
POLICY TITLE:	Debt Policy
POLICY NUMBER:	19
REVISION NUMBER:	17
TRIM REFERENCE:	SF14/411 - R24/3071
RESOLUTION NUMBER:	4007
POLICY TYPE:	Statutory
APPROVING OFFICER:	Council Adoption
DATE OF ADOPTION:	5 July 2024
TIME PERIOD OF REVIEW:	1 Year
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	30 June 2025
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Financial Control

1. OBJECTIVE

To ensure compliance with Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as well as ensuring that appropriate forward financial planning is undertaken.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the use of loan borrowing by Council to fund infrastructure and other capital projects.

3. POLICY

3.1 Purpose of Borrowings

Loan funds can be raised to finance a range of infrastructure assets over the maximum time frames stated.

The types of projects that are funded by loan borrowings are those that will have a financial impact over a number of years. This method ensures that the shire's ratepayers are not burdened by unrealistic expenditure levels. The repayment for these capital works creates an asset for Council, which can then be repaid over the years relating to the life of the asset, where appropriate.

Council will not use long-term debt to finance operating activities or re-current expenditure of Council.

3.2 Repayment Term

When council finances capital projects through borrowings, it will repay the loans in a term not exceeding the useful life of those assets or the terms stated below:

- General Up to 20 Years
- Water Up to 20 Years
- Sewerage Up to 20 Years
- Cleansing Up to 20 Years

All external borrowings will be raised at the most competitive rates available, in accordance with the requirements of the State Government.

When seeking long-term funding for the construction of infrastructure assets, Council will, wherever possible, avail itself of its own internal reserves (where such utilisation would not cause any financial impediment to the reserves' requirements).

3.3 Proposed New Borrowings

Borrowings Planned for 2024-2025

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2025-2026

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2026-2027

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2027-2028

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2028-2029

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2029-2030

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2030-2031

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2031-2032

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2032-2033

As determined and approved by Council

Borrowings Planned for 2033-2034

As determined and approved by Council

3.4 Loan Drawdowns

Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning approve proposed borrowings for a particular financial year. In order to minimise finance costs, loan drawdown should be deferred as long as possible after taking into consideration Council's overall cash flow requirements.

3.5 Working Capital Facility

QTC's Working Capital Facility combines a low-cost overdraft facility with an interest-earning cash management facility, allowing clients to manage short-term deficit and surplus balances through one account. Funds are easy to access and there are no facility, transaction or establishment fees.

4. RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*

5. REVIEW TRIGGER

Policy is to be reviewed annually.

6. PRIVACY PROVISION

Council respects and protects people's privacy and collects, stores, uses and discloses personal information responsibly and transparently when delivering Council services and business.

7. APPROVAL

Adopted at the July 2024 Special Council Meeting - Resolution Number 4007.