

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**5.2 Adopt Minutes Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2022-23 Budget 22 June 2022**

The purpose of this Report is for Council to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2022-23 Budget held on Wednesday, 22 June 2022.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved By** Cr. K. A. Bourne

**Seconded By** Cr. C. T. Tillman

That this Report be received and that:

1. The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2022-23 Budget held on Wednesday, 22 June 2022, copies of which have been circulated to Members, be taken as read and confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**Absent Did Not Vote:** Cr. I. J. Rasmussen



**Minutes Special Meeting of Council  
Adopt 2022-2023 Budget**

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 June, 2022  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** WDRC - Corporate Office - Boardroom  
30 Marble Street, Dalby Qld 4405

**Voting Members:** Cr. P.M. McVeigh (Chairperson)  
Cr. A.N. Smith  
Cr. K.A. Bourne  
Cr. P.T. Saxelby  
Cr. K.A. Maguire  
Cr. I.J. Rasmussen  
Cr. M.J. James  
Cr. O.G. Moore  
Cr. C.T. Tillman

**Officers:** J. Taylor, Chief Executive Officer  
P. Greet, Acting General Manager (Corporate Services)  
D. Fletcher, General Manager (Community and Liveability)  
G. Cook, General Manager (Infrastructure Services)

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**1. DECLARATION OF MEETING OPENING**

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 1:02pm.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Nil.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Adopt Minutes Special Meeting of Council DRAFT 2022-23 Budget 8 June 2022**

The purpose of this Report is for Council to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council DRAFT 2022-23 Budget held on Wednesday, 8 June 2022.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. I.J. Rasmussen

**Seconded by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1.The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council, DRAFT 2022-23, Budget held on Wednesday, 8 June 2022, copies of which have been circulated to Members, be taken as read and confirmed.

**CARRIED**

GM G. Cook left the meeting at 1:06pm

#### **4. CORPORATE SERVICES**

##### **4.1 Corporate Service Report Adoption of 2022-23 Operational Plan**

The purpose of this Report is to seek Council's formal adoption of the 2022-23 Operational Plan.

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. M.J. James

**Seconded by:** Cr. P.T. Saxelby

That this Report be received, and that Council adopt the 2022-23 Operational Plan, as proposed.

**CARRIED**

##### **4.2 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2022-23 Budget - Council Policy and 2022-23 Financial Management Strategy - Council Policy**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed 2022-23 Budget - Council Policy and accompanying 2022-23 Financial Management Strategy - Council Policy.

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. O.G. Moore

**Seconded by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009, Council resolves to adopt the 2022-23 Budget - Council Policy and 2022-23 Financial Management Strategy - Council Policy.

**CARRIED**

**4.3 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2022-23 Revenue Policy - Council Policy**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the 2022-23 Revenue Policy - Council Policy.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. K.A. Maguire

**Seconded by:** Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 169 (2) and Section 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the 2022-23 Revenue Policy - Council Policy be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4.4 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Revenue Statement 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the proposed 2022-23 Revenue Statement.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

**Seconded by:** Cr. P.T. Saxelby

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolves to adopt the 2022-23 Revenue Statement as proposed.

**CARRIED**

**4.5 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates to apply in the 2022-23 Financial Year.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. K.A. Bourne

**Seconded by:** Cr. C.T. Tillman

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to make and levy the proposed Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates for 2022-23. This resolution is made in accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and pursuant to the 2022-23 Revenue Policy - Council Policy and 2022-23 Revenue Statement.

**CARRIED**

**4.6 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Special Charges for 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the Special Rates and Charges for 2022-23.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. K.A. Maguire

**Seconded by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to adopt the proposed 2022-23 Special Charges, pursuant to the provisions of the 2022-23 Revenue Policy - Council Policy and 2022-23 Revenue Statement.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.7 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2022-23 Utility Charges**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed 2022-23 Utility Charges.

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. O.G. Moore

**Seconded by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 Local Government Act 2009, the 2022-23 Revenue Policy - Council Policy and the 2022-23 Revenue Statement, Council resolves to adopt the 2022-23 Utility Charges.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.8 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Rates and Charges and Special Charges Concessions 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the proposed Rates and Charges and Special Charges Concessions to apply for 2022-23.

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. P.T. Saxelby

**Seconded by:** Cr. C.T. Tillman

That this Report be received and that in accordance with the provisions of the Revenue – Council Policy 2022-23 and the Revenue Statement 2022-23, that Council resolves to adopt the granting of:

##### **1. Council Pensioner Rate Concession**

- a) A Council Pensioner Rate Concession of 20% (up to a maximum of \$200 per annum) of gross rates and charges (except for Special Rates and Charges, Separate Rates and Charges, Emergency Management Levy Charges, Water Consumption Charges, Charges on the Land and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges) be provided to eligible pensioners in accordance with the State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme in 2022-23. This Concession is provided pursuant to Sections 120(1)(a), 121(a) and 122(1)(b); and
- b) A Council Pensioner Rate Concession of 20% (up to a maximum of \$200 per annum) be provided to occupants of independent living units at aged care facilities and retirement villages and who are also pensioners under Section 123(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. The concession will be provided to eligible pensioners where:
  1. part of the rates or charges that the Council considers is attributable to the part of the land where pensioners have a right to exclusive occupancy (Section 123(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*), and

(ii) the landowner agrees to pass the benefit of the rebate on to the pensioners.

## 2. Mining or Quarrying Special Charges Concession

Pursuant to Sections 120(1)(c), 121(a) and 122(1)(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the *Regulation*), Council resolves to grant a concession to a ratepayer who is a member of a stated class of ratepayers, as follows:

### Stated class of ratepayers

The concession is granted to a ratepayer levied a special charge for road maintenance and/or road resealing and/or road reconstruction where the activity occurring on the rateable land, where the activity is the reason for the levying of the special charge, is presently dormant. Those activities are either mining or quarrying.

### Type of concession

The concession is by way of a rebate of the special charge for 2022-23 only.

### Conditions

The concession is granted subject to the following conditions:

- a. The concession is granted only for the levied special charge in respect of the 2022-23 year.
- b. If the activity, that is the reason for the levying of the special charge, recommences during the course of 2022-23, this concession ceases and Council must levy the special charge for an amount calculated by subtracting from the 2022-23 special charge an amount equal to the number of days the mining or quarrying activities were not operating divided by the number of days in the year (365), multiplied by the 2022-23 special charge.

## 3. Unapparent Plumbing Failure

Pursuant to Sections 120(1)(c), 121(a) and 122(1)(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the *Regulation*), Council resolves to grant a concession to a ratepayer who is a member of a stated class of ratepayers, as follows:

### Stated class of ratepayers

The concession is available to all categories/classes of ratepayers connected to Council's water supply schemes.

### Type of concession

Council will allow relief by way of a concession of the water consumption charge in accordance with Water Meters - Council Policy.

### Conditions

The concession is granted subject to a ratepayer:

- Incurring water consumption charges by reason of an "unapparent plumbing failure" (as defined in Water Meters - Council Policy); and

- Satisfying the criteria set down in Water Meters - Council Policy.

#### **Criteria for granting concession**

Council grants this concession on the basis that to require the ratepayer to pay full charges for consumption in circumstances where an unapparent plumbing failure has occurred (through no fault of the ratepayer) would result in hardship.

#### **4. Rates and Utilities Charges Concession for Community Organisations**

Pursuant to Sections 120(1)(c), 121(a) and 122(1)(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the *Regulation*), Council resolves to grant a concession to a ratepayer who is a member of a stated class of ratepayers, as follows:

##### **Stated class of ratepayers**

The concession is granted to not-for-profit (or non-profit) community organisations responsible for payment of rates and utility charges as the owner or lessee of the land as defined in Rates and Utilities Charges Concession for Community Organisations - Council Policy.

##### **Type of concession**

Council will grant to each eligible organisation the nominated concessions (expressed as percentages against each concession category) for general rates, waste utility charges, sewerage charges, water access charges and water consumption charges.

##### **Conditions**

The conditions for granting the concession are outlined in Rates and Utilities Charges Concession for Community Organisations - Council Policy.

##### **Criteria for granting concession**

Community organisations will be granted this concession upon receiving approval of the concession as outlined in Rates and Utilities Charges Concession for Community Organisations - Council Policy.

**CARRIED**

**4.9 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2022-23.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. C.T. Tillman

**Seconded by:** Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to adopt the proposed Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2022-23.

**CARRIED (8 to 1)**

#### 4.10 Corporate Services Report Adoption Procedures Levying Rates and Charges 2022-23

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the procedures for the Levying of Rates and Charges 2022-23.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED by:** Cr. I.J. Rasmussen

**Seconded by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

That this report be received and that:

1. in accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the provisions of the 2022-23 Revenue - Council Policy and 2022-23 Revenue Statement, that Council resolve to adopt the procedures for Levying of Rates and Charges for 2022-23 on the following basis:

| Description of Rates/Charges  | Frequency  | Basis  |
|---|--|--|
| Differential General Rates  | Half Yearly  | 50% of total for year                                |
| Special Charges   | Half Yearly  | 50% of total for year                                |
| Separate Charges  | Half Yearly  | 50% of total for year                                |
| Waste & Recycling Collection Charges  | Half Yearly  | 50% of total for year                                |
| Environmental Waste Levy Charges  | Half Yearly  | 50% of total for year                                |
| Water and Recycled Water Access Charges   | Half Yearly  | 50% of total for year                                |
| Water and Recycled Water Volumetric Charges   | Half Yearly  | Based on Consumption                                 |
| Water and Recycled Water Volumetric Charges (High Water Consumers as determined by Council) | No more than Bi-Monthly and no less than Half Yearly | Based on Consumption                                 |
| Sewerage Charges  | Half Yearly  | 50% of total for year                                |
| Gas - non-domestic connections  | Monthly  | Based on Gas Consumption and periodic access charges |
| Gas - domestic connections  | Quarterly  | Based on Gas Consumption and periodic access charges |

**CARRIED**

#### 4.11 Corporate Services Report Adoption Discount for Prompt Payment Rates and Charges 2022-23

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the Discount for Prompt Payment of Rates and Charges for 2022-23.

##### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED by:** Cr. K.A. Bourne

**Seconded by:** Cr. K.A. Maguire

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to adopt, in accordance with Section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and the provisions of the 2022-23 Revenue - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement:

The proposed discounts as listed in the table below.

| Rate/Charge  | Discount Rate Applicable |
|--|--------------------------|
| General Rates (including Minimum General Rates)  | 5%                       |
| Water Charges incl. Access and Water Consumption Charges   | 5%                       |
| Recycled Water Charges incl. Access and Water Consumption Charges  | 5%                       |
| Sewerage Charges   | 5%                       |
| Environmental Waste Levy   | 5%                       |
| Waste/Recycling/Cleansing/Garbage/Refuse Collection & Disposal Charges, Rural/Commercial/Industrial Waste Charge | 5%                       |

These discounts shall apply when all relevant rates and charges, including any arrears and interest, are paid in full by the due date and time, being close of business of Council offices, or its agents, on the discount date which will be a day no less than 30 days after the date of issue of the Rates/Utility Charge Notice.

**CARRIED**

**4.12 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Interest Charges on Overdue Rates 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the rate of interest to be charged on Overdue Rates and Charges in 2022-23.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. P.T. Saxelby

**Seconded by:** Cr. M.J. James

That this Report be received, and that:

1. Council resolves to adopt the application of interest at the maximum rate of 8.17% per annum be applied from 1 July 2022, on all rates and charges (excluding overdue gas accounts) which remain unpaid 30 days after the due date for payment.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.13 Corporate Services Report Adoption of National Competition Policy Compliance - Council Policies for 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration:

1. The following Policies:
  - The 2022-23 Code of Competitive Conduct - Council Policy; and
  - The 2022-23 Dividend Payment - Council Policy.
2. The proposed 2022-23 Dividend Payments and 2022-23 Community Services Obligations

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. I.J. Rasmussen

**Seconded by:** Cr. C.T. Tillman

That this Report be received and that Council Resolves to:

1. Adopt the proposed 2022-23 Code of Competitive Conduct - Council Policy.
2. Apply a Community Service Obligation Payment to the following businesses during 2022-23:
  - a. Water, and
  - b. Waste Management.
3. Adopt the 2022-23 Dividend Payment - Council Policy, as proposed, and
4. Receive dividend payments from the following businesses during 2022-23:
  - a. Commercial Works,
  - b. Gas,
  - c. Sewerage,
  - d. Quarry,
  - e. Saleyards and
  - f. Washdown Bays.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.14 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Debt - Council Policy for 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the 2022-23 Debt - Council Policy for the budget year and the subsequent nine (9) financial years.

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. K.A. Maguire

**Seconded by:** Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to adopt the proposed 2022-23 Debt - Council Policy.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.15 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Estimated Position 30 June 2022 and Financial Analysis**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the Statement of Estimated Financial Position. The document also provides an analysis of variations between the 2022-23 Budget and the 2021-22 Original Budget and 2021-22 Estimated Position.

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. I.J. Rasmussen

**Seconded by:** Cr. K.A. Maguire

That this Report be received and that:

1. The Statement of Estimated Financial Position which includes the Financial Operations and Financial Position of Council for 2021-22 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4.16 Corporate Services Report Adoption of the 2022-23 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the 2022-23 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. C.T. Tillman

**Seconded by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to adopt the 2022-23 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy, and
2. Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolves to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer all powers detailed in the 2022-23 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy, including the power under Section 134 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to recover rates and charges by bringing Court proceedings for a debt.

**CARRIED**

**4.17 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Financial Investment - Council Policy for 2022-23**

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the Financial Investment - Council Policy.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. K.A. Bourne

**Seconded by:** Cr. P.T. Saxelby

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council adopts the proposed 2022-2023 Financial Investment - Council Policy.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.18 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2022-23 Budget including the Long-Term Financial Plan**

The purpose of this Report is to recommend the adoption of the 2022-23 Budget and the 2022-23 Long-Term Financial Plan, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of sections 169 and 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. A.N. Smith

**Seconded by:** Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. the 2022-23 Budget, prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* be adopted,
2. the 2022-23 Long-Term Financial Plan, prepared in accordance with the requirements of Sections 169 and 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* be adopted, and;
3. In accordance with section 169 (6) and (7) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council notes the budgeted increase in total rates and utility charges compared to the 2021-22 Original Budget is 9.33% due to lower-than-expected property amalgamations and resource sector property sales to rural landholders. This compares with the general rates and charges increase of 3.90%.

**CARRIED**

GM G. Cook re-joined the meeting at 1:42pm.

#### **5. MAYORAL BUDGET STATEMENT**

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED by:** Cr. P.M. McVeigh

**Seconded by:** Cr. I.J. Rasmussen



## Mayoral Budget Statement 22 July 2020

Good morning everyone and welcome to the announcement of our 2020-21 Council Budget.

Preparing for today has been an experience like no other.

The world has faced challenges never seen before and our region is not immune to these challenges.

We are continuing to grapple with the effects of this ongoing health and economic crisis.

It's our duty to do what we can to help our community recover and emerge stronger than before - which is why our budget is focussed on community resilience and recovery.

A few short months ago we announced this Council's record investment – the \$50 million COVID-19 Recovery Package to secure and create jobs here and now, while promoting economic growth into the future.

This budget is underpinned by this massive investment, with a clear focus on providing certainty, stability and opportunity at a time when it's needed most.

Our continued focus on responsible, forward-thinking financial management has allowed us to deliver on this investment.

This includes accelerated infrastructure projects, fast-tracked major projects, business and community groups support programs, and fees and charges relief.

We've managed to offer this comprehensive package whilst remaining debt-free – thanks to our prudent planning for future challenges just like the one before us now.

Since 2015, WDRC has been able to increase its cash reserves, and at the same time stamp out our debt.

This is while continuing to deliver a very high standard of service to the community and offering many new and exciting initiatives too.

### **Affordability**

This is a challenging time for any Local Government, and Council has been focussed on ensuring our region remains an affordable place to live and work.

This budget includes a 2.5% general rates rise, which equates to about \$1.44 per household, per week. Our WDRC residential rates will remain lower than other similar Councils in southern Queensland.

By legislation, Council must set its general rates by applying a rate in the dollar to land valuations determined by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.



With that in mind, the maximum general rate increase will be capped at 7.5% or 5% above the average general rates increase of 2.5%.

This responsible budget allows Council to deliver this massive Recovery Package while ensuring the same high standard of services remain and continue with responsible financial management into the future.

We are continuing to match the State Government's Rates Subsidy Scheme, offering qualifying pensioners a 20% rebate on rates and charges excluding water consumption – up to a maximum of \$200 per year.

In response to the unprecedented economic times, we have waived several fees and charges to support families and businesses including dog registrations, most building, plumbing and planning fees, and food licensing fees.

We've also waived infrastructure charges on targeted development approvals to drive economic growth and create new opportunities for jobs and investment both now and into the future.

This budget includes a price freeze on many other Council fees and charges – which means for example, a trip to the pool or hiring a Council-owned facility will cost no more than that of the previous year.

This year we are really excited to introduce a water tank rebate scheme which will boost community resilience and alleviate pressures on water supply by offering generous subsidies to residents installing new rainwater tanks on their properties.

This rebate will vary between \$500 and \$1,000 depending on the size of the tank purchased.

#### **Active, Vibrant Communities**

Our region prides itself on its active, vibrant communities and Council is delivering a range of initiatives to strengthen our community ties across our Western Downs.

We're delivering two new grant programs to support our ever-important community groups through this challenging time, adding to our comprehensive Grants and Funding offerings.

\$22.3 million is being invested in our much-loved community facilities and delivering exciting and engaging community programs to build our cultural offerings.

It's critical we create local jobs right here and now.

That's why we're delivering our massive Accelerated Infrastructure Program to speed up a range of projects to improve our community.

This includes upgrading amenities such as halls, showgrounds, and cultural centres and upgrading a range of footpaths within the region.

It's important our communities are well-connected and we're also delivering a \$42.1 million program to undertake region-wide improvements to the Council road network.



### **Parks and Open Spaces**

Our outdoor spaces are extremely important to the liveability of our region, and that's why we've approved a record \$17.1 million parks and open spaces program this financial year.

This massive program has a range of enhancements to the community with some highlights including significant improvements to Thomas Jack Park in Dalby, the Tara Lagoon Parklands, and the Miles CBD streetscape.

We're also delivering a range of enhancements to our smaller suburban parks at Dulacca, Kogan, Meandarra and Warra.

The highly successful Adopt a Street Tree Program is also continuing with \$300,000 committed to this fabulous program.

Since its introduction in 2017, an amazing 4,673 trees have been planted across our Western Downs, making our region cleaner and greener and strengthening community pride.

### **Economic Growth**

I'm proud that we are a forward-thinking Council, committed to ensuring our region continues to prosper now, and into the future.

We're growing our region, making it an even better place for our community and future generations. We want to ensure our Western Downs remains a wonderful place to start a family, a career, and build a great life.

We're promoting the fantastic destinations in our region – and this budget is about investing in our fantastic natural spaces and creating a legacy for generations to come.

Our investment in 11 major projects stretching right across our Western Downs is about generating economic growth and adding to our diverse economy, underpinned by major industries.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the work of both Councillors and staff in preparing this budget for the Western Downs community.

This budget is about uniting our community and providing sustained certainty - and I am confident Council's continued responsible financial management will ensure our region will recover and emerge stronger than ever.

Thank you.

**6. MEETING CLOSURE**

The Meeting concluded at 1:53pm.