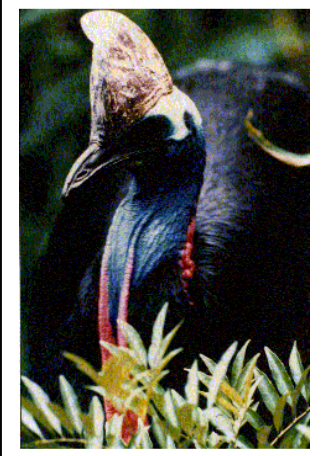


Ratepayer Information 2006-2007



DISCLAIMER

This Brochure has been prepared as a guide to Ratepayers. It is not meant to be a comprehensive document covering all Shire and Ratepayer requirements nor is it a Legal Document in so far as the application of Laws and Regulation is concerned. It has been prepared to help you.

IN A LIFE THREATENING OR TIME CRITICAL EMERGENCY DIAL "000"

**FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME,
DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24 HOUR SERVICE**

For general queries to individual stations see below:-

Police Stations

Innisfail	4061 5777
South Johnstone	4064 2220
Mourilyan	4063 2220
El Arish	4068 5120
Silkwood	4065 2200
Mission Beach	4068 8422
Tully	4068 1200

Ambulances Stations

Non Emergency Transports	13 12 33
General Enquiries	1300 369 003

Fire Stations

Innisfail	4061 0610
El Arish	4068 5201
Kurrimine Beach	4065 6370
Mission Beach	4068 8200
Tully	4068 1519

Domestic Violence - Free Call	1800 811811
Poisons Information Centre	13 11 26
Innisfail SES	4061 2366

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Councillors

Cr. Neil Clarke (Mayor) 6 Gartmore Close, Innisfail Q 4860	Ph. 4061 3482
Cr. Kevin. Adams (Div.4) PO Box 103, Mourilyan Q 4858	Ph. 4065 4761
Cr. Wayne Kimberley (Div.5) 38 Chauvel Street, El Arish Q 4855	Ph. 4068 5515
Cr. Thomas Mauloni (Div 6) PO Box 1031, Innisfail Q 4860	Ph 4065 3310
Cr Mark Nolan (Div.1) 100 River Avenue, Innisfail Q 4860	Ph 4061 3942
Cr David McCarthy (Div.3) MS 216, Innisfail Q 4860	Ph. 4064 5142
Cr. George Pervan (Div.2) PO Box 1845, Innisfail Q 4860	Ph. 4061 4713
Cr. Johanne Stitt (Div.1) PO Box 979, Innisfail Q 4860	Ph. 4061 3129
Cr June Sue Yek (Div.1) PO Box 46, Innisfail Q 4860	Ph. 4061 2758

Council Senior Management

Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr Mathew McGoldrick

Department Directors:

Corporate Services	Mr Matthew McGoldrick
Shire Services	Mr Bob Devine
Works & Services	Mr David Trotter

Departments

General	4030 2222
Building	4030 2265
Community Services	4030 2255
Engineering Services	4030 2272
Environmental Protection	4030 2264
Family Day Care	4030 2254
Health	4030 2265
Library	4030 2249
Rates	4030 2222
Shire Planning	4030 2264
Water Conservation	4030 2264

After Hours Emergencies **4030 2222**

Council's 24 Hour Emergency Call Service is for Emergency Calls Only outside normal business hours. The service operates between the hours of 4:45pm and 8:30am, Monday to Friday and 24 hours a day on Saturday and Sundays.

Council Website: www.jsc.qld.gov.au
Email address: johnstonesc@jsc.qld.gov.au

Writing to Councillors and Staff

All correspondence should be directed to The Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 887, Innisfail Qld 4860. Facsimile can be sent to 4061 4258 and electronic mail to johnstonesc@jsc.qld.gov.au.

Telephoning Councillors and Officers

Councillors can be contacted by phone, or messages left through customer service staff on Council's general number. Where possible, appointments should be made to see Council's senior staff.

GENERAL RATE

Johnstone Shire Council has adopted a Differential General Rating policy pursuant to Section 963 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The following rate in the dollar are the various categories which have been adopted by Council:-

Category	Rate in the dollar	Minimum
Category A	0.72360	\$616.00
Category AA	0.61506	\$2315.00
Category B	0.72360	\$616.00
Category BB	0.61506	\$2315.00
Category C	3.72520	\$616.00
Category D	2.16560	\$616.00
Category E	1.48470	\$616.00
Category F	1.30890	\$616.00
Category G	1.60800	\$616.00
Category H	1.87600	\$616.00
Category I	1.62000	\$616.00
Category II	1.66500	\$4950.00
Category J	15.93180	\$616.00
Category K	6.02399	\$616.00
Category L	1.65000	\$616.00
Category M	0.77000	\$616.00

The amount of rates and charges you pay depends on the particular category in which your property is listed. Each different category is levied at a certain rate in the dollar on the valuation of the property. The category of your property is shown on the front of your notice.

The rating periods for the financial year are the 1st of July to the 31st December and the 1st of January to the 30th of June each year, with the notices for the period issued around the end of July and the end of January retrospectively. All rates are due and payable within 30 days of the date of issue of the notice.

Any landowner may object to the categorisation of their land by giving notice to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines with regards to their land use code or valuation.

Any landowner may object to the categorisation of their land by giving notice to the Council with regards to their categorisation. A notice of objection in the form of a letter in writing to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines may be made within 30 days after the date of issue of the rate notice.

Category A

Residential properties in the suburbs listed as Mission Beach, Bingil Bay, Garners Beach with a valuation less than \$320,000

Category AA

Residential properties in the suburbs listed as Mission Beach, Bingil Bay, Garners Beach with a valuation more than \$320,000

Category B

Residential properties in the suburbs listed as Cowley Beach, Kurrimine Beach, Coquette Point, Flying Fish Point, Etty Bay, Mourilyan Harbour, Coconuts with a valuation less than \$320,000

Category BB

Residential properties in the suburbs listed as Cowley Beach, Kurrimine Beach, Coquette Point, Flying Fish Point, Etty Bay, Mourilyan Harbour, Coconuts with a valuation more than \$320,000

Category C

Primary Production all properties with a land use from 60 to 90,93

Category D

Rural Residential North—All residential properties outside the areas listed in Category A, B, E, F, G, H north of Liverpool Creek

Category E

Rural Residential South—All residential properties outside the areas listed in Category A, B, D, F, G, H south of Liverpool Creek

Category F

Innisfail Residential including Belvedere, Cullinane, Innisfail Estate, Goondi, East Innisfail, Mighell

Category G

Small Townships including South Johnstone, Silkwood, El Arish, Wangan, Mourilyan

Category H

Properties in the suburbs listed as Mundoo, Martyville, Garradunga, Daradgee, Boogan, Moresby, Mena Creek, Japoonvale, East Palmerston, Sundown, Eubenangee, Jubilee, Eaton, Stoters Hill

Category I

Commercial—Innisfail CBD with a valuation under \$300,000

Category II

Commercial – Innisfail CBD with a valuation over \$300,000

Category J

Processing of Sugar Cane

Category K

Meat processing; Heavy foundry & Sugar Terminal purposes

Category L

Commercial— Not in CBD area and not in Category M

Category M

Commercial properties in the following suburbs
Mission Beach, Bingil Bay, Garners Beach, Cowley Beach, Kurrimine Beach, Coquette Point, Flying Fish Point, Etty Bay, Mourilyan Harbour, Coconuts

Residential properties are properties with a land use between 01 and 09 (excluding 07) and 72 and 94.

WATER CHARGES

Water Access- 20 mm	\$222.00 per meter
Water Access- > 20mm	\$476.00 per meter
Water Access Unconnected	\$222.00 per vacant parcel

Water Usage Charge less than 550kl	\$0.40 per kilolitre
Water Usage Charge >greater than 550kl	\$0.80 per kilolitre

SEWERAGE CHARGES

Innisfail

Sewerage vacant	\$414.40 per vacant lot
Sewerage Residential	\$496.00 per dwelling
Sewerage Commercial	\$496.00 per parcel
Sewerage per pedestal	\$348.00 per pedestal

Mission Beach

Sewerage vacant	\$280.54 per vacant lot
Sewerage Residential	\$467.56 per dwelling
Sewerage Commercial	\$467.56 per parcel
Sewerage per pedestal	\$358.16 per pedestal

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Garbage separated	\$230.00 per service
Garbage unseparated	\$290.00 per service

SEPARATE CHARGES

Waste Management	\$135.00 per assessment
Separate Charge—Roads	\$112.00 per assessment

INTEREST

Interest is charged on all rates which are not paid by the due date, at the rate of 11% p.a. compound, calculated and charged monthly. Interest continues to accrue until all arrears have been paid in full.

If you have arrears then you are required to contact Council Rate Clerks to receive a final interest amount payable and due at the time of payment.

DISCOUNT

As an incentive for prompt payment of rates, discount of 8% will apply to General Rates only. Discount will be allowed if payment of all rates and charges (including arrears if any) are received in the Council office on or before the close of business on the last day of the discount period as set out on the rates notice.

Under no circumstances whatsoever will discount be allowed on a payment received after the applicable due date.

PENSION SUBSIDY

To assist in reducing the financial burden on the ratepayers of the Shire who are in receipt of a pension concession card and who also meet the criteria below will be allowed a discount up to 50% of the general rate with a maximum of \$162.50 per levy.

- The applicant must be a holder of a Centrelink Queensland Pensioner Concession Card or Veterans' Affair Gold Card or Veterans' Affair Pensioner Concession card;
- Applicant must own and reside on the property;
- If the pensioner resides some or all of the time in hospital, nursing home or with family or friend for ill health reasons, the residence may be regarded as the 'principal place of residence' if it is not occupied on a paid tenancy basis during the absence of the approved pensioner owner;
- Life tenant under a will with responsibilities to pay all rates and charges, must produce a certified copy of the Will stating the applicant is a life tenant and responsible for paying rates;

Applications for the Subsidies must be received by the following dates:-

First rating period commencing 1st July must be received by 30th June and the second rating period commencing 1st January must be received by 31st December.

In addition a State Government Subsidy of 20% on gross rates and charges will apply to eligible pensions to a maximum of \$180.00 per year.

Where an applicant's circumstances alter it is incumbent upon the applicant to notify the Council.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Any change of address must be advised in writing or by completing the back portion of the Rate Notice.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

PAYMENT BY BPAY

By internet or by phone, contact your participating Bank, Credit Union or Building Society to make a payment from your cheque, savings or credit card account. Please quote the Biller Code 999904 and Reference Number as shown on your rate notice. Also refer to your institution for cut off times for processing of payments.

PAYMENT BY AUSTRALIA POST

Present your rate notice at any Australia Post outlet or call 13 18 16 or go to www.postbillpay.com.au

PAYMENT BY BILL EXPRESS

Look for the red *Bill* EXPRESS logo at newsagents to pay with cash, cheque, direct debit, Mastercard, Bankcard or Visa. For locations call 1300 739 250 or visit www.billexpress.com.au

PAYMENT BY PHONE

Call 1300 738 059 any time to pay with Bankcard, Mastercard or Visa

PAYING IN PERSON

Present your rate notice to Council's Cashier and pay by cash, cheque or credit card (Bankcard, MasterCard or Visa accepted). Eftpos facilities are also available.

PAYMENT BY MAIL

Make your cheque or money order payable to JOHNSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL and crossed "NOT NEGOTIABLE".

If mailing your remittance please allow sufficient time for your payment to reach council's office before the closing date. It is strongly suggested that payment is not left until the last few days, as Council does not accept responsibility for postal or other unforeseen delays.

DIRECT DEBIT

Contact the rates section in regards to a "Continuous Direct Debit Request" to arrange for funds to be debited from your nominated account from your financial institution on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY PAYING

Any ratepayer who is unable to pay within this timeframe should contact Council, by phone or in writing and explain why they are unable to pay. Council will consider your request and suitable arrangements to pay the rates may be considered.

Please note that previous arrangements which have been non-complied or have more than the current rates outstanding must be submitted to the next available Special Finance Committee Meeting for approval.

Statement required by Section 983 of the Local Government Act 1993

By Virtue of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, you are hereby notified as follows:-

The Rating Categories adopted by Council have been determined by the Johnstone Shire Council, on the basis of criteria set by the Johnstone Shire Council.

If you consider that as of the date of issue of this notice, your land should have been included in another of the Categories listed (having regard to the criteria adopted by Johnstone Shire Council) you may object. To seek a review of the Category ascribed to your property you should complete the appropriate form (copies available at the Shire Office). The completed Notice of Objection should be lodged with or posted to the Johnstone Shire Council, PO Box 887, Innisfail.

Please be advised that the only grounds for objection are that the land in question should have been included in some other Category having regard to the criteria adopted.

The posting to or lodging of an Objection with the Johnstone Shire Council shall not interfere with or affect the levy and recovery of the Rates referred to in this Rate Notice; and

In the event that the Johnstone Shire Council considers an objection and determines that the property should be included in another Category as of the Date of Issue of the Rate Notice, an adjustment of the amount of Rates levied or the amount of Rates paid (as the case may be) shall be made.

**MATTHEW MCGOLDRICK
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

COUNCIL SERVICES

The following information details Council services (listed alphabetically) and general issues of interest and is provided for the assistance of residents:

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Abandoned vehicles should be reported to the local Police Station for ownership confirmation and required action. Abandoned vehicles may be removed from Council controlled roads, footpaths and reserves if found to be unregistered with costs incurred being payable by the owners. Vehicles which remain unclaimed are sold by public auction.

ACCOMODATION FOR DISPLACED PERSON DUE TO CYCLONE LARRY

Since Tropical Cyclone Larry's visit Council has undertaken the management of 4 x 2 bedroom demountable units and a 7 bedroom shared facility to assist with displaced persons. Contact Customer Service Office.

ADDRESS CHANGE

It is an essential responsibility of the ratepayer to advise Council of any change of address for the delivery of rate notices and other correspondence. A change of address can be registered by completing the tear-off strip on the bottom of your rates notice, or by completing a change of address form.

Council will not change any address unless they have received written confirmation to do so. **It is the property owner's responsibility to display street/road address numbers and maintain them in clean condition.** Council supplies a rural address post once only, replacements at landowners cost.

When purchasing a property, the solicitors handling the conveyancing will notify Council and other service agencies of a service address. Care should be taken to ensure that the solicitor provides the correct details so that notices and mail are received correctly.

ADVERTISING

Any advertising signs erected on roads or land under the Control of Council should first have Council approval. Residents proposing to erect advertising signs on private land should contact council to ensure the sign complies with Council's planning scheme before obtaining the relevant building approval for the erection of the sign.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR AGED RESIDENTS

Council has an on-going commitment to provide safe, secure, affordable and appropriate housing for the aged members of our community. In total Council manages 31 units, comprising of 1 or 2 bedrooms which are situated in close proximity to the CBD area. Rental is in line with the Department of Housings rent policy and is based on household income.

The selection of tenants take into account the following eligibility criteria:-

- Must be at least 65 years
- On an aged pension or disability allowance
- Non-home owner
- Applicants must be current residents of the Shire or have strong ties to it
- Must be able to live independently
- No pets allowed

ANIMAL CONTROL

Council's Animal Control Local Law provides measures to maintain public health and safety and for keeping of dogs in a nuisance free manner. A maximum of two (2) dogs are permitted per property unless a special permit has been granted by Council to keep more.

Dogs which are kept in urban and rural residential zoned areas of the Shire must be registered and owners are required to provide suitable enclosures. All dogs over the age of 6 months in the above zones must be registered.

Registration expires on the 30th September of every year. If you are a new resident to the Shire or have just acquired a dog you may be eligible for registration on a pro-rata basis. Proof of dog being desexed is required at time of registration.

New Dog Registration

- Enclosure Inspection fee of \$40.00
- Pro-rata Annual Renewal Registration fee
- Eligible Pensioners may be entitled to the pension discount of \$15.00 for De-sexed and \$30.00 for Entire. Proof of pension is required.

<u>Renewal Dog Registered in:-</u>	<u>Entire</u>	<u>Desexed</u>
Total Amount	\$65.00	\$35.00
<i>If paid by due date</i>	\$55.00	\$25.00
Pensioner Amount	\$35.00	\$20.00
<i>Pensioner – If paid by due date</i>	\$25.00	\$10.00

HORSES & CATTLE

Straying stock on roads or reserves may present a hazard and should be reported to the Local Police Station. Straying stock on roads and reserves may be impounded with all costs plus an impoundment fine payable by the stocks' owner.

POULTRY AND BIRDS

Poultry, pigeons and caged birds are to be kept in a nuisance free manner in accordance with the Local Laws and State Health requirements.

ANIMAL REFUGE

Located in Downing Street behind Council's cemetery. Many unwanted animals are handed in. If you wish to enquire about obtaining a dog or cat, contact John or Sandra on telephone 40613532. Donations of dog or cat food to assist refuge operations will always be appreciated. This is not a Council operated service.

BEACH/ESPLANADE PROTECTION

Any work including tree planting and removal, vegetation clearing/control etc. on Esplanade or road or other Council controlled land requires the written approval of Council. Disposal of materials including lawn clipping, palm fronds and coconuts, tree pruning etc are not permitted on Council land.

Pedestrian access to the beach should be via the designated access points only. Using designated access points assists in minimising damage to the fragile beach frontal due environment.

BOAT HARBOUR

Council manages a small boat harbour in the Innisfail reach of the Johnstone River for Mooring or Wharf Use.

BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

Development approval is necessary for all building work including new buildings, alterations and additions, swimming pools, shed/carports, patios, pergolas and the like, and removal and demolition of buildings. This includes rural areas.

All **domestic swimming pools** must be surrounded by a 1200mm high fence with a self closing/self latching gate which complies with the legal requirements. Any new pool requires the fencing to be inspected and approved prior to filling the pool with water.

CARAVAN PARKS/CAMPING

A number of caravan parks are available throughout the Shire. Living in a caravan or camp area, which is not a Council approved/registered caravan park is not permitted unless a permit is granted by Council.

CEMETERY

Council operates the Innisfail Cemetery and details of interment, grave numbers, remembrance wall niches and cemetery records may be obtained by contacting Council Customer Service Office.

CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship ceremonies are conducted on an as needed basis by the Shire's Mayor. Citizenship application forms are available from the Customer Service Office.

COCONUT TREES

Falling coconuts are hazards on public land and fallen fronds need continuous removal. Council has therefore adopted a policy on coconut trees throughout the shire which prohibits the planting of coconut trees on Council controlled land (roads, esplanade, parks etc) without the permission of the Environmental Resources Officer and further that existing coconut palms be strategically thinned to a minimum of twenty (20) meter spacings with ten (10) metre exclusion zones adjacent to boundaries and public access tracks.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The community calendar appears in the Innisfail Advocate once every month. Events must be advised to Council's Customer Service by the last Wednesday of each month to include events that will occur in the following month.

COMPLAINTS PROCESS

Complaints in relation to Council policy should be in writing, directed in the first instances to the Chief Executive Officer.

Complaints in relation to Council services should be directed to the Customer Service Office. Failure to provide personal details will result in the complaint not being recorded.

CONVEYANCING

The solicitor who is handling your conveyancing has the responsibility of notifying the correct departments of the transfer of the property in question. The usual procedure is that the solicitor lodges the transfer documents with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, which in turn will notify Council. Should you or the purchaser wish to expedite matters, a duplicate of the forms can also be lodged directly with Council.

CONSERVATION CONVENANTS/RATE DEFERRALS

Council provides substantial incentives including rate deferrals for properties that have habitat of conservation significance and the owners are willing to enter into formal arrangement to conserve and or enhance that habitat. Contact Council's Shire Services Department if you wish to discuss entering into a conservation covenant in exchange for reduced rates (applies to some rural land only)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council holds its Committee meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The Ordinary Meeting is held on the fourth Thursday of every month.

CYCLONE SEASON CLEAN-UP

Held annually during November (but not in 2006 due to Cyclone Larry cleanup earlier in 2006).

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The Integrated Planning Act 1997 provides the framework for processing development applications. In general, the following time frames are applicable:

Acknowledgement Phase: 10 business days
Information Request Phase: 20 business days
Public Notification Phase: 15 business days
Decision Phase: up to 40 business days
Total: 70 business days

Please note that some stages may be shorter or run consecutively depending on the type of application.

When a development application requires public notification, the public is provided the opportunity to make submissions either in support of or objecting to proposed development. All submissions must include name and address and contact details and be forwarded in writing to the Chief Executive Officer stating the grounds of the objection and any supporting information.

DRIVEWAYS—PROPERTY ACCESS

The property owner is responsible for construction, upgrade and maintenance of the access to his/her property, in accordance with Council's Policy. Residents are required to make application to Council for the construction of a new property access or for the upgrade of an existing access.

DRUM MUSTER

- Recycling your eligible farm chemical containers with Drum Muster is easy—all you need to do is follow these simple steps:-
- Triple or pressure rinse containers immediately after use;
- Pour the rinse water back into your spray tank;
- Make sure all chemical residue is removed;
- Remove lids to allow containers to dry;
- Metal containers should be punctured from the top through the bottom;
- Deliver to your local drum muster collection centre at Stoters Hill or Bells Creek Transfer Stations.

EASEMENTS

An easement is an agreement between one party and the owner of the land so that the party can utilise that area of the person's property for such things as access, water supply, sewerage and drainage. The land remains the property of the owner, however, there will be restrictions on what activities can be undertaken on the easement itself.

Conditions in relation to the easement are available from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT

The Act places an obligation on Council to perform licensing and administration of environmentally relevant activities (e.g. motor vehicles workshops, engineering workshops, wood product manufacturers)

EXEMPTIONS

Applications for remission of general rates for land utilised for public, religious, charitable or educational purposes should be lodged with the Council.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The State of the Environment Report for the Shire is now available on the Council Website www.jsc.qld.gov.au. The report describes the health of the Shire's economy, community and natural environments.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Concerns with the environmental pollution or accidents and damage to natural resources are to be forward to the Environmental staff for investigating.

FACILITY HIRE

The Shire Hall, Pease Park, Warrina Lakes and Conservatorium are available for hire. Dog and cat traps may be hired from Council by arrangement. A refundable deposit is required and the arrangements can be made through Customer Service office.

FAMILY DAY CARE

Council provides supervised home based care for families with Children. Contact the Community Service Section on telephone 4030 2255.

FENCES

Fencing of individual allotments is controlled by the Dividing Fences Act of Queensland. Fences less than 2 meters in height do not require approval of Council. A height restriction applies when fencing corner allotments so as not to create visibility problems for traffic using the streets in this locality. There are also restrictions on the use of barbed wire or electric fences in urban areas.

Swimming Pool fences

All private swimming pools must be fenced with an approved childproof fence. This applies to in ground and above ground pools. This applies to pools with water greater than 450 mm depth and more than 2000 litres and no filtration system.

FIRE PERMITS

If you are planning to burn off on your property, you need a fire permit from your local fire station.

FIRE LEVY

Council collects a fire levy on behalf of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. The amount of the levy is based on the property use.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

All commercial (non-private) food preparation premises and operators are to be registered and licensed in accordance with State legislation. Council carries out this function, including inspections annually to reduce public health risk.

All businesses involving the preparation or sale of food should contact Council's Health Department for information on compliance with the Food Act 2006. Most businesses are required to hold a licence, however some exemptions from licensing applies.

FOOTPATHS

Council encourages residents to take pride in their neighbourhood and assist by mowing and maintaining their footpath areas.

Written approval from Council is required for planting and removal of trees on the footpath.

FOOTPATH DINING

Businesses who wish to use public land such as footpath area adjoining their premises for outdoor dining are reminded that Council has policy to control such activities and a Council permit is required for outdoor dining.

Tables shall generally be placed against the premises and a clear pedestrian walking area shall remain. Public Liability insurance is required.

FREEDOM ON INFORMATION

Applications for information under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 may be lodged with Council. Applications are available from the Customer Service Office.

GOODS FOR DISPLAY OR SALE ON FOOTPATH

Council's current local law for roads does not allow the display or sale of goods on the footpath/road area. Such goods range from shoes and clothing racks through to motor vehicles. Under Council's Local Law Chapter 39 Part 2 Clause 14 Goods on roads, such goods may be removed by Council at the owner's expense.

Goods may be legally displayed on private property where the shop front is indented from the street. Retailers who wish to clarify their current legal position may contact Council's Shire Planner.

LIBRARY

The Johnstone Shire Library was damaged by cyclone Larry and is expected to be relocated to Alan Maruff House in Rankin Street on a temporary basis. Membership is FREE to permanent residents, ratepayers and residents in adjoining Shires upon presentation of proof of residency. Council also extends membership privileges to Shire visitors on the payment of a fully refundable deposit.

Normal Opening Hours

Monday	9.30am	-	5.00pm
Tuesday	8.30am	-	5.00pm
Wednesday	8.30am	-	5.00pm
Thursday	8.30am	-	6.00pm
Friday	8.30am	-	5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am	-	12noon

Borrowing Rules

Members may borrow up to 10 items for a period of 3 weeks.

Computer Facilities

- Internet Access
- Word processing

Other Services

- Reference service
- Children's holiday activities
- Memorial book service
- Pre-school storytime
- Photocopying (20 cents per page)

LICENCES, REGISTRATIONS, PERMITS

Approvals are issued for building, swimming pools, subdivisions, plumbing and drainage works, septic and on-site sewerage treatment systems and town planning by Council.

Licences/registrations are issued for food premises/operators, dogs, signs, storage of flammable or combustible liquids, rental accommodation, skin penetration, environmentally relevant activities (ERAs). All licences expire on 30th September of each year.

LOCAL AREA MULTICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

LAMP promotes harmonious community relations by increasing access and equity in local government and the community. Interpreter services are available. Telephone Community Services on 4030 2255.

NEIGHBOURING TREES

Council cannot become involved in a civil matter regarding a neighbour's tree infringing upon another person's yard. A person is entitled to trim the tree back to the property line but it is their responsibility to take the wood away (when the owner of the tree does not want the branches for themselves).

Tree problems between neighbouring properties fall under the Divided Fences Act. A copy of this can be obtained from the Court House.

NOISE CONTROL

Council's Health & Environmental Section are responsible for:- Domestic Animals, Regulated Devices (lawn mowers, power tools), Spa Blower and Pool Pumps, Air Conditioning, Power Boat Engines, Environmentally Relevant Activity, smoke fires, ash, odour, dust, light.

Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for Refrigeration equipment and Power Boat Sports. Workplace Health and Safety are responsible for noise from a workplace. Police are responsible for indoor venues, open-air events and amplifier devices.

NOT FOR PROFIT COMMUNITY GROUP EXEMPTIONS

Council considers applications for remission on general rates and utility charges from not for profit community based organisations. Applications must be submitted by the 1st June of any year to be considered for the next two financial years.

NOXIOUS PLANTS/ANIMALS

Land owners and occupiers are required by law to control declared noxious weeds and animals such as tobacco weed, sicklepod, parthenium, giant rats tails and giant sensitive plant, feral pigs, rabbits and other declare noxious weeds and animals, in accordance with the Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route Management) Act 2002. Council's Pest Management Officer conducts inspections on a regular basis.

NURSERY GIVEAWAY DAYS

Thursday Mornings from 8:00 till 12 noon. The nursery is located in the grounds of Warrina Lakes off Campbell Street, Innisfail. Maximum of (4) four trees per year to each urban properties and a maximum of six (6) trees per year to rural properties.

OFFICE HOURS

The administrative centre is open from Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and ample off street parking is provided at the rear of the building. The Community Services Department is open from 8:00 to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. The Technical Services Department is open for enquiries from Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Council Offices

Council's administrative centre, council chamber and town hall are all located at 70 Rankin Street, Innisfail.

Depot

The Technical Services office and main Works Depot are located at Clare Street, Innisfail and the southern area of the shire is serviced by a Depot in El Arish.

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Council has approved several locations for outdoor advertising of community events (not events for business or commercial gain). These locations have been chosen with visibility and traffic considerations in mind. The approved locations are:

- Edith Street—poles on Coles Supermarket car park boundary;
- For southbound traffic—Palmerston Drive (north side) near the eastern end of Herb Collins oval;
- For northbound traffic—River Drive along cemetery frontage 30-40m from Bamboo Creek Bridge;
- Town Centre location—flagpoles in Cane Cutter Court;

Other sites may be approved by Council upon written application.

OVERGROWN ALLOTMENTS

It is the responsibility of land owners to ensure that their land does not pose a public health or safety risk. Council regularly inspects properties in the shire for overgrown allotments and issues notices to property owners to mow/clear their land in accordance with Health Regulations.

POUND

A person wishing to release a dog from Council's pound must first arrange for full payment of fees at the Customer Service Office. Release times are between 8:30 and 4:00pm Monday to Friday and are subject to staff availability at the time.

Registered De-sexed dog:-

1st offence	\$40.00
2nd offence	\$65.00
3rd offence	\$130.00

Registered Entire dog:-

1st offence	\$65.00
2nd offence	\$110.00
3rd offence	\$205.00

Unregistered De-sexed dog:-

1st offence	\$135.00
2nd offence	\$275.00

Puppy (up to six month)

1st offence	\$30.00
2nd offence	\$45.00
3rd offence	\$95.00

Rural Dog caught in Rural area	\$80.00
Rural Dog caught in Town area	\$135.00

Whole cat	\$135.00
De-sexed cat	\$55.00

Sustenance fee	\$12.00 per day
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PLANNING SCHEME

Many changes of use on land require development approval. Depending on the development proposed and its zoning, an application for Material Change of Use or Reconfiguring a Lot may be required. Do not establish any new or changed business activity without first discussing the matter with Council planning officers.

NEW SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME

Council's new Shire Planning Scheme which meets the provisions of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 took effect on 20th June 2005.

Copies of Council's new planning scheme are available for purchased from Council. It may be downloaded from Council's website (www.jsc.qld.gov.au).

RECONFIGURATION

The reconfiguration of land is controlled by Council's Planning Scheme to ensure orderly growth within specific areas and that the development meets required standards.

Proposed plans for lot reconfiguration should be prepared by a professionally qualified surveyor, planner or engineer.

REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND

The RADF Program promotes professional development and employment of artists in regional Queensland. The program supports locally determined arts and cultural development opportunities by providing one-off, short-term project based financial assistance to groups and individuals in Regional Queensland.

RADF operates in partnership with Local Government. Applications are assessed by a publicly elected committee against criteria based on Program guidelines and locally determined Arts and Cultural Development Policy.

Applications for funding must be made to Council on the appropriate RADF application.

RESOURCE HIRE

Council has Portable Toilets, Marguees, Training Room, Catwalk and PA System for private hiring. The pricing schedule and booking applications are available from the Customer Service Office.

ROAD MAINTENANCE—COUNCIL ROADS

Council maintains roads which are on its register. Council aims to achieve uniform maintenance standards however budget constraints do not always allow for this to be achieved. Some rural land owners are serviced by access roads which Council does not maintain.

Residents are encouraged to report road problems to Council.

ROAD RESERVE

Road reserves are State-owned land, however, Council and the Department of Main Roads are responsible for control of road and drainage works within the road reserve. Council are responsible for all roads with the exception of the following Department of Main Roads' roads:-

Innisfail—Japoon Road
Silkwood—Japoon Road
El Arish—Mission Beach Road
Kurrimine Beach Road (Murdering Point Road)
Mourilyan Harbour Road
Boogan—South Johnstone Road
Henderson Drive

ROADWORK SAFETY

Speeding through roadwork sites endangers lives of road workers and other motorists as well as the lives of those in the speeding vehicle. Speed limits through roadworks are considerably lower than the regular limit, they have been set to minimise any potential risks identified at each site.

Disobeying road signage and rules in a roadwork site could have insurance implications for any motorists involved in a crash. Motorists are liable for any damage they cause to roadwork equipments and materials and could be sued for personal injury. Those who fail to obey roadwork warning signs when driving through roadwork sites also risk being fined and gaining demerit points.

RURAL PROPERTY ADDRESSING

A rural addressing system is currently in place for the rural areas of the Shire. Each rural dwelling or workplace is provided with a number which can be utilised by the postal service, visitors and emergency services. A rural address comprises a number and road name. The number is placed on a yellow post installed at the driveway entrance to each dwelling or workplace. The number is determined by measuring the distance from the reference point to the access point. The number is assigned in 10m increments with even numbers on the right hand side and odd on the left hand side.

It is the landowner/resident's responsibility to keep these posts clean and clear of vegetation. Emergency services rely on rural address posts. It is in your best interest to keep them clean and replace when necessary. Replace post are at landowners cost.

SEWERAGE TREATMENT

On-site Sewerage

On-site sewerage facilities are necessary in unsewered areas to provide wastewater treatment and disposal of effluent by land application. When functioning correctly these facilities provide an effective cost efficient sewerage treatment system.

However, poorly designed and maintained treatment and land applications may contribute to the pollution of ground water and surface water. The householder is obligated to operate and maintain the on-site sewerage facility to achieve performance standards and criteria for effluent quality and impact on the environment.

The design, installation and maintenance of these sewerage facilities (e.g. septic tanks, absorption trench) are required to comply with the Department of Natural Resources & Mines Code of Practice for On Site Sewerage Systems and the Australian Standards AS/NZS 1547,2000 On-Site Domestic Wastewater Management and AS 1546 Part 1 Septic Tanks and Part 3 Aerated Wastewater Systems.

Property owners are required to obtain Council approval prior to installation of new on-site sewerage facilities.

Mission Beach Sewerage Scheme

Mission Beach Sewerage Scheme is owned and operated by Cardwell Shire Council on behalf of Johnstone Shire Council. All queries in regards to the system operation (blockage, overflows etc) should be directed to Cardwell Shire Council telephone 40439100 or After Hours 40680800.

Innisfail Sewerage

The sewerage scheme is primarily designed to transport domestic sewerage. Chemicals and other like substances should not be discharged to sewer in case of a sewer blockage. It is the responsibility of the property owner to ring a private plumber first.

SPORT & RECREATION

This portfolio provides the sport and recreation community with assistance in program and service development, resources community groups, disseminates information, and administers Council's sport and recreation financial assistance programs. Council encourages the involvement of the sport and recreation community through the maintenance of a Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee which advises Council on policy matters, conducts the annual Sport Forum and recognises the Shire's sporting achievements through Sports Star Awards at a local and regional level. For all enquires call 40302253.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

The State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer organisation in which members are continually trained to assist with emergency situations such as restoring essential services and events arising from floods, fire, cyclone or storms. The Innisfail group meets on Monday evenings at its Shire Hall base.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE

A system of water collection devices including gully traps, kerb and channelling and underground pipes, usually reinforced concrete are provided and maintained by Council to collect rainwater runoff from roads, roofs, allotments, parks etc and transport it to creeks, rivers and ocean by a licenced outlet/outfall.

Any water borne pollutants may be transported via these systems to the river and ocean and then to the reef. Residents should attempt to prevent all plastics, bottles and any other pollutants from entering the systems.

New regulations are now in force which will necessitate the installation of traps and separators to remove more pollutants.

STREET LIGHTING

While street lighting is installed and maintained by Ergon, it is provided and funded by the Local Authority except for Department of Main Roads controlled roads and intersections where lighting is funded by the Department of Main Roads.

SWIMMING POOL

The pool complex is located on the McGowan Drive adjacent to the Innisfail Town CBD. It consists of four pools which are:-

- A 50 metre competition wet deck pool;
- A thermostatically controlled heated hydrotherapy pool;
- Slide pool;
- Children's fun pool.

The complex will be closed for several months in 2006 for cyclone related repairs. Check at the gate for opening times.

WARRINA LAKES RECREATIONAL AREA

Situated in Emily Street, Innisfail, Warrina Lakes features walking tracks, children's playground, shaded pool area, gazebos and barbecues, all centred around a beautiful lake. A covered hall is also available for both public and private hire.

Warrina Lakes Pool is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays from 10.00am to 12 noon and 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Open on School Holidays, Public Holidays and Weekends from 11.00am to 5.00pm.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Successful operation of Council's Waste Management system requires correct use of the wet (120 litre blue lid bin) and dry (240 litre green bin). Contact Council's Health Section if you require information.

Greenwaste may be disposed of free of charge at the waste transfer stations at Stoters Hill near Innisfail and Bells Creek (near El Arish). Council's kerbside waste collection is carried out by Cleanaway under contract.

All premises are issued with a 240 litre "Dry Waste" and 120 litre "Wet Waste" wheelie bin. If your bin is damaged you need to contact Council's Customer Service Officer to have the bin repaired.

Lost or stolen bins will be replaced for a fee.

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Council's Operations Contractor is Subloo's Transport.

Stoters Hill - Phone: 4061 7393

Located on Quarry Road approx 4km along the Palmerston Highway

Hours

During the months of September to May inclusive:-

- ~ Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm
- ~ Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

During the months of June, July and August:-

- ~ Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
- ~ Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Bell's Creek - Phone: 4068 5000

Located just off the Bruce Highway between Silkwood and El Arish.

Hours

During the months of September to May inclusive:-

- ~ Monday to Friday (excl Wednesday) from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- ~ Wednesday—closed
- ~ Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

During the months of June, July and August:-

- ~ Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- ~ Wednesday—closed
- ~ Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

All enquiries relating to wet/dry waste segregation, recycling, acceptable / non-acceptable wastes, or any other waste related issue, please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on **4030 2222** or Health Department on **40302265**.

WATER MAINS

Residents are encouraged to report water mains or meter leaks and breaks to Council immediately.

WATER METERS

It is recommended that the water meter be checked for any water leaks on the property on a regular basis. This is done by ensuring all taps are turned off, then check the meter dial. If there is no movement in the black dials then there is no leak.

WATER TESTING

Drinking water supplies can be sampled and tested on request. A fee is charged for this service. Sampling is conducted during the third week of each month.

YOUTH

The aim of the youth program is to encourage young people's involvement and participation in community life and to promote positive images of young people and their achievements. Council coordinates a youth advisory body called Youth ALYV through which young people advise on policy matters, organise youth events and undertake planning for youth needs. For all enquires call 40302253.