

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOYDER

	REVENUE AND FINANCING POLICY	Department	F&A
		Version No:	2.1
		Adopted:	Jun 2014
		Reviewed:	Nov 2023
		Next Review:	Nov 2025
		Responsibility:	DOF

1. INTRODUCTION

Council has a Rating Policy that addresses legislative requirements, the growth/decline in rates from changing demographics, targeted rate relief, service charges and rate capping options.

As part of the annual budgeting process Council considers the impact on rates of changes in user charges. Many of the services provided by Councils are provided to specific individuals rather than the community as a whole. This is recognised in the *Local Government Act 1999* which permits Councils to raise separate rates and service rates and charges for specific projects or services and allows the Council to set a range of fees and charges for other services provided e.g. , waste management and community waste water management schemes. The charging of fees (including concession arrangements) for some of the services provided by Councils has two major benefits – it reduces the need to rely on general tax revenue and it provides equity in that only those who use such services pay for them.

1.1 Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to ensure council supplements its rates revenue by considering;

- grants and subsidies (the obtaining or the allocation of funds from other governments or organisations)
- imposing statutory fees and penalties as provided in a number of Acts
- the sale of surplus property and other assets
- charging fees (user pays) for a range of activities, facilities and functions provided, e.g. sporting venues, hall hire etc.
- carrying out commercial activities, e.g. caravan parks etc.
- investing surplus funds
- borrowing funds

1.2 Legislative Requirements

Under Chapter 9 – Finances and Chapter 10 – Rates and charges of the *Local Government Act 1999* the elected members must:

- set the rate in the dollar for general, differential, separate and service rates
- set the fees to be charged for the use of Council properties and facilities, including separate and service charges (some fee-setting can be delegated to the CEO)
- resolve to borrow appropriate funds
- ensure that it receives regular reports that permit it to monitor the inflow of funds compared with the budgeted cash inflows.

2. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

Council administration;

- actively seek new sources of grants and subsidies
- ensure the accountability reporting requirements are met
- where the grant relates to additional services ensure that the cost of the service equates with the grant funding

3. STATUTORY FEES AND CHARGES

Council administration;

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- charges the maximum statutory fees permitted by legislation or as determined by Council
- where the maximum fees do not cover the full cost of the service actively lobby for legislative change to ensure full cost recovery.

4. SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND OTHER ASSETS

That surplus property and other assets be identified and valued for possible sale.

5. USER CHARGES

That where practical data be gathered on the use of services and facilities by specific groups rather than the community as a whole. Consider as part of the annual budget process the user charge as compared to the net cost to be funded from rate revenue.

6. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Council to consider opportunities for commercial activities in the Council area. These currently include the Burra Caravan Park, Paxton Square Cottages and the Burra and Goyder Visitor Information Centre.

7. INVESTING SURPLUS FUNDS

Refer to the Treasury Policy.

8. BORROWING FUNDS

Refer to the Treasury Policy.

9. BUDGET RESULT

Council has to maintain liquidity to be able to pay its liabilities when they fall due.

10. COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY

Council is required to report in its Annual Budget, Financial Statements and the Long Term Financial Plan.

11. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The audited annual financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) as they apply to not-for-profit entities and relevant South Australian legislation.

12. RECORDS

All records should be treated in accordance with Local Government GDS40.

13. AVAILABILITY

The public may inspect a copy of this document, without charge, at the offices of Council during office hours, and may obtain a copy for a fee fixed by Council. This document is also available on the Council website. www.goyder.sa.gov.au

14. REVIEW

This document shall be reviewed by Council within two (2) years (or on significant change to legislation or aspects included in this policy that could affect the health and safety of workers).

15. REVIEW HISTORY

Document History	Version No:	Issue Date:	Description of Change:
	1.0	24/6/14	Adopted.
	1.1	10/10/15	Reviewed by AC – 05/15
	1.1	17/11/15	Reviewed by Council – 220/15

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	1.1	17/10/17	Reviewed by AC – NC
	1.1	21/11/17	Reviewed by Council – 233/17
	2.0	19/11/19	Reviewed by AC - 16/19
	2.0	17/12/19	Reviewed by Council - 281/19
	2.1	16/11/21	Reviewed by AC – 12/21
	2.1	14/12/21	Reviewed by Council – 188/21
	2.1	21/11/23	Reviewed by AC – 17/23
	2.1	19/12/23	Reviewed by Council – 180/23