



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON MONDAY, 21 JULY 2025
COMMENCING AT 8.00AM

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON MONDAY, 21ST JULY 2025
COMMENCING AT 8.00AM**

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Barry Hughes
Cr. Ian Carroll
Cr. Laurell Royes
Cr. Seven Ryan
Cr. Ian Tincknell

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Mark Watt, Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Renee Bester, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs. Kim Williams, Acting Executive Assistant to the CEO

OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 8.04am and welcomed all in attendance.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

1. Adoption of the 2025-2026 Operational Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council must prepare and adopt an Operational Plan for each financial year and report on the progress quarterly.

RESOLUTION

That Council adopts the 2025/2026 Operational Plan pursuant to and in accordance with Section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as amended.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION#SP25.07.01
5/0

2. Adoption of 2025-2026 Budget Policies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the following policies for Etheridge Shire Council for adoption as part of the 2025-2026 budget:

- a. ESC – S003 Borrowing Policy
- b. ESC – S004 Investment Policy
- c. ESC – S005 Budget Policy
- d. ESC – S006 Procurement Policy

RESOLUTION

1. That pursuant to section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to adopt the ESC – S003 Borrowing Policy.
2. That pursuant to Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 191 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to adopt the ESC – S004 Investment Policy.
3. That Council resolves to adopt the ESC – S005 Budget Policy
4. That pursuant to Section 198 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves to adopt the ESC – S006 Procurement Policy

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.02
5/0

3. Adoption of 2024-2025 Statement of Estimated Financial Position

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the 2024/2025 Statement of Estimated Financial Position for Council's receipt.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that pursuant to section 205 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the statement of the financial operations and financial position of the Council in respect of the 2024/2025 Financial Year be noted.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.03
5/0

4. Adoption of 2025-2026 Budget

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Annual Budget for 2025/2026 is presented for adoption by Council. The Annual Budget has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

RESOLUTION

That:

- a) Pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council's Budget for the 2025/2026 financial year, incorporating:
 - i. The statement of Financial Position;
 - ii. The statement of Cashflow;
 - iii. The statement of Income and Expenditure;
 - iv. The statement of Changes in Equity;
 - v. The Long-term Financial Forecast;
 - vi. The Revenue Policy;
 - vii. The Revenue Statement;
 - viii. The relevant measures of financial sustainability; and
 - ix. The total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, is in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget.

as tabled be adopted.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.04
5/0

5. 2025-2026 Rates & Utility Charges

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's adoption of statutory rating resolutions for the 2025–2026 financial year, as required under the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*. The resolutions cover the issue of rates notices, early payment discounts, interest on overdue amounts, concessions for pensioners and not-for-profit organisations, and differential rating categories. It also includes utility and special charges for waste and water services, and the collection of the State Government's Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy. Adoption of these resolutions will enable Council to lawfully levy and collect rates and charges to support the 2025–2026 Budget.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

Pursuant to section 104 and 107 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council will issue a rates notice to the owner of the land on which a rate or charge has been applied and furthermore rates notices shall include the date the notice was issued, the date by which time the rate must be paid and any discounts, rebates or concessions applied. Council will issue notices on a yearly basis during the periods 01 July to 30 June in the respective financial year.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Ryan

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.05
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

Pursuant to section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the differential general rates levied shall be subject to a discount of 15% if paid within the discount period of 30 days of the date of issue of the rate notice provided that:

- a) all of the rates and charges are paid within 30 days of the date of issue of the rate notice;
- b) all other rates and charges appearing on the rate notice (that are not subject to a discount) are paid within 30 days after the date of issue of the rate notice; and
- c) all other overdue rates and charges relating to the rateable assessment are paid within 30 days of the date of issue of the rate notice.

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.06
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

Pursuant to section 133 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, compound interest at the rate of 12.12% per annum is to be charged on all overdue rates or charges that remain unpaid after the appointed date for payment (i.e. the date on which the discount period closes) and includes assessments which are making payments of outstanding rates by instalment.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.07
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

Pursuant to sections 119, 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolve to grant a rebate upon the differential general rate, cleansing charge, water base access charge and waste management special charge of \$250.00 per annum above the state government pensioner remission shall be granted to all ratepayers who are pensioners and who are eligible for the State Government pensioner remission and subject to conditions outlined in the S002 Revenue Statement.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.08
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

Pursuant to sections 119, 120, 121 and 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolve to grant varied levels of rating concessions to approved charitable and other not-for-profit community organisations, including not-for-profit sporting bodies, in accordance with the provisions of the S002 Revenue Statement.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.09
5/0

ADVICE

The Chief Executive Officer and Director of Corporate Services advised Council that failure to levy and collect the Emergency Management Levy may breach Council's legislative obligations under the *Fire Services Act 1990* and may cause reputational risk to Council.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

Pursuant to section 107 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and section 114 & 128A of the *Fire Services Act 1990*, Council's rates and charges, and the State Government's Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy be levied:

- a) for the full year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 in the August/ September period;
- b) Pursuant to section 118 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that Council's rates and charges, and the State Government's Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy, be paid within 30 days of the date of the issue of the rate notice.

MOVED: Cr. Tincknell

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

LOST
3/2

VOTE

Cr Royes, Cr Ryan and Cr Carroll voted in the negative to this resolution.

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

That pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, categorise rateable land into the following rating categories according to description for each proposed rate category and Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power, pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* the power, pursuant to sections 81(4) and 81(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to identify the rating category to which each parcel of rateable land belongs:

Category 2: Rural Land Other - Rural land that does not fall within any other rural category.

Category 3: Urban Residential (Principal Place of Residence) - All urban residential land, which is the owner's principal place of residence.

Category 4: Urban Residential (Not Principal Place of Residence) - Other urban residential land, not included in any other category, which is not the owner's principal place of residence.

Category 5: Urban Land Vacant - Urban land that is vacant.

Category 6: Rural Large Scale Mixed Intensive Agriculture - Rural land, that is not within any other rural category that is being utilised or has the potential to be utilised, in whole or in part, by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for a system of large scale intensive cultivation using large amounts of labour and/or high efficiency machinery for planting, cultivating and harvesting.

Category 7: Rural Large Scale Renewable Energy Farms - Rural Land that is not within any other rural category that is being utilised or has the potential to be utilised in whole or in part by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for the production of electricity from renewable energy sources such as biomass, solar, wind, tidal, wave and water (i.e. hydro-electric).

Category 8: Urban Commercial Land - Rural Land being utilised or having the potential to be utilised by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for a commercial purpose.

Category 9: Urban Industrial Land - Land being utilised or having the potential to be utilised by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for an industrial purpose.

Category 10: Transport Terminals - Land being utilized or having the potential to be utilized by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property by trucking, earthmoving or similar providers.

Category 11: Rural Tourism - Rural land in whole or in part, being utilised or having the potential to be utilised by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for tourism purposes.

Category 13: Extractive >5,000 tonnes - All land used in whole or in part for licensed extractive industry purposes, where the quantity of material capable of being extracted is greater than 5,000 tonnes per annum.

Category 14: Mining Claim - Land upon which an approved Mining Tenement and or Mining Claim exists.

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- Category 15: Mining Claim (< 5 workers, UV <\$70,000) - Land that is a mine, has less than 5 workers and has an Unimproved Value less than \$70,000.
- Category 16: Mining (> 5 workers, UV <\$70,000) - Land that is a mine has 5 workers or more and has an Unimproved Value less than \$70,000.
- Category 17: Mining (UV =>\$70,000) - Land that is a mine and has an Unimproved Value of \$70,000 or more.
- Category 18: Work Camps 15-29 - All land used or intended to be used in whole or in part for workforce accommodation of 15 to 29 persons.
- Category 19: Work Camps 30-99 - All land used or intended to be used in whole or in part for workforce accommodation of 30 to 99 persons.
- Category 20: Work Camps 100-200 - All land used or intended to be used in whole or in part for workforce accommodation of 100 to 200 persons.
- Category 21: Work Camps >200 - All land used or intended to be used in whole or in part for workforce accommodation of greater than 200 persons.
- Category 22: Commercial Utility Service Providers <1Ha - Land being utilized or having the potential to be utilized by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for a Utility Service Provider (i.e. Telstra, Optus, Ergon, Energex) with and has an area less than one (1) Hectare (Ha)
- Category 23: Commercial Utility Service Providers 1-5Ha - Land being utilised or having the potential to be utilised by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for a Utility Service Provider (i.e. Telstra, Optus, Ergon, Energex) with and has an area of one (1) Hectare but less than five (5) Hectares.
- Category 24: Commercial Utility Service Providers >=5Ha - Land being utilised or having the potential to be utilised by virtue of improvements or activities conducted upon the property for a Utility Service Provider (i.e. Telstra, Optus, Ergon, Energex) with and has an area equal to or greater than five (5) Hectares.
- Category 25: Grazing and Agriculture <2,000Ha - Rural land, that is not within any other category, predominantly used for cattle grazing or other conventional agriculture and has an area less than 2,000 Hectares.
- Category 26: Grazing and Agriculture 2,000 - <5,000Ha - Rural land, that is not within any other category, predominantly used for cattle grazing or other conventional agriculture and has an area greater than 2,000 Hectares but less than 5,000 Hectares.
- Category 27: Grazing and Agriculture 5,000 - <25,000Ha - Rural land, that is not within any other category, predominantly used for cattle grazing or other conventional agriculture and has an area greater than 5,000 Hectares but less than 25,000 Hectares.
- Category 28: Grazing and Agriculture 25,000 - <100,000Ha - Rural land, that is not within any other category, predominantly used for cattle grazing or other conventional agriculture and has an area greater than 25,000 Hectares but less than 100,000 Hectares.
- Category 29: Grazing and Agriculture 100,000 - <200,000Ha - Rural land, that is not within any other category, is predominantly used for cattle grazing or other conventional agriculture and has an area greater than 100,000 Hectares but less than 200,000 Hectares.
- Category 30: Grazing and Agriculture >= 200,000Ha - Rural land, that is not within any other category, predominantly used for cattle grazing or other conventional agriculture and has an area equal to or greater than 200,000 Hectares.
- Category 31: Major Transmission Site >10MVA - All land used or intended to be used in whole or in part as an electricity substation with a capacity of greater than 10MVA.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.07.10
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

That pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 80 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolves that the differential general rates be made and levied for each differential general rate category, and pursuant to section 77 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the minimum general rate be made and levied for each differential general rate category as follows:

DIFFERENTIAL RATING CATEGORIES & MINIMUM GENERAL RATES 2025 - 2026

Category		Differential Rate	Minimum General Rate
2	Rural Land Other	2.9567	\$982
3	Urban Residential (Principal Place of Residence)	4.1336	\$757
4	Urban Residential (Not Principal Place of Residence)	4.9760	\$908
5	Urban Land – Vacant	6.0006	\$950
6	Rural - Large Scale Mixed Intensive Agriculture	0.4318	\$5,563
7	Rural - Large Scale Renewable Energy Farms	30.3134	\$14,991
8	Urban Commercial Land	5.3928	\$941
9	Urban Industrial land	6.2916	\$941
10	Transport Terminals	6.2916	\$2,449
11	Rural Tourism	1.5181	\$1,146
13	Extractive >5,000 Tonnes	0.4327	\$12,521
14	Mining Claim	16.3770	\$226
15	Mining (<5 Workers, UV <\$70,000)	16.3770	\$771
16	Mining (>5 Workers, UV <\$70,000)	16.3770	\$14,587
17	Mining (UV =<\$70,000)	16.3770	\$17,365
18	Work Camps 15-29 Persons	30.3134	\$12,034
19	Work Camps 30-99 Persons	30.3134	\$24,067
20	Work Camps 100-200 Persons	30.3134	\$80,948
21	Work Camps >200 Persons	30.3134	\$161,169
22	Commercial - Utility Service Providers <1Ha	131.9192	\$8,851
23	Commercial - Utility Service Providers 1 – 5Ha	109.2747	\$8,851
24	Commercial - Utility Service Providers >= 5Ha	69.1835	\$8,851
25	Rural Land – Grazing and Agriculture <2,000Ha	0.5188	\$1,122
26	Rural Land – Grazing and Agriculture 2,000 - <5,000Ha	0.3369	\$1,129
27	Rural Land – Grazing and Agriculture 5,000 - <25,000Ha	0.3582	\$1,200
28	Rural Land – Grazing and Agriculture 25,000 - <100,000Ha	0.3770	\$2,858
29	Rural Land – Grazing and Agriculture 100,000 - <200,000Ha	0.5085	\$7,714
30	Rural Land – Grazing and Agriculture >200,000Ha	0.4318	\$11,155
31	Major Transmission Site >10MVA	109.2747	\$19,163

MOVED: Cr. Hughes**SECONDED:** Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #25.07.11
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy a special charge (to be known as the “Waste Management Special Charge”) of \$270.00, on all rateable land to which the overall plan applies, to fund the provision of maintenance and operations of all waste management facilities for the towns of Einasleigh, Mt Surprise and Forsayth.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Carroll

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.12
5/0

RESOLUTION

Council resolves that:

That pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy cleansing utility charges, for the supply of waste management services by the Council, as follows:

**CLEANSING
CHARGE**

<i>For each house / dwelling unit / improved property</i>	The amount of the charge to be levied is \$684.00 per annum for a 240 litre mobile bin to be used for the removal of domestic refuse on a normal weekly collection day. Additional bins will be charged at \$616.00 per annum
<i>Commercial, industrial of community Facility</i>	The amount of the charge to be levied is \$684.00 per annum for a 240 litre mobile bin to be used for the removal of domestic refuse on a normal weekly collection day. Additional bins will be charged at \$616.00 per annum.
<i>Commercial, industrial of community Facility</i>	The amount of the charge to be levied is \$992.00 per annum for a 900 litre mobile bin to be used for the removal of domestic refuse on a normal weekly collection day. Additional bins will be charged at \$886.00 per annum

MOVED: Cr. Hughes


SECONDED: Cr. Tincknell


CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.13
5/0


RESOLUTION


Council resolves that:

Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy water utility charges, for the supply of water services, as follows:

 The amount of Water Consumption Charge - Georgetown	
Georgetown	Charge per Annum
Per Kilolitre of Use	75.00 cents up to 700 kilolitres per half year
Per Kilolitre of Use	150.00 cents over 700 kilolitres per half year

 The amount of Water Consumption Charge- Forsyth	
Forsyth	Charge per Annum
Per Kilolitre of Use	108.00 cents up to 500 kilolitres per half year
Per Kilolitre of Use	238.00 cents over 500 kilolitres per half year

 The amount of Water Base Charge – Georgetown (1 unit = \$42.92)		
	Units	Charge per Annum
Unconnected Lots	10 units	\$429.20
All Charitable & Religious Uses	10 units	\$429.20
20mm Service Connection	20 units	\$858.40
25mm Service Connection	30 units	\$1,287.60
32mm Service Connection	50 units	\$2,146.00
40mm Service Connection	80 units	\$3,433.60
50mm Service Connection	125 units	\$5,365.00
75mm Service Connection	280 units	\$12,017.60
80mm Service Connection	320 units	\$13,734.40
100mm Service Connection	500 units	\$21,460.00

 The amount of Water Base Charge – Forsyth (1 unit = \$42.92)		
	Units	Charge per Annum
Unconnected Lots	10 units	\$429.20
All Charitable & Religious Uses	10 units	\$429.20
20mm Service Connection	20 units	\$858.40
25mm Service Connection	30 units	\$1,287.60
32mm Service Connection	50 units	\$2,146.00
40mm Service Connection	80 units	\$3,433.60
50mm Service Connection	125 units	\$5,365.00
75mm Service Connection	280 units	\$12,017.60
80mm Service Connection	320 units	\$13,734.40
100mm Service Connection	500 units	\$21,460.00

- a. Pursuant to section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 99 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council make and levy a \$0.545 / kilolitre consumption charge, for the supply of raw water to the following rate assessments:
- | Assessment | Lot on Plan |
|------------|------------------------|
| 501-50000 | L53 on Plan SP242966 |
| 420-01354 | L1on Plan MPH2268 |
| 522-50000 | L5306 on Plan SP287760 |
| 541-00000 | L196 on Plan OL 149 |
- b. Pursuant to section 102(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a water meter is taken to have been read during the period that starts 2 weeks before, and ends 2 weeks after, the day on which the meter is “actually read.”

MOVED: Cr. Carroll

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #SP25.07.14
5/0

6. Adoption of the 2025-2026 Fees & Charges

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents Council's proposed Fees and Charges Schedule for the 2025–2026 financial year, developed in accordance with Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2009*. Adoption of the schedule ensures financial transparency, consistency in service pricing, and alignment with Council's 2025–2026 Budget. The Fees and Charges will take effect once adopted, unless otherwise stated.

RESOLUTION

That in accordance with section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council adopt the 2025-2026 Fees and Charges Schedule as presented as part of the 2025-2026 Budget.

MOVED: Cr. Ryan

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION#SP25.07.15
5/0

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.18am. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th August 2025.

Cr. Barry Hughes
MAYOR