1 – Making changes to original budget estimates may not significantly improve the quality of the overall budget.
- Risk 2 – Budgets are attention directing devices, effective in assisting staff in their daily decision making, planning and other operational activities. Constantly changing budget estimates may decrease the effectiveness of the budgeting process.
- Risk 3 – The time and effort involved may not result in any improvement in outcomes.
- Opportunity 1 - Matching Councils actual movements in cash inflows and outflows provides a better basis of informing staff and community information end users.
- Opportunity 2 – Constant reviews may provide better awareness and understanding and generally improves the quality of financial Information and organisation efficiency.

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Renee Bester	
Date:07/02/2025	Date:

ATTACHMENTS

Include attachments such as:

- Operational Budget Worksheet
- Capital Expenditure Budget Worksheet
- Projected Revenue & Expenditure GL Report

GL #	GL Account	REVENUE			EXPENDITURE			SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)				REVIEW		COMMENTS
		31/12/2024	51%	Budget	31/12/2024	51%	Budget	31/12/2024	Predicted	51%	Budget	Revenue	Expenditure	
1000-0001	GOVERNANCE													
1000-0002	Elected Members	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 278,471.62	61%	\$ 458,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	Increase to account for External Investigations	
1010-0002	Governance	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 457,170.60	56%	\$ 810,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
1020-0002	Economic Development	\$ 300,142.00	13%	\$ 2,291,000.00	\$ 116,941.85	47%	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 149,000.00	\$ -	Increase in budget revenue to account for income received (REFF)	
1030-0002	Civic Receptions and Events	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
1040-0003	Town Planning	\$ 1,100.00	11%	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 48,730.74	139%	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	RPS Survey Costs (Industrial Estate)	
1041-0003	Building Control	\$ 450.00	23%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
1042-0003	Environmental Health	\$ 1,881.00	21%	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 13,398.34	45%	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
1043-0003	Local Laws	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
1050-0002	Disaster Management	\$ 1,335,723.52	160%	\$ 835,000.00	\$ 93,612.75	70%	\$ 133,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 525,000.00	\$ 20,500.00	Increase budget revenue for monies received. Einasleigh Forsyth Fire Expenditure	
1060-0002	WH&S	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 178,564.21	59%	\$ 305,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
2000-0001	CORPORATE							\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00				
2000-0002	General Rates	\$ 2,623,264.29	99%	\$ 2,655,000.00	\$ 415,030.45	78%	\$ 530,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	100,000.00	Additional levies received and prior year adjustment for the rates write off
2010-0002	General Administration	\$ 5,911,446.24	87%	\$ 6,764,773.00	\$ 1,589,072.26	59%	\$ 2,693,500.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 40,419.00	\$ 40,500.00		
2020-0002	Employee Services	\$ 1,376,892.71	63%	\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 1,139,042.77	53%	\$ 2,155,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
2030-0002	ICT	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 183,717.19	50%	\$ 365,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
2040-0002	Broadcasting Services	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 2,796.91	42%	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3000-0001	COMMUNITY													
3000-0002	Commercial Rental Properties							\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00				
3000-0003	Staff housing	\$ 68,588.00	49%	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 196,902.10	38%	\$ 517,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3001-0003	Other Residential	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3002-0003	Savannah House	\$ 1,950.00	49%	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 13,743.87	47%	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3003-0003	Demountable Office (Mary St)	\$ 25,000.00	52%	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 450.75	8%	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3004-0003	Independent Living	\$ -	0%	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3010-0002	Libraries	\$ -	0%	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 12,664.27	45%	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00		
3020-0002	Community Development	\$ 26,250.00	109%	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 125,214.04	44%	\$ 283,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 47,000.00	Total FY funds received. Total wage not budgeted for.	
3030-0002	Sport & Recreation	\$ 50.00	0%	\$ -	\$ 229,323.26	46%	\$ 494,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		
3040-0002	Halls	\$ 1,095.45	22%	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 167,981.08	49%	\$ 343,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3050-0002	Medical Centres	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 13,036.03	26%	\$ 49,200.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3060-0002	Aerodromes	\$ 135,000.00	30%	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 151,229.21	50%	\$ 300,500.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
3070-0002	Terrestrial Centre	\$ 101,531.01	9%	\$ 1,160,000.00	\$ 264,728.21	41%	\$ 638,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	F5F expense should be equivalent of the grant amount received.	
3080-0002	Little Gems Child Care Centre	\$ 60,142.91	21%	\$ 287,000.00	\$ 270,648.74	55%	\$ 495,500.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 148,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Advised not receiving CCCF funding. Rubber flooring is not compliant requiring repairs	
3090-0002	Georgetown Student Hostel	\$ 97,749.63	41%	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 157,485.57	42%	\$ 371,450.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -		
3100-0002	Cemeteries	\$ 45.45	2%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 25,490.75	127%	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	Maintenance Repairs	
4000-0001	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES													
4000-0002	Parks Gardens Reserves and Grounds	\$ 2,318.30	116%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 343,859.15	53%	\$ 644,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	Increase in donation revenue	
4010-0002	Rural Lands Protection	\$ 20,347.84	54%	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 152,262.86	35%	\$ 435,500.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
4020-0002	Street Lighting	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 5,305.79	29%	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
4030-0003	Shire Roads	\$ 3,056,013.61	78%	\$ 3,938,650.00	\$ 1,907,927.95	47%	\$ 4,075,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 238,486.00	\$ -		
4031-0003	Town Streets	\$ 22,500.00	11%	\$ 198,000.00	\$ 77,487.84	12%	\$ 654,542.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
4032-0003	Flood Damage	\$ 30,375,822.58	94%	\$ 32,252,193.00	\$ 26,169,135.36	80%	\$ 32,879,049.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
4040-0002	Depot and Stores	\$ 59,369.79	47%	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 487,584.83	45%	\$ 1,094,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	Increase to stores wages to account for having officer and supervisor during training and leave coverage	
4050-0003	Private Works	\$ 64,874.80	29%	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 46,359.09	26%	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
4051-0003	DTMR	\$ 2,643,084.97	56%	\$ 4,753,901.00	\$ 2,248,382.69	184%	\$ 1,218,901.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200,000.00		
4060-0002	Plant Operations	\$ 4,628,610.99	65%	\$ 7,120,000.00	\$ 1,784,305.66	50%	\$ 3,596,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
5000-0001	UTILITIES													
5000-0002	Water Supply													
5000-0003	Georgetown WTP & Reticulation	\$ 349,399.77	88%	\$ 395,100.00	\$ 394,417.69	46%	\$ 860,300.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	Increase for actual revenue received in for for FY	
5001-0003	Forsyth WTP & Reticulation	\$ 97,571.14	88%	\$ 111,200.00	\$ 194,357.91	72%	\$ 271,500.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 500.00	Increase for actual revenue received in for for FY	
5002-0003	Charleston Dam	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 18,969.66	16%	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
5010-0002	Waste Management							\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00				
5010-0003	Georgetown	\$ 153,797.63	102%	\$ 150,400.00	\$ 131,221.86	50%	\$ 263,800.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 17,500.00	Additional expenses for landfill survey & supervisor completing works at a higher wage	
5011-0003	Forsyth	\$ 15,544.57	104%	\$ 14,950.00	\$ 10,419.93	14%	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00		
5012-0003	Einasleigh	\$ 11,331.32	108%	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 8,792.64	47%	\$ 18,885.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
5013-0003	Mt Surprise	\$ 12,193.05	102%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,504.62	63%	\$ 8,711.00	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
5014-0003	Kidston	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ -		
TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE		\$ 53,581,082.57		\$ 67,674,667.00	\$ 40,131,743.10		\$ 57,764,138.00			\$ 9,910,529.00	\$ 901,155.00	\$ 1,342,000.00		
ADJUSTED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE				\$ 68,575,822.00			\$ 59,106,138.00			\$ 9,469,684.00	\$ -	\$ 440,845.00		
													\$ 440,845.00	

WIP - January 2025		CURRENT YEAR BUDGET	PROJECT LIFE BUDGET	%	2nd Quarter Budget Review	
4011-4501-0000	Georgetown Streets - Georgetown Streetscaping & chairs	20,000.00	20,000.00	19%	-\$ 15,000.00	Recommend carried forward project
4013-4500-0000	Einasleigh Streets - Gorge picnic area	50,000.00	50,000.00	0%	-\$ 50,000.00	Project included within Growing Regions
4500-4512-0000	Charleston Dam - Fencing	20,000.00	20,000.00	0%	-\$ 20,000.00	\$3000 spent and journaled to maintenance expense. Recommend carry forward other \$17k as areas unreachable until late in the year due to water levels
5151-4502-0001	All Towns - Electronic Community Notice Boards (SMS)	80,000.00	80,000.00	0%	\$ 30,000.00	Cheapest quote is \$110k not including trenching or connecting power. Recommend either increase budget or reduce project scope
5152-4500-0000	Forsyth - Seating, Signage & Fitness Equipment	25,000.00	25,000.00	0%	-\$ 25,000.00	Recommend carry forward
5152-4500-0004	Forsyth - Learning Hub	20,000.00	20,000.00	0%		In progress
5163-4500-0001	Cemeteries - Improvements	30,000.00	30,000.00	45%		Einasleigh Cemetery fence improvements outstanding
3610-4502-0001	FNQRP 24-25 - Gilbert River Bridge upgrade	500,000.00	500,000.00	0%	-\$ 500,000.00	No longer an approved project
	Further Signage TBC	40,000.00	40,000.00	0%		Awaiting investigation finalisation before project commencement
4060-4502-0000	Culvert Replacement	66,750.00	66,750.00	0%		Planned completion prior EOFY
4140-4505-0001	Depot - Seal top yard (1- Land) (budget in land & improvements)	20,000.00	20,000.00	0%		Planned completion prior EOFY
4320-4501-0006	Georgetown Water - new main to Etheridge River	35,000.00	35,000.00	0%		Planned completion prior EOFY
4500-4506-0001	Charleston Dam Rec Area - Survey Design Playground	277,626.95	363,000.00	24%		Recommend potential for carried forward
4500-4506-0002	Charleston Dam Rec Area - Fencing		150,357.45	102%	\$ 3,000.00	Amendment from above budget item Charleston Dam Fencing
			-		-\$ 577,000.00	

		REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)		
		28 Feb 2025	Budget	28 Feb 2025	Budget	28 Feb 2025	Budget	
1000-0001	Governance							
1000-0002	Elected Members	0.00	0	315,745.42	63%	503,000	(315,745.42) 63%	(503,000)
1010-0002	Governance	0.00	0	522,598.82	65%	810,000	(522,598.82) 65%	(810,000)
1020-0002	Economic Development	300,142.00	2,440,000	117,538.25	47%	250,000	182,603.75 8%	2,190,000
1040-0002	Regulatory Services							
1040-0003	Town Planning	2,355.00	10,000	48,730.74	81%	60,000	(46,375.74) 93%	(50,000)
1041-0003	Building Control	450.00	2,000	0.00	0%	200	450.00 25%	1,800
1042-0003	Environmental Health	1,881.00	9,000	13,398.34	45%	30,000	(11,517.34) 55%	(21,000)
1043-0003	Local Laws	0.00	0	0.00	0%	5,000	0.00 0%	(5,000)
1040-0002	Regulatory Services	4,686.00	21,000	62,129.08	65%	95,200	(57,443.08) 77%	(74,200)
1050-0002	Disaster Management	1,335,723.52	1,360,000	108,956.94	71%	153,500	1,226,766.58 102%	1,206,500
1060-0002	WH&S	0.00	0	198,526.69	65%	305,000	(198,526.69) 65%	(305,000)
1000-0001	Governance	1,640,551.52	3,821,000	1,325,495.20	63%	2,116,700	315,056.32 18%	1,704,300
2000-0001	Corporate							
2000-0002	General Rates	2,522,077.31	2,705,000	399,619.56	93%	430,000	2,122,457.75 93%	2,275,000
2010-0002	General Administration	5,915,564.08	6,805,192	1,733,132.58	63%	2,734,000	4,182,431.50 103%	4,071,192
2020-0002	Employee Services	1,619,484.31	2,200,000	1,373,295.80	64%	2,155,000	246,188.51 547%	45,000
2030-0002	ICT	0.00	0	202,987.89	56%	365,000	(202,987.89) 56%	(365,000)
2040-0002	Broadcasting Services	0.00	0	3,149.33	48%	6,600	(3,149.33) 48%	(6,600)
2000-0001	Corporate	10,057,125.70	11,710,192	3,712,185.16	65%	5,690,600	6,344,940.54 105%	6,019,592
3000-0001	Community							
3000-0002	Commercial Rental Properties							
3000-0003	Staff housing	81,228.00	140,000	210,856.76	41%	517,000	(129,628.76) 34%	(377,000)
3002-0003	Savannah House	2,275.00	4,000	16,020.42	55%	29,000	(13,745.42) 55%	(25,000)
3003-0003	Demountable Office (Mary St)	29,000.00	48,000	450.75	8%	6,000	28,549.25 68%	42,000
3004-0003	Independent Living	0.00	1,200,000	0.00	0%	0	0.00 0%	1,200,000
3000-0002	Commercial Rental Properties	112,503.00	1,392,000	227,327.93	41%	552,000	(114,824.93) -14%	840,000
3010-0002	Libraries	0.00	6,000	15,763.58	53%	30,000	(15,763.58) 66%	(24,000)
3020-0002	Community Development	26,250.00	26,250	128,705.31	39%	330,000	(102,455.31) 34%	(303,750)
3030-0002	Sport & Recreation	50.00	1,000	266,826.56	54%	494,000	(266,776.56) 54%	(493,000)
3040-0002	Halls	1,145.45	5,000	193,671.41	56%	343,000	(192,525.96) 57%	(338,000)
3050-0002	Medical Centres	0.00	0	15,955.26	32%	49,200	(15,955.26) 32%	(49,200)
3060-0002	Aerodromes	135,000.00	450,000	178,403.80	59%	300,500	(43,403.80) -29%	149,500

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 61% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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		REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)				
		28 Feb 2025	Budget	28 Feb 2025	Budget	28 Feb 2025	Budget	28 Feb 2025	Budget	
3070-0002	Terrestrial Centre	103,511.73	9%	1,160,000	296,025.90	46%	641,000	(192,514.17)	-37%	519,000
3080-0002	Little Gems Child Care Centre	67,569.08	49%	139,000	315,437.65	62%	505,500	(247,868.57)	68%	(366,500)
3090-0002	Georgetown Student Hostel	97,749.63	39%	250,000	162,699.49	44%	371,450	(64,949.86)	53%	(121,450)
3100-0002	Cemeteries	45.45	2%	2,000	14,545.16	48%	30,000	(14,499.71)	52%	(28,000)
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3000-0001	Community	543,824.34	16%	3,431,250	1,815,362.05	50%	3,646,650	(1,271,537.71)	590%	(215,400)
4000-0001	Infrastructure Services									
4000-0002	Parks Gardens Reserves and Grounds	2,318.30	58%	4,000	395,264.73	61%	644,000	(392,946.43)	61%	(640,000)
4010-0002	Rural Lands Protection	23,852.19	63%	38,000	173,015.19	40%	435,500	(149,163.00)	38%	(397,500)
4020-0002	Street Lighting	0.00	0%	0	5,877.04	33%	18,000	(5,877.04)	33%	(18,000)
4030-0002	Roads									
4030-0003	Shire Roads	3,056,013.61	73%	4,177,136	2,150,763.94	53%	4,075,000	905,249.67	886%	102,136
4031-0003	Town Streets	22,500.00	11%	198,000	99,527.88	15%	654,542	(77,027.88)	17%	(456,542)
4032-0003	Flood Damage	33,203,516.21	103%	32,252,193	26,477,127.15	81%	32,879,049	6,726,389.06	<999%	(626,857)
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4030-0002	Roads	36,282,029.82	99%	36,627,329	28,727,418.97	76%	37,608,591	7,554,610.85	-770%	(981,263)
4040-0002	Depot and Stores	63,368.87	51%	125,000	552,465.79	50%	1,114,000	(489,096.92)	49%	(989,000)
4050-0002	Recoverable Works									
4050-0003	Private Works	71,902.80	33%	220,000	52,255.94	29%	180,000	19,646.86	49%	40,000
4051-0003	DTMR	2,950,773.13	62%	4,753,901	2,396,562.93	99%	2,418,901	554,210.20	24%	2,335,000
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4050-0002	Recoverable Works	3,022,675.93	61%	4,973,901	2,448,818.87	94%	2,598,901	573,857.06	24%	2,375,000
4060-0002	Plant Operations	4,392,756.87	62%	7,120,000	2,005,090.14	56%	3,596,000	2,387,666.73	68%	3,524,000
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4000-0001	Infrastructure Services	43,787,001.98	90%	48,888,230	34,307,950.73	75%	46,014,992	9,479,051.25	330%	2,873,237
5000-0001	Utilities									
5000-0002	Water Supply									
5000-0003	Georgetown WTP & Reticulation	349,636.05	83%	420,100	478,481.41	56%	860,300	(128,845.36)	29%	(440,200)
5001-0003	Forsayth WTP & Reticulation	97,501.14	83%	117,200	227,908.89	84%	272,000	(130,407.75)	84%	(154,800)
5002-0003	Charleston Dam	0.00	0%	0	15,993.58	13%	120,000	(15,993.58)	13%	(120,000)
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5000-0002	Water Supply	447,137.19	83%	537,300	722,383.88	58%	1,252,300	(275,246.69)	38%	(715,000)
5010-0002	Waste Management									
5010-0003	Georgetown	153,909.13	102%	150,400	152,931.73	54%	281,300	977.40	-1%	(130,900)
5011-0003	Forsayth	15,554.33	104%	14,950	11,265.74	15%	76,000	4,288.59	-7%	(61,050)
5012-0003	Einasleigh	11,358.51	108%	10,500	11,169.48	59%	18,885	189.03	-2%	(8,385)
5013-0003	Mt Surprise	12,196.95	102%	12,000	5,965.02	68%	8,711	6,231.93	189%	3,289

(Accounts: 0300-0001-0000 to 5014-2400-0000. All report groups. 61% of year elapsed. To Level 4. Excludes committed costs)

Etheridge Shire Council (Budget for full year)

Financial Year Ending 2025

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		REVENUE		EXPENDITURE		SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)	
		28 Feb 2025	Budget	28 Feb 2025	Budget	28 Feb 2025	Budget
5010-0002	Waste Management	193,018.92	103% 187,850	181,331.97	47% 384,896	11,686.95	-6% (197,046)
5000-0001	Utilities	640,156.11	88% 725,150	903,715.85	55% 1,637,196	(263,559.74)	29% (912,046)
TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE		56,668,659.65	83% 68,575,822	42,064,708.99	71% 59,106,138	14,603,950.66	154% 9,469,683 ✓

Meeting Date	19th February 2025
Subject	Amended 2024 External Audit Final Management Report
Classification	Open
Author	Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council's final management report was prepared by Queensland Audit Office (QAO). QAO issued an unmodified audit opinion on the 2023/2024 financial statements. The Final management Report includes identified (or previously identified) issues which have been reported to management and an update on managements actions taken to resolve these.

The presented 2024 Final Management Report was received by the Audit Committee at its most recent meeting held 27th November 2024 and further adopted by Council at its General Meeting held 18th December 2024.

Council was advised of an amendment to the first page of the reported findings in January, and the amended report is tabled for receipt.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to receive the 2024 External Audit Final Management Report and note the contents therein including amendments.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the Executive Summary, Council's Audit Committee and Council have received the Final Management Report. BDO have made Council aware of an amendment to the report (reported previously deficiencies that are not relevant for Etheridge). Council has been supplied with an updated version for adoption.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 5: Best practice corporate governance and organisational excellence
 Corporate Outcome No. 5.1: Council provides community leadership through financial sustainability and an open and accountable governance structure.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Council has made a budget allocation for External Audit Fees.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Regulation 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Risks:

1. Lack of oversight on financial reporting
2. Non-compliance with legal and regulatory requirements

Mitigation:

1. Implement risk management systems & audit functions

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 03/02/2025

Date:

ATTACHMENTS

External Audit 2024 Final Management Report (Amended)



2024 FINAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

Etheridge Shire Council

16 January 2025

Barry Hughes
Mayor
Etheridge Shire Council

Dear Barry

Final management report for Etheridge Shire Council

We have completed our 2024 financial audit for Etheridge Shire Council. QAO has issued an unmodified audit opinion on your financial statements.

The purpose of this report is to update you on any matters that have arisen since we presented our interim report to you on 25 July 2024.

Reporting on issues identified after the closing report

I can confirm that we have not identified any significant issues since the presentation of our closing report to the audit committee. The issues and other matters we have formally reported to management and an update on management's actions taken to resolve these issues is included as Appendix A.

Please note that under section 213 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, you must present a copy of this report at your Council's next ordinary meeting.

Report to parliament

Each year, we report the results of all financial audits and significant issues to parliament.

We intend to include the results of our audit of Etheridge Shire Council in our report to parliament on Local Government 2024. We will comment on the results of our audit, any significant internal control issues, and the overall results for the sector, including major transactions and events. We will discuss the proposed report content with your entity contact and continue to consult as we draft it. Formally, entities have an opportunity to comment on our report, and for these comments to be included in the final version tabled in parliament.

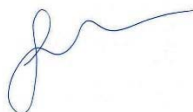
Audit fee

The final audit fee for this year is \$96,000, exclusive of GST. This fee is in line with the fee estimated in our external audit plan.

We would like to thank you and your staff for your engagement in the audit this year and look forward to working with your team again next year.

If you have any questions about this report or would like to discuss any matters regarding our services and engagement, please do not hesitate to contact me on 4046 0090 or William Cunningham, QAO Director on 3149 6042.

Yours sincerely



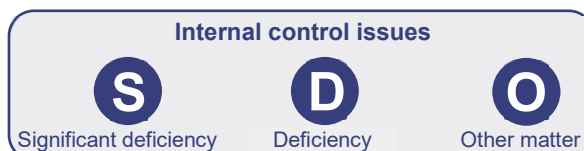
James Gaustad
Partner

Appendix A1 – Status of issues

Internal control issues

This section provides an update on the control deficiencies we have identified since our interim report. It includes a response from management.

Our risk ratings are as follows. For more information and detail on our rating definitions, please see the webpage here: www.qao.qld.gov.au/information-internal-controls or scan the QR code.



S Significant deficiencies

24CR-1 Ex-gratia payments

Observation

Council does not have a policy for the circumstances in which ex-gratia payments might be considered.

Council paid an ex-gratia payment to a former employee on termination of the employment arrangement. The payout excluding unused leave entitlements was \$86,071 and this has been disclosed as a termination benefit in the financial statements. Legal advice was obtained, and the final deed of settlement was signed by the Acting Chief Executive Officer in line with Council delegations. However, there was no formal documentation retained about the negotiation and decision-making process, including that an ex-gratia payment would be made, the value of the payment, and whether the Mayor was aware of the payment. Due to the lack of formal documentation retained, there is a lack of transparency around the decision to award, and the calculation of the payment.

Implication

Without a policy, there is risk that ex-gratia payments could be made that are difficult to support due to a lack of transparency over what circumstances they can be paid, how they are calculated, and who should approve them.

In this case, a payment has been made that Council was not bound by the employment contract to pay, and there is no documentation of Council's consideration of whether the payment was an appropriate use of Council funds.

QAO recommendation

To ensure that ex-gratia payments made can be supported and are defensible, it is important that public sector entities have robust policies and guidance covering:

- the type of ex-gratia payments that can be made and when they can be made
- the basis for determining the appropriate amount paid
- who can approve them.

Public sector entities should also maintain proper records supporting each ex-gratia payment including evidence of key decisions made and who they were made by. At a minimum, these should record:

- the payment date and the recipient of the payment
- the reason for the payment and how the payment amount was determined

- whether independent advice was obtained to support the basis and amount of the payment
- how the payment represents appropriate use of public money
- who approved the payment
- other payment details the executives, board or Council consider relevant.

QAO issued guidance on this topic which can be found here: [Ex-gratia payments – what those charged with governance need to consider | Queensland Audit Office \(qao.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Management response

Council notes the recommendation and will consider the development and implementation of an ex-gratia payment policy or process.

Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services

Status: Wok In Progress

Action date: 30 June 2025

Appendix A2 – Matters previously reported

The following table summarises all control deficiencies, financial reporting issues and other matters that had previously been raised but were not resolved as at the date of our interim report, some of which may have been reported as resolved in the closing report to Management. The listing includes issues from our interim report this year and those issues raised in prior years.







Our risk ratings are as follows. For more information and detail on our rating definitions, please see the webpage here: www.qao.qld.gov.au/information-internal-controls or scan the QR code.



Internal control issues

Ref.	Rating	Issue	Status and comment
22CR-1	S	<p>Chart of accounts requires amendment</p> <p>The chart of accounts did not enable Council to accurately track and record grant revenue, capitalised expenditure and prepare accurate financial statements.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Some revision to chart of accounts has taken place but there is still further work required.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 26 January 2023</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
21CR-2	S	<p>Management of capital grants</p> <p>No comprehensive grants register detailing relevant details including recognition method applicable to the funding. Errors identified in current and prior year financial statements were material.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Grants register includes revenue for each grant and is regularly updated with expenditure. The register was used as the basis for contract asset and liability calculations for 2024 EOFY; however, given material errors were identified as part of the audit of EOFY grant accounting, further refinements are still needed.</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
21CR-3	S	<p>Job costing and chart of accounts</p> <p>The structure of the chart of accounts makes it difficult to determine whether each contract and sub-contract generated a surplus or a loss.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Some revision to chart of accounts has taken place but there is still further work required. Furthermore, job costing is still to be reviewed.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2022</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>

Ref.	Rating	Issue	Status
23CR-1	S	<p>Lack of quality assurance over information provided for audit purposes</p> <p>Financial statements presented to audit were materially misstated and contained significant quantitative and qualitative errors. Balances and disclosures in the financial statements were supported by system reports which were materially misstated.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>External contractor was engaged to assist with year-end reconciliations and financial statement preparation. Financial statements were significantly improved compared to the 2023 financial year. The only material variances were identified in revenue and contract assets, which is already raised above as a significant deficiency.</p>
21CR-4	D	<p>IT general controls and policies</p> <p>A number of IT policies were outdated or did not include key elements to ensure adequate management of the IT environment.</p> <p>The computer, email and internet policy remained out of date at the date of the audit visit.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Policy framework review has commenced.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate & Community Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2022</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
21CR-9	D	<p>Review of asset revaluations</p> <p>Insufficient evidence of management's review and scrutiny of the asset valuations.</p> <p>In 2022, errors were identified during audit review that were corrected by valuer prior to amounts being entered into the system.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>DCS has established an internal Asset Management Committee to review asset capitalisation, valuation and depreciation. There is evidence that 2024 valuations were reviewed by relevant parties prior to acceptance of final results.</p>
22CR-3	D	<p>Contracts over \$200,000 not disclosed on Council's website</p> <p>We identified contracts which were not disclosed on Council's website in the 2022 financial year.</p> <p><i>Update: We identified one example of a contract over \$200,000 in the 2024 financial year that was not disclosed on the Council website.</i></p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2023</p> <p>Updated action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
22-CR5	D	<p>Management of fixed assets register and capital WIP</p> <p>We identified delays in capitalisation and errors in depreciation calculations. We recommended a comprehensive review of the capitalisation process.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Majority of assets are still being capitalised at EOFY. However, due to the timing of the annual wet season, most projects are not completed until the final quarter of each financial year. Depreciation on these assets would not be material. Any projects that are completed prior to the wet season are capitalised during the year. Motor vehicles and plant are being capitalised when they are purchased.</p>

23IR-1		<p>Improve financial reporting by strengthening month-end and year-end processes</p> <p>A number of material balances are not being accrued and adjusted on a regular basis including accruals, contract assets and liabilities, asset capitalisations and clearance of work in progress.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Some material balances are still not updated until end of financial year.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Original Action date: 31 March 2024</p> <p>Revised Action date: 30 June 2025</p>
23IR-2		<p>Review of recruitment policy</p> <p>Recruitment policy does not have a requirement to assess, obtain or document criminal history checks or to verify qualifications of prospective employees.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Policy remains out of date.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 31 December 2023</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
23IR-3		<p>Insufficient risk management and governance procedures</p> <p>Risk register is out of date and governance procedures are limited.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Risk register remains out of date; however, updating it has been flagged as a high priority.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 31 December 2024</p>
23IR-4		<p>Policies are not reviewed on a timely basis</p> <p>We have reviewed the information on Council's website against requirements of the LG Act and Regulation.</p> <p>[1] Investigation policy – does not appear to be disclosed on Council's website [s150AE LGA].</p> <p>[2] Fraud & corruption management policy and management plan were due for review on 30 June 2018.</p> <p>[3] Procurement principles policy per Council website was due for review on 30 June 2024.</p> <p>[4] Delegation policy per website is not signed as endorsed and does not have details of when it was adopted by Council or when the review date is.</p> <p>[5] Advertising expenditure policy was due for review on 28 February 2021.</p> <p>[6] Internal audit policy was due for review on 30 April 2020.</p> <p>[7] Asset management policy was due for review on 30 April 2021.</p> <p>[8] Dealing with a complaint about a public official policy was due for review on 30 June 2020.</p> <p>[9] Risk management policy was due for review on 15 April 2021.</p> <p>Various other Council specific policies disclosed on Council website are past their review date.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>The outdated policies were renewed by Council in July and August 2024.</p>

23-CR4	D	<p>Credit card policy is out of date, and recognition of credit card transactions is not timely</p> <p>The credit card policy has not been renewed since 2004. Credit card transactions are not recorded until the card balance is paid.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Credit card policy has been adopted by Council in July 2024.</p> <p>Credit card transactions are still recorded only when the card balance is paid.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
23-CR6	D	<p>Employee termination checklists incomplete</p> <p>We identified examples of termination checklists that had sections not completed and/or were not signed or dated. We identified further examples of this in the current year (2023-24) audit.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Checklist has been revised; however, it has been observed that the checklists are not always fully completed for all staff members.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 June 2024</p> <p>Revised action date: 30 June 2025</p>
24IR-1	D	<p>Lack of review of system users</p> <p>We identified a lack of review of user accounts in both Windows and the accounting software Practical.</p>	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Management advise that a review will be scheduled in the near future.</p> <p>Responsible officer: Director Corporate Services</p> <p>Action date: 30 November 2024</p>
24IR-2	D	<p>Procurement approved outside of delegation limits</p> <p>We identified two examples of invoices approved by a Manager whose delegation limit was less than the total of the invoice.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Staff have been re-trained on the procurement policy and how to identify non-compliance with the policy.</p>
21CR-8	O	<p>Policy to support reimbursement of relocation expenses</p> <p>Lack of formal policy or documented evidence of reimbursements paid to key management personnel. We recommended implementing a formal policy to support these decisions.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Relocation Policy was adopted by Council in August 2024.</p>
21CR-12	M	<p>Inadequate review of draft financial statements</p> <p>Significant changes were required to the disclosure and presentation of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021, 2022, and 2023 indicating inadequate review prior to audit.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>External contractor was engaged to assist with year-end reconciliations and financial statement preparation. Draft financial statements provided for 2024 were a significant improvement on previous years</p>
22-CR12	L	<p>Write-offs and renewals of capital assets</p> <p>We recommended implementing a process to review existing assets for loss or significant damage and segregating capital works into additions and renewals.</p>	<p>Resolved</p> <p>DCS has established an internal Asset Management Committee to review asset capitalisation, valuation and depreciation.</p>

Appendix A3 – Climate-related financial disclosures

Next year audit planning considerations	Potential effect on your reporting obligations	Potential effect on your audit
<p>In June 2023, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) issued its first 2 standards – IFRS S1 <i>General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information</i> and IFRS S2 <i>Climate-related Disclosures</i>.</p> <p>In October 2023, the AASB released Exposure Draft SR1 <i>Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS) 1 General requirements for disclosure of Climate-related Financial Information</i> for public feedback.</p> <p>The AASB's approach is to take a 'climate first' approach and is proposing that references to sustainability in the ISSB standards be replaced with 'climate related' in the Australian equivalents.</p> <p>In-scope entities will need to prepare a new, standalone sustainability report and have it audited.</p>	<p>In January 2024, the Australian Treasury issued proposed legislation as to how it intends to mandate application of climate related financial disclosures (and applicable assurance requirements) to entities reporting under the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i>. Queensland Treasury will determine the application to Queensland public sector entities that aren't reporting under the Corporations Act, such as departments and statutory bodies.</p> <p>Etheridge Shire Council is not included in the scope of Commonwealth legislation; therefore, you are not a mandatory reporting entity and will need to follow the guidance from Queensland Treasury.</p>	<p>We will work with management to assess Queensland Treasury requirements and guidance, as applicable.</p>



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William Cunningham
Queensland Audit Office
T: 3419 6042
E: william.cunningham@qao.qld.gov.au

James Gaustad
BDO Audit (NTH QLD) Pty Ltd
T: 4046 0090
E: james.gaustad@bdo.com.au

T: (07) 3149 6000
E: qao@qao.qld.gov.au
W: www.qao.qld.gov.au
53 Albert Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15396, City East Qld 4002



General Meeting **19th February 2025**

Subject	Policy Review – University Tertiary Scholarship Policy
Classification	Open
Author	Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for council to consider the review of the University Tertiary Scholarship Policy. The initiative was introduced by Etheridge Shire Council in FY13/14, and the policy was last reviewed and adopted by Council in 2018, however Scholarships were continued to be awarded through to 2021.

The policy and associated forms have been reviewed in consultation with other Councils and internal departments (including HR) to ensure that it meets Council's intent and strategic direction.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to:

1. Adopt the reviewed C004 – University Tertiary Scholarship Policy
2. Commence advertising for the scholarship through to 31st March 2025, and report of recommendations of recipients to be tabled at the April General Meeting.
3. Commence advertising for future years in the period September to December, with the annual scholarship recipient being publicly announced as part of the annual Australia Day Awards.

BACKGROUND

The University tertiary Scholarship Policy is currently overdue to be reviewed, and furthermore Council is seeking confirmation of advertising periods to align with University & Tertiary Education provider semesters.

Management has also reviewed the following:

- University Tertiary Scholarship Agreement (for signing with successful applicant)
- University Tertiary Scholarship Application Form

The University Tertiary Scholarship Policy in summary will provide a \$5000 scholarship, once per annum for the first year of the successful applicants' studies toward a Bachelor degree (or approved Diploma) in approved fields.

Council is targeting these courses as employees in these fields are in short supply throughout Local Government in Queensland, and it is hoped that Council's Scholarship will assist in retaining qualified professionals in these fields, particularly in regional areas.

To be eligible for a Scholarship, the student needs to maintain their residency in the Etheridge Shire through their parents/guardian. The student therefore may be attending boarding school outside the Shire when they apply for a Scholarship.

Council at its discretion may award more than one Scholarship in a single year, however Council is **not** obligated to provide a Scholarship every year, even where Council has called for and considered nominations for the Scholarship.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 3: A diversified economic development ensures a prosperous shire.

- Strategy No. 3.2.3: Support skills development (youth, business & industry)
- Strategy No. 3.2.4: Career pathways and employment opportunities for youth.

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Included within current operational budget under Community Assistance.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of reviewed policy C004 – University Tertiary Scholarship Policy

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultation has occurred internally and is currently budgeted for.	Advertise program upon adoption.
Inform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Risk 1: Failure to advertise in a timely matter

Mitigation: Upon adoption this will be diarised for advertising annually in September (assuming inclusion within budget)

Risk 2: Failure to receive applications

Mitigation: Ensure that advertising is widespread throughout the shire to provide the benefits to all community wide.

Report Prepared By:

Renee Bester

Date: 04/02/2025

Report Authorised By:

Mark Watt

Date: 04/02/2025

ATTACHMENTS

Include attachments such as:

- Reviewed C004 – University Tertiary Scholarship Policy (marked up)



ESC – C004 University/Tertiary Scholarship Policy

POLICY VERSION AND REVISION

Version History	Meeting date	
GMCCS5. 17 th September 2014 Res No: 2014 / GM1224	19th August 2020 19 th February 2025	
GMCCS4. 15 th August 2018 Res No: 2018 / GM2403	Resolution number	
GMCCS5. 21 August 2019 19th August 2020 Res No: 2020/GM2976	2020/GM2976	
Approval by CEO		
Effective date	Review date	
24th August 2019 19 th February 2025	24th August 2024 31 st January 2029	
Policy Author		
Director Corporate Services		
Current incumbent		
Ian Kuhn Renee Bester		
Implementation Officer		
Director Corporate Services		
Current incumbent	Contact number	Official file no.
Ian Kuhn Renee Bester	4079 9090	ESC – C004

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1. PURPOSE

To establish a system for awarding and monitoring an annual Tertiary Scholarship towards an approved course in the fields listed below under Eligibility. Council selects approved courses based on skills shortages in these fields with the intent of developing and retaining qualified professionals in the region, primarily in the fields of Planning & Environmental Health, Civil Engineering, Nursing, Early Childcare and Accounting.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to an annual Scholarship that must be applied for and will be awarded on an annual basis and the eligibility of applicants. the members of the Etheridge Shire Community.

3. ROLSE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Community Development & Events Officer Human Resources

Human ResourcesCommunity Development & Events Officer will be responsible for coordinating the advertising and selection process for the annual scholarship. Human ResourcesCommunity Development & Events will also be responsible for coordinating the Scholarship Agreement and payment process, and appointing the successful applicant to casual employment for holiday periods.

Human Resources

Council is always willing to accept work experience students, and in the instance that a scholarship applicant would like to undertake work experience in their semester breaks, this will be coordinated by the Human Resources Officer.

Director of Corporate Services/Manager

The Director of Corporate Services is responsible for making a recommendation to Council on the preferred applicant for the scholarship. The relevant Director of the Department will be primarily responsible for the student during their periods of employment (if any).

4. POLICY STATEMENT

On an annual basis, Council will provide a \$5,000 Scholarship for the 1st year of the successful applicant's full-time studies towards an approved course (Bachelor Degree or an approved Diploma) in the fields listed below under Eligibility. Course in Planning & Environmental Health, Civil Engineering, and Nursing, Early Childcare or Accounting (or another approved course).

Council is targeting these particular courses as employees in these fields are in short supply throughout Local Government in Queensland, and it is hoped that Council's Scholarship will assist in retaining qualified professionals in these fields, particularly in regional areas.

4.1. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a Scholarship, Scholarship, an applicant must satisfy both residency and study requirements.

The applicant needs to either be an Etheridge Shire resident or maintain their residency in the Etheridge Shire through their parents/guardian. The applicant therefore, may be attending an educational institution outside of the shire when they apply for the Scholarship. the student needs to maintain their residency in the Etheridge Shire through their parents/guardian. The student therefore may be attending boarding school outside the Shire when they apply for a Scholarship.

Applicants must have enrolled in or intend to enrol in study for 2025 or have already commenced study towards a Bachelor Degree (or approved Diploma) in the following fields:

- Business Management (including Accounting, Economic Development, Marketing & IT)
- Health Services (including Doctor, Nursing, Veterinary, Allied Health, Aged Care or similar)

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- [Engineering \(including Civil, Water & Wastewater\)](#)
- [Planning & Environmental Health](#)
- [Education \(including Early Childcare\)](#)
- [Agricultural Sciences \(including Agribusiness, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Land Management\)](#)

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5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

4.2. NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION

Towards the end of the calendar year, Human Resources will commence advertising the Once per year, Council will advertise the Scholarship for enrolments taking place in the upcoming calendar year. The Applicants will be asked to make a submission using the Scholarship Application Form, outlining why they are the best candidate for a scholarship, and providing information and results of their curricular and extra-curricular activities. The applicants must attach copies of their Year 11 transcripts to the Scholarship Application Form, as well as a Letter of Recommendation from a teacher, tutor or employer. They must also provide copies of their Year 12 transcripts, and the confirmation of their university (or approved Diploma) and or TAFE College acceptance, as soon as possible.

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For mature age students you will be required to submit confirmation of their university (or approved Diploma) and or TAFE College acceptance, as soon as possible plus a written reference.

Current tertiary students will be required to provide their year 12 transcripts and evidence of any completed units related to their course of study.

The applicants must declare if they have already been awarded, or are being considered for, another tertiary scholarship or bursary. Priority will generally be given to applicants who are not already receiving another scholarship or bursary.

4.3. SELECTION PROCESS

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The Chief Executive Officer, Director and/or Human Resources Officer will review the applications. Where appropriate, the short-listed applicants will be interviewed prior to selecting a preferred applicant. A preferred applicant will generally be selected by identifying the applicant who has demonstrated the greatest scholastic dedication and achievement, and who has demonstrated an interest in and dedication to the field of study. However, at its discretion Council may also consider other factors such as the applicants' community involvement, and their personal and financial circumstances, when awarding a Scholarship.

Council, at its discretion, may award more than one Scholarship in a single year, however Council is not obligated to provide a Scholarship every year, even where Council has called for and considered nominations for the Scholarship.

The Director of Corporate Services will make a recommendation on the preferred applicant to Council for consideration.

4.4. SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

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The successful applicant will be issued with a Scholarship Agreement to sign prior to Council providing any scholarship payments. The Agreement will contain, but is not limited to, the following terms and conditions (as well as those terms and conditions outlined in the Scholarship Agreement Clause 5.1.3 and 5.1.4):

1. The funds of the Scholarship can be used in any way that the student deems fit to help them in completing their studies.
2. The Scholarship Agreement does not cover any units that are **not** required for the student's completion of the Bachelor course, apart from the requisite number of elective units.
3. The student will not be bonded to work for Council at the successful completion of the course.
4. On the successful completion of the course, Council may offer the student a maximum term appointment or a permanent position as suits operational requirements at the time.



5. The student must advise Council immediately if they wish to change the status of their study in the 1st year (e.g. changing from full-time to part-time study). Council is not obligated to provide Scholarship funds if the status of the student's study changes.
6. The student must advise Council immediately if they wish to change the studies/units/major undertaken in their course (e.g. from Civil Engineering to Electrical Engineering). Council is not obligated to provide Scholarship funds if the student changes their major, or if the student undertakes more units than is necessary to obtain the stipulated Bachelor degree and or Diploma Degree.
7. The student will need to maintain their residency in the Shire through their parents/guardian/family. The student must advise Council immediately if there are changes to their residency status.
8. Either the student or Council may give written notice at any time to cancel the Scholarship Agreement. A minimum of four (4) weeks' written notice is required. Council is not obligated to provide payment for any units being undertaken at the date of termination of the Agreement, and which are later satisfactorily completed.
9. By signing a Scholarship Agreement, the student will agree for Council to obtain and publish general information about the student and their Scholarship. The information will generally be regarding the allocation of the Scholarship, the progress of the student's studies including the attainment of awards, and the work experience undertaken by the student with Council ([if any](#)). The information may be displayed in internal and external publications, such as newsletters and media articles. The student's end-of-semester results will not be published.

4.5. PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The total scholarship amount (\$5,000) will be divided over the two (2) university ~~and TAFE~~ semesters of the year. Accordingly, the student will be entitled to \$2,500 at the end of each semester of full-time study for the 1st year of their course, provided that each unit of the semester is successfully completed.

In the event that the student does not successfully complete (i.e. pass) all units each semester, a pro-rata amount only will be paid. For instance, if the student passes three (3) of four (4) units then 75% of the \$2,500 for the semester will be paid by Council.

In the event that, in a later semester, the student passes a unit that they previously failed; or the student passes a unit that they took as an alternative to a unit that they previously failed; then the student will be paid for that unit, as long as the total Scholarship amount of \$5,000 is not exceeded.

If the student does not undertake four (4) units of study in a single semester, then they will be entitled to a pro-rata amount only. For instance, if the student undertakes three (3) units in a semester, then 75% of the \$2,500 for the semester will be paid by Council.

In order to claim payment, the student will need to submit a copy of their semester results to the [Community Development & Events Officer or Director of Corporate Services Human Resources section of Council](#). These results **must** come directly from the University ~~and or TAFE College~~ (e.g. a formal transcript of the results; an email to Council sent directly from the University ~~and or TAFE College~~ email account). Email results forwarded by the student are not acceptable unless the email contains the original email sent by the University ~~or TAFE~~ to the student.

6.5. ASSOCIATED POLICIES & FORMS

- Scholarship Application Form-
- Scholarship Agreement ([letter format](#))

7.6. NON-COMPLIANCE

Non-compliance with the provisions of this policy may result in action being taken in accordance with Council's policies and procedures or relevant legislative requirements.

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Meeting Date	19th February 2025
Subject	Councillor Remuneration 2025 2026
Classification	Open
Author	Jodi Kernan, Senior Administration Officer HR Payroll

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal review the rate of pay applicable to Councillors in each category of Council. Having decided on a maximum amount of remuneration for each category before 1 December each year, the Tribunal must prepare a remuneration schedule and a report within 14 days. A copy of the schedule and report must be provided to the Minister, and the schedule must be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Councils must pay the maximum amount of remuneration to councillors unless, by resolution within 90 days of the gazettal of a new schedule, they decide on another amount which cannot exceed the maximum decided by the Tribunal.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Resolve to accept the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal Schedule of Rates for Councillor's remuneration effective from 1st July 2025 in accordance with Section 247 of the Local Government Act 2009 and furthermore that Council resolve to identify, that the Ordinary General Meetings and Budget (workshop) Meetings are those "identified" meetings where the presence of all councillors is expected to attend to receive the meeting fee component of the remuneration level set out in the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal's remuneration schedule below.

	Salary 1 July 24 to June 25	Salary July 25 to June 26	Difference
Mayor	\$119,393	\$122,975	\$3,582
Deputy Mayor	\$68,880	\$70,946	\$2,066
Councillors	(see Note 1) \$59,695	(see Note 1) \$61,486	\$1,791

*Note 1: For councillors in category A1, A2 and A3 councils, a base payment (two thirds of the annual remuneration) and a monthly payment based upon attendance at council meetings (one third of the annual remuneration) is payable for the 12 months commencing 1 July 2025. Participation in, scheduled meetings of council is subject to certification by the mayor and/or chief executive of the council. Mayors and deputy mayors in category A1, A2 and A3 are currently entitled to receive their full annual remuneration level shown.

BACKGROUND

The process for making remuneration determinations is prescribed in some detail in Chapter 8, Part 1, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. Essentially, Councils are allocated to categories based primarily on size of population, and maximum remuneration, including additional remuneration for the mayor and deputy mayor. Each Council may determine the remuneration for each councillor, up to the maximum. If no determination is made, the maximum applies.

The Local Government Remuneration tribunal must, before 1 December of each year, and for each category of local government, decide the maximum amount of remuneration payable from 1 July of the following year to a councillor, mayor or deputy mayor of a local government in each category. The report explains the rationale behind the adoption of a system of remuneration for Category 1 Councils which comprise a base payment (of two thirds of the annual remuneration) and a monthly payment based upon attendance at, and participation in, the 12 mandated Council meetings; however, rather than the meeting fee being based, solely, on attendance at and participation in mandated council meetings, the tribunal believes that the meeting fee concept should be extended to incorporate other important meetings which require a councillor's attendance, and participation, such as budget meetings, planning sessions, and the like. This is because the role of a councillor requires them to fully participate in, and contribute to, such meetings. As such, the Tribunal recommends that councils should identify, at the commencement of each year, those meetings where the presence of all councillors is expected so as to identify the number of meetings which each councillor will need to attend to receive the meeting fee component of the remuneration level set out in the note at the foot of the remuneration schedule.

The following table shows the new level of remuneration:

Mayor	\$122,975
Deputy Mayor	\$70,946
Councillors	\$61,486

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No 5: Best practise corporate governance and organisational excellence

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Rates will apply from the July pay and will be reflected in the 2025/2026 budget.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act (Qld) 2009

Local Government Regulations (Qld) 2012

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Please consult Council's Community Engagement Policy in conjunction with the IAP2 Spectrum for guidance.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	Not applicable
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Report Prepared By:

Report Authorised By:

Jodi Kernan, Senior Administration Officer HR Payroll

Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 4th February 2025

Date: 4th February 2025

ATTACHMENTS

Local Government Remuneration Commission Annual Report 2024

Local Government **Remuneration Commission**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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An electronic copy of this report is available at <https://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/for-councils/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission>

04 December 2024

Hon Ann Leahy MP
Minister for Local Government and Water and
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
1 William Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Minister

On 29 November 2024, the Local Government Remuneration Commission (the Commission) concluded its determination of the levels of remuneration for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors of Queensland local governments (excluding Brisbane City Council) as required by section 177(c) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 8, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation).

Our determinations on these matters, together with the Remuneration Schedule to apply from 1 July 2025 are included in the enclosed Report, which we commend to you.

Yours sincerely



Robert (Bob) Abbot OAM
Chairperson



Andrea Ranson
Commissioner



Reimen Hii
Commissioner



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1. 2024 Report key determinations

Determination of maximum remuneration levels

The Commission has decided to increase the maximum remuneration levels for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors as follows:

Council Categories A1, A2, A3 and B1	Increase by 3% from 1 July 2025
Council Categories B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D2, D3, E2 and F2	Increase by 2.5% from 1 July 2025

In making its determination of maximum remuneration levels applicable for 2025-26, the Commission considered the following:

- The outcomes of the Commission’s 2023 remuneration category methodology.
- Remuneration and wages indexation applied for other public sector entities.
- The importance of maintaining financially sustainable and fiscally responsible wage growth, taking into consideration:
 - the recently challenging and unstable inflationary environment and measures taken by other government authorities to manage the impacts of inflation.
 - the challenges faced by local governments and their communities in relation to climate change and environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) reporting, and the additional resources required in relation to sustainability and resilience strategies.
 - the realistic affordability and sustainability impacts for councils and their communities of wage increases for elected members.
 - the potential differential impact of Consumer Price Index (CPI) changes across various parts of Queensland, including rural and remote regions.
 - the appropriateness or otherwise of CPI as a potential measure in significant inflationary periods of time and the relative volatility of annual CPI since the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - existing remuneration disparity in dollar terms between the remuneration paid to mayors and councillors in smaller, rural, regional and remote parts of Queensland when compared to mayors and councillors in larger, metropolitan locations.
 - anecdotal evidence of the desire to attract and retain high quality candidates to these roles, particularly in regional and remote areas.
 - the continuing significant disparity in remuneration between Mayors and Councillors from smaller rural, regional, and remote communities compared to those in larger metropolitan areas, as highlighted in written and oral deputations to the Commission over the last five years.
 - the gap in real wage terms between Mayors and Councillors in Categories A1 to B1 and those in Categories B2 to F2, despite the equally important work undertaken by local governments in all categories.
 - the Commission remains committed to addressing this gap through its annual remuneration schedule and category reviews and has applied a higher percentage increase for A1, A2, A3 and B1 councils.

The Commission further took into consideration the following data:

Increase in CPI¹:

	Dec Qtr 2023	Mar Qtr 2024	June Qtr 2024	Sep Qtr 2024
All Groups CPI inflation change (quarterly)				
Brisbane	0.5%	1.1%	1.0%	-0.9%
Australia*	0.6%	1.0%	1.0%	0.2%
All Groups CPI inflation change (annual)				
Brisbane	4.2%	3.4%	3.4%	1.8%
Australia	4.1%	3.6%	3.8%	2.8%

* Australia' refers to weighted average of eight capital cities

Increases in the Wage Price Index (WPI)²:

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024 as compared to the financial year ending 30 June 2023¹:

		Seasonally adjusted		Original	
		All Industries	Public Sector	All Industries	Public Sector
Quarterly change Mar 2024 to June 2024	Queensland			0.7%	
	Australia	0.8%	0.9%	4.1%	3.9%
Annual change Jun 2023 to Jun 2024	Queensland			4.6%	
	Australia	0.6%	0.7%	4.1%	3.9%

Brisbane City Council's Independent Councillor Remuneration Tribunal (ICRT)³:

- The Commission has considered the Brisbane City Council's Independent Councillor Remuneration Tribunal (ICRT) determination as a potentially relevant factor.
- The Tribunal has determined that the base rate for a BCC Councillor should be increased by 2.5% on 1 June 2022 with effect on and from 1 September 2022.

The Office of Industrial Relations (OIR):

The State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2023 (2023 Core Agreement) wage increase arrangements:

- 4% effective 1 July 2023 + COLA⁴ payment of max 3% base wages
- 4% effective 1 July 2024 + max 3% COLA if applicable
- 3% effective 1 July 2025 + max 3% COLA if applicable.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics
<https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/economy/prices-indexes/consumer-price-index-state>

² Australian Bureau of Statistics
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/latest-release#state-and-territory-wage-growth>

³ Brisbane City Council's Independent Councillor Remuneration Tribunal
<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/about-council/governance-and-strategy/lord-mayor-and-councillors/councillors-remuneration-policy>

⁴ COLA refers to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment paid if CPI is higher than the base wage increases e.g. in a year where base increase is 4% and CPI is 7% the COLA paid will be 3%. If base increase is 4% and CPI is 6%, the COLA paid will be 2%.

New South Wales⁵

- The New South Wales Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined an increase of 3.75% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2024-25 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2024, circulated on 29 May 2024.

Victoria⁶

- On 1 July 2024, the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (VIRT) made the allowance payable to mayors, deputy mayors, and councillors (Victoria) Annual Adjustment Determination 2024.
- The VIRT determined a 3.5% increase to the values of the base allowances payable to mayors, deputy mayors, and councillors, effective from 1 July 2024. A 3.5% increase has also been applied to the base allowance values which take effect on:
 - 18 December 2024
 - 18 December 2025

Western Australia⁷

- In a determination published on 26 March 2024, the Western Australian Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, resolved that attendance fees and annual allowance ranges for Elected Members would be increased by 4%, with the adjustment to taking effect from 1 July 2024
- In Western Australia a local government or regional local government can elect to pay council members an attendance or an annual fee to all council members who attend council, committee or prescribed meetings. There is also provision for reimbursement of expenses.

Tasmania⁸

- In Tasmania, the remuneration for local government councillors is automatically increased under the provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015.
- Allowances are adjusted from 1 November each year by multiplying the allowances for the previous year by the inflationary factor for the current year.
- Individual allowances payable to elected members from 1 November 2024 will be rounded to the nearest dollar using the inflationary factor, which is 5.14% for 2023-24.

⁵ <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/https-www-olg-nsw-gov-au-category-https-www-olg-nsw-gov-au-category-council-circulars/24-08-2024-25-determination-of-the-local-government-remuneration-tribunal/>

⁶ <https://www.vic.gov.au/allowances-mayors-deputy-mayors-and-councillors-annual-adjustment>

⁷ Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members Determination No 1 of 2024 (www.wa.gov.au)

⁸ https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/385107/2024-Councillor-allowances-information-sheet.pdf

Northern Territory⁹

- In the Northern Territory, the allowances for local government council members are indexed by CPI (Darwin) on 1 July each year.
- The Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal has also increased the basic allowances paid to every Councillor on 29 January 2024 by 2.5% in recognition of general wage and salary increases across the Northern Territory over the past year, effective from 1 July 2024.

Councillor advisors

The Commission did not receive any direction or request from councils to make recommendations relating to councillor advisors in the period between 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024.

⁹ https://cmc.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1355665/report-determination-1-of-2024-allowances-for-members-local-government-councils.pdf

2. The Commission

Formation and composition

The Local Government Remuneration Commission (the Commission) is an independent entity established under the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act). On 1 October 2019, Governor in Council, approved the current Commission for a term of four years.

The Chair and Commissioners were reappointed by Governor in Council for a second four-year term on 1 October 2023.

This is the sixth report of the Commission, and the 18th report about Queensland councillor remuneration, including the reports of the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal and the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The Chair and Commissioners of the Commission are:

Mr Robert (Bob) Abbot OAM

Chairperson

Mr Abbot has extensive experience in the local government sector with 32 years as an elected councillor and mayor. Mr Abbot has experience working at state and national local government organisations and has held board and panel positions, including Deputy Chair of the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors, Director of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), and Director of the Australian Local Government Association. Mr Abbot has been a mentor for newly elected mayors on behalf of the LGAQ, with a particular focus on mentoring Queensland Indigenous mayors.

In the 2021 Australia Day Honours List, Mr Abbot was the recipient of an Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to local government and to the communities of Noosa and the Sunshine Coast.

Ms Andrea Ranson

Commissioner

Ms Ranson is a practising commercial and dispute resolution lawyer with experience in both public and private sectors of business and governance. She holds a Master of Laws (LLM), Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Arts from Monash University, Victoria. She is additionally a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Directors (AICD) and a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA).

Ms Ranson is a director appointed to North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation, a government owned corporation, holding the role of Chair of the Corporate Governance and Planning Committee, and the role of Member of the Audit & Financial Risk Management Committee of that Board. Ms Ranson was appointed on 1 October 2024, as a Member of the Mackay Health & Hospital Service, a Member of the Finance Committee and a Member of the Sustainability and Capital Works Committees of that Board. Her experience includes business and commercial law, employment and industrial relations, diversity, justice, and ethics. Ms Ranson lives regionally and is passionate about regional development. Ms Ranson is a Nationally

Accredited Mediator presently working with QCAT, the QSBC, the QBCC and is a member of the QLD Department of Justice & Attorney-General Dispute Resolution Panel.

Mr Reimen Hii

Commissioner

Mr Hii is a barrister and Nationally Accredited Mediator. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts. He is a practicing lawyer with extensive knowledge in public administration and community affairs, and a particular interest in civil and commercial law. Mr Hii is experienced in professional discipline matters, including investigations, public administration, corporate and public governance, public sector ethics and finance.

Mr Hii has a culturally and linguistically diverse background and experience collaborating with diverse communities. Mr Hii has previously been recognised as Australian Young Lawyer of the Year by the Law Council of Australia, in recognition of his significant contribution to access to justice and diversity advocacy. Mr Hii provides a deep understanding of diversity and brings well respected analytic skill, together with legal and business acumen to the role.

Remuneration responsibilities

Chapter 6, Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) established the Local Government Remuneration Commission to assume the remuneration functions of the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal which ceased to exist on 3 December 2018.

Section 177 of the Act provides the functions of the Commission are:

- to establish the categories of local governments, and
- to decide the category to which each local government belongs, and
- to decide the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the councillors in each of the categories, and
- to consider and make recommendations to the Minister about the following matters relating to councillor advisors—
 - (i) whether or not to prescribe a local government under section 197D(1)(a)
 - (ii) the number of councillor advisors each councillor of a local government may appoint
 - (iii) the number of councillor advisors a councillor of the council under the City of Brisbane Act 2010 may appoint; and
- another function related to the remuneration of councillors if directed, in writing, by the Minister.

Chapter 8, Part 1, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Regulation) sets out the processes of the Commission in deciding the remuneration that is payable to mayors and councillors.

The Regulation requires the Commission to review the categories of local governments once every four years, in the year prior to each quadrennial election, to determine whether the categories and the assignment of local governments to those categories require amendment.

After determining the categories of local governments, the Regulation also requires the Commission to decide annually, before 1 December each year, the maximum amount of remuneration to be paid to mayors, deputy mayors and councillors in each category from 1 July of the following year.

In addition, section 248 of the Regulation allows a local government to make a submission to the Commission to vary the remuneration for a councillor, or councillors, to a level higher than that stated in the Remuneration schedule where the local government considers exceptional circumstances apply. The Commission may, but is not required to, consider any such submission. If the Commission is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist, the Commission may approve payment of a higher amount of remuneration.

Section 197A of the Act established requirements for councils that wish to employ councillor advisors and councillor administrative support staff to assist councillors to complete their duties.

The requirements in relation to the appointment of councillor advisors include the following:

- must vote to pass a resolution to create councillor advisor positions (except Brisbane City Council)
- appoint advisor, at the discretion of councillors and only until the councillor's term ends, unless re-appointed by a new councillor

- must report the costs of councillor advisors to the community, for example through the council's annual report.

Requirements for councillor advisors include the following:

- they must submit registers of interests and keep them up to date
- they must follow a new Code of Conduct for councillor advisors in Queensland
- they must comply with the local government principles and can be found guilty of integrity offences.

At the time of this report, the Commission is yet to receive any submissions or enquiries in relation to councillor advisors as at the date of its determination.

3. Remuneration determination

Remuneration determination for councillors

As required by section 246 of the Regulation the Commission has prepared a Remuneration Schedule (the Schedule) for the 2024-2025 financial year, applicable from 1 July 2025, which appears below.

Arrangements have been made to publish the Schedule in the Queensland Government Gazette and for this report to be presented to the Minister for Local Government.

Methodology

The Commission had regard to the matters in section 244 and 247 (2), (5) of the Regulation in determining the Schedule. The Commission also noted and had regard to the matters listed throughout this report to determine the appropriate maximum remuneration in each category of local government.

Matters not included in the Remuneration schedule

The Commission considered all submissions received during the consultation phase of the review of council categorisations for the purpose of developing a framework to create categories and place councils.

Pro rata payment

Should an elected representative hold a councillor position for only part of a financial year, they are only entitled to remuneration to reflect the portion of the year served. It is out of the scope of the Commission's powers to determine otherwise.

Remuneration schedule to apply from 1 July 2025

Remuneration determined from 1 July 2025 (\$ per annum; see Note 1)

Category	Local Governments assigned to categories	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
A1 *Note 1	Barcaldine Regional Council	\$122,975	\$70,946	\$61,486
	Barcoo Shire Council			
	Bulloo Shire Council			
	Croydon Shire Council			
	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council			
	McKinlay Shire Council			
	Richmond Shire Council			
	Torres Shire Council			
	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council			
A2 *Note 1	Aurukun Shire Council	\$122,975	\$70,946	\$61,486
	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council			
	Boulia Shire Council			
	Burke Shire Council			
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Cloncurry Shire Council			
	Diamantina Shire Council			
	Etheridge Shire Council			
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council			
	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Mornington Shire Council			
	Murweh Shire Council			
	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council			
North Burnett Regional Council				

Category	Local Governments assigned to categories	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Paroo Shire Council			
	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Quilpie Shire Council			
	Winton Shire Council			
	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council			
A3 * Note 1	Longreach Regional Council	\$124,157	\$71,629	\$62,078
	Balonne Shire Council			
	Douglas Shire Council			
	Flinders Shire Council			
	Goondiwindi Regional Council			
	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council			
B1	Banana Shire Council	\$124,157	\$71,629	\$62,078
	Carpentaria Shire Council			
	Burdekin Shire Council			
	Cook Shire Council			
	Torres Strait Island Regional Council			
B2	Maranoa Regional Council	\$149,895	\$93,684	\$79,630
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council			
	Charters Towers Regional Council			
	Gympie Regional Council			
	Livingstone Shire Council			
	Mareeba Shire Council			
	Mount Isa City Council			
	Scenic Rim Regional Council			
	Somerset Regional Council			
	South Burnett Regional Council			
	Southern Downs Regional Council			
	Tablelands Regional Council			

Category	Local Governments assigned to categories	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
B3	Isaac Regional Council	\$150,258	\$93,911	\$79,823
	Noosa Shire Council			
	Whitsunday Regional Council			
	Lockyer Valley Regional Council			
C1	Central Highlands Regional Council	\$152,068	\$95,041	\$80,784
	Western Downs Regional Council			
C2	Gladstone Regional Council	\$175,435	\$115,419	\$101,567
	Rockhampton Regional Council			
C3	Bundaberg Regional Council	\$177,138	\$116,539	\$102,553
	Fraser Coast Regional Council			
D2	Cairns Regional Council	\$203,137	\$138,501	\$120,037
	Mackay Regional Council			
	Redland City Council			
	Toowoomba Regional Council			
D3	Townsville City Council	\$230,836	\$156,974	\$138,501
	Ipswich City Council			
E2	Logan City Council	\$258,539	\$179,130	\$156,970
	Moreton Bay City Council			
	Sunshine Coast Regional Council			
F2	Gold Coast City Council	\$286,239	\$201,596	\$170,819

Notes to the Remuneration schedule

The 2014 annual report by the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal explained the rationale behind the adoption of a system of remuneration which comprised a base payment (of two thirds of the annual remuneration) and a monthly payment based upon attendance at, and participation in, the 12 mandated council meetings.

The monetary amounts shown are the per annum figures to apply from 1 July 2025. If an elected representative only serves for part of a full financial year (that is, 1 July to 30 June) they are only entitled to a pro rata payment to reflect the portion of the year served.

*Note 1: For councillors in category A1, A2 and A3 councils, a base payment (two thirds of the annual remuneration) and a monthly payment based upon attendance at council meetings (one third of the annual remuneration) is payable for the 12 months commencing 1 July 2025. Participation in, scheduled meetings of council is subject to certification by the mayor and/or chief executive of the council. Mayors and deputy mayors in category A1, A2 and A3 are currently entitled to receive their full annual remuneration level shown.

The Commission has not determined to make changes to the system of base payment and mandated council meetings for its 2025-2026 determination. Future consideration by the Commission may be given to whether changes to the current system should be made.

4. Matters raised with the Commission

A summary table of submissions made to the Commission during the review period and the Commission's determination is provided below.

Meetings and deputations

Local governments were provided with the opportunity to engage with the Commission at the Annual Conference of the LGAQ in Brisbane from 21 to 23 October 2024.

City of Moreton Bay, Gladstone Regional Council, Issac Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council provided the Commission with oral deputations during the 2024 LGAQ Conference.

Local governments were also given an opportunity to provide written submissions to the Commission. Two written submissions were received and considered.

The submissions in general proposed greater remuneration based on the complexities of modern governance faced by councillors and mayors.

In making its determination, the Commission had regard to all submissions it received, together with the matters on throughout this report.

Key points raised with the Commission during the 2024 review period included themes that had been consistently submitted by councils in earlier years: as accounting for an increase in complexity and workload for elected members that includes but not limited to:

- **Remuneration and talent:** need for competitive salaries to attract diverse and skilled elected candidates and a desire to attract and maintain high quality candidates, particularly in regional areas.
- **Innovation recognition:** exploring potential ways to incentivise and reward innovative council initiatives that support community growth, resourcefulness and development.
- **Inflationary impact:** addressing the disproportionate impact of rising inflation on local governments and their constituents, especially those on lower incomes and in rural areas.
- **Community sustainability:** ensuring the long-term viability and prosperity of communities during the global transition to renewable energy and the need for significant infrastructure changes.

Table – Summary of 2024 submissions

1	<p>Date received</p> <p>Received from</p> <p>Summary of submission</p>	<p>21 October 2024 - LGAQ Annual Conference</p> <p>City of Moreton Bay Mayor, Peter Flannery CEO, Scott Waters</p> <p>Concerns have been raised regarding the timing of the remuneration review, which is being conducted near the end of the election term. There is a view that elected members may be hesitant to advocate for fair remuneration adjustments so close to an election, as this timing may not allow for balanced consideration. To address this, it is recommended that the Commission consider scheduling remuneration category reviews at mid-term rather than at the end of the electoral cycle, allowing for a more objective review process.</p> <p>Additionally, the creation of a new subcategory between the existing E2 and F2 categories is proposed. The current category structure does not adequately account for differences in revenue sources or population demands. For instance, unlike some council, which benefits from revenue streams from sewer and water services, Moreton Bay does not have access to such a base.</p> <p>The rapid growth and development in the Moreton Bay region also underscore the need for reconsidering category classifications. Major projects, including the possible relocation of Stadium and substantial population growth, along with developments in the Caboolture West and other site expansions, highlight the increasing workload placed on councillors.</p> <p>As such, the establishment of a new subcategory would more accurately reflect the workload required to effectively manage a large and growing population in Moreton Bay.</p>
	<p>Determination</p>	<p>The Commission acknowledged the Council's concerns and indicated that they would raise the matter with the Minister to explore whether the timing of category reviews could be adjusted.</p> <p>In response, the Commission noted that the difference in pay between categories E2 and F2 is minimal, and therefore the creation of a subcategory might not significantly impact remuneration. This will be revisited in the future category framework review.</p>

2	Date received	22 October 2024 - LGAQ Annual Conference and via E-mail
	Received from	Gladstone Regional Council Councillor Kahn Goodluck Councillor Leanne Patrick
	Summary of submission	<p>Appropriate remuneration for mayors and councillors is essential to fostering strong and sustainable local governance. Considering expanded responsibilities and complex regulatory requirements, there is a need for a remuneration approach that reflects the dedication of local government officials and aligns with that of state and federal representatives, as well as comparable private sector roles.</p> <p>The responsibilities of mayors and councillors have evolved significantly, often requiring a full-time commitment to meet community expectations. A revised remuneration framework would better reflect this commitment, supporting the attraction of individuals with diverse skills and expertise who are eager to contribute to their communities enabling greater representation of groups underrepresented in local government, such as women and younger individuals, fostering a dynamic council environment.</p> <p>The introduction of a Transition Allowance is also recommended to support councillors and mayors as they transition out of their roles, recognising their commitment to public service. This allowance would help mitigate the financial impact of leaving office, ensuring a smoother return to other professions.</p> <p>Furthermore, running for office involves considerable personal financial outlay. Aligning the allowable deductions for local government candidates with those available to state and federal candidates would reduce financial barriers. Advocacy for equitable tax deduction allowances for local government candidates would help ensure that financial limitations do not deter qualified candidates from pursuing local office.</p>
	Determination	<p>The Commission explained the role of the Commissioners, outlining the statutory requirements that define their powers and limitations. While acknowledging the council's concerns about long-term planning and the challenges of attracting high-quality candidates, particularly regarding potential provisions for election cost entitlements or a transition allowance, the Commission advised that these matters fall outside their statutory authority to recommend or implement.</p> <p>The Commission emphasised that, although they cannot make changes in this area, they recognise the importance of the issue, which will be documented in their upcoming report. Additionally, the Commission recommended that the council seek legal advice on what actions it may be able to take independently, noting that the statutory framework does not prevent the council from pursuing such initiatives.</p>

3	Date received	22 October 2024 - LGAQ Annual Conference and via E-mail
	Received from	Issac Regional Council Councillor Jane Pickels CEO, Cale Dendle
	Summary of submission	<p>The Council highlighted the similarities between the roles and challenges faced by Central Highlands Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council, both of which are categorised one level higher than Isaac Regional Council. The Council expressed a preference for having these similarities reflected in the category framework. The discussion also touched on the issue of whether the role should be considered full-time or part-time.</p> <p>Additionally, the Council raised the non-resident population factor, emphasising the unique situation in which they serve both the oldest and youngest communities in the country, from coastal areas to rural regions, and the challenges associated with meeting the needs of these diverse populations.</p> <p>The Council also sought clarification on how subcategories were calculated, noting that the differences between some were minimal, while others showed a more significant jump. Understanding this would provide greater insight into the categorisation process.</p> <p>While Council is pleased to see the recent reclassification of Central Highlands and Western Downs to Category C1, there is some confusion as to why Isaac remains classified as B3. It is unclear why the initial increment in both Category B and Category C is significantly lower than subsequent increments within the same categories. This discrepancy appears to undercut the intent of last year's review of the categorisation methodology.</p>
	Determination	<p>The Commission provided a detailed explanation of the methodology used to calculate the categories and subcategories, highlighting the benefits of applying primary and supporting criteria. These criteria ensure a more objective assessment across councils, eliminating the subjective elements of earlier practices.</p> <p>The Commission acknowledged the council's concerns and agreed on the importance of attracting qualified and diverse candidates. Additionally, the Commission emphasised that increasing revenue is the key factor accepted across the industry for councils seeking to move into higher categories.</p> <p>While the Commission will continue exploring options, they assured the council that the points raised will be considered as part of ongoing improvements to the remuneration framework in the coming years.</p>

4	Date received	22 October 2024 – LGAQ Annual Conference
	Received from	Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor, Geoff MacDonald A/CEO, Nick Hauser
	Summary of submission	<p>Council expressed its appreciation for the work of the Remuneration Commission, particularly in successfully completing the recent category review. They commended the efforts involved and sought further clarification on the remuneration framework, the Commission’s role, and the general methodology used. Council also conveyed its gratitude for the inclusion of the SEIFA index and other supporting criteria in the review process.</p> <p>Additionally, Council noted that based on their current revenue, they believe they should be categorised one level higher, aligning more closely with the D3 councils instead of D2.</p> <p>In closing, Council thanked the Commission for accommodating the meeting on short notice and advised that they would review the materials available on the website and submit any requests if necessary.</p>
	Determination	<p>The Commission thanked the Mayor for his appreciation of the new remuneration framework and methodology, assuring that they remain committed to continuously improving the process.</p> <p>Future review of the framework is planned for around 2028. The Commissioner provided further explanation on how the methodology works, detailing how the criteria were suggested and generally accepted by councils as comparable factors.</p> <p>The Commission also mentioned that they will continue to explore additional factors, such as innovation and industry-specific needs, and work towards developing measurable criteria. They acknowledged the challenges in creating fair and equitable standards that can be universally applied.</p> <p>Additionally, the Commission inquired whether the council had any specific requests regarding the upcoming annual remuneration determination. Council expressed gratitude for the Commission’s correspondence seeking feedback and advised they would use that channel to submit any future submissions as needed.</p>

5. Other activities

Exceptional circumstances submissions (matters raised under Local Government Regulation 2012, section 248):

Nil.

6. Future priorities

The Commission will continue to consider enhancements to the framework for council remuneration categorisation including an equitable method to consider industry impacts on councils and matters relating to transitioning communities and improving sustainability.

The Commission will continue to invite submissions from all Councils as part of its general review of categories and maximum determination of remuneration.

The Commission intends to engage with local governments throughout the year including the option for a mid-year deputation process to be established. The Commission invites councils in all areas to participate in the deputation process and any further opportunities for submissions to be made that the Commission may announce.

Further information about the Commission can be located at <https://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/for-councils/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission>

Local Government Remuneration Commission

PO Box 15009
City East Qld 4002

1 William Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: LGRCEnquiries@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 3452 7992

Website: <https://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/for-councils/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission>

GENERAL MEETING: February 2025

Mayor and Councillors
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12
Georgetown, QLD 4871

Councillors,

I present my report for the period of: January 2025

1. Transport Main Roads

- A permanent electronic road closure sign for Lynd Roadhouse- TMR is working on it.
- Log Creek and Somerset Creek - Electronic warning signs – TMR is working on it

2. Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program (HVSPP)

- Georgetown wash down bay – Road works in progress.

3. Signs

- The installation of Station signs in zone 4 completed except following signs. Installations of the Soda Creek, Gilberton, The Oaks, Welfern, Oakleigh, Ballynure, Bagstow and Glenmore are in progress.
- Green signs. - Detail listing of all missing station directional signs and their cost will be developed by March 2025.
- Drinking water tap in Georgetown: Investigation for water charges in progress.

4. RTR

Drainage works in Mount Surprise

The drainage along the Atkinson Road has been redesigned and has been planned to go through the road reserve located between 2MPH22948 and 3MPH14047 (Ref. Map). The council is in the process for quotations from the underground utilities locators.

5. Independent Living Facility

The Work Progress of the ILH (Independent Living Houses) Project is as follows:

Remaining works

- Power connection – waiting response from Ergon
- Footpath
- Fencing
- Land Scaping
- Streetlights
- Pumps and water tanks
- Spreading of piles of dirt
- Concrete driveway and carport

Staff Housing

Remaining works

- Electrical works from Main network to houses
- Road works – Construction phase
- Fencing
- Land Scaping
- Streetlights
- Concrete driveway and carport
- Sewer network will be completed.

6. Remote airstrip upgrade program round 10

7. Grant application

Grant Program	Projects applied for	Amount applied for	Remarks
2024-2028 Local Government Grants Subsidies Program 2024-2028 (60:40)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC pipe replacement (60:40) 	\$ 125,000	Unsuccessful
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply and Installation of five automatic Piezometers for Charleston dam 	\$ 125,000	
NAB Foundation Community Grants (100 %)	Purchase of Boat for Charleston Dam for Rescue purpose	\$25,000	Waiting for results
FNQRP	Airport fencing and water works	\$ 500,000	Waiting for results

9. Charleston Dam

- Weekly inspection on going

10. Calendar of Event

Previous Month

- 14.01.025 – DRFA Monthly management meeting
- 22.01.025 – FNQROC RRTG meeting and Council Meeting

Next Month (March 025)

- 3.3.025 – Managers meeting is
- 5.3.025 – Community Connect Meeting - Mount Surprise
- 11.3.025 – DRFA meeting
- 12.3.025 – Work shop - Georgetown
- 17.3.025 – Managers meeting
- 19.3.025 – Council meeting
- 28.3.025- Senior Executive meeting MS Team
- 31.3.025 – Managers meeting

Regards

Raju Ranjit
 Director of Engineering Services

Attachment:

1. Mount Surprise Drainage Layout Plan

Etheridge Shire Council



04/02/2025, 11:50:02 am

QLD Globe Imagery

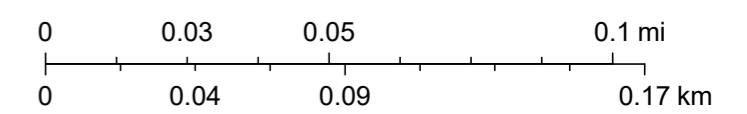
- Red: Band_1
- Green: Band_2
- Blue: Band_3

- World Imagery
- Low Resolution 15m Imagery
- High Resolution 60cm Imagery
- High Resolution 30cm Imagery

- Citations
- 60cm Resolution Metadata
- Road Centreline
- 1

- 4A
- 9A
- DCDB (Nov 2024)

1:2,257



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General Meeting	19 February
Subject	Naming of Georgetown Streets – Independent Living Facility
Classification	Open
Author	Raju Ranjit & Mark Watt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report relates to the naming of streets in Georgetown, as a result of the new development being the Independent Living Facility.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report; and
2. Approve the naming of the following streets, pursuant to section 60(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*:

Road	First Preference Name	Other Options
1	Bloodwood Lane	Boxwood, Coolibah, Corkwood, Ebony, Gum,
2	Beefwood Court	Ironwood, Kapok, Kurrajong, Lancewood,
3	Bauhinia Court	Leichhardt, Nonda, Oak, Peartree, Pine, Sandalwood, Stringybark, Ti-tree, Wattle, Whitewood, Yellow Jacket.

BACKGROUND

The first stage of the Independent Living Facility project is in completion stage. The development consisted of three (3) new roads as depicted on Attachment 1. The first road starts from the intersection of Green and Haldane Streets, with Road 2 being the first road off Road 1 and Road 3 being at the end of the road network.

Following a review of the Department of Transport and Main Roads Road Naming Policy, there are a number of ways to name roads as follows:

- Flora, Fauna (ie. Australian animals and birds), geographical or cultural features found in the locality
- Indigenous names
- Landscape or physical forms
- Name/s of historic significance
- Pioneers and long-term landholders
- People who have served or represented the community well e.g. Sport or the arts.

Naming a road or other transport related infrastructure is important as reference to the name makes it easier for people and emergency services to navigate their way around the community.

Extensive research is underway to determine the naming convention for roads in Georgetown. This process is continuing and when completed, may form a new road naming policy, which may include other towns. In the meantime, there is a need to name the three (3) new roads, as the development is nearing completion.

What is clear is that there is no specific naming convention for Georgetown streets as it is a mix of names after people, places (old mines) and geographical names. Consistent with this approach it is proposed that a naming convention be established after trees, specifically trees that are prevalent in the Etheridge Shire. Refer to Attachment 2 for a list of appropriate names, for use in this case and which can be used for future street naming. This may form a future policy and remove the guesswork from finding suitable names in the future.

Upon the approval of the Road names, Council will submit the proposed names to the Geographical Names Board of Queensland and notify all relevant stakeholders and submit the names for publication in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Council would be required to do the following:

- Publish notice of the name in the Gazette.
- Advertise the name extensively in local newspapers.
- Notify affected residents of the road name and a change of address if applicable.

LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Aim No. 1: A Sustainable Transport Network That Meets Community Needs

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Cost to Council includes the parts and labour for the installation of the street signs. The estimated cost is \$4,000.00 and will be used under Independent Living Facility Project budget.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

AS/NZS 4819:2011 - Rural and Urban Addressing Standard
Local Government Act 2009

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Asset Management Policy

CONSULTATION

Has been consulted with ESC employees.

Consultation	Tick	Policy Consideration	Action
No consultation required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited engagement required	Engage internally based on good decision-making.
Inform	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Consult	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Involve	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Collaborate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Empower	<input type="checkbox"/>		

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment Outcome: Low

Summary of risks and opportunities:

- Risk 1 – Essential services will not be connected to the properties without the formal property address.
- Risk 2 – The residents will be unable to receive an emergency services.
- Risk 3 – The property will remain unoccupied
- Opportunity 1 – Community will get better accommodation service

Report Prepared By:

Raju Ranjit/Mark Watt

Report Authorised By:

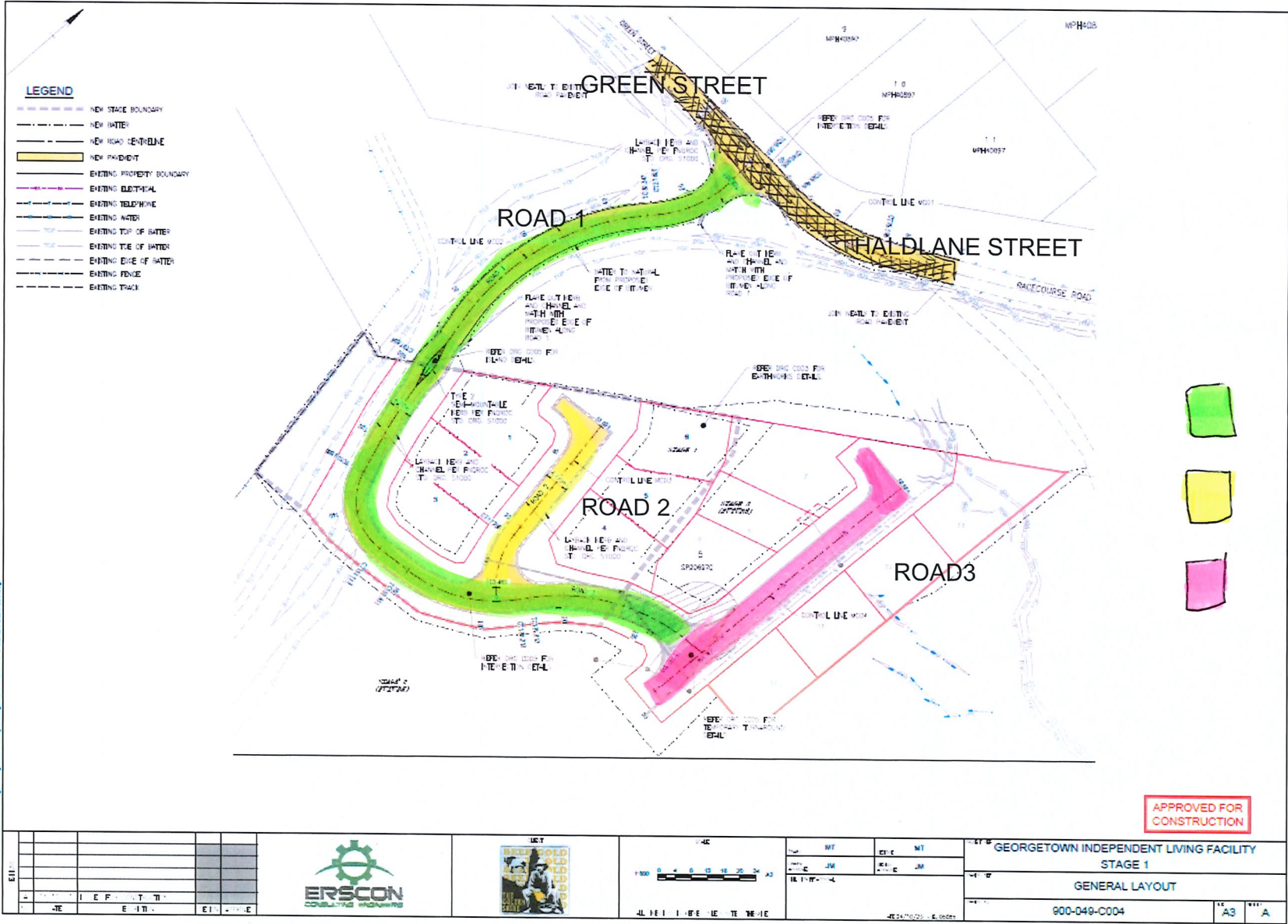
Mark Watt

Date: 31/1/2025

Date: 31/1/2025

ATTACHMENTS

1. Map
2. Schedule of Trees



**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
LOCAL TREES FOR ROAD NAMING
Georgetown**

Item	Tree Name	Description
1.	Bloodwood	Red bloodwood is a medium-sized Australian hardwood tree. It is commonly used in the production of round timber and gets its name from its stunning, dark red sap, which resembles blood.
2.	Beefwood	The Beefwood is an Australian native shrub/tree that occurs extensively in the Etheridge Shire. It mainly grows in sandy and gravelly soils on plains and near watercourses.
3.	Bauhinia	A small evergreen tree with small thick leaves and striking purplish red flowers. Common in the tropics and marginal climates, preferring sandy soils close to river frontage.
4.	Boxwood	The Boxwood, or Grey Box, Stunted Box or River Box is a Eucalypt occurring extensively in the Etheridge Shire.
5.	Coolibah	Grows prolifically along river systems in the Etheridge Shire and further into the Gulf of Carpentaria.
6.	Corkwood	The Corkwood is found growing in grey slate soils within the Etheridge Shire. It has a thick and corky bark and clusters of small white flowers with the leaves having commercial pharmaceutical value.
7.	Ebony	A protected hardwood species known for the black centre of the trunk and found throughout the Etheridge Shire.
8.	Gum	The Gum tree or Eucalyptus is native to Australia consisting of numerous species of flowering plants often mallees or shrubs occurring in eucalypt forests. Many eucalypt species have adapted to wildfire, are able to resprout after fire, or have seeds that survive fire. They are fast-growing, have valuable timber, or can be used for pulpwood, honey production, or essential oils.
9.	Ironwood	The Ironwood is native to central Australia being a graceful weeping shade tree with a hard trunk often used for fence posts. It is slow growing and is both drought and frost tolerant.
10.	Kapok	The Kapok tree is a tall deciduous tree with stunning red flowers when leafless, unique woody thorns on trunk & buttress roots. It occurs in monsoon vine forests and riverbanks. It is the unofficial floral emblem of the Etheridge Shire and is found in granite soils.
11.	Kurrajong	The Kurrajong is found in the Einasleigh & Kidston areas and is small to medium-sized tree suitable for semi-arid habitats. It is drought-tolerant and the extended trunk is a water storage device for survival in a warm, dry climate.

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
LOCAL TREES FOR ROAD NAMING
Georgetown**

Item	Tree Name	Description
12.	Lancewood	The Lancewood tree is a species of Acacia native to Queensland and the Northern Territory with dark grey or black stringy bark and blue-grey foliage. It grows in dry scrub, open forest or mixed savannah woodland. Indigenous people used the wood as fuel and to make hunting spears. Cattle can eat the foliage as fodder.
13.	Leichhardt	The Leichhardt tree is a large hardy tree with unique layered horizontal branching and large glossy leaves. It's an excellent shade and feature tree that attracts birds and butterflies, has fragrant flowers and edible fruit.
14.	Nonda	The (Parinaric) Nonda is a large tree that occurs in the Etheridge Shire, mainly in open eucalyptus forest, or dry scrub, undulating to hilly plateaux, sandstone, basalt or alluvial plains. It also has edible fruits.
15.	Oak	The Oak is a species of flowering tree which is native of eastern Australia, growing in riverine, subtropical and dry rainforest environments. It is a fast-growing evergreen tree with a single main trunk, with fern like leaves and grows in a natural forest environment.
16.	Peartree	The Peartree is a species of plant native to eastern Australia. It grows as a small tree to ten metres high.
17.	Pine	The Pine tree is an evergreen species of flowering plant specific to higher reaches of the Newcastle Range in the Etheridge Shire.
18.	Sandalwood	Sandalwood is a class of wood trees that are heavy, yellow, and fine-grained, and, unlike many other aromatic woods, they retain their fragrance for decades.
19.	Stringybark	The Stringybark has a thick, fibrous bark and exists in fertile locations, preferring sandy soils in the Shire. A medium-sized tree with the bark used by early European colonists for roofing and walls of huts.
20.	Ti-tree	Ti Tree is a resilient Australian hardwood with an appealing pinkish to reddish-brown colour and fine, straight grain.
21.	Wattle	The Wattle or Acacia mainly prefers sandy to poorer soil types or arid and semi-arid areas in the Etheridge Shire.
22.	Whitewood	Whitewood is a shrub or small tree with pale grey bark and bears clusters of cream flowers. It is drought tolerant and provides shade for livestock.
23.	Yellow Jacket	Yellow Jacket is a species of tree common to Queensland and has rough, tessellated bark on the trunk and branches, lance-shaped or curved adult leaves, flower buds in groups of seven, white flowers and barrel-shaped, urn-shaped or shortened spherical fruit.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Gemma Bethel

From: Mark Watt
Sent: Thursday, 23 January 2025 4:02 PM
To: Gemma Bethel
Subject: FW: Tablelands Network Upgrade Strategy

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Gemma,

For Your Info – Feb agenda



Mark Watt

Chief Executive Officer
Etheridge Shire Council
PO Box 12 | St George Street | Georgetown Q 4871
Phone: 4079 9090 **Fax:** 4062 1285
Mobile: 0439 414 771 **Email:** Mark.Watt@etheridge.qld.gov.au



**UNEARTH
ETHERIDGE**

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From: Cairns.Office <cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 2:03 PM
To: Mark Watt <Mark.Watt@etheridge.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Tablelands Network Upgrade Strategy

You don't often get email from cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mark

I am writing to advise the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is carrying out a planning study which will identify upgrades to width deficient roads within the Far North District. In conjunction with this study, a parallel planning project is being undertaken to develop a specific upgrade strategy for the Tablelands road network. The two strategies will outline short, medium and long-term recommendations for proposed upgrades to improve safety, reliability, transport efficiency and resilience of the growing Far North and Tablelands area.

The strategies will form options for a program of progressive upgrades that align with the *Transport Coordination Plan 2017 – 2027*, by identifying existing deficiencies, possible treatments, and prioritisation of scope of network upgrades.

The planning study will consider the growing demands on the transport network with increased traffic demand being generated through mining, tourism, agriculture, and horticulture. From the planning, options will be developed that meet TMR long-term strategic objectives and aligns with the future function of the state-controlled road network.

This is the first stage of planning for consideration of upgrades, further planning and construction of any identified upgrades are currently unfunded.

The project is expected to be completed in late 2025, depending on finalisation of the upgrade strategies.

If you require further information about the project, or would like to provide locations for consideration as part of this study please do not hesitate to contact me by email at cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au or by telephone on 4045 7144.

Kind regards,

Darryl Jones

District Director (Far North) | North Queensland Region

Program Delivery and Operations Branch | Infrastructure Management and Delivery Division

Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 4045 7144

15 Lake Street | Cairns Qld 4870

PO Box 6185 | Cairns Qld 4870

cairns.office@tmr.qld.gov.au

www.tmr.qld.gov.au

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It is your responsibility to ensure that this email and any attachments do not contain and are not affected by computer viruses, defects or interference by third parties or replication problems (including incompatibility with your computer system).

Opinions contained in this email do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, or endorsed organisations utilising the same infrastructure.

Communication Brief

Etheridge Community Assistance Project

The Brief

To communicate the proposed activities as part of the RACQ Foundation's Etheridge Community Assistance Project.

Need to know more?

Amanda Edwards
Project Coordinator
M: 0427 631 479

Bridgette Muller
Manager Foundation
M: 0447 302 674

Overview

Established in early 2011, RACQ Foundation helps QLD Communities and Clubs recover from severe weather events as well as building natural disaster resilience. To date, more than \$15m has been distributed to assist over 500 Queensland clubs and community organisations through our grants program.

In 2016, RACQ Foundation's Community Assistance Program was launched in Longreach. The award-winning volunteering initiative provides on the ground, practical support to Queenslanders impacted by natural disaster. Since inception, 25 projects have been delivered with a recent focus on reconciliation and resilience and our First Nations communities with successfully delivered projects in The Torres Strait and Wujal Wujal.

As part of RACQ Foundation's continued commitment to supporting communities affected by natural disasters, we will partner with the Etheridge Shire Council and community organisations, to deliver our fourth project in 2025. The initiative will be achieved in collaboration with RACQ's Building Panel, NGO's and RACQ partners and charities.

The volunteering activities will assist the broader community, which will support natural disaster resilience.

Project Details

Project Date: Monday 29 September – Friday 3 October 2025

RACQ's involvement entails sending non-mechanical, mechanical, Information Technology and Education as well as trades to:

- Complete works that assist in improving environmental degradation – erosion, siltation, scouring and biodiversity loss, removal of vegetation, replanting/ revegetation
- Building modification and resilience improvement such as emergency power sources, fixing dripping taps, painting and fencing
- Repair/service machinery such as four-wheel drives, quads, motorbikes and tractors
- Trade repairs such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing and roofing
- Donation of laptops including technology training and trouble shooting
- Deliver RACQ Road safety and other programs

We will also pledge volunteering support to the Georgetown Bush races event.

While the program aims to deliver tangible results, what is evident is the meaningful contribution made through conversations shared and friendships forged.

Next steps

Community, Sporting Club and Charity Nomination Form

Interested Clubs and organisations will need to return the nomination form to RACQ Foundation by 23 May 2025 for review and consideration. Site visits to applicable clubs will be completed as part of the planning trip in June.

Planning trip

RACQ Foundation Manager, Bridgette Muller and RACQ Foundation Project Coordinator, Amanda Edwards will visit the Etheridge Community from Monday 2 – Thursday 5 June 2025 to engage with Council and stakeholders for project planning while exploring opportunities to leverage partnerships for the successful delivery of the Community Assistance Project.

Additional Information

Videos of past trips:

[Torres Strait Community Assistance Project](#)

[Cherbourg Community Assistance Project](#)

[Gympie Community Assistance Muster](#)

[Yarrabah Assistance Project](#)

[Barcaldine Assistance Project](#)

[Miles Assistance Project](#)

[Townsville Flood Assistance Project](#)

[Weekend Sunrise - RACQ Foundation Morven](#)

[RACQ Official – Morven Drought Project](#)

[Charleville Drought Assistance Project](#)

[Longreach Drought Assistance Project](#)