



Cook Shire
COUNCIL

DRAFT BUDGET

2022-23

COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION

Waantharra

Welcome (Guugu Yimithirr)

Cook Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout the Shire and recognises their continuing connection to lands, water and community. We pay our respects to the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across our Shire and to elders and leaders past, present and emerging.

Cook Shire Council's budget is highly complex with revenue derived from a number of sources and expended to deliver a wide range of community services. Council's proposed 2022–23 budget of \$73.8 million aims to balance revenue and expenses with community needs and expectations.

Cook Shire Council continues to deliver a responsible budget that balances the costs of delivering essential services, the maintenance and renewal of the Shire's facilities and critical infrastructure and the provision of a broad range of community programs that enhance the liveability of the Shire, with available revenue. Conscious of the cost of living pressures experienced in our community Council has decided to limit the operational deficit for 2022–23 as far as possible.

This document summarises Cook Shire Council's draft 2022–23 Annual Budget. The primary focus of this document is to give ratepayers, residents and businesses an opportunity to let Council know what is important, to propose ideas, or advise any areas of concern about the way the budget is allocated before it is presented to Council for final review and adoption.



Get involved

Your review of the draft budget and your comments are important to Council and we ask that you click on the below and comment on the following:

Do you think the proposed budget has achieved a balance between provision of essential services, delivery of community services, and maintenance of infrastructure and capital works?

How do you think the budget could be improved to better meet the lifestyles and aspirations of ratepayers and residents across the Shire?

How would you allocate \$100 across the following key service delivery areas:

- Community Liveability
- Community Facilities
- Corporate Administration
- Essential Services
- Roads, Footpaths, Drainage and Public Works

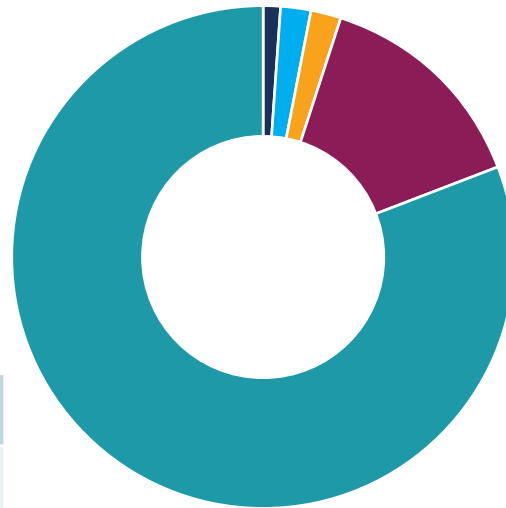


WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

Council's projected operating revenue of \$64 million comes from a number of sources, with the majority collected through State and Federal Government grants for both operational and capital purposes. Council's own source revenue is made up of rates, charges for services such as water, sewerage and waste, sale of goods, fees and charges for other services and revenue sources such as lease fees.

WHERE EVERY \$100 COMES FROM

■ Grants	\$81
■ Rates and Charges	\$14
■ Sales Revenue	\$2
■ User Fees and Charges	\$2
■ Other Income	\$1



Grants	\$52.1m
Rates and Charges	\$ 9.1m
Sales Revenue	\$ 0.9m
User Fees and Changes	\$ 1.1m
Other Income	\$ 0.8m

R A T E S

When setting rates, levies and utility charges Council carefully ensures all other revenue streams are optimised, operational expenses reflect the real cost of service delivery and capital works ensure the continuity of essential services, transport networks and maintenance of Council's \$308 million asset base.

In the coming budget, Council is proposing a 3% increase in general rates. Ratepayers who have access to water, sewerage and waste disposal will also notice a minimum 5% increase in the services as council moves slowly towards recovering the costs of delivery of these services across the Shire:

- For a Cooktown residential property with valuation of up to \$113,000 and on a minimum general rate and all utility charges, the increase for the year will be \$118.65 or \$2.28 per week.
- For a Cooktown residential property with valuation of up \$248,000 and all utility charges, the expected increase for the year is \$132.65 or \$2.55 per week.
- A residential property in Coen with a valuation of \$130,000 and all utility charges, can expect an annual increase of \$214.60 or \$4.13 per week.

EXPENSES

WHERE OUR MONEY IS SPENT

Cook Shire Council is committed to making the Shire a vibrant place to live and work and an exciting place to visit. In 2022–23, the expected operational cost of delivering on this commitment (excluding depreciation) will be \$73.8 million.

Corporate Administration	\$3.6m
Community Facilities	\$4.7m
Essential Services	\$7.2m
Community Liveability	\$8.8m
Depreciation	\$12.1m
Roads, Footpaths, Drainage and Public Works (inc DRFA)	\$37.4m

HOW WE SPEND EVERY \$100

Corporate Administration	\$5
Community Facilities	\$6
Essential Services	\$10
Community Liveability	\$12
Depreciation	\$16
Roads, Footpaths, Drainage and Public Works (inc DRFA)	\$51



Community Liveability \$8.8M

Ensuring Cook Shire remains a great place to live by conducting health inspections, promoting responsible pet ownership, supporting and promoting tourism, supporting our businesses, delivering community events, preparing and responding to disasters and enhancing Bama partnerships.

Community Facilities \$4.7M

Providing a range of Community Facilities accessible by the community for little or no cost. Community facilities include the pool, libraries, community halls, public toilets, pensioner units, parks and gardens, galleries, airports, sports fields, the PCYC and buildings occupied by community groups.

Corporate Administration \$3.6M

Managing the internal functions of Council, including compliance with State and Federal legislation, record keeping, finance, information technology, human resource management and costs associated with Councillors and Council meetings.



Essential Services \$7.2M

Ensuring the supply of water and provision of sewerage services through 7 treatment plants, operating 12 waste disposal facilities and, ensuring household waste is collected kerbside from approximately 1500 properties across the Shire.

Roads, Footpaths, Drainage and Public Works \$37.4M

Maintaining roads, kerbs, bridges, footpaths, drains, car parks and boat ramps including works funded under Council's DRFA program.

Depreciation \$12.1M

An accounting method of allocating funds to replace an asset when it reaches the end of its useful life.



Depreciation represents the decline in value of Council's assets. This is impacted by age and condition as well as disposal, purchase or construction of assets. Council's depreciation expense for 2022–23 is \$12.1 million. When the depreciation expense is added to the operational budget, the results show a net operating deficit of \$9.8 million. The deficit represents the higher depreciation burden per rateable property experienced in Cook when compared to the neighbouring councils of Cairns, Douglas, Mareeba and Tablelands.

CAPITAL WORKS

Council has taken a conservative approach to the Capital Works Program for 2022–23. As a result of the uncertainty related to escalating costs of construction and transport, and a state-wide shortage of available trades and contractors, the Capital program was limited to projects that Council has previously committed to through either full or part grant funding and Council funded projects that had commenced prior to the development of this year's budget. In the coming financial year, council is committed to completing \$25.3 million in capital works of which \$23.9 million is externally funded.

The draft capital works program details a further \$3.4 million worth of capital projects for which Council has applied for external funding and has a prioritised list of identified projects for consideration when funding becomes available.

DRAFT CAPITAL BUDGET

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Council's draft 2022–23 Operational Plan has been developed to deliver on the themes and strategies identified in Council's recently adopted corporate Plan 2022-2027.

The activities detailed in the draft Operational Plan have been developed to be incorporated into current operations wherever possible. An allocation of \$155,000 has been made within the draft budget to fund initiatives proposed in the plan that are in excess of current operational costs.

DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN

