



## **CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **Budget 2009/2010**

Central Highlands Regional Council adopted its second budget at a meeting held in Emerald on Friday night the 21<sup>st</sup> August. Following delays due to the introduction of a new computer system, including the accounting software, Councillors were able to finally meet and adopt the budget.

The General Rate increase will be 9.9% across all areas with some variations, in particular the Blackwater Sewerage Charge, the introduction of a sewerage charge for Rolleston, the introduction of fortnightly recycling across the regional Council area and up 30% general rate increases in the former Duaringa Shire area following on from the valuation increases from 2008 as a result of no valuations since 2004.

The staff have worked hard over the past few months on consolidating four former financial systems into one, and this has indeed been a challenge for all involved. As Councillors we appreciate the dedication of the staff across all areas in dealing with issues related to the forced amalgamations and the new computer system was an additional impost.

Council's costs, like any other business's, have risen substantially in the past 12 months, and have been impacted by more than just the CPI increase. Our costs are also affected by the General Construction Index. In Queensland the cost for roads and bridge construction in 2008 were considerably higher than the rest of Australia, with an increase of 12.9% (well above Brisbane CPI of 4.3%). As well, the Council Cost Index has risen 5.3% in the past twelve months up slightly from the 5.2% last year. Factoring in these costs are some of the challenges we face as a Council when budgeting for the next twelve months.

**Along with the Fuel rebate loss, increases in Plant Hire rates, Electricity costs, wages and materials, all have an impact. In addition, the loss of the State Governments Roads and Drainage Grant of \$359,000 and the subsidy of \$400,000 towards the cost of the Bluff reservoir and down the track no subsidies towards any water and sewerage upgrades, will provide significant challenges for us to continue to provide these services to communities.**

**The budget also includes provision for \$2 million expenditure on the State Government owned Blackwater – Rolleston Road which has been allocated \$7 million funding by the Federal Government after successful lobbying by the former Bauhinia and Duaringa Shires as well as residents along the road. This expenditure is being provided so as to ensure that we get a substantially increased benefit from the road upgrade but the road is not a Local Government Asset.**

**However, Council has made strong representations to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for additional funding to complete this project and the Minister is currently considering this request.**

**On other issues we continue to work with communities to provide all the services at the highest possible level but need to start looking at how to implement strategies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the services we provide so as to reduce the operating costs of Council.**

**Further consolidation of the rating categories will happen next year. This is a very difficult and complex issue. With the new computer system in place next year's budget should be adopted late June or early July. This year, as a result of the late adoption of the budget, the first two notices will be sent out fairly close together with the first one due for payment in September/October and the second in November/December. This follows on from Council's decision to send out quarterly rates notices.**



**This budget complements our Corporate Mission adopted earlier this year of “Working in Partnership to Foster Sustainable Development and Vibrant Communities”.**

**I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and all staff for their efforts over the past twelve months and I look forward to working with all members of our communities to provide the best services we can for the betterment of all of us.**

**All the best,**

**Cr Peter Maguire  
Mayor, Central Highlands Regional Council.**



## **BUDGET AT A GLANCE**

### **Introduction of Recycling across Regional Council**

**Rate Increase of 9.9%**

**Total Recurrent Revenue Estimated at       \$89.8 million**  
**+ Total Capital Revenue (Grants etc)   \$ 8.2 million**

**Total Recurrent Expenses of                       \$89.7 million**

**Outstanding Rates Arrears June '09           3.82%**

**Fully Funded Depreciation**

**Rate Notices issued 4 times per year.**

**Total Capital Budget of \$39.268 million + a significant amount of Capital Upgrades money from last year is being carried over.**

**Rates Discount of 15%**

**Pensioner Remission/Rebate 50% + State Government Remission**

**Rate Capping remains at 30%**

The Central Highlands Regional Council, at its Budget meeting, has determined that initially operation of differential rates that existed in the former areas will largely remain consistent with differential rates used in the areas previously. However, as a step towards unification the following will apply in regard to the areas.

- (1) A uniform urban rate will exist for the urban areas of Emerald and Blackwater townships with a minimum rate applying for these areas of **\$691.00**.
- (2) A uniform urban rate will exist for all other urban areas of the amalgamated Council which in effect represents all smaller townships with a minimum rate applying for these areas of **\$489.00**.
- (3) A uniform rural rate will exist for all rural areas of the Northern and Central areas of the amalgamated region namely the former areas of Emerald and Peak Downs Shire Council areas with a minimum rate applying for these areas of **\$545.00**.
- (4) A uniform rural rate will exist for all rural areas of the Southern and Eastern areas of the amalgamated region namely the former areas of the Bauhinia and Daringa Shire Council areas with a minimum rate applying for these areas of **\$489.00**.

- (5) The following classifications will apply for cleansing charges with a charge applicable to each
- (a) The development of new recycling initiatives for waste. Residential **\$157 per annum – Commercial \$204 per annum.**
  - (b) Collection contract. **Pickup \$97 in all areas/Commercial \$126**
  - (c) Waste management. **Refuse Tip/Transfer Station Maintenance etc \$192 in Emerald, Blackwater, Capella; \$154 elsewhere.**
  - (d) **Commercial \$250 in Emerald, Blackwater, Capella; \$200 elsewhere**

The majority of areas of the former Emerald Shire Council, Duinga Shire Council and Capella Urban area within former Peak Downs Shire Council will be subject to similar charges with the Comet urban area, Anakie urban area, and Springsure/ Rolleston areas subject to a two stage phase in to a level that will provide uniform charges across the region. The waste management charge will be subject to all properties including residential, commercial and industrial within the urban areas of the region where waste management facilities are provided and identified within the cleansing policy.

- (6) A charge will be created for the provision of Sewerage to the area of Rolleston. This project was funded under the SCAP subsidy scheme which requires that Council apply a charge within those guidelines. The Charge that will need to apply is as set out in the Sewerage Policy of **\$556.00.**
- (7) The Blackwater sewerage scheme charge will be increased in a two stage process. The initial stage of the increase is as set out in the Sewerage Policy of **Currently \$295.00 up to \$389.00 an increase of 32% (\$1.80 per week)**

- (8) Except where a rate presently exists for workers accommodation within the former Bauhinia Shire the basis of charging will be as follows -:

Less than or equal to 100 units

Accommodation camps of less than or equal to 100 units will be subject to 80% of the minimum rate applicable to the immediate closest area where the accommodation is situated.

Less than or equal to 200 units

Accommodation camps of less than or equal to 200 units will be subject to 80% of the minimum rate applicable to the immediate closest area where the accommodation is situated for the first 100 units and 70% of minimum rate for each unit in excess of 100 to 200 units.

Greater than 200 units

Accommodation camps of greater than 200 units will be subject to 80% of the minimum rate applicable to the immediate closest area where the accommodation is situated for the first 100 units and 70% of minimum rate for each unit in excess of 100 to and including 200 units. With any units in excess of 200 units being subject to 65% of the minimum rate for each unit in excess of 200 units.

### **MAJOR CAPITAL ITEMS (NEW)**

#### **Capella & Tieri**

Extend Library	\$ 80,000
Community Hall Roof Replacement	\$ 100,000
Skate Park	\$ 10,000
Memorial Park Upgrades	\$ 10,000
Fencing Football Fields	\$ 10,000
Bridgeman Park Rehab	\$ 50,000
Capella Roads	\$ 4.4 million
Includes reseals, re-sheets etc	
Capella Mines Roads	\$ 2.3 million
Shepton Quarry	\$ 1.1 million
Soft fall in Playgrounds	\$15,000
Extend Irrigation	\$15,000

#### **Springsure & Rolleston**

Hall Air-conditioning	\$ 100,000
Race Track Running Rail	\$ 25,000
Rolleston ESU Shed	\$ 270,000
Parks & Gardens – Springsure	\$ 50,000
Parks & Gardens – Rolleston	\$ 50,000
Springsure Cemetery	\$ 35,000
Springsure Roads	\$2.280 million
Plus flood damage works	\$3.0 million
Springsure Sewerage Works	\$ 110,000
Springsure Amenities Block	\$ 80,000

### **Blackwater, Duinga, Dingo, Bluff**

Hunter Street Sports Fields Upgrade (extra)	\$ 750,000
Blackwater Pool kiosk/amenities (extra)	\$ 1,250,000
ESC Shed (Plans & Temporary)	\$ 30,000
Jim Dempsey Park	\$ 70,000
Dingo Playground Upgrade	\$ 10,000
Duinga Park & Playground	\$ 10,000
Bauhinia Downs Playground Upgrade	\$ 10,000
Blackwater – Duinga Roads	\$ 2.579 million
Network Analysis Water	\$ 150,000
Water Upgrades	\$ 100,000
Duinga Water	\$ 50,000
Dingo Water	\$ 35,000
Bauhinia Downs Hall Upgrade	\$ 80,000
Duinga Library Repairs	\$ 40,000
Bluff Football Fields Irrigation	\$ 34,000

### **Emerald & Gemfields**

Motorsport & Driver Training Complex	\$ 2,000,000
McIndoe Park Building – complete	\$ 850,000
Gemfields Pool	\$ 1,050,000
Gemfields Roy Day Park Upgrade	\$100,000
Gemfields SES Shed	\$ 45,000



Various Park Upgrades	\$ 140,000
Emerald toilets Upgrades	\$ 150,000
Rubyvale Toilets	\$ 50,000
Anakie Dump Upgrade	\$ 50,000
Emerald Roads includes reseals, resheets etc.	\$ 4.573 million
Emerald Water Plant Plans	\$ 250,000

### **Region Wide**

Plant Purchases	\$ 3.3 million
Animal Centre Management Upgrades	\$ 60,000
Blackwater –Rolleston Road	\$ 2.0 million
Emerald Airport Upgrade (Includes carry over Funds)	\$ 6.3 million

**ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR MAINTENANCE ACROSS ALL AREAS OF COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY INCLUDING ROADS, PARKS AND GARDENS, WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE, WASTE SERVICES AND LANDFILLS, SPORT AND RECREATION, LIBRARIES, CULTURAL CENTRE, HALLS AND CIVIC CENTRES, ADMINISTRATION COSTS FOR FIVE OFFICES.**