



FACT SHEET – RURAL RATES

Rural Categories 100, 200, 300, 500

Council adopted its budget on 25 July 2024 including its revised rating strategy. The rural categories 100, 200, 300 and 500 will pause the move towards a single rural rate in the dollar over a seven-year period (that first commenced in 2019/20). The pause will allow Council to review the level and access to services across all rural categories.

Many rural landholders experienced a change in land valuations in 2022/2023 that took effect from 1 July 2023. Some of these properties experienced up to 100% increase in land value across the rural rating categories. Council has therefore applied a 30% limitation across all rating categories (excluding feedlots). In summary, this means that any property that did experience a significant increase in their land valuation may experience an increase in their general rate of up to 30% for 2024/2025.

If you disagree with your land valuation you can still contact the Valuer General to dispute the valuation.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/title/valuation/about/dispute>.

The rates, to be levied in August 2024 and February 2025, includes a 4% general rate rise across all categories including rural categories 100, 200, 300 and 500. Council wrote to all landholders relating to the pause in the single rural rate strategy and received only two responses. One supportive of the pause and one not supportive of a further rate rise.

When will this occur?

Council must set its rates and charges each financial year. The budget was adopted at a Special Meeting on 25 July 2024 and is effective from 1 July 2024, with the first rates levied in August 2024.

Why the change?

Council's adopted a rating strategy consistent with the principles of its Revenue Policy and recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office for councils to:

- consult with the community on its rating strategy;
- ensure that annual revenue statements on rates and charges support financial sustainability; and
- adopt a long-term rates strategy

The rating strategy has been revised to indicate a pause on the single rate in the dollar for rural categories 100, 200, 300, 500.

Payment Options

- A payment arrangement can be agreed that will ensure no interest is accrued if the payment arrangement is met;
- Pre-payments can be made prior to levying by contacting Council; and
- Payment within the discount period will result in a 10% discount (30 days for the August and February levy)

To receive your rates notice by email complete a change of address form located on our website.

For more information on each of the rating categories or changes refer to the Rates Fact Sheets at www.balonne.qld.gov.au or contact Council on (07) 46208888 or at council@balonne.qld.gov.au or by posted PO Box 201, St George, Qld 4822.

*Disclaimer: this information is general information applicable to rural categories in the Balonne Shire.
Information on specific properties is available on request.*