



Revenue Policy

Number:	Stat.PO3
Responsible Manager:	Executive Manager Finance
Head Policy:	N/A
Legislation:	Local Government Act 2009 Local Government Regulation 2012

1. Purpose

This Revenue Policy forms part of Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council's budget each year. The *Local Government Regulation 2012* identifies the matters that a local government must include in its Revenue Policy. In essence, a Revenue Policy is a statement outlining the strategic policy position of Council in relation to revenue measures to be adopted in the budget.

2. Overview

- 2.1 Council intends to achieve an equitable distribution of the cost of its operations between different parts of the community and other customers. In seeking to achieve this equitable distribution, Council will have regard to the measures required to stimulate the local economy.
- 2.2 Council will ensure that the charges made contribute to the cost of its operations and that it is able to continue to provide services to the community at a level consistent with the growth and development of the area. In formulating this policy, Council has had regard to the need to consider:
 - The interests of all people living in Council's local government area;
 - The efficient, effective and proper management of Council's local government area; and
 - Planning for the future.

3. Principles for Fees, Rates and Charges

In charging rates and charges the following principles will be applied:

- Consider the level of revenue that can be achieved from direct user charges, grants and subsidies, contributions and other sources
- Consider the cost of maintaining existing facilities and necessary services and the need for additional facilities and services
- Clarity for what is the Council's and each ratepayers' responsibility to the rating system
- Timing any rates and charges to ensure a sustainable cash flow for the operation of Council and to spread the burden to the ratepayer over the financial year

- Equity through flexible payment arrangements for ratepayers with a lower capacity to pay
- Transparency in the making of rates and charges
- Having in place a rating regime that is simple and inexpensive to administer
- Equity by taking account of the different levels of capacity to pay within the local community
- Flexibility to take account of changes to the local economy
- Council will consider National Competition Policy when considering utility charges

Council may consider charging special and separate rates where appropriate, to recover the costs associated with a particular service, project or facility that provides direct or additional benefit to the ratepayers or class of ratepayer.

4. Principles for Granting Concessions

- 4.1 In considering the application of concessions, Council will be guided by the following principles:
- Ensuring the same treatment for residents and other customers who have similar circumstances
 - Ensuring transparency by clearly setting out the requirements necessary to receive concession
 - Ensuring flexibility to respond to local economic issues.

5. Principles for Recovering Overdue Charges and Fees

- 5.1 Council requires payment of charges and fees within the specified period and it is Council's policy to pursue the collection of all outstanding charges and fees diligently but with due concern for financial hardship which may be faced by some members of the community.
- 5.2 Reminder notices will generally be issued within two weeks after the due date for payment. Council reserves the right to send the details of any residents and other customers that still have not paid their charges and/or fees after the due date to a Collection Agency to instigate recovery procedures unless an alternative arrangement have been made. Payment must be made within 30 days of the date of the notice.
- 5.3 In cases of financial hardship, Council may approve debt repayment arrangements for individual residents and other customers or, in instances such as natural disasters, for classes of residents and classes of other customers.

6. Principles for Cost-Recovery

- 6.1 Council recognises the validity of maximising the use of appropriate user pay charges or cost recovery fees to reduce the burden on other funding sources. However in setting its cost recovery fees, Council consider the need for such a fee not being more than the cost to Council of providing the service or taking the action to which the fee applies.

7. Extent to Which Physical and Social Infrastructure Costs for a New Development are to be Funded by Charges for the Development

- 7.1 Council requires developers to pay reasonable and relevant contributions towards the cost of infrastructure required to support the development. Specific charges are subject to the regulated infrastructure charges regime imposed by the State government via the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.
- 7.2 The imposition of infrastructure charges are based on normal anticipated growth rates. Where a new development is of sufficient magnitude to accelerate the growth rate of the community, it may be necessary to bring forward social infrastructure projects. Where this occurs, Council expects developers to meet sufficient costs so that the availability of facilities is not adversely affected and so that existing residents are not burdened with the cost of providing the additional infrastructure.

Review

This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Resolution

Adopted by Council on the 25 July 2018.

Approved

Chief Executive Officer, Fabian Williams



Date

25/07/2018