



**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF
BLACKALL-TAMBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
HELD AT THE BLACKALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025 at 8:00 AM**

ITEM NO: 1.1
SUBJECT TITLE: Chief Executive Officer's Budget Report

The budget is a statutory document that is adopted each financial year as part of Council's financial management. The content of the budget is provided in accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin Seconded: Cr Jane Scobie

That Council receive the Chief Executive Officer's Budget Report.

GM 2025/06/372

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.1
SUBJECT TITLE: General Rates

The 2025-2026 Budget Document includes the Revenue Statement which is based on the principles of the Revenue Policy and Councillors are being asked to consider setting terms for levying rates and charges during the 2025-2026 financial year.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin Seconded: Cr Peter Skewes OAM

That the general rate be set for the budget year 2025-2026 as follows: -

The rating categories are:

		Cents in the Dollar
Category 1	Residential	04.1895
Category 8	Blackall Town CBD <0.3000ha	13.1472
Category 10	Blackall Town CBD >0.3000ha	17.2218
Category 11	Commercial Other	06.6836
Category 14	Communication Sites	06.3621
Category 15	Industrial	02.1261
Category 21	Rural Properties	00.2927
Category 22	Town Rural under 100ha	00.6603
Category 23	Town Rural 100 – 500ha	00.3169

GM 2025/06/373

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.2
SUBJECT TITLE: Minimum General Rates

The 2025-2026 Budget Document includes the Revenue Statement which is based on the principles of the Revenue Policy and Councillors are being asked to consider setting terms for levying rates and charges during the 2025-2026 financial year.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That the Minimum General Rates be set as follows:

Category 1	\$806.00
Category 8	\$869.00
Category 10	\$869.00
Category 11	\$869.00
Category 14	\$869.00
Category 15	\$869.00
Category 21	\$869.00
Category 22	\$869.00
Category 23	\$869.00

GM 2025/06/374

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.3
SUBJECT TITLE: Sewerage Charges

Under section 94(1) (b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* Utility charges, a local government may levy utility charges. The Act defines utility charges as charges for a services, facility or activity including sewerage.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That the following sewerage charges be set for the 2025-2026 budget year:

Blackall sewerage connected charge	\$694.10
Tambo community effluent processing – connected charge	\$694.10
Sewerage access charge	\$521.70
Additional (non-residential) pedestal charge – Blackall	\$322.30
Additional (non-residential) pedestal charge – Tambo	\$149.50

Cr Skewes raised the difference of pedestal charges between Blackall and Tambo and requested the difference in charges be considered when preparing the next budget.

Amended Motion

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr Andrew Martin

That the revenue to be raised for sewerage services be an amount to be \$100,000 less than the amount generated in the 2024-2025 financial year, this providing our rate payers with a discount on previous year.

Cr Skewes OAM spoke to the amended motion.

Cr Skewes OAM believes Council should give some cost-of-living relief to our ratepayers. Both State and Federal Governments have done so, and they operate usually on a deficit budget and a large loan structure.

Council generally operates on a surplus budget and has \$25M in reserve.

In the two years prior to last year, levying cost twice the cost of the services. Cleansing is making \$380K surplus. Most of our ratepayers are pensioners or are struggling. Rates and charges are starting to get out of hand when away ratepayers are complaining and businesses are complaining about water and cleansing charges.

The Mayor spoke against the amended motion

The combined increase is \$1.53 per week for the average household. Council is running a deficit budget for 2025-2026; the amended motion would reduce Council to below 4 months reserved cash cover. During budget discussions Council agreed to reduce the reserved cash cover from 6 months to 5 months.

Cr Johnstone spoke against the amended motion

The elderly would not expect council to deliver a deficit budget.

Cr Hart put a question to the Chief Executive Officer

What would be the impacts if council did vote in favour of Cr Skewes OAM amended motion?

The Chief Executive Officer provided the following answer to Cr Hart's question

If all three proposed motions were adopted it would equate to a total cost in excess of \$400K. This would take council below the 5 months reserved cash cover. It is incumbent on council to provide the services to the community. Whilst the charges are higher, it is part of council's recoup to cover expenses. The provision of services to the community needs to be paid for. Thanks to Cr Skewes OAM for putting the amendments to Council however the amendments would have significant impact on council's ability to provide services to the community.

The amended motion was lost 1/6

The Mayor put the original motion to vote and the motion was carried.

GM 2025/06/375

Carried 6 / 1

The original motion was the substantive motion.

Cr Skewes OAM voted against the motion.



ITEM NO: 2.1.4
SUBJECT TITLE: Water Charges

Under section 94(1) (b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* Utility charges, a local government may levy utility charges. The Act defines utility charges as charges for a services, facility or activity including water.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr Jane Scobie

That the following water charges be set for the 2025-2026 budget year:

Water connected charge	\$694.10
Frames Lane water connected charge	\$811.40
Water access charge	\$475.30
Water other connected charge	\$115.90 per unit
Excess water	\$1.11 cents per kilolitre

GM 2025/06/376

Carried 6 / 1

Cr Skewes OAM voted against the motion.

ITEM NO: 2.1.5
SUBJECT TITLE: Cleansing Charges

Under section 94(1) (b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* Utility charges, a local government may levy utility charges. The Act defines utility charges as charges for a services, facility or activity including waste management.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Boyd Johnstone

That the following waste collection and disposal charges be set for the 2025-2026 budget year:

Residential waste collection and disposal charge	\$279.50
Non-residential waste collection and disposal charge	\$279.50

GM 2025/06/377

Carried 6 / 1

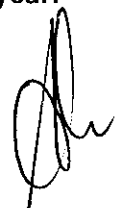
Cr Skewes OAM voted against the motion.

ITEM NO: 2.1.6
SUBJECT TITLE: Waste Management Charge

Under section 94(1) (b) of the *Local Government Act 2009* Utility charges, a local government may levy utility charges. The Act defines utility charges as charges for a services, facility or activity including waste management.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Jane Scobie Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That the following waste management charge be set for the 2025-2026 budget year:



Town rural waste management charge**\$70.60****GM 2025/06/378****Carried 7 / 0**

Cr Skewes asked for clarification of the Waste Management Charge.

Through the CEO the CFO provided a response.

The town rural waste management charge applies to all land categorised town rural to ensure contribution towards the cost of the service and maintaining the waste facilities in each community. Council owned, state-controlled and Yalleroi land are excluded.

ITEM NO:**2.1.7****SUBJECT TITLE:****Discount on Rates**

The 2025-2026 budget documents include the Revenue Statement which contains the terms and rate of discount applicable to rates and charges to be levied during the 2025-2026 financial year. Under section 130(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* a local government may decide to allow a discount for payment of rates or charges before the end of the discount period and the local government must, by resolution, make the decision at its budget meeting.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie**Seconded: Cr Jane Scobie****That Council:**

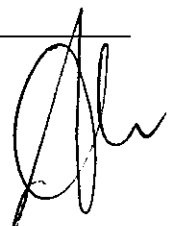
1. Allow fifteen percent (15%) during the first discount period of 30 days after the issue of the relevant rate notice on general rates levied by the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council during the 2025-2026 budget year; and
2. Allow seven and ½ percent (7.5%) during the second discount period of 45 days after the date of issue of the relevant rate notice on general rates levied by the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council during the 2025-2026 budget year.

GM 2025/06/379**Carried 7 / 0****ITEM NO:****2.1.8****SUBJECT TITLE:****Interest on Arrears**

The 2025-2026 budget documents include the Revenue Statement which provides for the application of interest for outstanding balances of rates and charges at the close of the discount period. Under section 132(1)(a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* interest is payable on overdue rates or charges from the day the rates and charges become overdue.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter**Seconded: Cr Alina Hart**

That interest at the percentage rate of 12.12% per annum be charged by the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council for the 2025-2026 financial year for rates and charges not paid by the due date for discount.

GM 2025/06/380**Carried 7 / 0**

ITEM NO: 2.1.9
SUBJECT TITLE: Pensioner Remission

The 2025-2026 budget documents include the Revenue Statement which provides for a Council Pensioner Rate Remission on general rates and service charges to be provided to eligible pensioners. Under section 123 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* a local government may grant a rebate of rates or charges for land occupied only by pensioners.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That those aged pensioners having a Commonwealth Government Concession Card be granted a remission of general rates and services charges up to a maximum of \$340.00 per annum for the 2025-2026 financial year under the same criteria as the State Government Pensioner Remission Scheme.

GM 2025/06/381

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.10
SUBJECT TITLE: Sponsorship, Grant Funding and In-Kind Support

Council invited local community organisations to apply for in-kind and support from Council for the 2025-2026 financial year. Sixty-two applications were received from various community groups and the requests were considered during a budget workshop.

The 2025-2026 budget documents include the Revenue Statement which provides for Council to consider the remission of whole, or part of the general rate levied upon entities or organisations who meet the criteria detailed in section 120 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the sponsorship, grant funding, donations and the exemption of general rates to local organisations for the year ending 30 June 2026; and**
- 2. Adopt the Community Grants Program Policy (Financial & In-Kind); and**
- 3. The former Community Grants and Support Policy be repealed.**

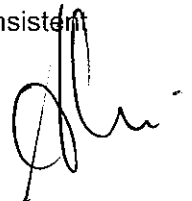
GM 2025/06/382

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.11
SUBJECT TITLE: Revenue Policy

The purpose of the Revenue Policy is to set out principles which will be used by Council during 2025-2026 for the making of rates and charges, the levying of rates, the recovery of rates and charges, concessions for rates and charges and cost recovery of fees and charges.

The *Local Government Regulation 2012*, section 193 states a local government must review its revenue policy annually and in sufficient time to allow an annual budget that is consistent



with the revenue policy to be adopted for the next financial year. Council officers have reviewed the Revenue Policy.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That the Revenue Policy as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/383

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO:

2.1.12

SUBJECT TITLE:

Revenue Statement

The *Local Government Regulation 2012*, section 172 provides the guidelines on what must be stated in a local government's revenue statement. Council officers have reviewed and updated the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Revenue Statement.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie

Seconded: Cr Jane Scobie

That the Revenue Statement as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/384

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO:

2.1.13

SUBJECT TITLE:

Debt Policy

The *Local Government Regulation 2012*, section 192 states a local government must prepare and adopt a debt policy for a financial year. Council officers have reviewed and updated the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Debt Policy.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter

Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That the Debt Policy as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/385

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO:

2.1.14

SUBJECT TITLE:

Investment Policy

The purpose of the Investment Policy is to set out principles which will be used by Council during 2025-2029 for the making of investment objectives and overall risk philosophy.

The *Local Government Regulation 2012*, section 191 states a local government must prepare and adopt an investment policy outlining the investment objectives and procedures for achieving the goals stated in the policy.

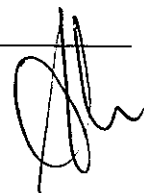
MOTION: Moved: Cr Jane Scobie

Seconded: Cr Boyd Johnstone

That the Investment Policy as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/386

Carried 7 / 0



ITEM NO: 2.1.15
SUBJECT TITLE: Procurement and Disposal Policy

The *Local Government Regulation 2012*, section 198 states a local government must prepare and adopt a procurement policy for a financial year and the policy must be reviewed annually. Council officers have reviewed the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Procurement and Disposal Policy.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That the Procurement and Disposals Policy as presented be adopted.

Amended Motion

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin Seconded: Cr Alina Hart

That the Procurement and Disposal Policy as presented be adopted; and

The following be added to the policy:

A Category 3 Business is a business which complies with the following:

- 1. Has a business in the Central West Local Government Area (RAPAD); or**
- 2. Shares boundary with the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council; and**

That the following be changed in the Procurement and Disposal Policy:

\$200,000 or greater - Category one 2.5%, Category two 1.5%, Category three 0.5%.

Value of Goods or Services ex. GST	Category zero	Category one	Category two	Category three
\$0 - \$49,999	0%	10%	7.5%	5%
\$50,000 - \$199,999	0%	5%	4%	2.5%
\$200,000 or greater	0%	2.5%	1.5%	0.5%

And Council notes that in accordance with section 227 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council will dispose of any non-current assets in accordance with section 1(b) "offers the non-current asset for sale by auction."

GM 2025/06/387

Carried 7 / 0

The amended motion became the substantive motion.

ITEM NO: 2.1.16
SUBJECT TITLE: Operational Plan

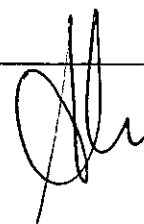
In accordance with sections 174 and 175 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council must prepare and adopt an annual operational plan for each financial year.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Jane Scobie Seconded: Cr Peter Skewes OAM

That the 2025-2026 Operational Plan as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/388

Carried 7 / 0



ITEM NO: 2.1.17
SUBJECT TITLE: Fees and Charges 2025-26

The budget documents include a draft Fees and Charges schedule for 2025-2026 and Council is being asked to consider adopting this schedule.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That the Fees and Charges for 2025-2026 as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/389

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.18
SUBJECT TITLE: Financial Forecast (10 Year)

A local government's long-term financial forecast is a forecast, covering a period of a least 10 years. Section 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* provides the requirements for a long-term financial forecast.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Peter Skewes OAM Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That the ten-year Financial Forecast as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/390

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.19
SUBJECT TITLE: Income Statement

Section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* stipulates that as part of a local government's budget each financial year an income statement must be prepared.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter Seconded: Cr David Hardie

That the budget income statement for the year ending 30 June 2026 as presented be adopted.

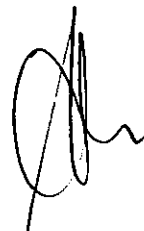
GM 2025/06/391

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO: 2.1.20
SUBJECT TITLE: Balance Sheet

The budgeted balance sheet is a statement of the financial position for the budget year and forecast for the following two years.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Jane Scobie Seconded: Cr Boyd Johnstone



That the budgeted balance sheet for the year ending 30 June 2026 as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/392

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO:

2.1.21

SUBJECT TITLE:

Statement in Changes of Equity

Section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states a local government's budget for each financial year must include statements, including a changes in equity statement.

MOTION: Moved: Cr David Hardie

Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That the budgeted statement for changes in equity for the year ending 30 June 2026 as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/393

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO:

2.1.22

SUBJECT TITLE:

Statement of Cash Flows

A statement of cash flow must be prepared and included in a budget for a local government as per the requirements in section 169(1)(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Jane Scobie

Seconded: Cr Grahame Schluter

That the budgeted statement of cash flows for the year ending 30 June 2026 as presented be adopted.

GM 2025/06/394

Carried 7 / 0

ITEM NO:

3.1

SUBJECT TITLE:

Mayor's Budget Overview

The purpose of this report is for the Mayor to present an overview of the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council's 2025-26 budget.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Andrew Martin

Seconded: Cr Boyd Johnstone

That Council receive the Mayor's Report for the 2025-2026 budget.

GM 2025/06/395

Carried 7 / 0



ITEM NO: 3.2
SUBJECT TITLE: Adoption of the Budget

The 2025-2026 budget is presented for Councils consideration and has been prepared in line with section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

MOTION: Moved: Cr Grahame Schluter **Seconded:** Cr David Hardie

That Council adopts the budget for the 2025-2026 financial year as presented.

GM 2025/06/396

Carried 7 / 0

CLOSURE:

There being no further business to consider, the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 8.51am.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Confirmed by Council as a true and correct record at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2025.


Signed..... Mayor