

Gympie Regional Council 30th April 2025

Note: CR Maudsley delivered a heartfelt acknowledgement to Elders

Item 3.1 - Last Meeting Minutes - (?sed)

6.1 Financial

- \$70M Surplus

- Operating Surplus \$18M

Note: The percentage of outstanding rates at 31 March 2025 was 8.96% compared to 10.44% for the same period in the prior financial year.

Council's unrestricted cash totals \$33.5m at 31 March 2025, resulting in an unrestricted cash expense cover ratio of 5.6 months. This ratio continues to be higher than the benchmark required for Gympie Regional Council of 3 months as a result of Queensland Reconstruction Authority payments for completed restoration projects. The allocation of cash funds to restricted and unrestricted cash balances continues to be monitored and updated accordingly to reflect the release of restricted cash as relevant projects incur expenditure.

Council currently holds \$2.0m in trust for developers, ratepayers and other parties.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES

As the 2024-2025 operational expenditure budget includes as estimated vacancy rate of \$1.5m and efficiency dividend of \$0.5m.

As at 31 March 2025

Rates and Charges = Actuals YTD \$102,121,000

Fees & Charges = Actuals YTD \$7,700,000

Total Operating Revenue = \$127,783,000

Operating Expenditure

As at 31 March 2025

Employee Expenditure = Actuals YTD \$40,710,000

Note: Employee Agreement Due June 2025

Note: 48% of Employee Expenditure Costs are not passed on directly to Employees.

6.2 Qtly questions taken on notice

Note: Recent Audit on Customer complaint. QUESTION ON NOTICE:

Councillor Polley requested if the complaints register referred on page five of the report (27 November 2024, 6.6 Small Business Friendly Annual Report 2023/24) is available to Councillors to view?

Note: The Coordinator of Economic Development advised that a complaints register relating to Economic Development does not exist at this point in time.

26 February 2025

9.1 Contract No. RFT2023 -24 015

- Station Road and Mellor Street Signalised Intersections Upgrade.

QUESTION ON NOTICE:

Cr Curran requested confirmation that the policy regarding business impact reimbursement was written, as per the relevant resolution of Council from Ordinary meeting held on 27 November 2019.

The Meeting Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 November 2019 does not present a resolution that relates to business impact reimbursement. There is also no record of a Policy being created relating to business impact reimbursement.

Resolution M15/11/19 relates to Rates Interest Relief, which mentions financial hardship assistance for the ratepayers affected by Disasters and Drought. This resolution does not mention relating a Business Reimbursement Policy; however, it mentions an extended interest free period for the Rates of impacted businesses in the works area. Please refer to the resolution on the next page:

Ordinary Meeting Minutes 27 November 2019		53
6. CONCLUSION The suggested interest relief would provide assistance to those ratepayers currently financially impacted and who have an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declaration.		
M15/11/19	Moved Cr DW Dodt	Seconded Cr WR Leitch
That the interest free period be extended for any assessment where the ratepayer provides evidence of their individual drought declaration status to 6 March 2020.		
Further that, due to the duration and nature of the works, the interest free period be extended for all Upper Mary Street assessments to 6 March 2020. This applies to properties which front Mary Street between Channon Street and Monkland Street.		
Carried		
FOR: Cr MW Curran, Cr MA McDonald, Cr WR Leitch, Cr DW Dodt, Cr MS Gear, Cr HT Smerdon, Cr DH Stewart and Cr RA Fredman		
AGAINST: Nil		

NOTE: Cr Curran was attempting to blame Mayor Hartwig for businesses being able to claim compensation against Council where Council works impeded their business under Mayor Hartwig's term as Mayor where a policy was developed to support businesses being able to claim

compensation. Mayor Hartwig said there was no agreement that he was aware of but would have to check.

This clearly shows Cr Curran attempting to undermine the Mayor for his own gain. Again, he has fallen flat on his face.

Note: Council is looking to adopt the recommendation from report

Cr Polley asked is there a definition of what is a customer complaint?

Note: C/O stated the report identified Council does not have a classification of what is actually a complaint with evidence.

6.3 Operational Plan

CR Rolley asked if we can look at the Road Star Rating within the Asset Mgt Plan.

Dir: stated they will be workshopping and bringing back to Councillors.

Note: Cr Lahn asked if there was any program in place to help the homeless situation in Gympie.

Director Finance stated they are looking at what neighbouring Councils are doing to deal with the homeless.

Councils IE: Morten Shire - changed Local Laws to move on Homeless!!!

NOTE: The program from Morton Shire Council was to run private security company through the homeless destroying tents that the homeless were living in and dumped their belongings into a tip truck which then dumped their homes and belongings to the tip.

NOTE: It was raised that this was not Gympie Council will be doing but looking at what other council's are doing to relocate homeless from public areas.

Note: CR Milne stated there is a Rough Sleeper Program available on Council website.

CR Milne talked about the Environmental Adoption Policy.

Note: CR Laun asked about Fluoride Survey

DIR - said council was to engage a Consultant on how to undertake the Survey

CR Curran asked what the cost of a Consultant is to tell us how to run a survey

DIR: stated that the agreed cost for consultants would be in the range of \$20K - \$40K

- Supposed to be coming back to Councillors in the June ordinary meeting.

Item 6.4 LG Remuneration Commission

Note: CR Curran asked did we approve this increase

DIR: Stated that The Commission outlined a 2.5% increase to Councillors Remuneration

Note: Remuneration scales are in Report as 61/183.

Note: No Mover - Recommendation "Lapsed"

6.5 Councillor Conference

Request to move the June Meeting from 25th - 18th June, so Mayor CEO

That the Council approves the rescheduling of the June Ordinary Meeting from 25 June 2025 to Wednesday, 18 June 2025, to facilitate the attendance of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO at the Australian Local Government Association 2025 National General Assembly.

Note: Recommendation Changed from pg 89/183 to include CR Laun

- Recommendation: Carried

7.1 Community Grant

38 Applications Received - 25 Approved

Note: Glossy Black Cockatoos Funding

8.1 Infrastructure Services

Rain Events 400mm, 168mm in One Day

8.2 Trade Waste Policy

GRC Trade Waste Service that Protects, People, Assets &
Environment from Acceptable Risks

8.3 Tenure of Land for Agistment Purposes Policy

Purpose

To provide:

- i. a cost-effective approach to utilising vacant rural land owned or controlled by Gympie Regional Council identified as suitable for agistment purposes (“Agistment Land”);
- ii. a framework for the equitable assessment of requests received from members of the community to use Agistment Land; and
- iii. to provide a consistent process to secure or renew tenure over Agistment Land.

This policy is formulated on the basis of ensuring openness, transparency, effective competition, value for money, ethical behaviour and fair dealing in the tendering and management of Agistment Land.

CR Laun - Great Ideas

CR Maudorley agreed.

8.4 Water Network

A multi-year program for replacement of aging water mains has been identified in the Water Asset Management Plan (AMP).

Tenders were invited for a package of four watermains renewals identified for the 2024-25 financial year.

It is recommended that the contract RFT2024-25 Water Network Water Main Renewal be awarded to Offaly Civil Pty Ltd for \$887,370.51 (exc. GST).

\$887,320.51 - Offaly Civil Pty Ltd

8.5 Sewage Pump Station

Approved Contract

8.6 Cattle Shed Replacement

Gympie Showgrounds

Upgrade 30m x 24m

No local tenders from Gympie

\$734,280 (Excl gst) ???

Mayor: Asked how we assess the cost!!!

- Feels like we are being ripped off!!!

- Thinks there wouldn't be a leaf of lettuce available from farmers in the country if they had to pay that for a shed to store their produce.

- Tenders prices should be around a \$100,000, where the other \$600,K goes!!!

DIR: Said they could bring back to councillors with a detailed outlay of build costs.

Note: Price does not include Demolition Costs - Est. \$40,000.

Note: Deferred to end of Meeting to go Info Workshop!!

8.7 Declared Disaster Events

Under Clause 2359c) LGR 2012 Requires to be noted only.

90 day window to complete work.