



Special Council Meeting 2025-2026 Budget

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 95-101 Alfred St, Charleville

Wednesday, 16 July 2025

8:00AM



**MINUTES OF MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 95-101 ALFRED ST, CHARLEVILLE
ON WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY 2025 AT 8:08AM**

PRESENT: Cr S Radnedge (Mayor), Cr R Eckel, Cr P Alexander, Cr T Sommerfield, Cr M Ebsworth

IN ATTENDANCE: C Alexander (Contract Accountant), B Scott (Chief Executive Officer), J Kronk (Director of Corporate Services)

1 OPENING PRAYER

Fr Doohan Delivered a prayer for the guidance of Council.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 UPDATE/CHANGE TO COUNCILLOR REGISTER OF INTEREST

Nil

MAYOR'S WELCOME

It is with much pleasure that I commence this Special Budget Meeting of Murweh Shire Council.

Today we will look to adopt the 2025-2026 Budget for the of Murweh Shire Council.

Today's budget adoption is the culmination of many months of work by both our team of Councillors as well as our staff.

Following several workshops with staff and Councillors it is a privilege to be here with the relevant documents completed ready for adoption.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Councillors for the manner that you have approached the budget process over these last few months through the 2025-2026 Budget Workshops.

I would also like to thank the Council officers for your work and discussion to provide us with the information that we require to move forward and adopt a budget which is the financial plan for the year ahead.

Over the past few years Council has been fortunate to be successful with several grants as well as Queensland State and Commonwealth Government programs that have enabled the expansion and renewal of the asset base in our communities.

Through this budget process we have identified the need to focus our efforts on the critical assets that enable our community to function – for example town, shire and rural roads; airports; town water and wastewater assets.

In turning our attention to Council's critical assets, we have identified the need to look after these assets and plan for their renewal and replacement to ensure the reliability, safety and regulatory compliance of these services to the Murweh Shire communities.

To that end – in the coming years residents will see Council has a more of a focus on looking after the important assets that we already have, in preference to building the popular new things that will definitely increase our asset base, but have a negative impact on Council's over all finances and ability to service what we already have.

We want to see the public use assets in our communities (parks, gardens, sporting venues) in good condition and utilised to help provide the western Queensland lifestyle that we are fortunate to enjoy here in the Murweh Shire.

We are also acutely aware that Council needs to make sure that the delivery of community services is in line with the expectations of our constituents. Your Council is committed to continual improvement in the way in which we do business for you and on your behalf.

The budget for the 2025-2026 financial year has a distinct flavour of renewal of critical infrastructure, future planning for long-term sustainability and liveability, and consolidating the goals of Council along with securing our financial longevity.

The 2025-26 budget highlights include:

Operational spend of \$38.5 Million - including depreciation and flood damage

Capital spend of \$17.8 Million

Capital Grant Revenue of \$12.1 Million

No new borrowings

Key projects include:

Augathella CED & Charleville Sewerage Treatment Plant:

Council has been funded to deliver a new sewage treatment plant in Augathella that will enable Council to safely treat the towns common effluent and remain compliant with Council's Environmental Authority.

Council will also be conducting a refurbishment of the Charleville Sewage Treatment Plant, so this asset remains functional and compliant under the Murweh Shire Council's Environmental Authority.

Charleville Airport Masterplan

Council is very aware of the importance of the Charleville Airport to our communities and surrounding areas as the enabler for the Regular Passenger Transport Services, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, regional and local aviation services, and recreational flying. To keep the Charleville Airport safe and functioning, Council needs to understand the costs and logistics associated with the renewal of runways, taxiways and parking aprons – and to achieve this, Council will require very careful financial, engineering, planning and aviation industry advice to move this asset renewal forward in a considered and fiscally responsible process.

Aurora Estate Stage 2 and Residential Housing

As the community is aware, there is a critical shortage of housing in our communities for families as well as for the persons providing medical, teaching and social services in our communities. To this end, Council has started the planning for the development and construction of a new 65 lot housing estate in Charleville. The new estate will add to the current Aurora Estate that joins Partridge St in the north-eastern end of the town. The cost of providing this development is in the order of \$13.2m, and Council hopes to deliver these residential lots over the next 3 years.

Highlights

Charleville Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade	4,709,847.30
Alfred Street Renewal	1,500,000.00
Augathella CED Scheme	1,051,348.32
Water renewals	1,000,000.00
Rural Road Reseal - Biddenhan & Mount Tabor	640,126.00
Charleville Airport Reseal	600,000.00
Construct amenities multi-sport Charleville	551,533.87
Resheeting & Reseals - Rural	437,843.00
Resheeting & Reseals - Urban	437,842.00
Augathella CED Scheme Design	334,282.28
Aurora Estate Stage 2	336,077.91
Town Street Rehabilitation Program	300,000.00
Council Facility Infrastructure Program	300,000.00

Rates

We are well aware of the financial challenges that many are facing in the current environment.

With that in mind Council has decided that the residential rates and charges increase for the 2025-2026 year will be 5%.

This increase is in line with the increases in the costs of services and goods Council has identified that is needed to carry out Council's day-to-day business on behalf of the communities.

For a standard house block on the minimum rate using 700kL of water represents an increase of \$149 per year or less than \$3 per week in Charleville, \$122 per year or \$2.35 per week in Augathella and \$99 per year \$1.90 per week in Morven.

With the Valuer-General's recent revaluation of the shire, we have seen the unimproved capital value increasing by an average of 239% across the shire for 2025.

To manage the impact on rural rate payers, Council has adjusted the rate in the dollar levied to provide for only an average of a 10% increase in rural rates.

Increase in Maintenance on Rural Roads

This change will enable Council to significantly increase the rural roads maintenance budget and shows that Council is listening to its rural constituents when they discuss the condition of their access roads. For this budget, we will see a spending increase of 50% on Rural Roads which is an increase of \$750,000 in the 2025-2026 year and complement the significant flood damage repairs following the March/April Surface Trough Rain and Flood event. Council is also committed to see a continual improvement to this road network with further budget allocation in the coming years.

Tourism and Commerce

Council continues to invest significantly in driving the visitor economy of the region through the operation of many of the tourism assets and events of the Murweh Shire. This provides an economic uplift through the visitor spending to support the viability of our local businesses.

To enable Council to continue this support to the commercial sector across Murweh Shire, business owners will see a moderate rate increase above that of the residential sector.

Council Business and Fiscal Responsibilities

After a successful 2024-2025 financial year Council continues to work hard to find efficiencies within the organisation. These efficiencies will allow us to build the necessary financial reserves, including a minimum of 4 months operating cash buffer and funds for the future needs of the community.

Community Engagement

Council continues to be mindful of the need to be working with the community and investing support into our not-for profit, sporting, cultural and the arts groups. With the investment of time, in-kind and financial support to community groups in excess of \$250,000 – Council shows that it supports the volunteers in our communities who give their time in the community to provide a better and nicer place to live and provide the many opportunities to advance through these many sporting and cultural disciplines.

This continues to build on the significant investment over the last 3 years of more than \$600,000, as Council continues to encourage our local groups to remain active and work with Council on your organisations goal, service delivery and enhancing the liveability of our communities.

Disaster Management and Community Safety

Disaster management and community safety continues to be a major focus for Council. Apart from continuing to provide community messaging on disaster management, road conditions, flood warning advice, and general safety, Council has applied for funding to repurpose the old Bureau of Meteorology weather station at the Charleville Airport precinct into a Local Disaster Coordination Centre that will be used as the command centre if Murweh Shire was experiencing a natural or manmade disaster. Council is also investing in the integrity of the flood levees in Charleville and Augathella, early warning systems, and a local road network flood height monitoring network.

Council Commitment to the Community

As a Council, my fellow Councillors and I are committed to be working towards achieving the outcomes set down in the 2025-2026 Murweh Shire Council Budget and the Operational Plan. Throughout this financial year, we will continue to be setting and adjusting the foundations that will lead Murweh Shire into a solid financial position in both the short and the longer-term, continue with strong financial and corporate governance, ensure transparency and probity, and most importantly - be your strongest advocate.

Fellow Councillors - I commit to you for your consideration the Murweh Shire Council 2025-2026 Financial Year Budget.

5 CORPORATE & REGULATORY

5.1 OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025 - 2026

RESOLUTION 170/25

Moved: Cr R Eckel

Seconded: Cr M Ebsworth

That Council That Council as per section 104 of *the Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012* section 174 adopts the Operational Plan for 2025-2026.

CARRIED

5.2 REVENUE POLICY 2025-2026 LG REG. 2012 S193**RESOLUTION 171/25**

Moved: Cr M Ebsworth

Seconded: Cr P Alexander

That Council in accordance with Sections 169 (2) and 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* adopts the Revenue Policy for the year 2025-26 as tabled.

CARRIED

5.3 REVENUE STATEMENT 2025-2026 LG REG. 2012 S169**RESOLUTION 172/25**

Moved: Cr P Alexander

Seconded: Cr T Sommerfield

That Council in accordance with Sections 169 (2) and 172 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, adopts the Revenue Statement for the year 2025-26 as tabled.

CARRIED

5.4 GENERAL RATES**RESOLUTION 173/25**

Moved: Cr T Sommerfield

Seconded: Cr R Eckel

That the Council set the following differential rating categories, minimum general rates and cents in dollar for the financial year 2025-26 as follows:

Category	Description	Cent in \$	Minimum per annum
1	Charleville Residential	4.4389	\$783.00
2	Augathella Residential	6.1302	\$783.00
3	Augathella Non residential	5.1907	\$937.00
4	Morven Residential	2.6286	\$783.00
5	Morven Non residential	2.5213	\$937.00
6	Rural <700 Hectares & <\$100,000 ucv	1.4766	\$1,291.00
7	Rural <700 Hectares & ≥\$100,000 ucv	0.7048	\$1,402.00
8	Rural 700 - 5,000 Hectares	0.1570	\$1,960.00
9	Rural over 5,000 Hectares	0.1570	\$5,111.00
10	Clubs (without poker machines)	1.0290	\$783.00
11	Charleville Multi Dwellings	5.0391	\$937.00
12	Charleville Commercial	7.0691	\$937.00
13	Charleville Tourist Parks, Short Accommodation and Clubs	7.0691	\$937.00

14	Charleville Industry	5.2797	\$937.00
15	Transformer	2.2902	\$1,373.00
16	Outside Urban - Other Land <700 Hectares	0.4954	\$1,333.00
17	Outside Urban - Large Industry	6.2604	\$5,264.00
18	Residential (NPPR)	4.8632	\$858.00
20	Carbon Farms	0.1727	\$8,273.00
21	Work Camps >15 persons	2.0870	\$13,042.00
22	Renewable Energy 1-10 MW	2.3180	\$4,438.00
23	Renewable Energy >10 MW	2.3180	\$8,875.00
CARRIED			

5.5 CHARLEVILLE SEWERAGE AND CLEANSING CHARGES

RESOLUTION 174/25

Moved: Cr R Eckel

Seconded: Cr M Ebsworth

That the following sewerage and cleansing/garbage charges be set for the 2025-26 financial year:

Sewerage

Sewerage Base Charge (First Pedestal) \$ 459.00

Sewerage Reduced Rate (75%)

(Sewerage– Short Stay – Additional Pedestal) \$ 344.00

Sewerage Concession Rate (60%)

(Sewerage – Additional Pedestal) \$ 275.00

Charge per annum

Cleansing/Garbage

Charleville – Garbage (1st Bin) \$ 393.00

Charleville – Garbage (Additional Bins) \$ 415.00

Waste Levy (no bin collection service) \$ 109.00

Charge per service per annum

CARRIED

5.6 AUGATHELLA CLEANSING CHARGES**RESOLUTION 175/25**

Moved: Cr M Ebsworth

Seconded: Cr P Alexander

That the cleansing/garbage charge per service per annum be set for the 2025-26 financial year.

Augathella – Garbage (1st Bin) \$ 284.00

Augathella – Garbage (Additional Bins) \$ 306.00

Waste Levy – (no bin collection service) \$ 109.00

CARRIED**5.7 AUGATHELLA CED CHARGES & MORVEN SEPTIC CHARGES****RESOLUTION 176/25**

Moved: Cr P Alexander

Seconded: Cr T Sommerfield

That the following CED and septic charges for Morven and Augathella be set for the 2025-26 financial year:

C.E.D - Building not specified \$ 224.00

C.E.D. - Aged Persons Complex \$ 2,239.00

C.E.D. - Business Premises \$ 546.00

C.E.D. - Church \$ 189.00

C.E.D. - Dwelling \$ 474.00

C.E.D. - Hall \$ 191.00

C.E.D. - Hospital \$ 1,567.00

C.E.D. - Hotel/Motel \$ 2,683.00

C.E.D. - Lodge \$ 191.00

C.E.D. - Public Park \$ 474.00

C.E.D. - School \$ 2,239.00

Septic \$ 480.00

CARRIED

5.8 MORVEN CLEANSING CHARGES**RESOLUTION 177/25**

Moved: Cr T Sommerfield

Seconded: Cr R Eckel

That a cleansing/garbage charge per service per annum be set for the 2025-26 financial year.

Morven – Garbage \$ 284.00

Morven – Garbage (Additional Bins) \$ 306.00

Waste Levy (no bin collection service) \$ 109.00

CARRIED**5.9 CHARLEVILLE, AUGATHELLA & MORVEN WATER SUPPLY CHARGES****RESOLUTION 178/25**

Moved: Cr R Eckel

Seconded: Cr M Ebsworth

That the charge for the supply of water to properties within the Charleville/Augathella/Morven Water Supply area, and surrounding properties approved by Council, be set for the 2025-26 financial year, based on the following:

Category	Description	Access Charge (per meter)	KI Charge – Tier 1	KI Charge – Tier 2
Vacant	Vacant Land.	\$300.00	\$0.25 (≤1,300kl)	\$0.72 (>1,300kl)
Residential 1	2 or less single residential dwellings units on one meter.	\$600.00	\$0.25 (≤1,300kl)	\$0.72 (>1,300kl)
Residential 2	3 or more single residential dwelling on one meter.	\$1,537.00	\$0.72	
Commercial 1	Rateable, non-residential land.	\$600.00	\$0.72	
Commercial 2	Non-Rateable, non-residential with 40 mm or less diameter meter.	\$2,402.00	\$0.72 (≤1,200kl)	\$1.45 (>1,200kl)
Commercial 3	Caravan Parks, Hotels, Motels licensed club.	\$937.00	\$0.72	
Commercial 4	Non-Rateable, non-residential 1st Meter greater than 40 mm diameter (Additional meters ≤40mm in diameter to be charged at commercial 2).	\$15,012.00	\$0.72 (≤1,200kl)	\$1.45 (>1,200kl)
Commercial 5	Sporting fields and schools, 1st Meter greater than 40 mm diameter. (Additional meters ≤40mm in diameter to be charged at commercial 2).	\$15,012.00	\$0.72	

CARRIED

5.10 DISCOUNT ON RATES LG REG. 2012 S130**RESOLUTION 179/25**

Moved: Cr M Ebsworth

Seconded: Cr P Alexander

That Council allows, ten per cent (10%), by way of a discount on rates and charges levied by Council, (excluding interest, fire levy and excess water charges) for the 2025-26 financial year when all rates and charges are paid by the due date.

CARRIED

5.11 INTEREST ON RATES LG REG. 2012 S133**RESOLUTION 180/25**

Moved: Cr P Alexander

Seconded: Cr T Sommerfield

That in accordance with Section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves that;

(1) Overdue rates will bear interest at the rate of 12.12 % per annum from the date that the rate becomes overdue; and

(2) That the amount of interest will be calculated on daily rests, applying the interest as compound interest.

CARRIED

5.12 PENSIONER REMISSION LG REG. 2012 S119**RESOLUTION 181/25**

Moved: Cr T Sommerfield

Seconded: Cr R Eckel

That in accordance with Section 119 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to provide assistance to qualifying Age Pensioners, having a Commonwealth Government Concession Card, be granted a remission of up to \$400 per annum of general rates levied for the 2025-26 financial year, under the same criteria as the State Government Pensioner Remission Scheme.

CARRIED

5.13 RATING EXEMPTIONS AND REBATES 2025-26**RESOLUTION 182/25**

Moved: Cr R Eckel

Seconded: Cr M Ebsworth

In terms of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may:

- Rebate all or part of the rates or charges;

Owing to the significant community involvement of the following organisations, Council has resolved to rebate the payment of general rates for the financial year 2025-2026: -

1353/21000	Retirement Village, Charleville, (Burke St, Charleville)
1645/50000	Multifunctional Child Care Centre, (2 Baker St, Charleville)
1867/00000	86-88 Brunel Street, Morven. Dwelling
1907/00000	90-92 Albert Street, Morven. 2 Aged Units
1946/00000	4 Cemetery Road, Morven. Dwelling
1948/00000	4 Newton Street, Morven. Dwelling
1952/00000	6 Eurella Street, Morven. Dwelling
1967/00000	Trustees Morven Racecourse
2043/00000	Trustees Augathella Racecourse
2048/50000	Augathella Pony Club Paddock
2168/52100	Warrego Pony Club, Charleville, (Pony Club Paddock 323 ha)
2170/00000	Charleville Small Bore Rifle Club Inc. (14 Adavale Road, Charleville)
2171/10000	Charleville Field Archers Assoc Inc., (Bollon Road, Charleville)

In terms of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council may exempt from rating land used for religious, charitable, educational or public purposes. The following organisations have been given exemption under this provision until further notice:-

0017/00000	Anglican Church, Augathella, (59-61 Main St, Augathella)
0084/00000	Masonic Lodge Augathella, (55-57 Cavanagh St, Augathella)
0107/00000	Catholic Church, Augathella, (96-98 Cavanagh St, Augathella)
0303/00000	Anglican Church, Charleville, (Church/Rectory, Alfred St, Charleville)
0324/00000	Historic House, Charleville, (87 Alfred St, Charleville)
0327/00000	Charleville & Dist. Senior Citizens, (107-109 Alfred St, Charleville)
0515/00000	Q.C.W.A., Charleville, (73 Galatea St, Charleville)
0604/00000	Presbyterian Church Charleville, (74-76 Church/Hall Galatea St, Charleville)
0605/00000	Masonic Lodge, Charleville, (70-72 Galatea Street, Charleville)
0612/00000	Presbyterian Church Charleville, (Residence 56 Galatea St, Charleville)
0661/00000	Saint Vincent de Paul, (63 Edward St, Charleville)
0805/00000	Catholic Church, Charleville, (Presbytery Wills/Watson St, Charleville)
0868/00000	Sisters of Mercy, Charleville, (Dwelling 92 Watson St, Charleville)
0869/11000	Girl Guides Assoc, Charleville, (80 Watson St, Charleville)
0872/00000	Catholic Church, Charleville, (School Oval 68 Watson St, Charleville)
1252/00000	Presbyterian Church, Charleville, (Dwelling 4 Warrego St, Charleville)
1288/00000	Boy Scouts Assoc, Charleville, (44 Sturt St, Charleville)
1425/30000	Lions Club of Charleville, (47 Hilda St, Charleville)
1592/00000	Jehovah Witnesses, Vacant Land, Charleville
1756/20000	Christian Outreach Centre Charleville, (Sturt St, Charleville)
1923/00000	Morven Historical Museum, Morven, (53 Albert St, Morven)
1925/00000	Morven Historical Museum, Morven, (57 Albert St, Morven)
1935/00000	Anglican Church, Morven, (Church, 33 Eurella St, Morven)
2166/00000	Royal Flying Doctor Service, (Land used for radio communications)
2303/20000	Scout Association of Australia, (Mangalore)

CARRIED

5.14 CHANGE IN RATES AND CHARGES LG REG. 2012 S169**RESOLUTION 183/25**

Moved: Cr M Ebsworth

Seconded: Cr P Alexander

That in accordance with Section 169 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council adopt the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget. For the financial year 2025-26 the change is 8% average.

CARRIED

5.15 DEBT POLICY 2025-2026 LG REG 2012 S192**RESOLUTION 184/25**

Moved: Cr P Alexander

Seconded: Cr T Sommerfield

That Council in accordance with Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the Debt Policy for the year 2025-26 as tabled.

CARRIED

5.16 INVESTMENT POLICY 2025-2026 LG REG 2012 S191**RESOLUTION 185/25**

Moved: Cr T Sommerfield

Seconded: Cr R Eckel

That Council in accordance with the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982* and Section 191 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council adopts the Investment Policy for the year 2025-26 as tabled.

CARRIED

5.17 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY AND RECOVERY OF RATES AND CHARGES POLICY.**RESOLUTION 186/25**

Moved: Cr R Eckel

Seconded: Cr M Ebsworth

That Council repeal the financial hardship policy 2024-25; and resolve to adopt the Recovery of Overdue Rates & Charges Policy as amended.

CARRIED

5.18 FEES AND CHARGES 2025-2026**RESOLUTION 187/25**

Moved: Cr M Ebsworth

Seconded: Cr P Alexander

That Council in accordance with Sections 97, 98, 262 (3) and 280 (2) (d) of the *Local Government Act 2009* adopt the Schedule of Regulatory Fees & Commercial Charges 2025-26 as amended.

CARRIED

5.19 ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION FOR 30 JUNE 2025**RESOLUTION 188/25**

Moved: Cr P Alexander

Seconded: Cr T Sommerfield

That pursuant to Section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Statement of Estimated Financial Position for the previous financial year to 30 June 2025 be received and its contents noted.

CARRIED

5.20 BUDGET FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025-26 TO 2027-28**RESOLUTION 189/25**

Moved: Cr T Sommerfield

Seconded: Cr R Eckel

That Council in accordance with Section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* adopt the Budget Financial Statements for the 2025-26 financial year and the following two financial years as tabled.

CARRIED

5.21 10 YEAR FINANCIAL FORECAST LG REG. 2012 S169**RESOLUTION 190/25**

Moved: Cr R Eckel

Seconded: Cr M Ebsworth

That Council in accordance with Section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council adopt the 2025-2035 long term financial forecast as tabled

.CARRIED

5.22 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY RATIOS LG REG. 2012 S169**RESOLUTION 191/25**

Moved: Cr M Ebsworth

Seconded: Cr P Alexander

That Council in accordance with Section 169 (4), (5) and (6) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council adopt the measures of financial sustainability as tabled.

CARRIED

5.23 CODE OF COMPETITIVE CONDUCT**RESOLUTION 192/25**

Moved: Cr P Alexander

Seconded: Cr T Sommerfield

That Council in accordance with Sections 39 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council adopts to not apply the Code of Competitive Conduct for the following business activities for 2025-26;

- Building Certification – operating expenses of \$143,240 is below the threshold of \$ 340,000.
- Roads activity – operating expenses of \$ 2,934,863 is above the threshold of \$340,000.

However, as the Contract is awarded to Council based on quotation, Council will not apply the code of competitive conduct at this time.

CARRIED

5.24 PROCUREMENT POLICY 2025-2026 LG REG. 2012 S198**RESOLUTION 193/25**

Moved: Cr T Sommerfield

Seconded: Cr R Eckel

That Council as per Section 198 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* adopts the Procurement Policy for the year 2025-26 as tabled.

CARRIED

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:58AM.