

STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY

Rates Statement

Strategy - Ordinary Rates

IPART has advised that the General Rates-Pegging limit for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 shall be 4.5%. This increase will be applied in full.

The revenue forecast provided in this policy is based on the notional income projections using Councils rating structure and revenue for the 2023/2024 year, Councils proposed rating structure and revenue for the 2024/2025 year with the 4.5% general increase, plus any catch-up from 2023/2024.

The model projects an increase in general rate revenue of \$396,509.61 which amounts to a total increase in general rates of 4.5%.

RATING STRUCTURE

Rating Categories & Sub-Categories

The following is the structure of Council's General Ordinary Rates to be levied under section 494 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Type	Category	Sub-Category	Comments
Ordinary	Farmland	Intensive	Eligibility determined in accordance with Local Government Act 1993 and As defined as 'Intensive Agriculture by the Gwydir Shire Council LEP 2013
Ordinary	Farmland	Nil	Eligibility determined in accordance with <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Ordinary	Business	Nil	All business properties within the Gwydir Shire Local Government area other than those defined as Warialda Business Urban, Bingara Business Urban or Business Special
Ordinary	Business	Business Warialda Urban	All business properties within the Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Business	Business Bingara Urban	All business properties within the Bingara Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Business	Business Special	All business properties within Gwydir Shire Local Government area currently undergoing a temporary operational hiatus.
Ordinary	Residential		All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area not in a Village as determined by the relevant LEP that do not exceed two (2) hectares.
Ordinary	Residential	Rural Residential	All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area not in a Village as determined by the relevant LEP that exceed two (2) hectares but are less than forty (40) hectares.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Villages	All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area within a Village area other than Warialda Urban or Bingara Urban as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Warialda Urban	All residential properties within the Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Bingara Urban	All residential properties within the Bingara Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.

RATING STRUCTURE

Rating Categories & Sub-Categories

Categories are defined by Urban, Rural and Village as follows:

Urban Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for urban purposes within the Bingara or Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Village Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for urban purposes within a Village area other than the Bingara or Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Rural Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominate use is for non-urban purposes that is not within any Village area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Maps showing the location of Rating categories and sub-categories are attached. See Appendix

RATING STRUCTURE

Ordinary General Rate Structure & Strategy

The Local Government Act 1993 provides Councils with three alternative methods of levying rates:

- Solely Ad Valorem Rating (i.e. Cents in the dollar on land value).
- Minimum Rate plus Ad Valorem.
- Base Amount of up to 50% of the total yield from a category and applied to all rateable parcels within that category plus an Ad Valorem rate to raise the additional above the base.

Council will continue to levy ordinary rates using a structure comprising a base amount to which an ad valorem component is added. This option ensures higher valued properties contribute a higher amount.

The base amount will vary, depending on rating category/sub-category up to the maximum permissible of 50% of the total yield for each category/sub-category. All rateable properties within each category/sub-category, regardless of their land value, are levied a base amount. The balance of the 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.

All ordinary general rates for the 2024/2025 period shall be based on land valuations issued by the Valuer-General to individual rate payers with a base date of 1st July 2022. Generally, Generally, there has been a slight fall in land values to date.

The model used in preparation of the rating revenue is designed to distribute the general rates between the rating categories as follows:

Farmland	80.00%	Residential	16.00%	Business	4.00%
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RATING STRUCTURE

Notional Yield

Ordinary General Rates under section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993

Diff	Category	Sub-Category	# Prop	Ad Valorem	Cents In \$	Base Amount	Percentage of Revenue raised form Base Levy	Estimated Total Yield
10	Farmland	Intensive	2	0.0038958	0.38958	\$ 750	3.67%	\$40,925.98
1	Farmland	Ordinary	1169	0.0023812	0.23812	\$ 300	4.79%	\$7,318,230.39
4	Business	Ordinary	76	0.0449204	4.49204	\$ 300	17.51%	\$128,465.31
8	Business	Business Bingara Urban	53	0.0380920	3.80920	\$ 300	12.16%	\$130,777.87
3	Business	Business Warialda Urban	66	0.0442323	4.2323	\$ 300	19.00%	\$105,804.10
11	Business	Business Special	1	0.0027393	0.27393	\$ 300	10.31%	\$2,910.53
6	Residential	Rural Residential S/H	195	0.0089380	0.89380	\$ 225	21.83%	\$201,017.11
5	Residential	Residential Village	259	0.0648664	6.48664	\$ 150	31.39%	\$123,760.07
9	Residential	Ordinary-Rural Res	54	0.0171057	1.71057	\$ 150	29.55%	\$27,412.68
7	Residential	Bingara Residential Urban	700	0.0132563	1.32563	\$ 225	22.47%	\$700,685.68
2	Residential	Warialda Residential Urban	552	0.0199308	1.99308	\$ 225	29.66%	\$418,775.73
			3,127					\$ 9,198,945.46

Estimated General Ordinary Rate Income \$9,198,945.46 - Less Pension Rebates (Council 45%) -\$38,573.31 giving Net General Rates Income of \$9,160,372.15

All rates are to be levied on land valuations with a base date of 1st July 2022

RATING STRUCTURE

Payment of Rates

Ratepayers may pay their rates in four (4) instalments being 31 August, 30 November, 28 February, and 31 May. Council is obliged to forward reminder notices one month in advance. Interest is chargeable on each instalment not paid by the due date.

The maximum applicable interest rate is set each year by the Minister for Local Government and Council may adopt that rate or a lower rate.

Extra Charges or Interest on Overdue Rates

In accordance with Section 566 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must determine a rate of interest charge, not in excess of that determined by the Minister.

The interest rate for the year 2024/2025 has been set at 10.5% for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (inclusive).

Conservation Agreement Rate Exemption

As stated through the provisions of Section 555 (1) (b1) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 the land subject to a Conservation Agreement is exempt from rates. The Act States “**Section 555 What land is exempt from all rates?**”

(1.b.) Subject to subsection (3), land that is subject of a conservation agreement (within the meaning of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974).

(3) If part of a single parcel of land is the subject of a conservation agreement within the meaning of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 (as referred to in subsection (1) (b1), any rate levied on that whole parcel (for any period after 1 July 2008) is to be reduced by the percentage stated in the Act.

The Conservation Agreement amount to be written off for the year 2024/2025 for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (inclusive) is \$4,633.68.

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Statement of fees and charges to apply to rateable and non-rateable properties

Water and Sewerage Pricing

Council's water and sewerage utilities are required to conform to best practice water and sewerage pricing (pay for use). Such pricing is required to comply with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Pricing Principles for Local Water Authorities, the COAG Strategic Framework for Water Reform and National Competition Policy.

Best practice water supply pricing involves a cost-reflective two-part tariff or an inclining block tariff with no water allowance, no land value-based charges, an appropriate access charge and water usage charges per kilolitre.

Appropriate pricing is essential to provide relevant pricing signals to customers, enabling them to make informed decisions on their water use. This will encourage each customer to use water efficiently and minimise wastage of our valuable water resources and associated infrastructure.

Water Charges - Strategy

Council has adopted best practice water pricing with a common structure across the entire Shire. The pricing structure has been reviewed and a similar structure adopted for 2024/2025.

The two-part pricing regime includes an access availability charge of \$550.00 for standard connections and an inclining block tariff. In 2024/2025 the water usage charge will be charged quarterly as part of the quarterly water usage billing program. The inclining usage tariff is made up of two (2) tiers being:

1. \$1.75 per kilolitre for the first step of 600 kilolitres per assessment.
2. And a higher block tariff of \$2.45 per kilolitre for usage over 600 kilolitres per assessment.

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Water Charges – Strategy

A water access availability charge applies to all parcels of land to which a service is available and connectable.

The water pricing strategy is designed to gain 50% of the water revenue from access charges and 50% from usage charges.

Properties with larger water services pay a higher access charge proportional to the square of the meter size.

Sewer Charges - Strategy

Sewerage services as with water supplies have moved to best practice pricing.

Residential sewerage bills are to be independent of land value and based on a cost-reflective uniform sewerage charge per property of \$700.00 per connectable property.

Non-Residential sewerage bills are to be independent of land value and based on a cost-reflective two-part tariff consisting of an access charge – (\$600.00 based on 20mm water connection) and an appropriate sewer usage charge per kilolitre of water consumption (\$2.75/KL). This charge is then multiplied by the individual properties sewer discharge factor as determined by Council using industry standards.

The sewer access charge must also be proportional to the square of the size of the water supply service connection to reflect the load that can be placed on the sewerage system plus a usage charge based on discharge volume. The volume discharged into the sewer is estimated using the customer's total water consumption and a sewerage discharge factor.

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Water & Sewer Charges - Sections 501 & 502 of the *Local Government Act 1993*

Description	Annual Charge	Services Charged	Total Annual Income	Total Income
20mm Water Meter Service	\$ 550.00	1612	\$ 886,600.00	
25mm Water Meter Service	\$ 859.17	37	\$ 31,789.47	
32mm Water Meter Service	\$ 1,408.00	2	\$ 2,816.00	
40mm Water Meter Service	\$ 2,200.00	4	\$ 8,800.00	
50mm Water Meter Service	\$ 3,437.50	19	\$ 65,312.50	
Less Pension Rebate Expense Water (Council 45%)			-\$ 18,636.60	
TOTAL Annual Water Access Income			\$ 976,681.37	\$ 976,681.37
Annual Water Usage @ \$1.75/KL (Est)	\$ 1.75	350,000KL	\$ 612,500.00	
Annual Water Usage @ \$2.45/KL >600KL (Est)	\$ 2.45	135000kl	\$ 330,750.00	
TOTAL Annual Water Usage Charges (Est)			\$ 943,250.00	\$ 943,250.00
Total Water Income				\$ 1,919,931.37
Sewer Charge Residential (20mm)	\$ 700.00	1147	\$ 802,900.00	
Pressure Sewer Residential	\$ 700.00	86	\$ 60,200.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (20mm)	\$ 600.00	136	\$ 81,600.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (25mm)	\$ 768.60	21	\$ 16,140.60	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (32mm)	\$ 1,275.00	2	\$ 2,550.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (40mm)	\$ 1,967.00	4	\$ 7,868.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (50mm)	\$ 2,966.00	11	\$ 32,626.00	
Less Pension Rebate Expense Sewerage (Council 45%)			-\$ 17,061.40	
TOTAL Annual Sewer Charges			\$ 986,823.20	\$ 986,823.20
Sewer Non-Residential Usage Charge At \$2.75/Kl	\$ 2.75	21,226	\$ 58,371.50	\$ 58,371.50
Warialda Truck Wash usage charge \$1.32/minute – estimate				\$ 70,000.00
Total Sewer Income				\$ 1,115,194.70

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Liquid Trade Waste Charges

Gwydir Shire Council is committed to complying with the Department of Primary Industries and Environment (DPIE) guidelines for the best practice management of water supplies and sewerage services to be eligible for financial assistance towards future Capital works.

For the 2024/2025 financial period council will be charging a liquid trade Waste Charge as part of the sewerage pricing structure for commercial businesses.

Liquid trade wastes exert much greater demands on sewerage systems than domestic sewerage and if uncontrolled can pose serious problems to public health, worker safety, Councils sewerage system and the environment. Liquid trade waste pricing ensures that the discharges bear a fair share of the cost of providing sewerage services and to facilitate appropriate recycling, pre-treatment, waste minimisation and water conservation.

For charging purposes liquid trade waste dischargers are divided into three categories.

1. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting as activity deemed by Council as requiring nil or only minimal pre-treatment equipment and whose effluent is well defined and of relatively low risk to the sewerage system. For example – retail food outlets with no hot food prepared and or foods that generate an oily/greasy waste.
2. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting as activity deemed by Council as requiring a prescribed type of liquid trade waste pre-treatment equipment and whose effluent is well characterised. For example – Premises that prepare and or serve hot foods that generate an oily/ greasy waste.
3. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting an activity which is of an industrial nature and/or which result in discharges of large volumes (over 20kL/d) of liquid trade waste to the sewerage system.

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Liquid Trade Waste Charges

Schedule of Annual & Usage Fees – Liquid Waste

Description	# Prop	Services Charged	Estimated Income
Annual Charges			
Annual trade waste Fee (minimum)	83	\$ 115.00	\$ 9,545.00
Annual trade waste Fee (Large discharger)		\$ 450.00	
Reinspection fee		\$ 72.00	
Usage Charges			
with prescribed pre-treatment		\$ 1.75/Kl	
without prescribed pre-treatment		\$ 15.50/Kl	
Tankered Waste		\$ 25.00/Kl	

- These fees are to be charged on top of existing non-residential sewerage charges.

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Waste Management Charges Statement

Council must make and levy a charge for domestic waste management services for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available under Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993. The levied charge must fully cover the cost of providing the service. The urban areas of Bingara, Warialda, Gravesend, North Star, Croppa Creek and Warialda Rail and small rural “lifestyle/rural residential” blocks receive a kerb-side garbage service. This charge is separately itemised on each rate notice.

The charge is added to standard Council rates and is set aside for the specific purpose of the management of waste collections & disposal facilities within the Local Government area. The charge will allow Council to provide additional resources and meet the requirements of waste disposal and environmental legislation and community expectations.

Previously this was undertaken on Councils Waste Disposal Facilities on a reactionary basis in response to community concerns. As a result of increased pressures from regulatory agencies and ongoing community concerns and the scale of the works required to meet these standards, it has become necessary for council to initiate the provision of a waste disposal management program to control waste disposal and environmental protection measures.

The funds collected will only be spent for works at Council’s Waste Disposal facilities and related recycling programs, including:

- Land Rehabilitation
- Improved Environmental Monitoring
- Improved waste disposal techniques
- Recycling
- Chemical disposal
- Site Security

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

The charge is levied in respect of each separate parcel of rateable land in the Council area. The charge applies whether the service is used in whole or in part. The service is provided on the following basis:

Domestic Waste Service and Disposal Charge

A single weekly waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 140-litre for general waste. A single fortnightly green waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 240-litre for green and putrescible waste and a single fortnightly recyclable waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 360-litre for recyclable material.

New premises completed during the year will be charged based on the complete month to the end of the year as a proportion of the annual charge.

In accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must levy a domestic waste management charge on all occupied rateable properties. This charge reflects the fixed cost component of having the weekly waste collection service accessible to the property. The charge for 2024/2025 is as follows:

Domestic Waste Collection Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Domestic Residential Collections (140)	1397	\$ 409.80	\$ 572,490.60
Wheelie Bin Upgraded (240) / Additional (140)	57	\$ 168.20	\$ 9,587.40
Domestic Residential – Vacant	174	\$ 84.12	\$ 14,636.88
Less Pension Rebate Expense Waste (45% Council)			-\$15,481.90
Total Domestic Waste Management Charges			\$ 581,232.98

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Commercial Waste Disposal

Council shall levy an annual charge under Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993 on commercial premises for waste removal and disposal where the owner or occupier has access to that service. The service will be for the removal of one or more garbage containers (wheelie bins) of 240-litre capacity. The service level charge is based on the number of bins available for collection from the premises for which the charge is applicable. The charges for 2024/2025 are as follows:

Commercial Waste Disposal Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Commercial Waste Disposal – Minor	69	\$ 673.00	\$ 46,437.00
Commercial Waste Disposal – Small	44	\$ 1,346.00	\$ 59,224.00
Commercial Waste Disposal - Medium	14	\$2,692.90	\$ 37,700.60
Commercial Waste Disposal – Large	6	\$ 4,508.00	\$ 27,048.00
Total Commercial Waste Management			\$ 170,409.60

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal

In accordance with section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a waste management service charge will be levied on all non-rateable land electing to utilise Council's waste collection and disposal service. The charge for 2024/2025 is as follows:

Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Minor	26	\$ 673.00	\$ 17,498.00
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Small	12	\$ 1,346.00	\$ 16,152.00
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Medium	4	\$ 2,692.90	\$ 10,771.60
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Large	10	\$ 4,508.00	\$ 45,080.00
Total Non-Rateable Land Waste Management			\$ 89,501.60

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Waste Disposal Management

In accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must levy a waste management disposal charge on all land and in respect of vacant land which are in the catchment for each of Council's waste disposal facilities. These are defined by maps. See appendix. The charge for 2024/2025 is as follows:

Waste Management Charge	Number	Charge	Yield
Properties	3191	\$ 250.20	\$ 798,388.20
Less Pension Rebate Expense Waste (45% Council)			-\$ 12,164.36
Total Waste Disposal Charge			\$ 786,223.84

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Storm Water Charges Statement

In accordance with Section 496A of the Local Government Act, 1993 and clauses 125A, 125AA, 200A and 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council may make or levy an annual charge for stormwater management services only in respect of urban land that is categorised for rating purposes as residential or business. The urban areas, to which this charge will apply for 2024/2025 (Warialda & Bingara), are defined by maps. (See appendix). The charge for 2024/2025 is as follows:

Storm Water Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Estimated Yield
Residential Properties	1,306	\$25.00 per parcel of land	\$32,650.00
Business Properties	286	\$25.00 per parcel of land plus and additional \$25.00 for each 350sqm or part of 350sqm by which the parcels exceed 350sqm (Estimate based on average of three (3) charges per parcel)	\$7,110.37
Total Estimated Storm Water Yield	1,592		\$39,760.37

STATEMENT OF FEES & CHARGES

Statement of fees to be charged and pricing policy of goods and services

Council fees for the 2024/2025 financial year are listed in the Schedule of Fees and Charges as part of Councils Management Plan.

In determining the appropriate fees to be charged for Council services and facilities in 2024/2025, the basic principle applied, is that charges should be considered fair and equitable to the general community. Individual members of the community should not be precluded from essential services because of economic circumstances.

The range of services provided by Council to the community is diverse and requires different considerations when determining the associated fee or charge. The level of the fee or charge was determined having regard to the following categories.

Code	Pricing Category
S	Statutory - Federal or State Government set charges.
FCR	Full Cost Recoverable - Services under this category are such that individual costs can be determined and met by the user of the service.
PCR	Partially Cost Recoverable - Services considered having a level of benefit to the community. Generally, benefits are not solely confined to users. Partially funded by general revenues.
M	Market - Services that Council operates in a competitive market and needs to fix charges like other providers. Calculations may be benchmarked against industry averages