

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Rating Review Working Party**

#### **Purpose**

The Rating Review Working Party will lead a comprehensive review of the Council's present approach to rating. The review will take place in a manner that involves the community in the process, with the aim of developing a consensus as to the most appropriate rating system to serve the needs of the community in the future.

The process should culminate in a recommendation to Council outlining a draft rating policy and system that can proceed to formal consultation.

In doing so the Rating Review Working Party will have regard to matters such as:

- Ability to pay
- Willingness to pay
- User charges as an alternative to rates
- General rates versus target rates
- Level of uniform annual general charges
- Flat versus percentage rates
- Land values versus capital values as a rating base
- Use of differentials on general and target rates
- Cap on fixed charges
- Are rates a fee for service or a tax
- The role of development contributions
- "Core" services versus other services
- Funding of depreciation
- Inter-generational equity
- Use of debt and debt servicing
- Any other matters that the Working Party considers relevant

#### **Delegated Powers**

The Rating Review Working Party has authority to establish:

- Stakeholder sub-groups that reflect the interests and concerns of various and diverse groups within the Buller community
- Technical sub-groups with the expertise to consider specialist elements of any rating system

#### **Reporting To**

Council

#### **Frequency of Meetings**

Monthly or as requested

**Reporting Timeline**

As and when required

**Membership**

Chair - Garry Howard

Members - All of Council