

OUR PLACE OUR FUTURE

Draft Revenue Policy
2026/27



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2026/27 Revenue Policy

This Revenue Policy outlines Council’s approach to raising revenue in a manner that is fair, equitable and aligned with community expectations. The policy provides a framework for setting rates, fees and charges that enables Council to deliver essential services and facilities for the benefit of the whole community.

Council is committed to maintaining a sustainable revenue base that supports its strategic objectives and long-term financial planning, while recognising the need to minimise financial hardship for ratepayers. The rates and charges process will be undertaken in a manner that is transparent, accountable and consistent, and in accordance with Council’s legislative responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW)*.

Council provides a wide range of services, each with different costs and levels of community benefit. As a result, fees and charges are set using a variety of approaches. In determining the appropriate fee or charge, Council has considered the following categories:

Code	Description
A	Economic Cost <i>Total cost of providing services for private good.</i>
B	Community Service <i>Services considered to have a level of benefit to the community. Generally benefits are not solely confined to users. Partially funded by rates.</i>
C	Regulated Charges <i>Federal or State Government set charges.</i>
D	User Pays Principal <i>Services under this category are such that individual costs can be determined and met by the user of the service.</i>
E	Market Forces <i>Services that Council operates in a competitive market and needs to fix charges similar to other providers.</i>
F	Cost Plus <i>Services provided on a commercial basis with an amount of risk profit included.</i>
G	Section 7.11 (Developer Contributions) <i>Items are priced at the level determined by the adopted Council's Developer Contributions Plan. The plans provide for quarterly increases in these fees based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.</i>

Council’s full suite of documents within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework can be viewed on Council’s website www.council.lithgow.com/ipr

Rates and Annual Charges Revenue Strategy

Council's Revenue Policy takes into account a number of factors including:

- the benefit or user pays principle – some ratepayers have more access to, make more use of, and benefit more from the council services paid for by rates;
- the capacity to pay principle – some ratepayers have more ability to pay rates;
- the incentive or encouragement principle – some ratepayers may be doing more towards achieving community goals than others in areas such as environmental or heritage protection and town beautification; and
- the principle of intergenerational equity – future ratepayers should enjoy the same, or improved standard of infrastructure and services at an equivalent future cost.

Council's objectives in the development of this rates structure are to:

- progressively align the ad valorem amount with the provision of infrastructure so that all properties pay a share of the cost of maintenance, renewal, upgrade and debt servicing of infrastructure in proportion to their land values;
- progressively align the base amount with the net cost of service provision, incorporating funding of council's community service obligations (CSOs); and
- explore opportunities to assist ratepayers experiencing financial hardship, such as deferring of interest.

Capacity to Pay and Hardship Policy

The 'benefit or user pays' principle often conflicts with the 'capacity to pay' principle; and, in setting the rates structure, Council has been mindful of both equity considerations.

An individual ratepayer's ability to pay rates at a particular time may be impacted by external economic factors that create a sustained financial burden, such as cost of living, drought and/or natural disasters.

Council has a Hardship Policy and will support ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship and are struggling to pay their rates. Council will work with individual ratepayers to consider their circumstances and provide them with options and assistance such as deferred and interest free payment arrangements.

Statutory Requirements

Statutory fees are established under State or Federal legislation or by Ministerial determination and must be applied by Council as prescribed. Any changes to statutory fees, including new or amended fees, take effect from the date of gazettal. As these fees are legislated, no additional notice by Council is required. Council applies statutory fees only in circumstances where mandated.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* the following statutory requirements are included in this document:

- Statement containing a detailed estimate of the council's income and expenditure;
- Statement of ordinary and special rates;
- Rating structure;
- Statement of charges to apply to rateable and non-rateable properties;

- Statement of fees to be charged and pricing policy of goods and services; and
- Statement of borrowing

Credit Card Transaction Fees

A Credit Card Transaction Fee is presently applied to recover the cost of merchant fees incurred by Council for card-based payments.

In line with regulatory changes introduced by the Reserve Bank of Australia, the application of surcharges on card payment will be prohibited from 1 October 2026. Council will comply with these requirements and will discontinue the Credit Card Transaction Fee for all Visa, Mastercard and EFTPOS transactions from 1 October 2026. The fee will remain applicable to transactions processed prior to this date.

Statement of Ordinary and Special Rates

Strategy – ordinary rates

Council will continue to levy ordinary rates using a structure comprising a base amount to which an ad valorem (rate in the dollar) component is added. The Base Amount will vary, depending on rating category/sub-category combination.

All rateable properties within each category / sub-category, regardless of their land value, are levied the base amount. The balance of income for ordinary rates is derived by multiplying the land value of a property by a rate in the dollar for the relevant category / sub- category, which is determined by Council dependent on the property’s dominant use. The amount payable by ratepayers under this component is dependent on the land value of the property. In addition, the total amount collected for ordinary rates each year will take account of any approved increase advised by the Minister.

Council has four categories of ordinary rate, being residential, farmland, business, mining. These categories are further divided into subcategories for residential and business. An ordinary rate will be applied to each parcel of rateable land within the Local Government Area in 2025/26.

Council determines the categories and subcategories applied to each property based on the table below.

Table of Category and Sub-Categories

Type	Category	Sub-Category	Basis
Ordinary	Residential	Urban	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which can be categorised as Residential in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993 within the LGA Urban areas being Lithgow, Portland & Wallerawang urban areas as set out in the individual Residential Rate Categorisation Maps.

Type	Category	Sub-Category	Basis
Ordinary	Residential	Other	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which can be categorised as Residential in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993 but cannot be categorised as 'Residential - Urban as set out in the individual Residential Rate Categorisation Maps.
Ordinary	Farmland		Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which can be categorised as Farmland in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993.
Ordinary	Mining		Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which can be categorised as Mining in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993.
Ordinary	Business	Urban	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which can be categorised as Business in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993 within the LGA Urban areas being Lithgow, Portland & Wallerawang urban areas as set out in the individual Business Rate Categorisation Map.
Ordinary	Business	Other	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which can be categorised as Business in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993 but cannot be categorised as Business Urban located in either Lithgow, Portland Wallerawang' or 'Business - Large Scale Power Generation or Storage', Business - Wind Power Generation, Business - Rail Related Manufacture, Maintenance or Storage, or any of the business sub-categories related to quarrying.
Ordinary	Business	Large Scale Power Generation or Storage	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which cannot be categorised as farmland, residential or mining and if its dominant use is as a centre for any of the following activities: a) the generation of electricity provided that the generator (or a combination of generators) has a rated power capacity of more than 25 megawatts; b) the storage of, or capacity to store, more than 100 megawatts of electricity at any time.
Ordinary	Business	Wind Power Generation	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which cannot be categorised as farmland, residential or mining and if its dominant use is as a centre for electricity generation from wind turbines provided that the turbine or turbines have a combined rated power capacity of more than 1 megawatt.
Ordinary	Business	Rail Related Manufacture, Maintenance or Storage	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which cannot be categorised as farmland, residential or mining and if its dominant use is as a centre for rail related manufacture maintenance or storage and more particularly set out in the Lithgow Rail Manufacturing, Maintenance and Storage Area as part of the Rate Categorisation Map.
Ordinary	Business	Quarrying - Clarence Newnes Junction Wallerawang Marangaroo Hartley Round Swamp Clarence Colliery	Each parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment which cannot be categorized as farmland, residential or mining and if its dominant use is as a centre for quarrying or works ancillary or properly incidental to quarrying and more particularly set out in the Lithgow Clarence, Newnes Junction, Wallerawang, Marrangaroo, Hartley, Round Swamp, Clarence/Lithgow Quarry Areas as part of the Quarry Rate Categorisation Maps.

Rating Structure

Section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that Council must make and levy an ordinary rate on all rateable land within its Local Government Area, and each assessment must be categorized according to its dominant or permitted use. Special rates are levied under section 495 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Under *Section 493* of the *Local Government Act 1993* there are 4 categories of an ordinary rate and 4 categories of rateable land –

- Farmland
- Residential
- Mining
- Business

These categories may, at council's discretion, be divided into sub-categories in accordance with *Section 529* of the Act.

529 (2) A sub-category may be determined as follows—

(a) for the category "farmland"—according to—

- (i) the location of the land, or*
- (ii) the intensity of land use, or*
- (iii) the irrigability of the land, or*
- (iv) economic factors affecting the land,*

(b) for the category "residential"—according to—

- (i) whether the land is rural residential land, or*
- (ii) whether the land is in a centre of population, or*
- (iii) whether the land is in a residential area or in part of a residential area,*

(c) for the category "mining"—according to the kind of mining involved,

(d) for the category "business"—according to a centre of activity.

50% of Council's income is made up of rates and the other 50% comes from grants, user fees and charges, development contributions and interest on investments.

In accordance with Section 497 of the Local Government Act 1993, the structure of the Ordinary Rate consists of a base amount and an ad valorem amount.

- the ad valorem amount is set to recover the cost of infrastructure.
- the base amount is set to recover the cost of services and operations.

The table below shows the Base Amount and Ad Valorem amounts inclusive of the 3.1% rate peg showing the estimated income for each category.

Category/Sub-Category	Estimated No. Properties	Base Amount (\$)	Base Amount % of total levy	Ad Valorem Amount (c in the \$)	Estimated Yield
Residential					
Residential/Urban	7299	402.38	32.56%	0.0039618	\$9,019,174
Residential/Other	3258	402.38	25.34%	0.0023069	\$5,147,105
Farmland					
Farmland	496	590.72	20.14%	0.0017970	\$1,467,847
Business					
Business/Urban	384	778.73	9.56%	0.0195284	\$3,133,880
Business/Other	147	539.41	33.05%	0.0025511	\$240,817
Business/Power Generation or Storage	1	14,646.96	3.35%	0.1406383	\$104,037
Business Quarry – Clarence	1	16,850.35	14.92%	0.0261139	\$113,211
Business Quarry – Wallerawang	1	16,850.35	27.82%	0.0262691	\$60,720
Business Quarry – Marrangaroo	1	16,850.35	24.40%	0.0224800	\$69,229
Business Quarry – Hartley	1	16,850.35	7.55%	0.0259103	\$223,615
Business Quarry – Round Swamp	1	12,906.09	42.64%	0.0332760	\$30,343
Business Quarry – Clarence / Lithgow	1	10,544.89	43.51%	0.0590130	\$24,295
Business – Rail Manufacture, Maintenance, Storage	1	778.73	0.75%	0.0645364	\$104,037
Mining					
Mining	11	16,853.27	3.80%	0.0216810	\$4,862,082
Total Estimated Yield					\$24,934,295

Pension Concession Rebates

The following maximum annual concession rebates apply for eligible pensioner customers upon commencement of the Special Rate Variation from 1 July 2023.

\$250 Mandatory Rebate - Ordinary Rates and Charges including Domestic Waste Management Charge

\$50 Council Rebate - Ordinary Rate and Charges including Domestic Waste Management Charge

\$87.50 Mandatory Rebate - Annual Water Access Charge

\$135 Council Rebate - Annual Water Access Charge

\$87.50 Mandatory Rebate - Sewer Access Charge

Council is reimbursed for 55% of the Mandatory Rebates only. The remaining 45% and additional rebate is funded by Council.

Rating of Subdivided/Consolidated Land

Upon registration of a plan of subdivision or consolidation with the Registrar General, rates and charges cannot be levied on new lot(s) until supplementary valuations have been provided to Council by the Valuer General. Once this has happened rates will be levied on the new lots from the following financial year. Any credits and debits remaining on the land that existed prior to the subdivision or consolidation of land will be apportioned across the new parcel/s of land.

Rate Pegging

The rate peg, determined annually by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), sets the maximum percentage by which Council may increase its general income from ordinary rates in a financial year, excluding income from new properties. The rate peg applies to Council's total general rates income and does not mean that every individual rate assessment will increase by the same percentage.

For the relevant financial year, IPART has set Council's rate peg at 3.1%. This means that Council's overall income from ordinary rates cannot increase by more than 3.1%, excluding additional income generated from new properties created through subdivision or development during the year.

IPART periodically reviews the methodology used to determine the rate peg to ensure it reflects changes in councils' operating environments. In November 2023, IPART released its final report on a review of the rate peg methodology, which introduced a revised approach designed to better align allowable rate increases with movements in council costs. The revised methodology seeks to reflect, as far as possible, changes in the cost of providing local government goods and services due to inflation and other external factors, while continuing to include a population growth factor.

As communities grow, councils are required to provide services and infrastructure to an increasing number of residents. While the rate peg allows for increases in general income in line with price movements, it does not fully account for growth in the volume of services required or the ongoing costs associated with maintaining and expanding local infrastructure. Council must therefore carefully manage its financial resources to balance service delivery, asset management and long-term financial sustainability within the constraints of the rate peg.

Land Valuations

The ad valorem component of the rate is calculated with reference to the unimproved land valuations issued by the NSW Valuer General every three years. The proportionate share of rates charged to each assessment is dependent on the land value of the property as compared with all other properties within the same rating category, and the rating structure determined by Council.

The valuation process occurs independently of Council and is something that Council does not influence. Lithgow City Council valuations from the Valuer General which will be used for rating from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

Increases in land values do not necessarily lead to similar increases in rates, rather, changes to land valuations do cause a redistribution of the rate levied across all properties.

Land Valuations as at 1 July 2025 will be applied for the 2026/27 Annual Rate Levy.

Special Rate Variations

Councils use the Special Rates Variation (SRV) process to apply for an increase in their total rate revenue, above the rate peg. There are no applications for a Special Rate Variation for the 2026/27 Rating year.

S7.11 and S7.12 Levy Contributions

Council has undertaken an independent review of its development contributions systems and prepared a Draft Section 7.12 Contributions Plan.

The matter was reported to the 22 April 2024 meeting. The report sought a Council resolution to publicly exhibit the Draft 7.12 Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2024, prior to Council's consideration of adoption of the new plan.

Interest

In accordance with section 566(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Minister for Local Government determines the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges. The maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive) has been set at 9.5% per annum charged on a daily basis.

Statement of Fees and Charges

In accordance with Sections 496, 496A, and 501 of the Local Government Act, Council will levy annual fixed charges to each parcel of land for the following services, provided or proposed to be provided:

- Water
- Sewerage (Waste Water)
- Domestic Waste Management
- Non-Domestic Waste Management
- Stormwater Management

In accordance with Section 502 of the Local Government Act, Council will levy charges for actual use for the following services:

- Water
- Sewerage
- liquid trade waste.

Water, sewerage and waste management charges relating to non-rateable properties will be charged in accordance with Sections 496, 501 and 502 of the Local Government Act. For the purpose of charging the non-rateable properties that actually use these services, the charges to be applied are the same as those charged against rateable properties as these charges are representative of use.

Waste Management Charges

The charges to apply to domestic waste management are determined in accordance with the Reasonable Cost guidelines issued by the NSW Office of Local Government. The charges determined using these guidelines will apply to domestic as well as non-domestic properties.

Domestic waste management services

All properties with a domestic waste management service available to their property will be charged an annual charge under Section 496 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

In accordance with amendments to the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, certain supermarkets, hospitality businesses, institutions and other prescribed premises that meet specified waste bin capacity thresholds are required to implement source-separated food organics collection services from 1 July 2026. Council will offer a specific FOGO service to assist eligible businesses and organisations in meeting these legislative requirements.

The applicable charges for 2026/27 are outlined in the schedule below.

Waste Charges			
Type of Service	No. of Charges	Charge (\$ (GST ex))	Estimated Yield (\$)
Vacant Land/Kerbside Availability Charge	538	\$316.40	\$170,223.20
Waste Disposal - Rural	1895	\$366.40	\$694,328.00
Vacant Access Charge - Business	158	\$316.40	\$49,991.20
Garbage Service - Residential (RYG)	8692	\$656.80	\$5,708,905.60
Additional Full Service -(RYG) Residential	1	\$754.70	\$754.70
Additional Waste and Recycling Service (RY) - Residential	370	\$612.90	\$226,773.00
Additional Waste Service only-(R) Residential	28	\$312.10	\$8,738.80
Additional Recycling Service Only-(Y) Residential	9	\$104.50	\$940.50
Additional FOGO Service Only (G) - Residential	9	\$153.50	\$1,381.50
Garbage Service - Business	386	\$656.80	\$253,524.80
Additional Full Service -(RYG) Business	229	\$754.70	\$172,826.30
Additional Waste and Recycling Service (RY) - Business	103	\$612.90	\$63,128.70

Additional Waste Service only-(R) Business	9	\$312.10	\$2,808.90
Additional Recycling Service Only (Y)- Business	16	\$104.50	\$1672.00
Additional FOGO Service Only - (G) Business	-	\$153.50	-
Garbage Service - Non Rateable (RYG)	103	\$656.80	\$67,650.40
Garbage Service - Non Rateable/Business FOGO (GGG)	1	\$656.80	\$656.80
Additional Full Service -(RYG) Non Rateable	2	\$754.70	\$1,509.40
Additional Waste and Recycling Service (RY) - Non Rateable	13	\$612.90	\$7,967.70
Additional Waste Service only-(R) Non Rateable	2	\$312.10	\$624.20
Additional Recycling Service Only -(Y) Non Rateable	1	\$104.50	\$104.50
Additional FOGO Service Only -(G) Non Rateable	-	\$153.50	-
Garbage Service - MUDS (Mixed Use Developments)	38	\$656.80	\$24,958.40
Total Estimated Yield			\$7,459,468.60

Water Charges

The residential or business water availability charge will be levied on all rateable and non-rateable properties which are connected to Council's reticulated water supply system. Water usage charges will be levied on all properties using Council's reticulated water supply system.

Water access charges will increase at various rates depending on meter size. The maximum annual concession rebate for eligible pensioner customers was increased from \$87.50 to \$222.50 (additional \$135.00 rebate).

Water Charges - Rateable			
Annual Access Charge			
Type	Number of Charges	Charge (\$)	Estimated Yield (\$)
20mm Connection	8426	\$515.00	\$4,339,930.00
25mm Connection	117	\$565.00	\$66,105.00
32mm Connection	14	\$850.00	\$11,900.00
40mm Connection	34	\$1,420.00	\$46,860.00
50mm Connection	60	\$1,910.00	\$114,600.00
80mm Connection	1	\$3,660.00	\$3,660.00
100mm Connection	13	\$5,240.00	\$68,120.00
200mm Connection	-	\$5,850.00	-
300mm Connection	-	\$6,160.00	-
Unpottable Water	20	\$272.00	\$5,440.00
Vacant Land Water Access	254	\$505.00	\$128,270.00
Total Estimated Yield			\$4,785,765.00

Water Charges - Non - Rateable			
Annual Access Charge			
Type	No. of Charges	Charge (\$)	Estimated Yield (\$)
20mm Connection	89	\$515.00	\$45,835.00
25mm Connection	23	\$565.00	\$12,995.00

32mm Connection	-	\$850.00	-
40mm Connection	14	\$1,420.00	\$19,880.00
50mm Connection	28	\$1,910.00	\$53,480.00
80mm Connection	1	\$3,660.00	\$3,660.00
100mm Connection	9	\$5,240.00	\$47,160.00
200mm Connection	-	\$5,850.00	-
300mm Connection	-	\$6,160.00	-
Total Estimated Yield			\$183,010.00

Water Usage Charges - Residential	
Kilolitres Used	Charge (\$)
0 - 250 Residential	3.85 / kl
251+ Residential	7.71 / kl

Water Usage Charges - Business	
Kilolitres Used	Charge (\$)
40 - 500 Business	3.85 / kl
500+ Business	7.71 / kl

Water Usage Charges - Unpottable	
Kilolitres Used	Charge (\$)
Unpottable	1.25 / kl

Wastewater Charges

Council has reviewed the wastewater access and usage charges for 2026/27.

Wastewater Access Charges

Wastewater charges are levied under the provisions of Section 501 of the Local Government Act to collect revenue from property owners who actually benefit or propose to benefit from the availability or use of a Council sewerage system and comprise of:

- Residential and non-residential properties that are connected to a Council sewer main.
- Vacant land situated within 75 metres of a Council sewer main and is able to be connected to Council's sewerage supply, whether or not the property is actually connected to that sewerage supply.

Access charges are based on the size of metered water connection. Usage is calculated based on water consumption and a Sewer Discharge Factor (SDF).

Discharge factors are used for estimating the volume of wastewater discharged to the sewerage system where the discharge is not measured. A discharge factor represents the percentage of the metered water consumption discharged to the sewerage system from a premises.

The sewer discharge factor is the ratio of all wastewater discharged from a premises to the sewerage system to the total water consumption expressed as a percentage.

$$SDF = (Domestic + Trade Waste / Total Water Consumption) \times 100$$

Estimations based on metered water usage will be determined by applying appropriate discharge factors. Standard factors established for typical businesses is 0.95, however, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Guidelines 2021 provides generic industry standards for different business types. These factors will be applied unless considered inappropriate for the type of discharger's business operation at the premises, in which case the discharger may seek a review of the factors.

Wastewater Charges Rateable Properties			
Annual Wastewater Access Charge			
Type	Number of Charges (\$)	Charge (\$)	Estimated Yield (\$)
Residential	7569	\$1,240.00	\$9,385,560.00
Non-Residential 20mm	284	\$690.00	\$195,960.00
Non-Residential 25mm	40	\$690.00	\$27,600.00
Non-Residential 32mm	9	\$755.00	\$6,795.00
Non-Residential 40mm	17	\$825.00	\$14,025.00
Non-Residential 50mm	47	\$915.00	\$43,005.00
Non-Residential 80mm	-	\$1,010.00	-
Non-Residential 100mm	7	\$1,080.00	\$7,560.00
Non-Residential 200mm	-	\$7,020.00	-
Non-Residential 300mm	-	\$9,360.00	-
Non Residential Vacant	11	\$1,240.00	\$13,640.00
Residential Vacant	7	\$1,240.00	8,680.00
Total Estimated Yield			\$9,702,825.00

Wastewater Usage Charges	
Business (most commonly 95% of water usage)	\$3.04/kl

Wastewater Charges Non-Rateable Properties			
Annual Wastewater Access Charge			
Type	Number of Charges	Charge (\$)	Estimated Yield (\$)
Non-Rateable 20mm	54	\$690.00	\$37,260.00
Non-Rateable 25mm	5	\$690.00	\$3,450.00
Non-Rateable 32mm	-	\$755.00	-
Non-Rateable 40mm	10	\$825.00	\$8,250.00
Non-Rateable 50mm	19	\$915.00	\$17,385.00
Non-Rateable 80mm	1	\$1,010.00	\$1,010.00
Non-Rateable 100mm	5	\$1,080.00	\$5,400.00
Non-Rateable 200mm	-	\$7,020.00	-
Non-Rateable 300mm	-	\$9,360.00	-

Total Estimated Yield	\$72,755.00
Wastewater Usage Charges	
Non-Residential (most commonly 95% of water usage)	\$2.69/kl

Sewerage Trade Waste Charges

Sewerage Trade Waste means all liquid waste other than sewage of a domestic nature. Under the Best- Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines, liquid trade waste pricing requires appropriate annual trade waste fees and user charges for all liquid trade waste dischargers.

Local Water Utilities (LWU) must issue a trade waste approval to each liquid trade waste discharger connected to the sewerage system, and must annually inspect the premises of each discharger. Council is the LWU.

If a liquid trade waste discharger fails to comply with Council’s approval conditions by creating liquid waste which is not pre-treated and is likely to cause damage to the environment or an extra load on Council’s Sewage Treatment Plant, they will be subject to a non-compliance charge.

The annual trade waste charges are shown below and have increased to reflect the actual cost of treating the liquid trade waste. The annual trade waste charge appears on the annual Rates Notice, while the usage charge is issued with the quarterly water accounts.

Sewerage Trade Waste Charges		
Trade Waste Charge		
Fee description	Charge (\$)	Category
Application Fee - category A / A2	\$62.00	Low risk - Includes commercial premises not preparing hot food
Application Fee - category B	\$90.00	Medium risk - Includes commercial premises preparing hot food
Application Fee - category C	\$188.00	High risk - less complex pre-treatment
Annual Charge - category A / A2	\$208.00	Low risk - Includes commercial premises not preparing hot food
Annual Charge - category B	\$310.00	Medium risk - Includes commercial premises preparing hot food
Annual Charge - category C	\$570.00	High risk - less complex pre-treatment
Discharge Fee - category A	\$2.45	Discharger with approved pre-treatment
Discharge Fee - category A	\$11.70	Discharger without approved pre-treatment
Discharge Fee - category B	\$2.45	Discharger with approved pre-treatment
Discharge Fee - category B	\$25.73	Discharger without approved pre-treatment
Discharge Fee - category C	\$2.45	Discharger with approved pre-treatment
Discharge Fee - category C	\$25.73	Discharger without approved pre-treatment
Total Estimated Yield		\$113,000

Onsite Sewerage Management Charges (OSSM)

The Annual Fee for Onsite Sewerage Management is set at \$72.00 for domestic systems and \$357.07 for commercial systems.

Council operates a risk-based inspection program for all onsite sewerage systems. Inspections are conducted routinely based on system type, location, and Council's resource capacity to ensure public health and environmental protection.

The following revenue is expected for 2026/27

Onsite Sewerage Management Charges			
Type	Number of charges	Charge (\$)	Estimated Yield (\$)
OSSM Administration Fee	2,834	\$72.00	\$204,048.00
Commercial AWTS Administration Fee	41	\$357.07	\$14,639.87
Total Estimated Yield			\$218,687.87

Stormwater Charges

All urban properties (except vacant land) that are in the residential and business categories for rating purposes, for which Council provides a stormwater management service will be charged an annual stormwater levy under Local Government Amendment (Stormwater) Act 2005 and the Local Government (General) Amendment (Stormwater) Regulation 2006.

The charges have been set in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulations (2021) for 2026/27 are as follows:

- Residential Strata Unit - \$12.50 per unit
- Other Residential Property - \$25.00 per rateable property
- Business Rateable Property - \$25.00 per 350 square metres of land area up to a maximum of \$1,500.

The annual Stormwater Management Charge provides funding specifically for stormwater management restoration, maintenance of stormwater infrastructure and for environmental initiatives to better manage stormwater. These programs assist in reducing flooding and water damage from heavy rain, as well as preventing litter and other pollutants from being washed from roads to local creeks and waterways.

The Stormwater Management Service Charge will raise an estimated yield of **\$241,587.50** in 2026/27.

Statement of Borrowings

To provide for the future needs of our community, Council borrows funds to provide infrastructure and community assets which are not able to be funded out of normal revenue sources. The loans are based on periods that represent the economic life of the facility or asset or a reasonable fixed term, whichever is the lesser. Loans are raised by Council from banks or other recognised financial institutions and secured by a mortgage deed over the revenue of the Council. Proposed new borrowings for the next four years are:

Proposed Loan Borrowings			
Purpose	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Nil	-	-	-

For information on Council's debt cover ratio refer to the Annual Financial Statements available on Council's website.