

REVENUE POLICY

Policy Owner:	Finance Governance and Risk
Adoption:	
Version:	1
Link to Corporate Plan:	Accountable Council – We are providing good stewardship built on a foundation of trust. Delivering Value – We work efficiently to delivery value for your rates.
Head of Power:	s104 Local Government Act 2009
Review Date:	Annually

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set the principles that will inform Council's annual budget in relation to the:

- levying of rates and charges; and
- granting of concessions for rates and charges; and
- purpose for granting concessions for rates and charges; and
- recovery of overdue rates and charges; and
- setting of cost recovery methods; and
- extent to which physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development are to be funded by charges for the development.

Furthermore, this policy demonstrates Council's compliance with section 104(5)(c)(iii) of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Act) and sections 169(2)(c) and 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Regulation).

2 SCOPE

This policy provides the framework to be applied by Council in 2025/2026 for revenue activities relating to rates and charges.

A Revenue Policy may also (pursuant to section 193(2) of the Regulation) state guidelines that may be used for preparing the local government's Revenue Statement. No such guidelines have been included in this policy.

3 POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 General Principles

Council will raise its revenue in accordance with two basic principles of revenue collection:

- requirement-to-pay principle; and
- benefit principle.

Council will use a combination of the requirement-to-pay principle and the benefit principle, applied consistently across the region, as a rational and generally equitable means of raising its revenue.

3.1.1 Requirement-to-Pay Principle

By this principle, landowners (and some land occupiers) are levied with a tax (a general rate) based on the value of their land.

The general rate funds programs where there is not a direct link between the service recipient and the service. Examples include parks, roads, community services, cultural development, disaster management, statutory services, economic development, and general administration.

3.1.2 Benefit Principle

The benefit principle requires that individuals in the community pay for goods and services:

- from which they derive a special benefit; or
- for which they especially generate a need; or
- that they acquire individually from Council.

The benefit principle will be applied where there is a clear link between the service recipient and the use of the goods or services. Examples include connection to a water supply or sewerage service.

3.2 Principles Used for the Levying of Rates and Charges

Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Act) obliges Council to levy general rates on all rateable land within its local government area.

Council will be guided by its legislative obligations under the Act and the Regulation and will give due consideration to:

- the requirement to balance its service levels;
- the needs and expectations of the community; and
- the setting of appropriate rates and charges to adequately resource its roles and responsibilities.

Council will apply the following principles in the 2025/2026 financial year:

- Council will be transparent in its revenue raising activities and will endeavour to use systems and practices able to be understood by the community;
- Council will be accountable to ratepayers and service recipients to ensure revenue is applied effectively and efficiently in satisfying the objectives for which the revenue was raised;
- Council will ensure it manages revenue diligently, having in place a revenue system that is simple and inexpensive to administer whilst having regard to its long-term financial plan, relevant drivers, and price paths;
- Section 74 of the Regulation requires Council to use property valuations for raising rate revenue and Council will monitor the impact of valuation changes and limit increases to rates and charges where possible; and
- Council will maintain different rating categories based on land use and the potential use of the land to recognise the different demands placed on Council resources.

3.3 Principles Used and Purposes for the Granting of Concessions for Rates and Charges

Chapter 4, Part 10 of the Regulation provides Council with the power to grant a ratepayer a concession for rates and charges for land.

Council will grant concessions in accordance with the criteria set out in section 120 of the Regulation and will be guided by the principles of:

- encouraging pensioners to be independent and live in their own home where possible which Council considers has a "quality of life" benefit;
- acknowledging the role of community and sporting organisations by providing financial assistance to those non-profit organisations that would otherwise have difficulty in paying their general rates without such concession;
- supporting property owners experiencing financial hardship; and
- applying the same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances.

3.4 Principles Used for the Recovery of Overdue Rates and Charges

Council will exercise its rate recovery powers under Chapter 4, Part 12 of the Regulation in order to reduce the overall rate burden on ratepayers.

Council will be guided by the principles of:

- Ratepayers are expected to pay all rates and charges by the due date and Council will consider legal action if rates and charges remain outstanding;
- Council will make clear the obligations of ratepayers and the processes used by Council in assisting them to meet their financial obligations;
- Council will ensure it manages overdue rates and charges diligently, having in place a recovery system that is simple and inexpensive to administer; and
- Council will apply the same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances.

3.5 Principles Used for Cost-Recovery Methods

Section 97 of the Act provides Council with the power to set cost-recovery fees.

Council considers that in almost all instances it is appropriate and in the community interest to apply full cost recovery to its water, sewerage, and waste management services.

The recovery methods used may include obtaining a return on capital for assets used in the delivery of these services as appropriate and where identified in the long term financial forecast. A return on capital will only be calculated and charged where permissible under the Act or Regulation.

Council will achieve efficiency and sustainable financial management by imposing charges that accurately reflect the full cost of the provisions of services where appropriate.

From time to time, Council may decide to subsidise a fee or a charge when Council considers that it is in the community interest to do so.

3.6 Principles Used for Funding Physical and Social Infrastructure Costs for a New Development

Council will fund the physical and social costs of any new development by levying charges upon that development so that the burden on existing ratepayers is minimised, noting that this may be subject to legislative constraints in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act 2016*.

Council may decide to subsidise from other sources (e.g. general rate revenue) the charges payable for the development:

- when Council considers that it is in the community interest to do so having regard for the capability to pay within the community; and

- in recognition that there may be broader economic issues, at times, that may require the flexibility in the determination of infrastructure charges by Council.

4 RELATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012
Land Valuation Act 2010
Planning Act 2016

5 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Revenue Statement
Debt Administration Corporate Standard
Rates and Charges Concessions and Exemptions Policy
Annual Budget 2025/2026

6 CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Gladstone Regional Council has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* when adopting and/or amendment this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to any human rights relevant to the decision.

7 ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

8 EVALUATION OF POLICY

Success of this policy will be the adoption of the 2025/2026 annual budget which is consistent with the principles contained within this policy.

9 DEFINITIONS

To assist in interpretation of this policy, the definitions in the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012* apply.

10 REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed upon the earlier of:

1. Annually from the date of adoption of the most recent version;
2. Any relevant statutory review periods;
3. The related legislation or governing documents are amended or repealed; or
4. A request from the Chief Executive Officer or Council.

11 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Reason/Change	Date	Council Resolution
1	Adoption. Policy applies to 2025/2026.		