



Council's administration building, Norwest.



COUNCIL'S FINANCES

The work that Council does costs a lot of money.

Council must buy machines for roadworks, books for libraries, computers for staff, equipment to maintain parks and pay wages to employees. So how does Council fund the millions of dollars worth of work it must do each year to keep the Shire running smoothly?

1. RATES

Some of Council's money comes from taxes on land. These taxes are called rates. Each year, the owners of houses or other property must pay rates to Council. The amount they pay depends on the value of their land. Rates do not have to be paid on all land. Schools, churches, charities and the State and Federal Governments are exempt from paying rates.

2. CHARGES

Another way Council gets money is by charging a fee for some of the services it provides. You must pay to lodge a building application and to register a dog, or to dump rubbish and to have the rubbish collected.

3. GRANTS

Council also gets money from the State and Federal Government. This money is called a grant. Sometimes, Council can decide how it will spend the grant. Every Council is given a yearly grant from the Federal Government.

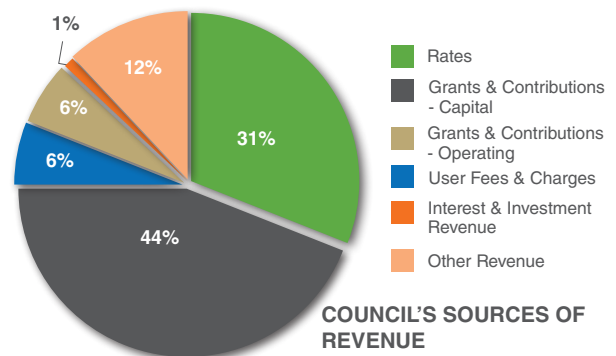
At other times, the State or Federal Government tells Council how the grant must be spent. For example, a road grant must be spent on roadworks, it cannot be spent on buying books for the library.

4. LOANS

Council's can also borrow money. The Hills Shire Council's policy is to only borrow if it is for expenditure that will bring in a continuous source of income to repay the loan.

The Hills Shire Council has not borrowed any money in the last 20 years.

Total Income 2021-2022 \$364.4M



How Rates are Spent

