

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.2 Adopt Minutes Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2023-24 Budget 21 June 2023

The purpose of this Report is for Council to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2023-24 Budget held on Wednesday, 21 June 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved By Cr. P. T. Saxelby

Seconded By Cr. O. G. Moore

That this Report be received and that:

1. The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2023-24 Budget held on Wednesday, 21 June 2023, copies of which have been circulated to Members, be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED



Special Meeting of Council Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 21 June, 2023
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
- G. Cook, General Manager (Infrastructure Services)
- D. Fletcher, General Manager (Community and Liveability)
- B. Bacon, General Manager (Corporate Services)
- C. Prain, Financial Planning and Analysis Supervisor
- T. Skillington, Chief Financial Officer
- C. Craig, Senior Executive Officer
- A. Lyell, Executive Services Administration Officer

1. DECLARATION OF MEETING OPEN

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 1:00pm.

2. APOLOGIES

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adopt Minutes Special Meeting of Council DRAFT 2023-24 Budget 7 June 2023

The purpose of this Report is for Council to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council DRAFT 2023-24 Budget held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1.The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council DRAFT 2023-24 Budget held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023, copies of which have been circulated to Members, be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

4. CORPORATE SERVICES

4.1 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2023-24 Operational Plan

This report presents to Council the *2023-24 Operational Plan*.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. M.J. James

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That Council resolves to adopt the *2023-24 Operational Plan*.

CARRIED

4.2 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Budget – Council Policy, Financial Management Strategy – Council Policy, and the Financial Management and Investment Strategy 2023-33

This Report considers the proposed *Budget – Council Policy, Financial Management Strategy – Council Policy*, and accompanying *Financial Management and Investment Strategy 2023-33* as part of the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

Seconded by: Cr. O.G. Moore

That, in accordance with Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolves to adopt the:

1. *Budget – Council Policy* (Attachment One);
2. *Financial Management Strategy – Council Policy* (Attachment Two); and
3. *Financial Management and Investment Strategy 2023-33* (Attachment Three).

CARRIED

4.3 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Revenue Policy - Council Policy

This Report presents to Council the *Revenue Policy - Council Policy*, as required by section 169(2) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. O.G. Moore

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

That, in accordance with section 169(2) and section 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves adopt to the *Revenue Policy - Council Policy* (Attachment One).

CARRIED

4.4 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2023-24 Revenue Statement

This report considers the proposed *2023-24 Revenue Statement* for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 Budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. A.N. Smith

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

That, in accordance with Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolves to adopt the *2023-24 Revenue Statement* (Attachment One).

CARRIED

4.5 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates 2023-24

This report considers the Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates to apply in the 2023-24 Financial Year.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. A.N. Smith

Seconded by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

That, in accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and pursuant to the *Revenue Policy - Council Policy* and *2023-24 Revenue Statement*, Council resolves to make and levy the proposed Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates for 2023-24, as contained within Attachment One.

CARRIED

4.6 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Special Charges for 2023-24

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the Special Rates and Charges for 2023-24.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. O.G. Moore

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

That Council resolves to adopt the proposed 2023-24 Special Charges, pursuant to the provisions of the *Revenue Policy - Council Policy* and *2023-24 Revenue Statement*.

CARRIED

4.7 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2023-24 Utility Charges

This Report considers the proposed 2023-24 Utility Charges for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That, in accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 *Local Government Act 2009* and the provisions of the *Revenue - Council Policy* and *2023-24 Revenue Statement*, Council resolves to adopt the 2023-24 Utility Charges (Attachment One).

CARRIED

4.8 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Rates and Charges and Special Charges Concessions 2023-24

This report considers the proposed Rates and Charges and Special Charges Concessions to apply for the 2023-24 financial year and the *Haemodialysis Water Allowance – Council Policy* for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

Seconded by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Revenue – Council Policy* and the Revenue Statement 2023-24, Council resolves to adopt the granting of:

1. Council Pensioner Rate Concession

- a. A Council Pensioner Rate Concession of twenty (20) per cent (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 2023-24. This Concession is provided pursuant to sections 120(1)(a), 121(a) and 122(1)(b); and
- b. A Council Pensioner Rate Concession of twenty (20) per cent (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:
 - i. 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. 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 twenty-five (25) per cent of the water consumption charge in accordance with *Water Meters - Council Policy*.

Conditions

The concession is granted subject to a ratepayer:

- a. Incurring water consumption charges by reason of an 'unapparent plumbing failure' (as defined in *Water Meters - Council Policy*); and
- b. 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.

3. 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*.

4. Haemodialysis Water Allowance

Stated class of ratepayers

Council resolves to grant the allowance to a haemodialysis patient who receives haemodialysis treatment at home under the *Haemodialysis Water Allowance - Council Policy*.

Type of concession

Types of conditions are outlined in the *Haemodialysis Water Allowance - Council Policy*.

Conditions

Conditions for granting the concession are outline in the *Haemodialysis Water Allowance - Council Policy*.

CARRIED

4.9 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2023-24

This Report presents to Council the proposed Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2023-24.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That Council resolves to adopt the proposed Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2023-24 (Attachment One), to be effective from 1 July 2023.

CARRIED

4.10 Corporate Services Report Adoption Procedures for Levying Rates and Charges 2023-24

This Report considers the procedures for the Levying of Rates and Charges for 2023-24 for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 Budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

Seconded by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

That, in accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and the provisions of the *Revenue - Council Policy* and *2023-24 Revenue Statement*, Council resolves to adopt the procedures for the Levying of Rates and Charges for 2023-24 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 2023-24

This Report considers the Discount for Prompt Payment of Rates and Charges, as provided for by section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That, in accordance with Section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and the provisions of *2023-24 Revenue - Council Policy* and *2023-24 Revenue Statement*, Council resolves to adopt 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 thirty (30) days after the date of issue of the Rates Notice or Utility Charge Notice.

CARRIED

4.12 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Interest Charges on Overdue Rates 2023-24

This Report considers the rate of interest to be charged on overdue rates and charges during the 2023-24 financial year.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. A.N. Smith

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That Council resolves to adopt the application of interest at the maximum rate of 11.64 per cent per annum, to be applied from 1 July 2023, on all rates and charges (excluding overdue gas accounts) which remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the due date for payment.

FORESHADOWED MOTION

Cr. C. T. Tillman Foreshadowed that if the motion on the floor failed, she would move:

That Council resolves to recommend to the Special Meeting of Council 'Adoption of 2023-24 Budget' that Council adopts the application of interest at the rate of 8.17 per cent per annum, to be applied from 1 July 2023, on all rates and charges (excluding overdue gas accounts) which remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the due date for payment.

The **ORIGINAL MOTION** was **PUT** and **CARRIED (6 to 3)**

For: Cr. P. M. McVeigh, Cr. A. N. Smith, Cr. K. A. Bourne,
Cr. K. A. Maguire, Cr. I. J. Rasmussen, and Cr. O. G. Moore.

Against: Cr. P. T. Saxelby, Cr. M. J. James, and Cr. C. T. Tillman

4.13 Corporate Services Report Adoption of National Competition Policy Compliance - Council Policies for 2023-24

This report considers Council's 2023-24 Community Services Obligations and the following policies for the Westerns Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget:

1. *Code of Competitive Conduct - Council Policy*, and
2. *Dividend Payments – Council Policy*.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That Council resolves to:

1. adopt the *Code of Competitive Conduct - Council Policy* (Attachment One);
2. apply a Community Service Obligation Payment to the following businesses during 2023-24:
 - a. Water,
 - b. Waste Management,
 - c. Saleyards, and
 - d. Washdown Bays;
3. adopt the *Dividend Payment - Council Policy* (Attachment Two), and
4. receive dividend payments from the following businesses during 2023-24:
 - a. Commercial Works,
 - b. Gas,
 - c. Sewerage, and
 - d. Quarry.

CARRIED

4.14 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Debt - Council Policy for 2023-24

This Report considers the *Debt - Council Policy* for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. M.J. James

That, in accordance with section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to adopt the *Debt - Council Policy* (Attachment One).

CARRIED

4.15 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Estimated Position 30 June 2023 and Financial Analysis

This report considers the Statement of Estimated Financial Position as part of the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget and provides an analysis of variations between the 2023-24 Budget and the 2022-23 Original Budget and 2022-23 Estimated Position.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That Council resolves to adopt the Statement of Estimated Financial Position, which includes the Financial Operations and Financial Position of Council for 2022-23.

CARRIED

4.16 Corporate Services Report Adoption of the Rates and Charges Collection, Gas Charges and Fees Collection, and Credit Risk Management - Council Policies

The report considers the following policies as part of the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget:

1. *Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy;*
2. *Gas Charges and Fees Collection - Council Policy;* and
3. *Credit Risk Management - Council Policy.*

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

Seconded by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

That Council resolves to adopt:

1. the *Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy* and pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, delegates to the Chief Executive Officer all powers detailed in the *Rates and Charges Collection – Council Policy*;
2. the *Gas Charges and Fees Collection – Council Policy*; and
3. the *Credit Risk Management – Council Policy*.

CARRIED

4.17 Corporate Services Report Adoption of Investment - Council Policy for 2023-24

This report considers the *Investment – Council Policy* for the Western Downs Regional Council's 2023-24 budget.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. A.N. Smith

Seconded by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

That, in accordance with section 191 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to adopt the *Financial Investment - Council Policy* (Attachment One).

CARRIED

4.18 Corporate Services Report Adoption of 2023-24 Budget including the Long-Term Financial Plan

This Report proposes the 2023-24 Budget and the 2023-24 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. O.G. Moore

That Council resolves to:

1. adopt the 2023-24 Budget, prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*;
2. adopt the 2023-24 Long-Term Financial Plan, prepared in accordance with the requirements of sections 169 and 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*; and;
3. in accordance with section 169(6) and (7) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, note that the budgeted increase in total rates and utility charges compared to the 2022-23 Original Budget is 2.90 per cent. This compares with the average general revenue rates increase of 3.80 percent and utility charges increase of 2.80 per cent.

CARRIED

5. MAYORAL BUDGET STATEMENT

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. P.M. McVeigh

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

**2023/24 Budget Statement
Mayor Paul McVeigh
21 June 2023**



Mayoral Budget Statement

Thank you everyone, it is my pleasure to officially present the 2023-24 Council Budget.

It makes me proud to stand here today alongside my colleagues to set a clear path for the year ahead to drive the region forward and importantly to continue to build on our vision for our region's long term future.

The Western Downs is positioning itself as a diverse region at the forefront of the changing world, and as we move into a new financial year, we are presented with abundant opportunities to further-enhance our liveability and the place we all call home.

Council has the critical role of supporting a growing region while responsibly aligning its budget with high-quality service delivery, good management of assets, and balancing global financial pressures.

Local Governments across Australia are continuing to experience a range of challenges which are significantly impacting the cost of supplies, labour, fuel, and materials. The hard work we have done over recent years to build a strong financial position means we don't have to reduce

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Mayor Paul McVeigh
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services, and we are able to focus on the fundamentals of high-quality Council service delivery.

Our region is experiencing growth which is backed by a strong, diverse economy, and we expect much more growth in the coming years. This budget ensures we are focused on getting the basics right by investing in quality, essential services and delivering modern infrastructure to support this growth.

I am proud of the fact that we have budgeted to deliver a budget surplus of \$2.7M this year with a total operating expenditure of over \$168.5 million and a total capital investment of \$180.8 million. We have an average general rates increase of 3.8% and a 2.8% increase for utility charges, which I am pleased to report comes in significantly lower than the current inflation rate thanks to Council's years of responsible financial management.

It is important to note our region has recently undergone a land re-evaluation by the Queensland Government, which has seen land valuations increase by an average of 66% and with some valuations as much as 104%. This modest rate increase shows our community that we are able to continue our standard of service while keeping costs as low as possible in the current climate.

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We are also 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.

The focus of our financial strategy in the year ahead is about high-quality service delivery and investing in modern infrastructure to build a stronger future for the region.

This year we continue the massive task of repairing our roads and bridges following consecutive flooding events in the past two years. The cost of our damage repair program is in excess of \$160 million, and reaches every corner of our the region.

While our priority is ensuring our roads are safe, we're also enhancing connectivity across the region to keep pace with our region's growing needs – and will also deliver a \$21.6 million capital works program to improving local roads, bridges, stormwater and footpaths. This year, our capital works program will also include resilience projects, which is about enhancing key infrastructure to better-withstand floods in the future.

Ensuring our community is as prepared as possible for natural disasters is a key part of this year's budget. With help from

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state and federal government disaster funding, we will undertake a region-wide flood gauge upgrade program to improve our access to reliable, timely information. This is crucial during times of wet weather and will greatly improve disaster response and community resilience.

A quality lifestyle is underpinned by quality essential services, and this budget includes a \$12.6 million investment into our water supply and treatment infrastructure.

While we continue to advocate for stronger water security – specifically the development of Nathan Dam, Council is investing in quality infrastructure through the multi-year project to increase Dalby's town water supply. Long-term water sources and supply are critical for the future growth of the region and our local economy, and this program also includes vital maintenance to our supply infrastructure in several towns.

Our popular water tank rebate scheme will also continue this financial year, offering a valuable support measure to boost water storage capacity across the region.

We continue to invest in quality fleet and plant equipment to ensure we are managing our assets effectively, with \$5.9

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million invested this financial year to keep service delivery of a high standard.

We're driving the economy and are progressing a range of future-focused initiatives to remain at the forefront of the changing world.

We will progress into the second year of our Digitalisation Implementation Program, which is about ensuring modern and future-focused operations to enhance our service delivery and customer experience.

Off the back of meaningful community engagement and the development of strategies for much-loved community facilities and assets, we will complete several masterplans to set a clear program of improvements for the future. This includes masterplans for our showgrounds and aquatic facilities, and masterplans for key spaces such as Lions Park in Jandowae and the Chinchilla Botanic Parkland's indigenous area.

The planning and development of a new cultural precinct for Dalby will continue this year, and we will invest in the progression of the region's first community-led strategy to address social challenges across the region known as 'Western Downs Futures', which is about working side by side

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with our community to improve the liveability of the Western Downs.

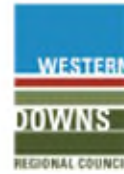
This year we will celebrate several brand-new community facilities, with exciting community events to be hosted at Mary's Place at Dalby, Tara Aquatic Centre, and the Russell Park Mountain Bike Trails at the Bunya Mountains, and the revitalised Chinchilla Cultural Precinct. These intergenerational projects have enhanced the liveability of the Western Downs, and we can't wait to celebrate their completion very soon.

We want to ensure our recreational spaces and community facilities are safe, attractive and accessible for all residents.

This budget includes a \$1.7 million investment into our much-loved parks, open spaces and cemeteries, including a project to deliver new shelters, picnic tables, and barbeques at Morgan Place at Miles, and the completion of a revitalisation of Waterloo Plains Environmental Park at Wandoan.

As we invest in creating exciting spaces to bring the people together, we also need to ensure our facilities are alive with activity. This budget includes funding for a variety of wonderful initiatives to boost creativity in the region, such as the progression of a new regional sculpture and public art trail,

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Regional Artists' Exhibition, community pool parties, movie nights, and comedy shows.

We recognise the importance of grassroots initiatives and community-driven events, and have allocated more than \$461,000 to diverse community grants and funding opportunities this year.

We're a forward-thinking Council committed to attracting business and investment opportunities for the region now and into the future.

In the year ahead, Council will complete a carbon emissions study to understand how we contribute to carbon emissions and explore how we can achieve carbon neutrality and work towards a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Our region has built a reputation as a premier destination for major events in Queensland, that drive tourism and energize our local economy.

This budget includes funding for our renowned festivals and events including the Big Skies Festival, and we will also deliver a brand new tourist attraction at Bell, which will see the installation of a giant wind turbine blade to tell the story of the region's strong energy sector.

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21 June 2023



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 ensures Council delivers critical services and infrastructure to our community while continuing to invest in initiatives to drive the the economic growth and enhance the liveability of the region for generations to come.

Thank you.

CARRIED

6. MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting concluded at 1:51pm.

UNCONFIRMED