

### Item: 7.3

## Adoption of Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29

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### Additional Information – Submissions Process

At its meeting on 25 March 2025, Council endorsed the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan to place it on public exhibition for four weeks and seeking submissions in response to the draft plan. The period of four weeks for the exhibition of the plan was determined in order to ensure the plan could be adopted in time to be incorporated into the 2025-26 budget process.

A meeting of Council's Submissions Committee was held on 13 May 2025 where Councillors were provided with all the written submissions that were made and where submitters were provided with the opportunity to speak to their submission if they wanted to. In total, there were 34 submissions received, and one submitter spoke to their submission at that meeting.

The themes arising from the submission included:

- Support for the proposed decrease to the Rural Farm differential and increase to the Holiday Rental differential (2 submissions) - These submissions recognised the need to support farmers in the current conditions, particularly the drought conditions being experienced.
- Opposition to the proposed decrease to the Rural Farm differential (17 submissions) – The general sentiment expressed through these submissions was that decreasing the differential for those in Rural Farming properties would mean a decrease in the farming share of the rate burden, which would mean that the burden would have to be shared by rate payers in the rest of the shire, which was unfair.
- Opposition to the proposed increase in the Holiday Rental Differential (5 submissions) - The general sentiment expressed through these submissions was that the availability of short stay accommodation was important to supporting those areas that rely on tourism and increasing the cost would price tourists out of the area. This would be detrimental to those areas as well as to the income that those property owners rely on.
- Objection to rate increases generally (9 submissions) – These submissions expressed views on the increase in rates generally, the impact on ratepayers

and families, and did not address the proposed changes to the rating differentials specifically.

- Budget request (1 submission) – The submission was requesting funding for a neighbourhood character study.

In considering the submissions received, it is recommended that there be no change to the proposed rating differential framework outlined in the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan. As mentioned, a more extensive and comprehensive review of Council's Revenue and Rating Plan will be undertaken over the coming months to inform the 2026-27 budget process.