

20 July 2020



Councillor Margaret Strelow
Mayor
Rockhampton Regional Council
PO Box 1860
Rockhampton, QLD, 4700

BY POST/EMAIL – mayor@rrc.qld.gov.au

Dear Mayor,

RE: 2020/2021 Fees and Charges Schedule

The Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland Central Queensland branch (the Institute) writes to Rockhampton Regional Council (council) in relation to the recent adoption of council's Fees and Charges schedule of 2020/2021.

We wish to specifically raise concern over council's decision to adopt a new fee for a Negotiated Decision Notice. In accordance with council's adopted Fees and Charges 2020/2021, if an applicant wishes to make representation (Change Representations under section 75 of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Act)) a \$1,000 fee would be applicable. We are concerned by the additional cost this imposes on future development within the region.

It is the Institute's view that the process to make representations under the Act is still within the confines of a live application. This view is formed by the understanding the development assessment process has not been finalised until the appeal period lapses or the applicant willingly waives their appeal period. We believe that the original development assessment fee paid upon lodgement of the application is sufficient and covers the cost to make representations, if required.

We understand and do not disagree that any proposed changes requested after the appeal period has concluded, and the applicant decides not to suspend the appeal, a fee is required to change the application (Minor/other change application). This is clear in the Act but a fee for change representations is not.

It is also reported that, in many instances, the need to make change representations is to correct errors made in the conditions handed down by the assessment manager or changing or deleting conditions included in error, rather than actually negotiating the decision notice.

We recommend that council amend its recently adopted Fees and Charges schedule to remove this unnecessary application fee which will contribute to the growing cost to deliver development within

the region. We highlight that the COVID-19 situation has created much uncertainty for our industry. An additional fee of this nature does not assist our transition to recover from COVID-19.

Thank you for taking in reviewing our submission made on council's Fees and Charges schedule 2020/2021. If you have any questions relating to the items raised in this submission, please contact Policy Executive, Robert Tily (rtily@udiaqld.com.au) (07) 3229 1589.

Yours sincerely,

Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gideon Genade', written in a cursive style.

Gideon Genade
Central Queensland Branch President