

# **Late Items Ordinary Meeting Agenda**

**15 July 2025**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **Meeting of Maitland City Council** will be held in the **Council Chambers, Town Hall, High Street, Maitland**, commencing at **5.30pm**.

**Jeff Smith**  
**General Manager**

**Please note:**

Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office to undertake their duties in the best interests of the people of the City and Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993, or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement. Councillors are also reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

In accordance with the NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, you are advised that all discussion held during the Open Council meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, Staff member or a member of the public.

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## 9 MAYORAL MINUTE

### 9.2 COST SHIFTING ONTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FILE NO: 35/5/1  
ATTACHMENTS: Nil  
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager  
AUTHOR: Mayor

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#### MAYORAL MINUTE

##### THAT:

- 1. Council note the findings of the LGNSW Cost Shifting report for the 2023/2024 financial year; and***
- 2. A copy of the cost shifting report be placed on Council's website so that our communities can access it; and***
- 3. Council writes to the Premier, the NSW Treasurer, NSW Minister for Local Government, and the Member for Maitland seeking that they urgently address these costs through a combination of regulatory reform and appropriate funding.***

#### REPORT

The pressure on councils to maintain services of appropriate standard that meet the needs of our communities has reached unprecedented levels.

The unrelenting growth of cost shifting to councils, coupled with rate pegging and insufficient state and federal funding, is increasingly eroding the possibility of financially sustainable local government and risking the capacity of councils to deliver the essential infrastructure and services required by their communities.

The latest research commissioned by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) shows that the increase in cost shifting has continued unabated by various State and Federal Government policies.

The cost shifting report, produced by independent consultants Morrison Low for the 2023/2024 financial year, reveals that \$1.5 billion of expense has been imposed on councils. This is an increase of approximately \$140 million (10 per cent) since the last report for the 2021/22 financial year, when the total cost shift was estimated at \$1.36 billion.

On average, this also now represents an inflated cost of \$497.40 for each ratepayer, an increase of \$36.72 from 2021/22. It is unfair to our communities that such a large portion of their rates are being diverted away from local priorities.

(The full report is available online at [www.lgnsw.org.au/costshifting](http://www.lgnsw.org.au/costshifting))