

## MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2026

### **OPERATIONAL PLAN 2026-2027 PUBLIC EXHIBITION PROPOSED CHANGES TO COUNCIL GENERAL RATES AND WASTE CHARGES**

The Norfolk Island Regional Council (Council) has placed the following key documents under Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework on public exhibition:

- Community Strategic Plan 2026-2036
- The combined Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026-2027, which also incorporates the Revenue Policy Statement, Annual Budget, Schedule of Fees and Charges, and the Long-Term Financial Plan (2026-2036) for the 2026-2027 financial year.

These are significant documents that guide Council's strategic direction and service delivery for the community. During the public exhibition period, Council will provide additional information through media releases and social media, and will also hold public meetings to enable the community to access relevant information and ask questions directly of Executive Management. Details of the public meetings will be advised shortly.

Council is expecting a 2026-2027 budget shortfall of \$6.3 million to implement its proposed operational plan, which includes delivery of traditional local government services, as well as federal and state-type services delivered on behalf of other units of government. The portion of the deficit attributable to traditional local government services is approximately \$357,000. Council continues to negotiate with the Commonwealth government to alleviate the financial burden from federal and state-type services delivered by Council.

#### **General Rates**

To keep the portion of the budget deficit attributable to traditional local government services as low as possible, Council is proposing to increase general rates revenue by 3.5% in aggregate during 2026–2027. This 3.5% aggregate increase will yield an additional \$70,000 in general rates revenue to help Council deliver local government services and will be divided amongst all rated properties through a combination of a base rate and a property-value (ad valorem) based rate assessment. For that reason, while the aggregate levy is increasing 3.5%, the change in rates assessments for individual properties may vary to greater or less than 3.5%, depending on the property value and rating category. Further information about the general rates levy can be found in the proposed Statement of Revenue Policy, which starts on Page 112 of the draft Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026-2027.

#### **Waste Management Charges**

Waste management charges are assessed in conjunction with general rates.

Charges which apply to domestic and commercial waste management are determined in accordance with the recovery of costs to manage waste on Norfolk Island, which continues to grow more expensive and complex. The total amount to be levied via the waste management charge in 2026-

2027 is \$1,263,376 million, an aggregate increase of 3.5% from 2025-2026. Since the waste management charge is not based upon property value like general rates, a flat 3.5% increase in charges has been applied to all rating categories and rateable properties included therein.

### **Estimated Impacts**

Indicative changes to general rates assessments and waste management charges are displayed below based on a random selection of rateable properties within selected rating categories. Please note that the actual general rates assessment changes for individual properties within each rating category will vary. The information below is designed to advise community stakeholders of the magnitude of the proposed changes.

- Residential Small, Valuation \$150,000; General Rates Increase: \$12.35, Waste Charge Increase: \$11.52
- Residential Medium, Valuation \$225,000; General Rates Increase: \$21.09, Waste Charge Increase: \$15.79
- Residential Large, Valuation \$500,000; General Rates Increase: \$43.86, Waste Charge Increase: \$23.69
- Farmland Medium, Valuation \$280,000; General Rates Increase: \$57.09, Waste Charge Increase: \$15.79
- Accommodation B, Valuation \$485,000; General Rates Increase: \$599.11, Waste Charge Increase: \$5.11 (per unit)
- Cafe/Restaurant A, Valuation \$127,050; General Rates Increase: \$139.84, Waste Charge Increase: \$124.08

To view all the documents and to make a public submission, follow the instructions on Council's Public Exhibitions page ([www.nirc.gov.au/Public-Exhibition](http://www.nirc.gov.au/Public-Exhibition)) and provide feedback before the **submission closing date of: 4:00pm on 29 June 2026.**

Hard copies of the documents are available for viewing at Customer Care in the Bicentennial Complex, Taylors Road. For enquiries contact Customer Care on local free call 0100 or +6723 22001 or [customercare@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:customercare@nirc.gov.nf).

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