

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: Thursday, 30 April 2026
Location: Studio Room, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre
Time: 5:30 PM

The following members were present:

Mayor Patricia White - Chairperson
Clr Peter Wilkins
Clr Debbie Killian
Clr Gillian Boyd
Clr Jemma Tribe
Clr Ben Krikstolaitis
Clr Matthew Norris
Clr Karlee Dunn
Clr Bob Proudfoot
Clr Luciano Casmiri
Clr Selena Clancy
Clr Brett Steele
Clr Denise Kemp (Remotely)

The Chairperson read a statement advising those present that the proceedings of this meeting (including presentations and debate) will be webcast and may be recorded and broadcast under the provisions of the Code of Meeting Practice.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Nil

Confirmation of the Audio-Visual Attendance

A request to attend this meeting via audio-visual link was received from Clr Kemp. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the request is in line with the provision outlined at Part 5 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

Declaration of Interests

Nil

REPORTS

CL26.93 Draft Delivery Program Operational Plan and Budget 2026-27- Public Exhibition

HPERM Ref:
D26/118934

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Delivery Program 2025-29 and 2026/27 Operational Plan, Draft Budget, and Draft Fees and Charges with the purpose of placing on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
2. Approve the release of the remaining balances of the internally restricted Strategic Projects Reserve, the Industrial Land Reserve and the Financial Sustainability Review Reserve to General Fund (unrestricted cash) at 1 July 2026.
3. Pay down the unrestricted General Fund portions of loan 1241 (taken out on 26 June 2024) and loan 1242 (taken out on 10 June 2025), using General Fund unrestricted cash, on the due dates of the first minimum payments of the FY2026/27.
4. Receive and note the responses provided in **Attachment 4** to the outstanding Plant and Fleet Notices of Motion
5. Maintain the previous year 2025/26 approach to rating structure, comprising both base and ad valorem amounts which is a commonly used rating structure that results in bringing the higher and lower values closer together and in effect spreads the burden across the board to all ratepayers.
6. Approve the maximum general rates rate-peg increase for 2026/27 as allowed by the Minister, as per Section 506 of the Local Government Act 1993, increasing total rates levied by the maximum 3.1% for 2026/27.
7. Apply the maximum rate-peg increase of 3.1% across Council's rating structure, with exception of the Business Nowra [CBD] sub-category and the Business Commercial/Industrial sub-category, by applying the rate-peg increase to the Business Commercial/Industrial and not applying the rate-peg increase to the Nowra [CBD] sub-category, and additionally spreading the value of the increase not levied on the Business Nowra [CBD] sub-category, approximately \$59,818, to the Business Commercial/Industrial sub-category.
8. In accordance with Section 566(3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, and Council's policy POL22/88 *Revenue – Overdue Interest Rate* endorse the rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive) to be the maximum permissible percentage for 2026/27 not yet determined by the Minister of Local Government.
9. Note that interest charges will continue to be waived for ratepayers that are experiencing financial hardship, and they can apply for financial assistance under Council's Hardship Policy.
10. Receive a report on feedback from the community on the Draft Delivery Program 2025-29 and 2026/27 Operational Plan, Draft Budget, and Draft Fees and Charges in June 2026.

Clr Kemp raised a Point of Order against Clr Krikstolaitis for his comment about 'online whinging' arising from his wearing of a facemask which may reduce audio quality of the meeting recording. The Mayor did not rule on the Point of Order but requested that Clr Krikstolaitis ensure his language is appropriate for the meeting.

RESOLVED (Mayor White / Clr Proudfoot)

MIN26.135

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Delivery Program 2025-29 and 2026/27 Operational Plan, Draft Budget, and Draft Fees and Charges with the purpose of placing on public exhibition for a period of 28

days.

2. Approve the release of the remaining balances of the internally restricted Strategic Projects Reserve, the Industrial Land Reserve and the Financial Sustainability Review Reserve to General Fund (unrestricted cash) at 1 July 2026.
3. Pay down the unrestricted General Fund portions of loan 1241 (taken out on 26 June 2024) and loan 1242 (taken out on 10 June 2025), using General Fund unrestricted cash, on the due dates of the first minimum payments of the FY2026/27.
4. Receive and note the responses provided in **Attachment 4** to the outstanding Plant and Fleet Notices of Motion
5. Maintain the previous year 2025/26 approach to rating structure, comprising both base and ad valorem amounts which is a commonly used rating structure that results in bringing the higher and lower values closer together and in effect spreads the burden across the board to all ratepayers.
6. Approve the maximum general rates rate-peg increase for 2026/27 as allowed by the Minister, as per Section 506 of the Local Government Act 1993, increasing total rates levied by the maximum 3.1% for 2026/27.
7. Apply the maximum rate-peg increase of 3.1% across Council's rating structure, with exception of the Business Nowra [CBD] sub-category and the Business Commercial/Industrial sub-category, by applying the rate-peg increase to the Business Commercial/Industrial and not applying the rate-peg increase to the Nowra [CBD] sub-category, and additionally spreading the value of the increase not levied on the Business Nowra [CBD] sub-category, approximately \$59,818, to the Business Commercial/Industrial sub-category.
8. In accordance with Section 566(3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, and Council's policy POL22/88 Revenue – Overdue Interest Rate, endorse the rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive) to be the maximum permissible percentage for 2026/27 not yet determined by the Minister of Local Government.
9. Note that interest charges will continue to be waived for ratepayers that are experiencing financial hardship, and they can apply for financial assistance under Council's Hardship Policy.
10. Receive a report on feedback from the community on the Draft Delivery Program 2025-29 and 2026/27 Operational Plan, Draft Budget, and Draft Fees and Charges in June 2026.

FOR: Mayor White, Clr Wilkins, Clr Killian, Clr Boyd, Clr Tribe, Clr Krikstolaitis, Clr Norris, Clr Dunn, Clr Proudfoot, Clr Casmiri, Clr Clancy, Clr Steele and Clr Kemp

Against: Nil

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 6.34pm.

Mayor White
CHAIRPERSON