



# Annual Plan and Budget

## 2024-25

Including forward estimates  
2025-26 to 2027-28

Presented and submitted to the Council on  
Wednesday 12 June 2024 by the Right Honourable the  
Lord Mayor of Brisbane (Councillor Adrian Schrinner)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

## Revenue Policy 2024-25

### 1. LEGISLATION

Section 160(2) of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) provides that Council's budget must include a revenue policy. The revenue policy must comply with section 185 of the Regulation and be reviewed annually for each financial year.

### 2. OVERVIEW

This policy states:

- (a) the principles that Council intends to apply in the 2024-25 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 Council 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.

### 3. APPLICABILITY

This policy will apply to the financial year commencing 1 July 2024 and ending 30 June 2025.

This policy contains principles to be used in preparing the budget. It will also be used when preparing, reviewing and applying related policies, procedures and guidelines which apply during the 2024-25 financial year.

This policy is part of Council's budget. The budget will be available for inspection at Council's public office and on its website at [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au).

### 4. POLICY

#### 4.1 Revenue raising principles

- (a) Levying rates and charges

In making and levying rates and charges, Council must comply with the requirements of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (COBA) and the Regulation.

Council applies the following principles when making and levying rates and charges.

- **Equity and fairness** – providing an equitable payment system that provides a range of payment options for ratepayers to pay the rates and charges and clear roles and responsibilities for Council and the ratepayer.
- **User pays** – when appropriate, levying rates and charges directly on specific users of services and facilities to help alleviate the costs associated with the provision of the service or facility on the general community.
- **Equity for like properties** – ensuring parcels of similarly valued land (based on land valuations) that are used for the same or similar purposes, and receive services are levied similar general rates.
- **Meaningful contribution** – adopting a differential rating system to identify properties with similar characteristics and levying differential general rates on each category to ensure that all properties provide a meaningful contribution to the costs of Council providing services or facilities.
- **Efficiency** – structuring Council's rating system to align with the financial cycle of local economic activity and assist with community understanding of Council's rating system.

(b) Granting concessions for rates and charges

In considering the application of concessions, Council will be guided by the principles of:

- **Equity** – providing an equitable rating system by reference to the value or quality of land within the local community
- **Equality** – providing the same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances
- **Transparency** – ensuring that the criteria for receiving concessions is clear
- **Flexibility** – allow Council to respond to local economic issues and
- **Responsiveness** – ensuring that Council’s rating system is responsive to community expectations of what activities should attract assistance from Council.

(c) Recovering overdue rates and charges

Council will exercise its rate recovery powers pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4, Part 12 of the Regulation in order to reduce the overall rate burden on ratepayers. It will be guided by the principles of:

- **Transparency** – ensuring that the obligations of ratepayers and the processes used by Council in assisting them to meet their financial obligations are clear
- **Clarity and cost effectiveness** – providing a clear process to recover overdue rates and charges
- **Equity** – providing appropriate arrangements for different sectors of the community
- **Equality** – providing the same treatment for ratepayers with similar circumstances and
- **Flexibility** – ensuring Council is able to respond where necessary to changes in the local economy.

(d) Cost-recovery fees

Pursuant to section 99 of COBA, Council may, under a local law or by resolution, establish fees to recover costs associated with the provision of certain activities or services.

Council will be guided by the principles of:

- **Clarity** – ensuring cost drivers associated with the cost-recovery fees are identified and
- **Neutrality** – ensuring that the cost-recovery fee is not more than the cost to Council of taking the action for which the fee is charged
- **Transparency** – Council will make its register of cost-recovery fees available for inspection at Council’s public office and on its website at [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au)

In accordance with section 100 of COBA, Council will make the register of cost-recovery fees publicly available.

#### 4.2 Purpose of concessions for rates and charges

The purpose of the concessions for rates and charges to be granted by Council for the 2024-25 financial year are stated in the following table.

Concession for rates and charges	Purpose for the concession
Concession to pensioners who comply with the criteria set out in the <i>Pensioners Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy</i> .	Assist pensioners to reduce their overall cost of living and to provide a consistent approach to granting rebates to eligible pensioners.
Concession to not-for-profit organisations that comply with the criteria set out in the <i>Not-for-profit Organisations Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy</i> .	Support the social benefit of the principal activities of eligible not-for-profit organisations.
Concession to not-for-profit kindergartens that comply with the criteria set out in the <i>Not-for-profit Kindergartens Partial Rebate of Rates and Charges Policy</i> .	Support the social and educational benefits of the principal activities of eligible not-for-profit kindergartens.

Concession for rates and charges	Purpose for the concession
Concession to not-for-profit organisations that comply with the criteria set out in the <i>Not-for-profit Affordable Housing Providers Partial Rebate of General Rates Policy</i> .	Support the social benefit of the principal activities of eligible not-for-profit affordable housing providers.
Concession to pensioners who are experiencing hardship due to the payment of rates and charges in accordance with the <i>Payment of Overdue Rates and Charges Policy</i> .	Support eligible pensioners where the payment of rates and charges has or will affect their wellbeing in a way that is considered to be an unreasonable outcome based on present community standards.

These concessions have been made available in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4, Part 10 of the Regulation.

#### **4.3 Funding of physical and social infrastructure costs for developments**

Council will levy infrastructure charges for development infrastructure with development approvals for new development. The amounts of those infrastructure charges are determined by the adoption and levying of infrastructure charges in accordance with the *Planning Act 2016*.

#### **5. Authority**

Council, 20 June 2024

#### **6. POLICY OWNER**

Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Organisational Services

#### **7. FURTHER ASSISTANCE**

For further information, please refer to Council's website at [brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://brisbane.qld.gov.au)

#### **8. RELATED INFORMATION**

This policy is Council's strategic revenue policy.

There are various administrative policies and arrangements that make up the total Council response to revenue management.

#### **9. REVIEW DATE**

The policy must be reviewed annually and in sufficient time to allow an annual budget that is consistent with this policy to be adopted for the next financial year.