

# Quarterly budget review

Each quarter we review our budget and prepare a Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

These statements are reported to Council in accordance with local government regulations and we have committed to present the statements in a simplified form in this newsletter. The Quarterly Budget Review Statement looks at the figures by: Fund and Service, Capital expenditure, Cash and reserves, Key performance indicators, Contracts, Consultancy and legal, and Loans.

In this summary we look at the General Fund operating performance ratio.

► To read the complete statements head to [bit.ly/QPRC-QBRS](https://bit.ly/QPRC-QBRS)

**Council's financial position will begin to improve from 1 July due to the rate variation.**

The operating performance ratio measures whether Council has enough income to pay for its annual expenses. A positive ratio ensures that current ratepayers are paying for the community services and infrastructure they consume without leaving a debt for future ratepayers.

The graph shows that we are still in a negative ratio at the end of the 2022-23 financial year, however, the introduction of the Special Rate Variation from 1 July will improve the General Fund financial projections over the next 3 years.

## General Fund Operating Performance Ratio



Read the complete statements at [bit.ly/QPRC-QBRS](https://bit.ly/QPRC-QBRS)

# QPRC news

Official Newsletter of  
Queanbeyan-Palerang  
Regional Council

August 2023

## Bungendore Pool

We have accepted the NSW Department of Education's offer to extend the lease of the Bungendore Swimming Pool until 31 March 2024, following a community petition tabled at the 12 April Council Meeting.

This means that the existing Bungendore pool will reopen for another season before the area is redeveloped by the Department of Education.

In the meantime Council staff have been working with the Bungendore community to develop concept designs for the new pool.

The community have shared their vision for the long-term development of an aquatic facility to service Bungendore's growing community. This includes the extension of the project, if additional funding is secured, to a fully enclosed pool that can be used all year round.

Council have endorsed the concept plans for the new Bungendore Pool as an enclosed aquatic facility at the new Bungendore Sports Hub on Halfway Creek Road. The concept includes an 8 lane 25m heated swimming pool, a wet play area, amenities, canteen/café area, playground and shade structures.

Council also agreed to proceed to a Design and Construct Tender for the enclosed Bungendore Pool with design specifications that allow the project to be built in two stages. This means that the build can begin if only part of the funding is secured and can then be enclosed in the future.

We are working to progress the funding and construction of the new Bungendore Swimming Pool at the Bungendore Sports Hub ready for the 2024-25 season.



## IPART Review of the Rate Peg

IPART are working on a review of their rate peg methodology. The draft document was released in June and provided a series of recommendations to improve the way the existing system works. Their key changes included introducing a new 'Base Cost Change model' (BCC) that should better align councils with the national financial climate and to separate the BCC models into three groups (metropolitan, regional and rural).

Council have provided feedback on the draft recommendations and await the final report in late August.



## Regional Sports Complex

The Regional Sports Complex in Jerrabomberra is progressing well.

Natural turf has been laid on two soccer pitches, and the artificial soccer specific and hockey specific fields are also complete.

The first pavilion's exterior is almost complete and the major pavilion will have its remaining trusses installed this month.



## FOGO habits

It's important to remember that the FOGO bin is only for food scraps and garden waste.

Things that CAN'T go in the FOGO bin include:

- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Wood ash
- ✗ Nappies or wipes
- ✗ Pet poo or kitty litter
- ✗ Paper towel
- ✗ Cardboard
- ✗ Building waste, dirt or gravel

► Read more at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/FOGO](https://qprc.nsw.gov.au/FOGO)

## Recycling Centres

If you're moving, reorganising, or cleaning up at home remember our Community Recycling Centres can take all kinds of difficult waste.

Drop-off things like gas bottles, dead batteries, half finished tins of paint, or old fluoros at 5 Lorn Road Queanbeyan and 210 Tarago Road Bungendore.

► Learn more at [cleanout.com.au](https://cleanout.com.au)



## Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant

The Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant (QSTP) has been treating Queanbeyan's sewage since its construction in the mid-1930s and Council has been in the process of planning its replacement.

This major project will provide additional capacity for our growing population and improve treatment reliability. The existing plant is just across the border in the ACT and, as the replacement will be on the same site, this project involves working closely with the ACT Government. Since our last update the Environmental Impact Statement has been approved by the Minister for Planning and Land Management.

This allows us to make the important next step, which is to lodge the Development Application, and that means we can apply for further funding.

► Read more about the project at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/QSTP](https://qprc.nsw.gov.au/QSTP)



# QPRC

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[yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au)

This newsletter was printed and expected to be delivered in early-August.





## CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Contact information can be found at [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/councillors](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/councillors) or follow the convention [cr.firstname.lastname@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.firstname.lastname@qprc.nsw.gov.au)



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CR KENRICK WINCHESTER

Since our last edition we celebrated NAIDOC Week with our community in Queanbeyan, marked the Freedom of Entry march with HMAS Harman, adopted our integrated planning and reporting documents for the next financial year, and held a wrapping up recovery event in Braidwood.

In the next month we will be continuing work on Araluen Road, progressing access to the Bungendore Sports Hub and working on cricket nets at the Braidwood Rec Ground. We will also host a community screening of The Last Daughter with the Southern NSW Local Health District.



## Braidwood Pool refurbishment

Upgrades to the Braidwood Pool are underway. This stage of the project includes upgrades to the changerooms, entrance, kiosk and heating improvements. Works are expected to be finished around October, just in time for the scheduled pool season which starts in November. These works have been funded through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund and the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



## Affordable Housing Strategy

The QPRC Affordable Housing Strategy was adopted in June.

Affordable housing, while a state and federal responsibility, must have collaboration from all levels of government to actively improve access to housing.

The document outlines 17 strategies and recommends that Council adopt key performance indicators, review planning control amendments and zoning, and explore Affordable Housing Development Contributions for land release areas.

► Read more at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/strategies-and-plans](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/strategies-and-plans)

## Upcoming shows at The Q

### COIL | 8-9 AUGUST

Re:group mash theatre and cinema together to pay tribute to the glory days of the video store. Explore the joys and perils of nostalgia and moving on.

### THE LAST DAUGHTER | 10 AUGUST

This documentary follows Brenda from a loving white foster family to her Aboriginal family, uncovering long-buried secrets, government lies, and the possibility for deeper connections to family and culture along the way.

### JUST LIVE ON STAGE! | 11-12 AUGUST (for kids!)

In the world of Andy Griffiths' JUST books this show brings to life everything from invisibility pills and Mudmen, to vomiting dogs and death defying balloon rides.

### TIM | 25-26 AUGUST MAY

Based on the novel by Colleen McCullough this show explores love, loss and acceptance set in the modern day.

### I AM WOMAN | 8 SEPTEMBER

Join award-winning cabaret powerhouses Amelia Ryan and Libby O'Donovan in a celebration of songs and stories from 1960s Australia.

### MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT | 12-30 SEPTEMBER

The Monty Python comedy classic has been adapted into an hilariously entertaining musical that will have you laughing until your sides hurt.



For tickets go to [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au) or call 6285 6290

## About your general rates

Learn more about changes to the general rates portion of your notices.

We use a base rate system. This system has two parts:

- A set rate (base rate) and
- A variable rate (ad valorem) multiplied by the unimproved land value (cents in the dollar land valuation).

Base rate income funds the cost of services and operations and ad valorem income recovers the cost of infrastructure. In this way, all assessments pay a proportionate share toward the cost of infrastructure based on their land value and the base charge is used to set a pricing difference for the type, quality and scope of services provided in different areas.

In 2023-24, we will be reviewing our rating structure. We will be looking at how the rating structure can best reflect the levels of service provided to different areas. This review will not result in an increase in Council's income above the rate variation amount.

## Rate Variation

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal approved our application for a rate variation of 18% for three years. This means that the total pool of general rates that Council collects will increase by 18% this year.

► Read more at [qprc.nsw.gov.au/SRV2023](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/SRV2023)

## Our Hardship Policy

We have a financial hardship policy to support ratepayers who may be in a situation beyond their control.

We can defer payments and arrange interest free payment arrangements for up to two years. All applications are assessed against the eligibility conditions in our policy.

If you are experiencing financial hardship please seek assistance by calling us on **1300 735 025** or completing the form on our website.

## Find more information

Apply for the pensioner concession or for rate relief under the hardship policy on our website.

This page also includes information about how rates are calculated, links to pay online, how to sign up to receive rates electronically, how to read rates and water notices, methods of payment, and more.

► Scan the QR Code [qprc.nsw.gov.au/rates-and-payments](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/rates-and-payments)



## Pensioner Rebate

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, some pensioners can receive concessions on their rates. Pensioners can get a maximum rebate of \$465. This includes \$250 on the general rate, \$87.50 on water charges, and \$87.50 on sewerage charges.

On top of this, Council provides an additional \$40 pensioner rebate that is now available for all pensioners across Queanbeyan-Palerang.

If you receive a pension or benefit you may be eligible for a concession even though someone else may jointly own and occupy the property.

## 2023-24 Budget

The 2023-24 budget has been built on the premise that existing services will be maintained. The budget process has presented many challenges to Council as it attempts to address its long-term financial sustainability.

There are many factors that have led Council to this position, including long-term operating deficits, increased service levels post-merger along with an infrastructure backlog, and service costs increasing more than the income received by those additional ratepayers.

While Council is progressing with a Special Rate Variation, we are also making tough budget decisions to reduce costs. Savings of \$5.5m are required each year and have been identified in capital and operational projects.

As the SRV takes effect, we will have a reduced asset renewal program. This means that capital improvements and new facilities will be deferred if they cannot be grant funded. Normal maintenance and emergency repairs will continue to be provided through our operational budget.

Our roads are important to the community and we have increased our road renewal budget as we continue to restore our local roads.

## YourVoice

Have your say on policies, proposals, and projects at [yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au)