



YOUR RATES NOTICE 2023-2024

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The cost of living is ever increasing for households and for Council. We have delivered an overall rate increase lower than CPI. On average a typical residential property in St George will see an increase of \$105 per half year in their rate notice. Council has had to balance the need for full cost recovery for our waste, water and sewerage charges with the increasing requirements for environmental compliance – particularly for our landfill sites. We have also had to factor in land valuations and to this end Council will apply a 30% limitation across all rating categories (excluding feedlots). This means that any property that experienced a significant increase in their land valuation in the 2022/2023 revaluation may experience an increase in their general rate of up to 30% for 2023/2024. If you disagree with your land valuation you can contact the Valuer General to dispute the valuation. <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/title/valuation/about/dispute>.

Discount Period Extended

Council will continue to offer a 30 day discount period of 10% for the August 2023 and February 2024 rate levy. It is proposed to continue the relief from the accrued interest on outstanding rates for those who enter and honour their payment plans.

Utility charges

All residential categories will see a change in utility charges. These will increase with water and sewerage up by 6% and cleansing (waste) base charges up by 14.5% with waste collection charges up by 7%. The rise in cost represents the move to full cost recovery for the services provided and increasing environmental compliance requirements at our landfills sites.

Mungindi

Residents in Mungindi will see changes to waste utility charges in line with Moree Plains Shire Council including a 5% administration fee across all categories. Water charges will remain the same for Mungindi as previous years.

When will these changes occur?

Council must set its rates and charges each financial year. The budget was adopted at its Special Meeting on 29 June 2023. Council will levy rates in August 2023 and again in February 2024.

Why the change?

Council's adopted its rating strategy is 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 developed to ensure equity and fairness and recognising the current external economic conditions. The model also provides a similar rate revenue base for council to maintain existing facilities and necessary services.

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 period of 30 days for both 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 residential categories in the Balonne Shire. Information on specific properties is available on request – please quote your Assessment number or address.