

Revenue Policy 2024/25

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INTENT/PURPOSE

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* s.104 and *Local Government Regulation 2012* s.169 and s.193, the following is a revenue policy that outlines the principles used by the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) to raise revenue and other matters.

LEGISLATION/COMPLIANCE

The *Local Government Act 2009* states the following -

104 Financial management systems

(5)(c)(iii) The system of financial management established by a local government must include – the following financial policies of the local government – revenue policy.

The *Local Government Regulation 2012* states the following -

169 Preparation and content of budget

2(c) The budget must also include a revenue policy.

193 Revenue policy

(1) A local government's revenue policy for a financial year must state—

(a) the principles that the local government intends to apply in the financial year for—

- (i) levying rates and charges; and
- (ii) granting concessions for rates and charges; and
- (iii) recovering overdue rates and charges; and
- (iv) cost-recovery methods; and

(b) if the local government intends to grant concessions for rates and charges—the purpose for the concessions; and

(c) the extent to which physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development are to be funded by charges for the development.

(2) The revenue policy may state guidelines that may be used for preparing the local government's revenue statement.

(3) A local government must review its revenue policy annually and in sufficient time to allow an annual budget that is consistent with the revenue policy to be adopted for the next financial year.

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The *Planning Act 2016* states the following -

Section 113 local governments may, by resolution, adopt charges for providing trunk infrastructure for development (infrastructure charges).

Schedule 16 of the *Planning Regulation 2017* states the maximum amount of each charge.

POLICY

1. Principles used for the making of rates and charges

In general, WTA will be guided by the principle of user pays in the making of rates and charges so as to minimize the impact of rating on the efficiency of the local economy. It is acknowledged that individual consumers of a commodity or service cannot always be separately identified. For this reason there is a need for specific user charges to be supplemented by other general revenue sources.

WTA will also have regard to the principles of:

- 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 ability to generate wealth from the land within the local community
- flexibility to take account of changes in the local economy.

2. Differential Rating

In relation to Differential Rating WTA will consider:-

- ability to generate wealth from the land
- equity of distribution of the rate burden.

3. Principles used for the levying of rates

In levying rates, WTA will apply the principles of:

- making clear what is the WTA's and each ratepayers' responsibility to the rating system
- making the levying system simple and inexpensive to administer
- timing the levy of rates to take into account the financial cycle of local economic activity, in order to assist smooth running of the local economy
- equity through flexible payment arrangements for ratepayers with a lower ability to generate wealth from the land.

4. Principles used for the recovery of rates and charges

WTA requires payment of rates and charges within the specified period. WTA will exercise its rate recovery powers in order to reduce the overall rate burden on ratepayers. It is WTA's policy to pursue the collection of outstanding rates and charges but with due concern for any financial hardship faced by the relevant ratepayer. To this end WTA has established administrative processes that allow for the payment of rates

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and charges by installment and for the selection of various options (including legal action) for the recovery of debt.

WTA will be guided by the principles of:

- transparency by making clear the obligations of ratepayers and the processes used by WTA in assisting them meet their financial obligations
- making the processes used to recover outstanding rates and charges clear, simple to administer and cost effective
- ability to generate wealth from the land in determining appropriate arrangements for different sectors of the community
- equity by having regard to providing the same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances
- flexibility by responding where necessary to changes in the local economy.

5. Concessions for rates and charges

WTA grants a remission of general rates if the owner of the land is a pensioner.

In considering the application of concessions, WTA will be guided by the principles of equity by having regard to the different levels of ability to generate wealth from the land within the local community:

- the same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances
- transparency by making clear the requirements necessary to receive concessions
- flexibility to allow WTA to respond to local economic issues.

Consideration may be given by WTA to granting a class concession in the event all or part of the local government area is declared a natural disaster area by the State Government.

6. Infrastructure Charges for a new development

Infrastructure Charges are levied by an Infrastructure Charges Notice issued with a development approval. Infrastructure Charges contribute to the provision of trunk infrastructure contained in WTA's Local Government Infrastructure Plan for: trunk water supply, sewerage, transport, and parks and land for community facilities networks that support growth and development within the township.

Infrastructure Charge rates are contained in the 'Weipa Town Authority Charges Resolution (No. 2) 2023', which commenced on 22 March 2023. Infrastructure charge rates are identified for particular types of development that are no greater than the maximum amount for each charge contained in the *Planning Regulation 2017*. Quarterly increases are applied to the Infrastructure Charge rates using the Producer Price Index (PPI).

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