



Agenda

Special Meeting

Monday, 19 June 2023

Time: 9.00 am
Location: Council Chambers
82 Brisbane Street
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Special Meeting
Monday, 19 June 2023
Agenda


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1 Opening of Meeting**2 Attendance****3 Apologies****4 Declarations of Interest by Members****5 Consideration of Business of Meeting****Council Sustainability****5.1 Consideration of Received Public Comments and Submissions Regarding the 2023-2024 Draft Budget**

Executive Officer: General Manager Council Sustainability

Item Author: General Manager Council Sustainability

Attachments:

1. Correspondence from the Office of the Associate Director-General Strategy, Policy and Reform Division of Queensland Health to Mayor Christensen [↓](#) 

Executive Summary

Scenic Rim Regional Council released the 2023-2024 Draft Budget Overview for viewing and public consultation on 4 April 2023. Residents were invited to provide comments and submissions via Council's 'Let's Talk Scenic Rim' Budget Consultation page by 3 May 2023. The purpose of this report is to close out the engagement process and provide an indication as to how the feedback was considered and associated impact on the draft 2023-2024 Budget.

Recommendation

That Council note and acknowledge the consideration of the community consultation feedback.

Previous Council Considerations / Resolutions

Not applicable.

Report / Background

Part of the process for the 2023-2024 Draft Budget incorporated the provision to allow for community consultation. The consultation commenced following the endorsement of the 2023-2024 Draft Budget Overview at the Ordinary Meeting held on 4 April 2023 and concluded on Wednesday, 3 May 2023.

The consultation has been undertaken via Council's Let's Talk Scenic Rim platform complemented by the staging of three community consultation sessions:

- 20 April 2023 - Boonah Cultural Centre;
- 26 April 2023 - The Centre (Beaudesert); and
- 27 April 2023 - Tamborine Mountain State School.

The attendance at the sessions were 3, 12 and 40 people respectively.

In total, 53 submissions (both via formal submission and verbal questions taken at the sessions) were considered and summarised. A consolidated summary of the submissions, including commentary on how these were considered, is provided as follows:

Budget Submission Nature	Budget Submission Summary	Number of Individual Submissions	Budget Consideration / Other Response
General feedback	General commentary around proposed 2023-2024 budget metrics and Council financial information and/or processes.	11	<p>Council remains committed to developing budgets that are responsible and calculated to ensure appropriate planning is in place for the maintenance and upgrade of its infrastructure and the provision of viable services to the community is maintained. Council has had to factor in reductions in levels of State and Federal government funding along with rising costs and constraints in materials and resource availability to balance a long-term financially sustainable approach.</p> <p>The 2023-2024 Budget forms part of Council's Long Term Financial Forecast which is not only adopted by Council but also reviewed by the Department of Local Government, Queensland Treasury Corporation and Queensland Audit Office.</p> <p>Council will continue to engage with the community in raising awareness around Council infrastructure and services.</p>

Budget Submission Nature	Budget Submission Summary	Number of Individual Submissions	Budget Consideration / Other Response
Sporting and Recreation Infrastructure Upgrades and Service Levels	Submissions seeking consideration for capital investment in new/upgraded sporting and recreational infrastructure along with calls for increases in current service levels associated with public access to Council swimming pools.	15	<p>Council has a strong commitment to ensure adequate facilities are provided and maintained to provide for a range of sporting and recreational activities in the region. Currently, there are two projects being undertaken, being the:</p> <p>Sports Infrastructure Review - that will provide Council with an audit of Council facilities that are either owned or managed to determine the conditions and utilisation metrics.</p> <p>Sports and Recreation Plan - that will provide Council with a detailed overview of all sport and recreation facilitated within the Scenic Rim region.</p> <p>These projects will allow Council to make informed strategic decisions around the future of Council's sport and recreation investment. The reports will identify the strategic approach and project funds required to ensure a sustainable approach to the funding and delivery of sport and recreation infrastructure and services into the future.</p> <p>In the 2023-2024 Budget, Council has committed to a new Sports and Recreation Officer position to allow further consultation with sporting and community groups in assisting them with the continued delivery of their activities.</p> <p>In regard to calls seeking for an extension to the current swimming season period, a report is being prepared that will outline the actions Council will need to take into account to consider making changes to current service levels.</p>

Budget Submission Nature	Budget Submission Summary	Number of Individual Submissions	Budget Consideration / Other Response
Tourism, Community and Regional Prosperity	Considerations sought for a variety of topics mainly relating to Council's investment in tourism, economic development, cultural and community-minded activities and projects.	6	<p>Council has continued its commitment to the Local Tourism Organisations by including a direct contribution of \$95,000 in funding in the budget.</p> <p>Council will continue to capture ideas and feedback and explore ways to consider these in future tourism campaigns. Council's Community Development team will continue to work closely with all agencies in capitalising on the region's attractions and sights.</p> <p>In the current budget, Council has committed to the completion of the additional stages of the Beaudesert Town Centre Revitalisation Project which aim to invigorate the town centre and make it a more pedestrian-safe precinct.</p> <p>Community Facility Infrastructure Strategic Review undertakes an audit of current usage and condition of Council-owned assets in order to prioritise investment and determine the fit-for-purpose nature of facilities to ensure optimum utilisation is achieved. Council will continue to work with community groups in identifying possible solutions to meet ongoing and necessary requirements.</p>

Budget Submission Nature	Budget Submission Summary	Number of Individual Submissions	Budget Consideration / Other Response
Non-budget and/or Advocacy Impact Council	Submissions for Council to further advocate to the necessary other Government agencies for matters of importance that are out of direct jurisdiction of Council.	2	<p>Council is committed to continuing necessary advocacy (on behalf of the community) to the other levels of Government responsible for priority matters relating to health, welfare, education and public transport.</p> <p>Of particular note, concerns were raised at a budget consultation session around the levels of, and impacts associated with vaping in the community. These concerns, coupled with the engagement with Beaudesert State High School on the same matters, resulted in correspondence being provided to Queensland Health outlining the concerns. The subsequent response from the Office of the Associate Director-General Strategy, Policy and Reform Division of Queensland Health is provided at Attachment 1.</p>

Budget Submission Nature	Budget Submission Summary	Number of Individual Submissions	Budget Consideration / Other Response
Transport Infrastructure and Vibrant and Active Towns and Villages (VATV) Works	Requests for improved infrastructure and feedback on the VATV programs.	10	<p>With a vast array of assets (valued at around \$1 billion) planning for the continued maintenance and upgrade of these assets is complex. Managing rising community expectations around new assets whilst maintaining current assets requires prudent long-term management. Proper long-term asset management requires a proactive and holistic approach that considers the entire asset lifecycle, risk management, financial planning, technological advancements, and sustainability. By effectively managing assets, organizations can enhance operational efficiency, reduce costs, extend asset lifecycles, and make informed decisions that drive long-term success.</p> <p>Council has taken on board the submissions and their intent and will incorporate these into plans for future consideration by Council.</p> <p>Works are currently underway in the development of VATV Plans for the townships of Canungra and Kalbar, which are next on the schedule of delivery in this program. Finalisation of these plans will allow Council to make provisions in future Budget considerations to allow for the delivery of identified projects.</p> <p>Funding allocated in 2023-2024 budget includes upgrade works for Hinchcliffe Bridge (dependent on external funding). Further exploration of additional footpath projects is continuing.</p>
Environment and Sustainability	Submissions were received highlighting concerns around identified environmental issues and/or calls for increased levels of services in raising awareness of matters of importance around environmental impacts.	9	Contained in Council's Corporate Plan is the Spectacular Scenery and Healthy Environment theme, with the statement of intent being, <i>"The region's unique natural environment and rural landscapes and preserved and enhanced in partnership with our community"</i> .

Budget Submission Nature	Budget Submission Summary	Number of Individual Submissions	Budget Consideration / Other Response
			<p>In the 2023-2024 Budget, funding is provided for two new positions:</p> <p><u>Senior Biodiversity Officer</u> - will lead the delivery of key services including the Land for Wildlife program, One Million Trees Program and Environmental Grants Program.</p> <p>These programs continue to meet the expectations of community groups, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Grants Program continues to grow within increasing interest from new landholders and community groups, with Council receiving more than double the grant applications received during recent years. • The One Million Trees Program has seen an increase in approximately 50 applications per year. • Council's Habitat Protection Program requests have doubled in recent years. <p><u>Biosecurity Officer</u> - will undertake the provisions of the Scenic Rim Biosecurity Plan 2023-2028 and will have the responsibility of facilitating the education, compliance, policy and program development requirements associated with the Biosecurity Plan as outlined by the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>.</p> <p>These positions will assist in the delivery of Council's environmental programs and allow for additional resources.</p> <p>In addition to these positions, Council has also allocated \$35,000 as a contribution towards progressing the Water for Warrill Business Case development.</p>

Budget / Financial Implications

Community consultation considerations (where applicable) incorporated as part of the 2023-2024 Budget in the respective program area.

Strategic Implications

Operational Plan

Theme: 3. Open and Responsive Government

Key Area of Focus: Ongoing integrity of Council's practice and processes

Legal / Statutory Implications

170 Adoption and amendment of budget

- (1) A local government must adopt its budget for a financial year -
 - (a) after 31 May in the year before the financial year; but
 - (b) before -
 - (i) 1 August in the financial year; or
 - (ii) a later day decided by the Minister.
- (2) If the budget does not comply with section 169 when it is adopted, the adoption of the budget is of no effect.
- (3) The local government may, by resolution, amend the budget for a financial year at any time before the end of the financial year.
- (4) If the budget does not comply with the following when it is amended, the amendment of the budget is of no effect -
 - (a) section 169;
 - (b) the local government's decision about the rates and charges to be levied for the financial year made at the budget meeting for the financial year.

Note -

A local government may only decide the rates and charges to be levied for a financial year at the budget meeting for the financial year. See the Act, section 94(2).

Risks

Strategic Risks

The following Level 1 and Level 2 (strategic) risks are relevant to the matters considered in this report:

SR47 Inadequate or lack of an appropriate Financial Management Framework (including systems, policies, procedures and controls) in place to adequately minimise risk of fraudulent action and to maximise financial sustainability.

Risk Assessment

Category	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating	Treatment of risks	Residual Risk Rating
Financial/Economic Failure to ensure annual budget is delivered in accordance with internal and legislative timeframes.	4 Major	Possible	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council makes available relevant budgetary information • Community consultation on the draft budget undertaken 	Low

Consultation

This was Council's first time of conducting community consultation on the draft budget, and Council wishes to thank all those who actively participated in the process. Council will endeavour to schedule community consultation on an annual basis as part of its budget preparation process.

Internal: Councillors, Executive Management Team and staff

External: Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Queensland Valuer-General, Queensland Audit Office and Queensland Treasury Corporation

Conclusion

Following the exhibition of the 2023-2024 Draft Budget Overview for public consultation, 53 submissions were provided and eight presentations were made in person by submitters at the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 May 2023.

These submissions and deputations have now been considered as part of the 2023-2024 Budget process, and will be carried over for consideration in future budgets.



Enquiries to: Colleen Smyth
Manager
Prevention Strategy Branch
Telephone: 3328 9102
File Ref: C-ECTF-23/5953

Queensland Health

Cr Greg Christensen
Mayor
Scenic Rim Regional Council
PO Box 25, 82 Brisbane Street
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285

Email: Leah.S@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Dear Cr Christensen

Thank you for your letter dated 23 May 2023, regarding vaping and young people.

I share your community's concerns about the use of e-cigarettes and the impact of vaping on health and wellbeing. All Australian States and Territories are experiencing the same concerns about young people and vaping. The Queensland Parliament's Health and Environment Committee is currently inquiring into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland. The Committee is conducting public hearings and is due to table its report by 31 August 2023. Further information is available on the Inquiry [website](#).

I note that your Council recently engaged with Tamborine Mountain residents and Beaudesert State High School about vaping. Everyone can help support a smoke-free Queensland. Schools can help to educate children about vaping, and ensure their facilities are smoke-free. Parents can talk to their children about vaping. Your community can also report any alleged non-compliance with the smoking laws by calling 13 QGOV or using the [online complaints form](#).

Your community and the local schools may be interested to know that:

- Adolescents (12 years and older) who are vaping can receive personalised information and support to quit vaping by calling Quitline on 13 78 48.
- School-based youth health nurses can also support students during their quitting journey.
- [QuitHQ](#) has tools and resources to support quitting smoking or vaping.
- Our [Vape Truths](#) campaign provides information about what is in vapes and the impacts on health. A new campaign aimed at 12–17-year-olds is under development and is proposed to launch later this year.
- [Lung Foundation Australia](#) has information for schools and parents to talk to young people about vaping.
- Queensland Health and Department of Education are working on approaches for schools to address vaping through the curriculum and other mechanisms.

Queensland has strong laws to prevent children from smoking and vaping, and the community being exposed to second hand smoke and vapour. Children under 18 years cannot be sold or supplied a smoking product, including e-cigarettes. Smoking and vaping

is banned in many places including schools, bus stops and train platforms, skate parks and playgrounds. If your community has identified places that could be made smoke-free, Scenic Rim Regional Council can ban smoking at outdoor public places not already covered by the statewide smoking laws. A guide for councils to create smoke-free places, including case studies from other councils, is available on our [website](#).

I am pleased to share with you that [new laws](#) to strengthen controls on smoking and vaping were passed by the Queensland Parliament on 25 May 2023. New smoke-free public places will be introduced to further reduce the community's exposure to second hand smoke. Businesses selling smoking products (including e-cigarettes/vapes) will need to be licenced by 1 September 2024. The licensing scheme will allow greater scrutiny of smoking product suppliers and enforcement of the smoking laws.

I appreciate that your Council would like to see more enforcement on vape purchases. Public Health Units across Queensland are monitoring compliance with the smoking laws by inspecting retailers located close to schools and major transport hubs used by students. Community reports of non-compliance will also be investigated, and appropriate enforcement action will be taken, when non-compliance is identified.

You may have seen that the Commonwealth Government recently announced it will be taking strong action on smoking and vaping and is funding measures to protect Australians from the harms of tobacco and vaping products. Queensland Health will continue to work with the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments on a coordinated national response to reduce the appeal and demand for, and the supply of e-cigarettes.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Ms Colleen Smyth, Manager, Prevention Strategy Branch, Department of Health, on telephone 3328 9102, to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely



David Sinclair
A/Associate Director-General
31 / 05 / 2023

6 Confidential Matters

6.1 Operational Plan 2023-2024 [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]

Executive Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Item Author: General Manager People and Strategy

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 254J(3)(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (c) the local government's budget.

6.2 Differential Rating Categories 2023-2024 [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]

Executive Officer: General Manager Council Sustainability

Item Author: Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.3 Delegation of Power to Apply Rating Categories [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]

Executive Officer: General Manager Council Sustainability

Item Author: General Manager Council Sustainability

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.4 Differential General Rates 2023-2024 [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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6.5 Separate Rates and Charges [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.6 Overall Plan for Boonah Rural Fire Brigade [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.7 Overall Plan for Beaudesert Rural Fire Brigade [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 254J(3)(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (c) the local government's budget.

6.8 Waste Utility Charges 2023-2024 [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Asset and Environmental Sustainability**Item Author:** Manager Resources and Sustainability

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 254J(3)(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (c) the local government's budget.

6.9 Rates Discount Policy [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.10 Rate Category Changes Policy [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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6.11 Concessions to Rates and Charges [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.12 Financial Hardship Policy [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.13 Rates Based Financial Assistance Policy [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.14 Administration of Rates and Charges [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Team Leader Revenue

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.15 Investment Policy [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Coordinator Financial Management

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.16 Debt Policy [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Coordinator Financial Management

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- (c) the local government's budget.

6.17 Budget 2023-2024 and Long Term Financial Forecast 2023-2024 to 2032 - 2033 [Closed s.254J(3)(c)]**Executive Officer:** General Manager Council Sustainability**Item Author:** Coordinator Financial Management

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- (c) the local government's budget.