



BUDGET 2026-27 SUMMARY

MAYOR'S REVIEW

When I think about the 2026/27 Budget, I see a story of both challenges and opportunities. Setting our annual budget and revenue statement is one of the hardest responsibilities we take on as a Council. We only get one chance each year to set our Rates and Charges, and once they're set, we cannot adjust them—no matter what unexpected challenges come our way.

We began this budget process back in February. Since then, we've held community meetings, run countless workshops, and completed detailed industry benchmarking. I want you to know that every step of the way, our focus has been on finding the right balance for our community.

Over the past year, all of us have felt the pressure of rising costs. Council is no different. Fuel price spikes alone cost us an additional \$50,000 last financial year, and we're expecting an annual impact of around \$240,000 moving forward. In March, the pipes and fittings we rely on to maintain our water and sewerage networks jumped between 16% and 36% overnight. These kinds of increases hit hard, and they make it more difficult to maintain essential services without placing extra burden on ratepayers.

With all of this in mind, we've shaped this budget around protecting the services our community relies on while tightening costs wherever we can—without compromising quality. For our Residential, Commercial and Industrial ratepayers, general rates will not increase this year. Instead, we've focused on Water, Sewerage and Waste Management charges.

For an average household connected to water and sewerage with one weekly bin collection, the increase will be around \$1 per day, or \$7 per week. This supports:

1. Water services – \$4 per week
2. Sewerage services – \$2 per week
3. Waste Management – \$1 per week

We will also continue to provide a 50% remission on Council Rates and Charges for approved pensioners, capped at \$600. This remains one of the most generous pensioner rebates in Queensland, and I'm proud we can continue offering it.



Delivering essential services under a “one-size-fits-all” regulatory framework is costly, and Council continues to operate many of these services at a loss. Even so, our staff are working tirelessly to improve efficiency and move us closer to cost neutrality over time.

For our rural ratepayers, I want to acknowledge the enormous effort and investment that has gone into wild dog control in recent years. Since 2018, co-contribution funding of \$2.7 million has helped build 1,070 kilometres of exclusion fencing across the Shire. This has been a game-changer—revitalising wool production and supporting emerging industries like goat farming. We've also maintained our baiting program, which continues to reduce wild dog numbers and support increased cattle, sheep and goat production.

General rates for rural properties will not increase this year. Instead, we've focused on ensuring our Wild Dog Control Special Rate reflects the true cost of delivering this highly valued program. Rising delivery costs mean we need to adjust this rate to keep the service sustainable and cost neutral.

Our Shire also benefits from the State's Wild Dog Barrier Fence, which has supported the rollout of exclusion fencing. However, the State Government requires Councils to contribute to the cost of patrols, maintenance and construction through a precept payment. To meet this mandatory cost, rural ratepayers will see a new State Government Barrier Fence Special Rate included in this year's budget.

Despite the challenges, I remain incredibly optimistic about our future. Last financial year, Council spent over \$40 million locally—60% of our total expenditure. With the major works planned for the next 12 months and beyond, we expect to maintain a similar level of local investment.

As we continue recovering from the March 2025 flood event, flood restoration works will remain a major focus until funding concludes on 30 June 2027. Future funding will depend on future events, but there is still a substantial amount of work ahead.

This year's capital works program totals \$73 million—far above our usual \$8–12 million. Major projects include:

- Rural Residential Estate development
- Eromanga Natural History Museum – Stage 3
- Bob Young Memorial Park upgrade
- \$2.395M Plant Replacement Program
- Quilpie Aerodrome pavement reconstruction
- \$4.6M in road resealing, footpaths and floodway upgrades
- \$1.9M in water network upgrades
- \$14.1M in sewerage upgrades

Beyond Council's own program, RoadTek will be mobilising in our region for 12–18 months to deliver road rehabilitation works and upgrades to the South Comongin Crossing. APA has also commenced planning for the Bulloo Interlink Pipeline—a 340km project expected to begin construction in 2027, subject to final investment decision. This is a major opportunity for our region, and now is the time for businesses and residents to prepare and position themselves for what's ahead.

I want to finish by thanking the people who make this work possible. To Deputy Mayor Volz, Cr Barnes, Cr Lander and Cr Milosevic—thank you for your constructive engagement throughout this budget process. To our community—thank you for your feedback, your honesty, and your investment in our future. And to our Council staff—your commitment to making Quilpie the best community in Australia never wavers, and I am deeply grateful.

Together, we are navigating challenges, embracing opportunities, and building a strong future for the Quilpie Shire.

**Mayor
Cr Ben Hall**



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL BUDGET
\$184.5M

▼	▼	▼	▼
OPERATING REVENUE	OPERATING EXPENDITURE	CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM	CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING
\$109.77M	\$110.7M	\$73.77M	\$56.89M



\$1
PER DAY

**RATES INCREASE
FOR AN AVERAGE
RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTY**



\$600

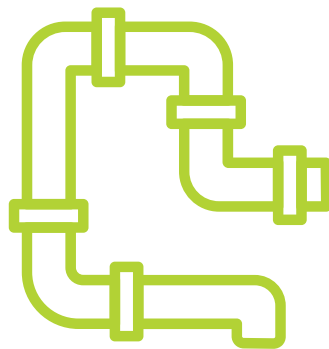
PENSIONER REBATE

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



WATER NEW, RENEWAL & UPGRADES

\$1,995,000



QUILPIE SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

(SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL FUNDING)
(MULTI YEAR PROJECT - 2026/27 AND 2027/28)

\$13,911,374



RURAL RESIDENTIAL ESTATE

\$4,124,215

SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

\$210,000

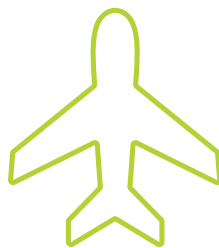
\$2,395,000

PLANT INVESTMENT PROGRAM



ROADS AND DRAINAGE

\$62,662,706



\$12,000,179

QUILPIE AERODROME PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION (INCLUDING DESIGN)

EROMANGA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM STAGE 3

(MULTI YEAR PROJECT - 2026/27 AND 2027/28)

\$17,799,000

POWERHOUSE RESIDENTIAL STAGE 2 AND 3 (SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL FUNDING APPROVAL)

\$6,387,944

KEY INITIATIVES



ROADS & DRAINAGE

Road Reseal Program	\$900,000
Footpaths - new	\$650,160
Footpaths - replacements	\$79,392
Footpaths - remaining stage 1 at the caravan park, including upgrade to caravan park driveway	70,000
Concrete Floodway Improvements	\$1,335,000
Keeroongooloo Road Seal (subject to external contribution)	\$1,182,000
Keeroongooloo Road - Heavy Formation Grade	\$386,250
Flood Restoration Works	\$50,000,000
Road and Town Street Maintenance	\$1,474,393
Adavale Charleville Road Sealing (Ch 47, 030 - Ch 48, 100)	\$244,845
Dukamurra St - Widen eastern side at intersection of Galah	\$20,000
Quarrior Street - Spoon Drain	\$50,000
State Roads RMPC Contract	\$1,733,714
Adavale Blackall TIDS	\$530,863
DTMR CN25602 250 Event DRFA Recon Program	\$3,770,139
Brolga Street - Reseal Carparking Lanes (to coincide with Department of Main Roads resealing of Brolga and Chipu Street)	\$235,950



WATER, SEWERAGE & WASTE

Water Main Renewal - Gyrica Street	\$180,000
Water Main Renewal - Boonkai Street	\$120,000
Water Main Renewal - Winchu Street	\$170,000
Quilpie - Town Bore Upgrade	\$25,000
Eromanga Bore (subject to external funding application approval)	\$1,500,000
Quilpie Sewerage Treatment Plan (subject to external funding application approval)	\$13,911,374
Eromanga Sewerage	\$100,000
Quilpie - Rising Main	\$30,000
Quilpie SPS 3 - retaining wall/slab & fence	\$15,000
Quilpie SPS 3 - cut in by-pass system	\$5,000
Eromanga - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system	\$50,000
Quilpie - Bulloo Park Pump Station	\$10,000



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & OTHER PROJECTS

Economic Development Strategy (CF)	\$20,000
Pest & Livestock Management	\$201,075
Wild Dog Syndicate Baiting & Advisory Committee	\$244,712
Rest Area - Diamantina Development Road (Subject to external funding)	\$2,300,000
TV Retransmission Shutdown Projects	\$100,000
Business Innovation Project Round 5	\$50,000
Powerhouse Engine and Collection Rehousing	\$30,000
Planning Scheme Review (CF)	\$50,000

LAND & HOUSING

Rural Residential Estate	\$4,124,215
Strategic Land Purchases	\$174,270
Industrial Land Subdivision	\$250,000
Gyrice Housing Refurbishment Unit 3	\$124,612
Gyrice Housing Refurbishment Unit 4	\$123,637
Council Housing Refurbishments	\$294,000
Gyrice Housing Refurbishments	\$100,000
Powerhouse House Development - Stage 2 & 3	\$6,387,944
Gyrice Gardens Extension (Preliminary Designs)	\$250,000



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Enterprise Management System (Finance)	\$500,000
Develop Masterplan - Quilpie Hall	\$20,000
Develop Masterplan - Eromanga Rodeo Grounds	\$10,000
Bulloo Park Masterplan	\$15,000

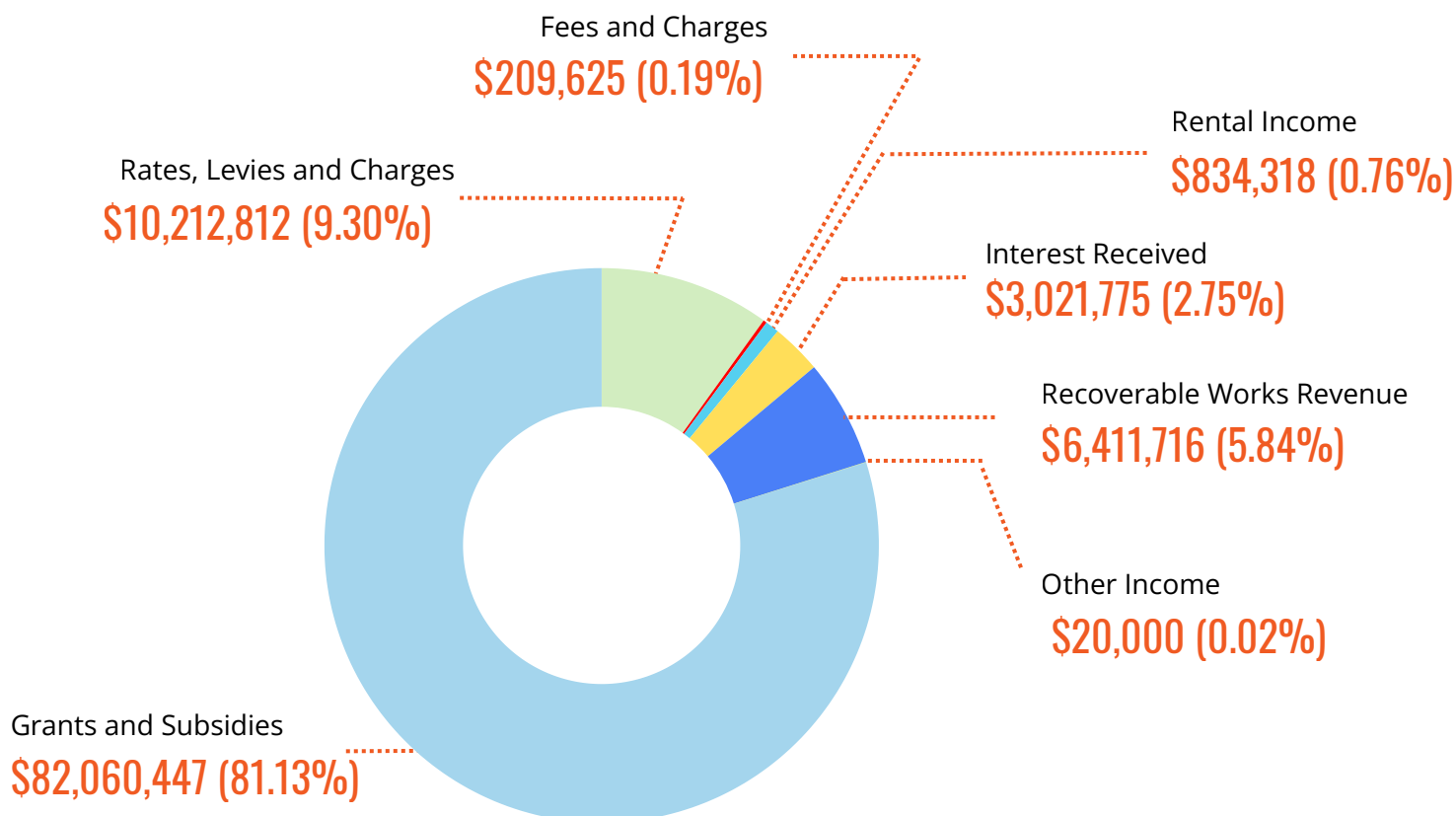




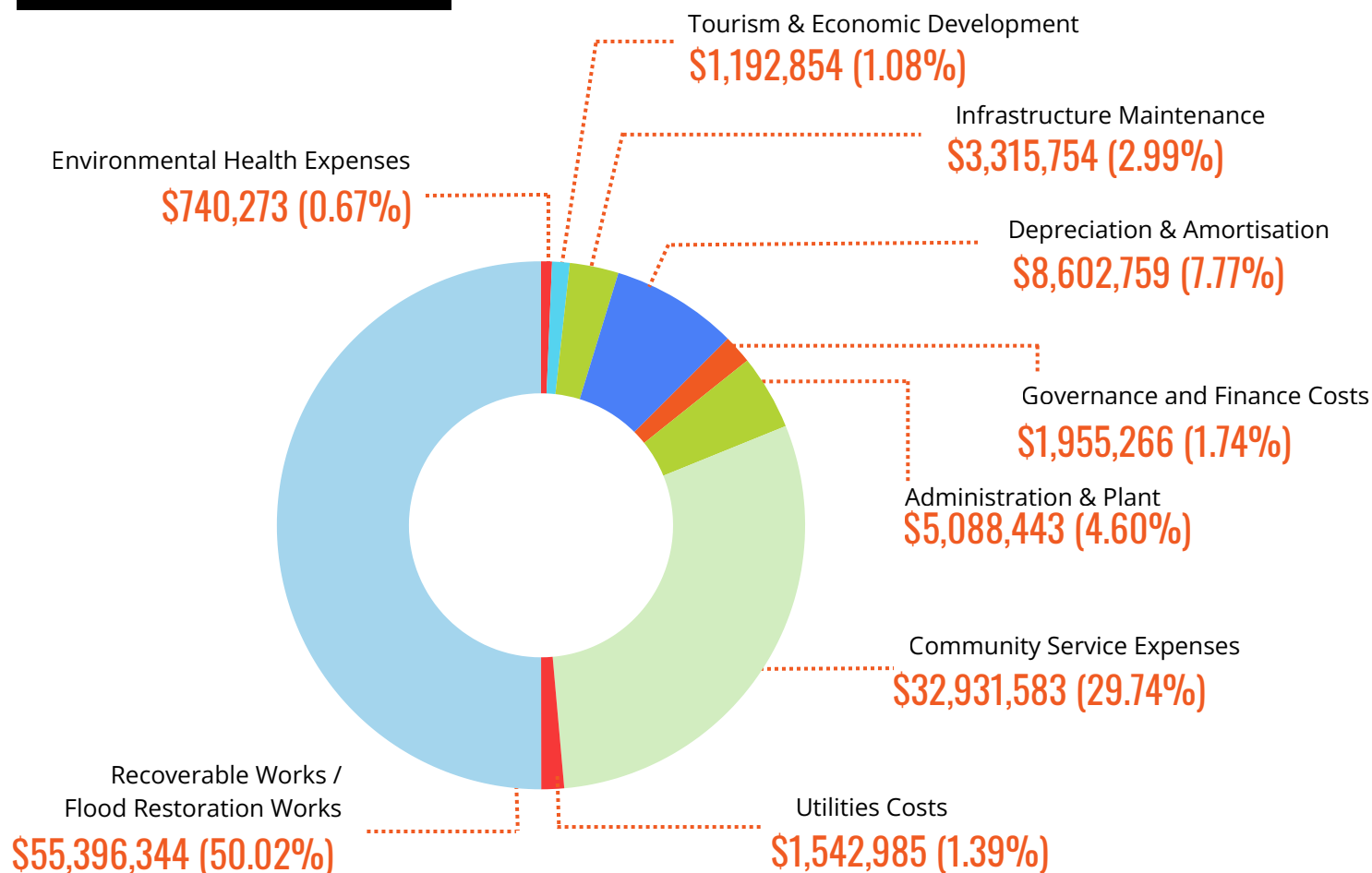
LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

Quilpie Cemetery Toilet	\$30,000
Bob Young Memorial Park Upgrade (CF)	\$710,000
Baldy Top Walking Path - Installation of Bridges (CF)	\$102,661
Knot-a-saurus Park Footpath	\$12,000
Administration Building - External Paint	\$19,000
Administration Building - Stage 2 - Front Office Garden	\$75,000
Install Automatic Watering Systems	\$65,000
Quilpie Cemetery Improvements	\$110,000
Install Playground - Adavale	\$30,000
Sealing Wash Bay Approach and Install Silt Trap	\$190,000
Install Fireproof Battery Collection Boxes	\$46,375
Stand Pipe - Wash Bay	\$90,000
Community and Recreational Facilities	\$1,033,997
Health Promotions	\$229,875
NDIS Support	\$112,000
Library Services	\$153,840
Community Development (Community grants, support for activities and events, community celebrations)	\$160,700
Quilpie Cemetery Plaque Project - Unmarked Graves	\$5,000
Parks and Gardens Maintenance	\$405,750

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENDITURE





CONTACT QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL



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Visit Our Shire

visitquilpieshire.com



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Emergency Event Dashboard

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