

Warrumbungle Shire Council

Operational Plan 2023/24: Appendices

- Revenue Policy Fees and Charges
- Donations Policy
- Rating Maps

Adopted

Resolution

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Appendix 1: Statement of Revenue Policy

A1.1 Introduction

Under section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (hereafter 'the Act'), Council is required to include as part of its Operational Plan a statement of Council's Revenue Policy for the year covered by the Operational Plan.

The 2023/24 Budget reflects the following:

- Revenue (accrual basis) of \$65m
- Expenditure (accrual basis) of \$56m
- An operating surplus of \$8.8m with inclusion of Capital Grants and Contributions of \$9.6m
- A Capital Works Program of \$22.5m

For more information on these estimates, see Part 2 of the Operational Plan.

In arriving at the results for the 2023/24 year the following major items are noted:

- The Minister for Local Government has allowed a request for special rate variation of up to 3.7% for the 2023/24 year in the permissible ordinary rate;
- That Council accepts the full 3.7% offered by the Minister;
- Labour costs assume a 5% award allowance for wage increases (subject to actual award);
- With the exception of some expenses incurred for profit making agencies, Goods and Services Tax (GST) payable on supplies have not been included in the budget as Council receives an input tax credit equivalent to the GST paid and is reclaimed.

Financial Projections

General financial projections for the 2023/24 to 2026/27 years have been incorporated into the Delivery Program which includes an income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement for the four years. Statements for 2022/23 have also been included in the Operational Plan. The information and assumptions used in all financial projections were the best available at the time of preparation.

A1.2 Ordinary Rates

Council levies Rates and Charges in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and Council must make and levy an ordinary rate for each year on all rateable land in its area (s 494 of the Act). Council's current rating structure is determined in accordance with section 497 of the Act being a rate based on land value, together with a Base Amount.

Per section 514 of the Act, all rateable land must be categorised as either farmland, residential, business or mining. Council also has the option to create sub-categories within these categories. The following is a brief explanation of these categories. For more detailed information, refer to sections 514 to 519 of the Act.

Rating categories are detailed in the table (over page).

Category	Details
Residential	Land is categorised as residential if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the main use is for residential accommodation (but not as a hotel, motel, guesthouse, boarding house, lodging house or nursing home) it is vacant land zoned for residential purposes it is rural residential land
Farmland	Land is categorised as farmland if its main use is for commercial farming eg grazing, animal feedlots, dairying, pig farming, poultry farming, beekeeping, forestry, oyster or fish farming, or growing crops for profit. Rural residential land is not categorised as farmland.
Business	Land is categorised as business if it cannot be categorised as farmland, residential or mining. The main land uses in the business category are commercial and industrial.
Mining	Land is categorised as mining if it is a parcel of rateable land valued as one assessment and its dominant use is for a coal mine or metalliferous mine.

Rate pegging

Council is limited in its ability to raise rates above a certain percentage (as specified by the Minister and determined by Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal -- IPART) per section 506 of the Act. This limitation on Council's ability to determine its own level of rating revenue is commonly referred to as rate pegging.

IPART announced that the rate peg amount for the 2023/24 financial year will be set at 3.7%. The rate peg is set by IPART each year by measuring changes in the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), which includes changes in 26 cost components to establish the average costs faced by councils.

The 3.7% rate peg for the 2023/24 financial year is significantly higher than the rate peg in recent years, which was 2% and 0.7% in 2021/22 and 2022/23 respectively. Council has determined to apply the full rate peg amount.

Ordinary Rates to be levied in the 2023/24 financial year

The property valuations to be used for rating commencing 1 July 2023 have been revalued by the Valuer General. In the table below the base and ad valorem amounts shown have generally been increased by the rate peg amount of 3.7%.

In accordance with section 494 of the Act the following Ordinary Rates will be levied by Council for the 2023/24 financial year:

Description	No of Prop.	Ad Valorem (\$)	Base Rate (\$)	Sum of Valuation (\$)	Sum of Value (\$)	Base Rate (%)
Residential						
Baradine	328	0.01527	207.00	6,558,210	168,066	40%
Binnaway	247	0.01222	152.00	3,570,280	81,173	46%
Coolah	393	0.00920	259.00	20,066,070	286,475	36%
Coonabarabran	1,144	0.00932	298.00	52,342,370	828,534	41%
Dunedoo	381	0.00589	320.00	23,074,400	257,921	47%
Mendooran	172	0.01525	224.00	3,702,500	94,991	41%
Cobbora	15	0.00323	142.00	803,100	4,724	45%
Coolabah Estate	58	0.00232	164.00	4,963,400	21,047	45%
Rural	883	0.00623	264.00	83,939,068	756,338	31%
Village 1	122	0.01780	137.00	1,283,850	39,567	42%
Village 2	95	0.01062	112.00	1,285,840	24,296	44%
Total: Residential	3,838			201,589,088	2,563,130	
Farmland						
Farmland	1,715	0.00232	660.00	2,020,058,910	5,827,042	19%
Total: Farmland	1,715			2,020,058,910	5,827,042	
Business						
Baradine Business	31	0.02272	299.00	626,480	23,503	39%
Binnaway Business	20	0.02297	234.00	317,050	11,963	39%
Coolah Business	50	0.02034	424.00	1,704,100	55,861	38%
Coonabarabran Business	153	0.03131	502.00	12,182,800	458,298	17%
Dunedoo Business	46	0.01064	382.00	2,078,120	39,683	44%
Mendooran Business	11	0.01440	232.00	323,670	7,213	35%
General Business	39	0.02350	336.00	2,094,030	62,314	21%
Village 1 Business	5	0.04590	176.00	62,970	3,770	23%
Village 2 Business	4	0.05660	135.00	34,280	2,480	22%
Total: Business	359			19,423,500	666,085	
Mining						
Mining	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Total: Mining	-			-	-	
Grand Total	5,912			2,241,071,498	9,055,257	

- Village 1 includes: Bugaldie, Kenebri, Neilrex, Purlewaugh, Rocky Glen and Ulamambri.
- Village 2 includes: Leadville, Merrygoen and Uarbry.

Pensioner discount

The Act (section 575) provides for a rebate to be granted to eligible pensioners in the amount of 50% of their total rates and domestic waste charges, up to a maximum of \$250. A

further discount not exceeding \$87.50 on water access and \$87.50 on sewer access charges is also available to eligible pensioners. A rebate to Council covering 55% of the pensioner discount amount is available in the form of a grant from the Office of Local Government (OLG).

Council has forecast the total discount provided to pensioners for rates, domestic waste, water and sewerage access services, as well as the OLG 55% rebate based on prior year actuals. Details are per the table below:

Type	Pensioner Rebate Amount (\$)	OLG Grant (55%)
Rates	152,364.91	83,800.70
Domestic Waste	106,879.95	58,783.97
Water Access	69,154.07	38,034.74
Sewer Access	49,552.25	27,253.74
Total:	377,951.18	207,873.15

Interest on overdue rates and legal fees

This section to be completed following release of interest rate for 2023/24 (expected April 2023).

A1.3 Water Charges

Introduction

Council manages both water and sewer utilities which provide residents with water and sewer services. These utilities are run as separate business activities and are run per the principles of competitive neutrality which means they must be run at full cost recovery.

Council is authorised by sections 501 and 502 of the Act to make an annual charge for the connection to a water supply and for the consumption of water, measured on a volumetric basis, during the course of that financial year.

Council is authorised by section 552 of the Act to make a charge for water supply on:

- Land that is supplied with water from a water pipe of the Council; and
- Land that is situated within 225 metres of a water pipe of the Council, whether the land has a frontage or not to the public road (if any) in which the water pipe is laid, and although the land is not actually supplied with water from any water pipe of the Council.

The Water Supply, Sewerage and Trade Waste Pricing Policy Guidelines (issued by the Department of Land and Water Conservation in December 2002) require councils to levy charges for water and sewerage by means of annual charges (for access to the reticulation system) and service charges (for utilisation).

The Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines 2007 require NSW local water utilities to achieve ongoing full cost recovery for their water supply and sewerage services. This is also a requirement of National Competition Policy and the National Water Initiative. Full cost recovery involves raising sufficient revenue to cover maintenance and administration costs as well as the cost of the depreciation of water supply infrastructure.

The best practice guide also requires smaller local water utilities (less than 4000 connected properties) to raise at least 50% of residential revenue from water usage charges in order to better manage water resources.

Council's suggested water charges must therefore:

- Achieve full cost recovery for Council's water business (including depreciation);
- Move towards raising more than 50% of revenue from usage charges.

Proposed charges for the 2023/24 financial year

The suggested charges for the 2023/24 financial year are detailed in the table below:

Area	No	Access 2022/23 (\$)	Access 2023/24 (\$)	Consumption 2022/23 (\$)	Consumption 2023/24 (\$)
Access – Mendooran base	271	687	712	NA	NA
Mendooran WTP additional	271	295	295	NA	NA
Mendooran total charge	271	982	1,007	3.60	3.80
Access – other base	3,325	687	712	3.60	3.80

The 2023/24 usage charge represents a 3.7% increase over the prior year charge, while the access charge has been increased by the same percentage. Council's Water business has decentralised and dated infrastructure coupled with comparatively low income and production capacity. In order to counter this and to improve Water's financial position and Capital work schedule, the water consumption charge has been increased from \$3.60 to \$3.80 per kl.

Council's forecast water access and usage revenue for the 2023/24 financial year is dependent on both the number of users (i.e. number of assessments) as well as the forecast consumption for the year.

Water consumption varies significantly from year to year. Factors that would normally affect water consumption include water pricing, weather and whether or not there is any water restriction in place.

Council's forecast for the number of assessments is from the current number of assessments in the water module of Council's Finance system. Details of the forecast water access and usage revenue can be found in the table below:

Area	No of Assessments/ consumption	Rate 2023/24 (\$)	Total Revenue (\$)
Access and WTP – Mendooran	271	1,007	272,897
Access – other	3,045	712	2,168,040
Total Access:	3,316		2,440,937
Consumption	493,684	3.80	1,875,999
Total:			4,316,936

A1.4 Sewerage Charges

Introduction

Council is authorised by sections 501 and 502 of the Act to make an annual charge for the connection to a sewer and a service charge for the discharge to the sewer. Best Practice Guidelines issued by the State also require that Council distinguish between residential and non-residential properties when establishing sewer charges.

Council's sewerage charges consist of a flat charge for residential properties (with a different rate for connected and not-connected properties), and a variable charge for non-residential properties. The non-residential charge consists of a consumption component based on water consumption, and an access fee based on meter size. The total of these two charges is then multiplied by a sewerage discharge factor which varies by property.

Suggested charges for the 2023/24 financial year

The 2023/24 usage charge represents a 3.7% increase over the prior year charge, the same as the increase in 2022/23, while the access charge has been increased by the same percentage. The suggested charges for the 2023/24 financial year are detailed in the table below:

Type	No of charges	2022/23 Access (\$)	2023/24 Access (\$)	Revenue 2023/24 (\$)
Residential - Connected	2,005	754	782	1,567,910
Residential -- Non-Connected	100	483	501	50,100
Total Residential (access only)	2,105			1,618,010
Non-Residential (Minimum)	61	754	782	47,702
Sewerage Access -- 20mm	261	473	491	128,151
Sewerage Access -- 25mm	6	739	766	4,596
Sewerage Access -- 32mm	7	1,210	1,255	8,785
Sewerage Access -- 40mm	21	1,890	1,960	41,160
Sewerage Access -- 50mm	18	2,954	3,063	55,134
Sewerage Access -- 65mm	1	4,922	5,104	5,104
Sewerage Access -- 80mm	1			0
Sewerage Access -- 100mm	14	11,813	12,250	49,000
Not Connected (Minimum)	60	483	501	30,060
Total Non-Residential Access:	439			369,692
Non-residential Consumption	114,823	1.30	1.35	155,011
Total:				2,142,713

All non-residential properties will be levied a charge based on the size of the water meter and the volume of water passing through the water meter. This charge consists of an access and a usage portion both of which are adjusted by a sewerage discharge factor based on property usage.

The access charge is based on the size of the pipe (see table above) and is calculated by adjusting the 20mm charge to the relevant diameter for the pipe size in question through the following formula (rounded down):

Access Charge = Access Charge 20mm x Pipe Diameter/400

The Non-residential charge (both consumption and access) is modified by an assessment of the volume of water discharged to sewer, which is known as the Sewerage Discharge Factor (SDF). The charge is determined in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Bill} = \text{Sewerage Discharge Factor} \times (\text{Access Charge} + (\text{Consumption} \times \text{User Charge}))$$

The Sewerage Discharge Factors (SDF) is detailed in the table below:

Type of Non-Residential Property	SDF (per kl)
All non-residential use other than specifically identified below	95%
Motel	85%
Hotel (pub)	100%
Caravan Park	50%
Schools	50%
Nursery	20%
Bowling Club	50%
Home-Based Business	70%

A1.5 Waste Charges

The charges levied by Council for domestic waste services are made under the provisions of section 504 of the Act. The Act specifies that the Council cannot apply the income from ordinary rates towards the cost of providing domestic waste management services. The charges for domestic waste removal have been calculated so as to provide sufficient income to cover the reasonable cost expectations of providing the service.

Council levies a charge annually for a kerbside garbage service and kerbside recycling service. This charge is separately itemised on the rate notice and is levied on all properties within the defined scavenging area. Commercial properties are levied a separate annual charge for kerbside garbage collection and kerbside recycling services based on the number of services provided. The authority for commercial garbage removal charges are contained in section 501 of the Act.

A single weekly service is provided for kerbside garbage collection using 240 litre mobile containers which are available for purchase from Council. Additional weekly services are available on the basis of an additional annual charge.

The suggested charges for the 2022/23 financial year are summarised in the following table:

Description of Waste Service	No.	2022/23 Service Charge (\$)	2023/24 Service Charge (\$)	Total (\$)
Base Charge				
Waste management charge on all rateable properties	6,063	120	124	751,812
Additional Usage Charge – Domestic				
Domestic waste charge used (incl. rural run)	3,048	392	407	1,240,536
Domestic waste charge unused (incl. rural run)	-	-	-	-
Additional Usage Charge – Non-Domestic				
Non-domestic waste service	758	392	407	308,506
Recycling charge 240L	6	114	118	708
Recycling charge 360L	19	145	150	2,850
Fortnightly recycling additional bin charge	-	110.00	-	-
Total	9,894			2,304,412

Notes:

- As part of the \$124.00 waste management charge all residents will be granted one free 240 litre MGB disposal and sorted recycling per visit to the waste facilities.
- Non-domestic waste charges are to have GST added to the charges.

A1.6 Liquid Trade Waste Charges

Council's Liquid Trade Waste Policy was adopted in accordance with State legislation and the NSW Office of Water's Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Guidelines, April 2009. Under the Policy businesses identified as discharging liquid trade waste must gain formal approval to discharge to Council's sewer, and will also be charged for the discharge of liquid trade waste.

A list of the fees and charges adopted by Council is included in the attachment 'Fees and Charges'

A1.7 Stormwater Levy

Council has implemented a stormwater levy to fund stormwater projects that Council is currently unable to fund from General Fund due to funding limitations. This stormwater levy was introduced and is made under section 496A of the Act. Land within an urban area rated as either residential or business for rating purposes (except vacant land) will be charged an annual levy for Council to provide a stormwater management service. Within the LGA there are a total of 3,838 assessments rated as residential and 359 assessments rated as business.

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (NSW), clause 125AA, the maximum annual charge for stormwater management services levied in respect of a parcel of rateable land is for land categorised as urban residential land at \$25.00 and for businesses up to \$25.00 per 350m² up to \$200.00.

Council will accrue additional revenue of \$105,625.00 per annum (same as 2022/23) for expenditure for stormwater management (assuming each business and residential assessment is charged a flat \$25.00 per assessment).

Income from this charge could only be spent on the following items, and would need to relate to new or additional stormwater management services:

- Planning, constructions and maintenance of drainage systems, including pipes, channels, retarding basins and waters receiving urban stormwater;
- Planning, construction and maintenance of stormwater treatment measures, including gross pollutant traps and constructed wetlands;
- Planning, construction and maintenance of stormwater harvesting and reuse projects;
- Planning and undertaking of community and industry stormwater pollution education campaigns;
- Inspection of commercial and industrial premises for stormwater pollution prevention;
- Cleaning up of stormwater pollution incidents (charge can fund a proportion);
- Water quality and aquatic ecosystems health monitoring of waterways, to assess the effectiveness of stormwater pollution controls (charge can fund a proportion); and monitoring of flows in drains and creeks, to assess the effectiveness for flow management (flooding) controls (charge can fund a proportion); and
- Non-permanent staff specifically appointed to work on stormwater management projects.

Funding from the charge would not be able to be spent on the following activities which do not relate to the stormwater management from eligible land:

- Parks and garden activities;
- Riparian restoration or management;
- Bush care (unless proposed activity specifically relates to stormwater impacts on bushland);
- Street sweeping;
- Kerb and guttering (unless dealing with flooding from a private land); and
- Permanent staff positions.

This levy will be utilised to fund the following program or activity:

Drainage Project – Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Stormwater Drainage Renewals			70,000	70,000
Stormwater Levy Projects (All Towns)			105,000	48,000
Total			175,000	118,000
Coolah				
Goddard St – pipe between Binnia St & Central Ln		60,000		
Total		60,000		
Coonabarabran				
Barker St – pipe extension from Camp St		20,000		
Total		20,000		

Drainage Project – Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Binnaway				
Renshaw St/Railway St pipe renewal		50,000		
Normal St/Yeubla St – pipe drainage system	40,000	20,000		
Renshaw St – pipe between Yarran St & Cisco St	50,000			
Total	90,000	70,000		

A1.8 Other Fees and Charges

Council proposes to apply fees and user charges in respect of its regulatory functions and the services it provides.

Section 608(1) of the Act provides that Council may charge and recover an approved fee for any services it provides. Section 608(2) provides that the services for which an approved fee may be charged include the following services provided under the Act or any other Act or the regulations by the Council:

- supplying a service, product or commodity
- giving information
- providing a service in connection with the exercise of the Council's regulatory functions – including receiving an application for approval, granting an approval, making an inspection and issuing a certificate
- allowing admission to any building or enclosure.

The actual fees and charges proposed to be applied by Council for 2023/24 are detailed in the Schedule of Fees and Charges included in this Revenue Policy document forming part of the Operational Plan. The document includes the details of each fee, charge or contribution.

Pricing Policy

Council is committed to providing a variety of goods and services which reflect concern for the individual and the wider community, and which meet the diverse needs of everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the Council area.

Council strives to attain the highest possible standards by making effective and efficient use of all resources, working in a spirit of team work and harmony amongst its councillors, staff and community.

Council will ensure that charges are raised as equitably as possible, whilst considering those groups and individuals in the community who are unable to meet their own needs. Council supports the user-pays principle in assessment and levying of fees and charges, whilst recognising the need for supplementing income in particular circumstances.

Council recognises the need to provide services for groups and members of the community that may not be able to afford a commercial rate of services.

Council will ensure that all rates, charges and fees are set so as to provide adequate cash flows to meet operating costs and to assist in the provision of funding capital works. Council will pursue all cost-effective opportunities so as to maximise its revenue base and to seek an acceptable commercial rate of return on investments subject to community service obligations.

Council recognises the need to set prices for goods and services so as to provide the most effective level of service possible to our community, ensuring resources are not wasted and can promote more efficient and effective investment in infrastructure and services.

Council's pricing policy in relation to any particular good or service may be found in the relevant section of this Revenue Policy.

Fees

Council provides a wide range of services to the community and has adopted a number of fees for these services. They have been set on the basis of the following categories:

- Community service
- Economic cost
- Nominal fee
- Regulatory charge
- User-pays principle

Council has defined the categories as detailed below:

Community services	The cost of the service is subsidised to provide for the community benefit
Economic cost	The cost of the service provided is estimated and the cost of recovery is based upon the anticipated number of users.
Nominal fee	Council adopts a minimal fee for record purposes only.
Regulatory charge	Set by government regulations.
User-pays principle	Used where a specific individual cost can be isolated and charged to the user of that service.

A copy of the Schedule of Fees adopted by Council is attached. All fees have been calculated based on one or more of the abovementioned categories.

GST

Where GST is applicable, the GST column will have a 'yes'. If the GST column is blank the fee is not subject to GST.

Full List of Fees and Charges

For the full list of fees and charges refer to the separate publication 'Warrumbungle Shire Council Fees and Charges'.

A1.9 Private Works

Under section 67 of the Act.

Council may, by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land, carry out on the land any kind of work that may lawfully be carried out on the land including the following:

- Paving and road making
- Kerbing and guttering
- Fencing and ditching
- Tree planting and tree maintenance
- Grass planting and maintenance
- Waste collection
- Demolition and excavation
- Land clearing and tree felling
- Water, sewerage and drainage connections

Private Works Policy

The procedure for undertaking private works and recovering costs are set out in Council's Policy on Private Works. Under this policy private works are categorised into either external private works or internal private works. The procedures for internal private works relate to staff members and they are different to procedures for external private works.

For external private works, Council will send an invoice to clients when payment is not received up front. Payment up front is required for minor works less than \$150 (ex GST) in value.

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Appendix 2: Donations Policy

B2.1 Policy Introduction

Warrumbungle Shire Council provides financial assistance or donations to community groups and individuals to encourage their development and growth within the LGA.

The expected outcomes of this policy are as follows:

- Identification and support for community groups, organisations and individuals that contribute to the social, economic and/or environmental fabric of Warrumbungle Shire.
- Transparent process of application, assessment and determination of financial assistance.
- That financial assistance provided by Council complies with requirements of section 356 of the Act.

Financial assistance is provided across a broad range of activities and is grouped as follows:

- Sporting Clubs and Events
- Charity Groups
- Religious Properties
- Education Support
- Community Service Organisations
- Cultural Groups and Societies
- Youth Groups and Senior Citizens
- Individuals
- Community Hall Committees

B2.2 Annual Donations

In accordance with section 356 of the Act, Council proposed to make a number of Annual Donations in 2023/24 as decided by Council at the May 2023 Council Meeting.

Note 1: The types and structure of financial assistance depends upon the type of activity being undertaken and may be one of the following types:

1. Donation of one half on the annual General Rate, Water Access Charge and Sewerage Access Charge.
2. Donation of one half of the annual Water Access Charge and Sewerage Access Charge.
3. Donation of the full annual Waste Collection Charge and Waste Management Charge.
4. Monetary grant as provided.
5. Operator and/or Plant Hire or Hall Hire.

Under section 356 of the Act, Council provides financial support to local community groups and organisations who Council believe contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan.

Annual donations are provided across six (6) categories:

1. 50% of the annual General Rate, Water Access Charge and Sewerage Access Charge.
2. 50% of the annual Water Access Charge and Sewerage Access Charge.
3. 100% of the annual Waste Collection Charge and Waste Management Charge.
4. Monetary grant.

5. Operator and/or Plant Hire.
6. Hall and/or Facility and/or Equipment Hire.

Council considers Annual Donations each year together with the Draft Operational Plan and Budget for the following year.

Recipients	Max. Amount (\$)/ Approximate
Art Unlimited	1,000.00
Baradine Country Women's Association	50% of annual rates
Baradine Cricket Club	500.00
Coolah Presbyterian Church	50% of annual rates
Coolah Youth and Community Centre	50% of annual rates
Dunedoo Area Community Group Inc.	50% of annual rates
Fee Waiver Recipients – whole LGA	14,000.00
Landcare Coolaburragundy Riverwalk	1,000.00
Mendooran Country Women's Association	50% of annual rates
North West Equestrian Expo	100% of waste collection charge
Schools – whole LGA	770.00
St Lawrence's Catholic Parish, Coonabarabran and Baradine	50% of annual rates
Warrumbungle Eventing Club	1,000.00

B2.3 Council-owned Properties, Facilities, Plant, Equipment and Halls

When Council considers donations for the waiver of fees and charges at Council-owned halls, the fact of whether a fee is charged for entry to the Hall at the time will be a factor in determining the donation.

The donation will only be considered when a local charity or organisation within the LGA financially benefits from the function. Functions specifically excluded are balls, weddings, parties, reunions, organisation presentation nights, conferences (reduced fee already exists) and auction sales. Applications for the donation or refund of hall hire fees will be processed as part of the Financial Assistance Grants.

B2.4 Council-owned Plant

When Council plant is used to carry out private work at the request of a local non-profit organisation, a donation equal to the plant hire may be made to the applicant subject to:

- The work is carried out at a time that does not adversely affect Council's work program.
- The plant being operated by an approved Council operator.
- The operator volunteering his/her services.
- An appropriate hire agreement being executed by the applicant.
- Appropriate insurance cover being arranged.
- That any requests be referred to Council for approval as part of the Financial Assistance Grants.

B2.5 Development Applications

Council will donate the equivalent amount of the development application costs in total only levied on works to be undertaken by community groups on Council-owned facilities with such funds to be provided from the 'Financial Assistance – Other' Budget.

B2.6 Financial Assistance Grants

Financial assistance requested in the form of a monetary grant must be made on Council's application form. There will be a cap of \$500 for Financial Assistance Grants.

B2.7 Assessment Criteria

Council will use the following general criteria when considering requests for financial assistance:

- Activities which address gaps in service or community development;
- Activities which promote community development in a multicultural context and seek to address issues of access and equity;
- Involvement from volunteers and self-help initiatives which build upon Council's contribution;
- Consumer/user participation in management of services/activities;
- Innovative and creative approaches to identified needs; and
- Activities which use Council funding to attract further resources.

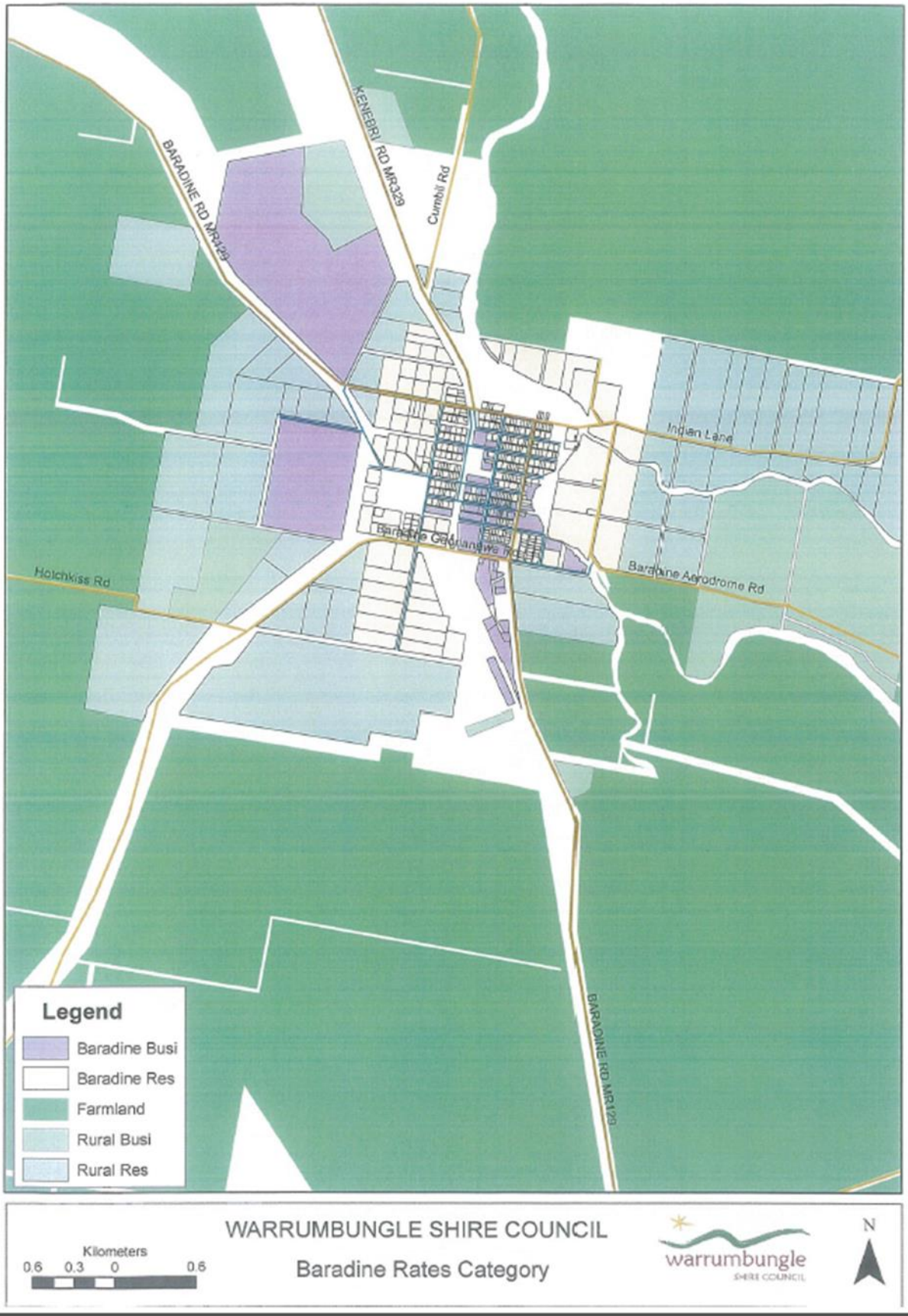
Council will give low priority to the following types of requests for financial assistance:

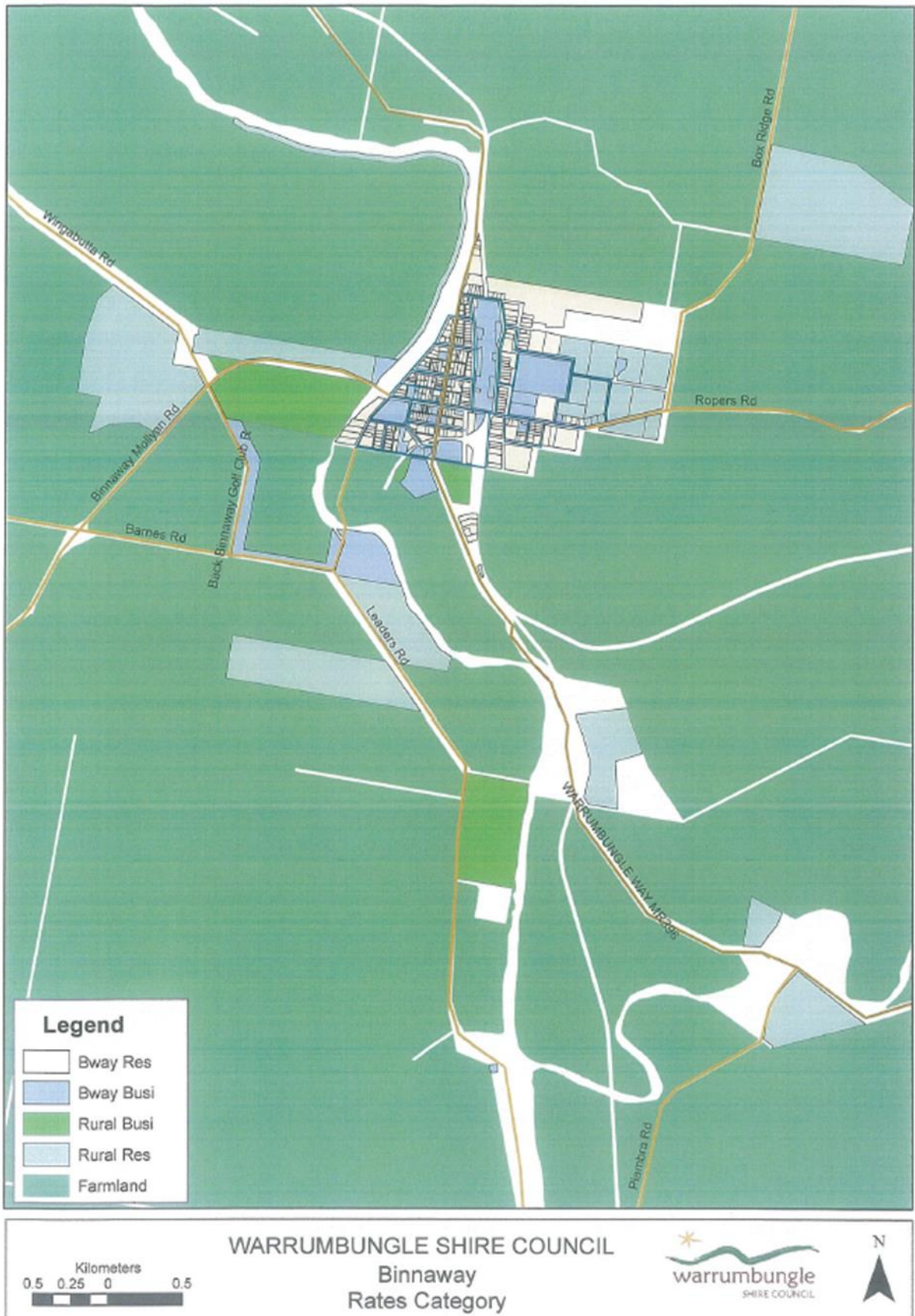
- Activities/services which do not attempt to become self-supporting where the potential exists through fees or other feasible income-producing activities.
- Activities of a purely social nature, which do not address the needs of disadvantaged groups.
- Activities which are eligible for support from state-wide or regional parent bodies.

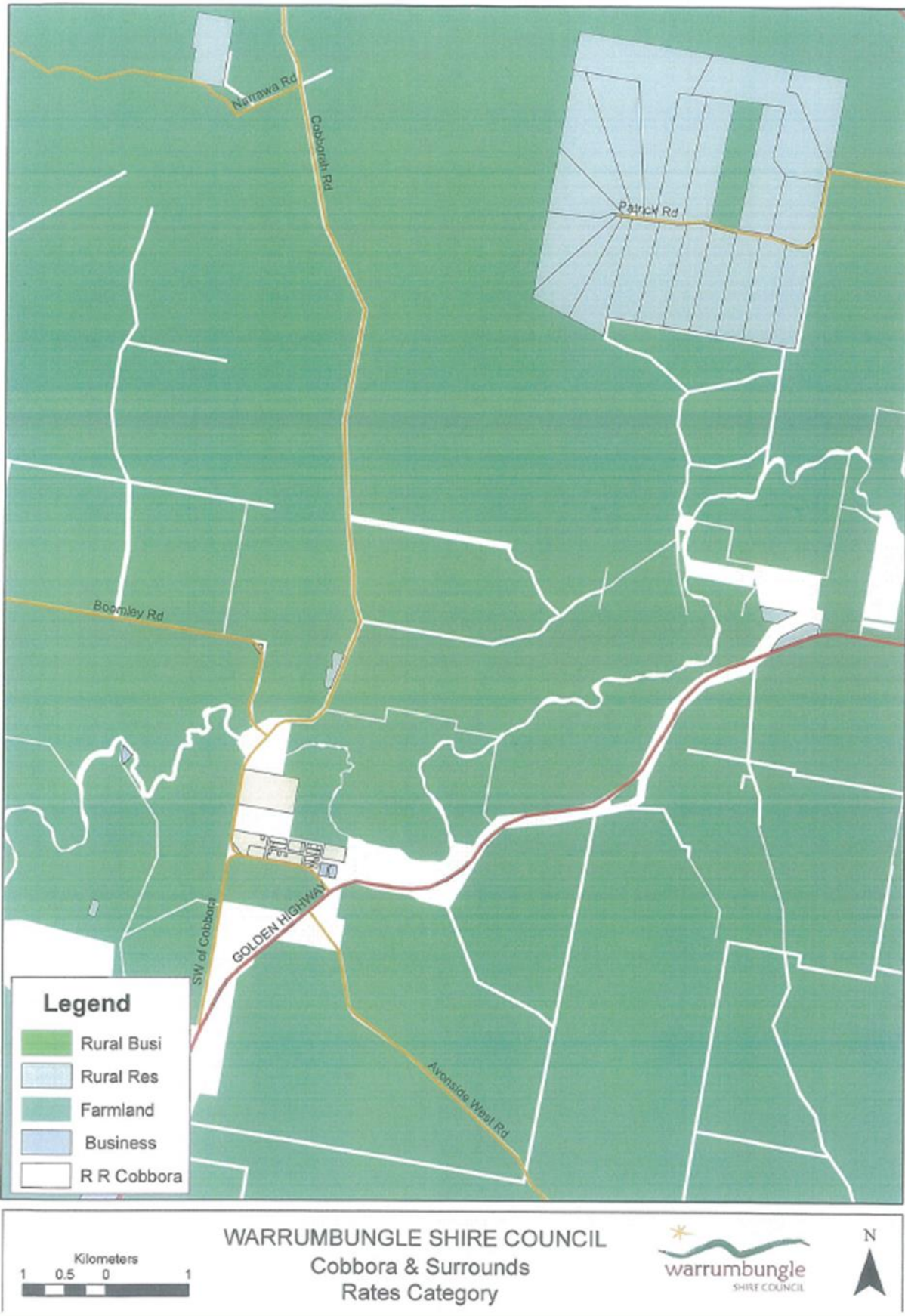
Other Financial Assistance	Amount Allocated (\$)
Financial Assistance – Other	20,000

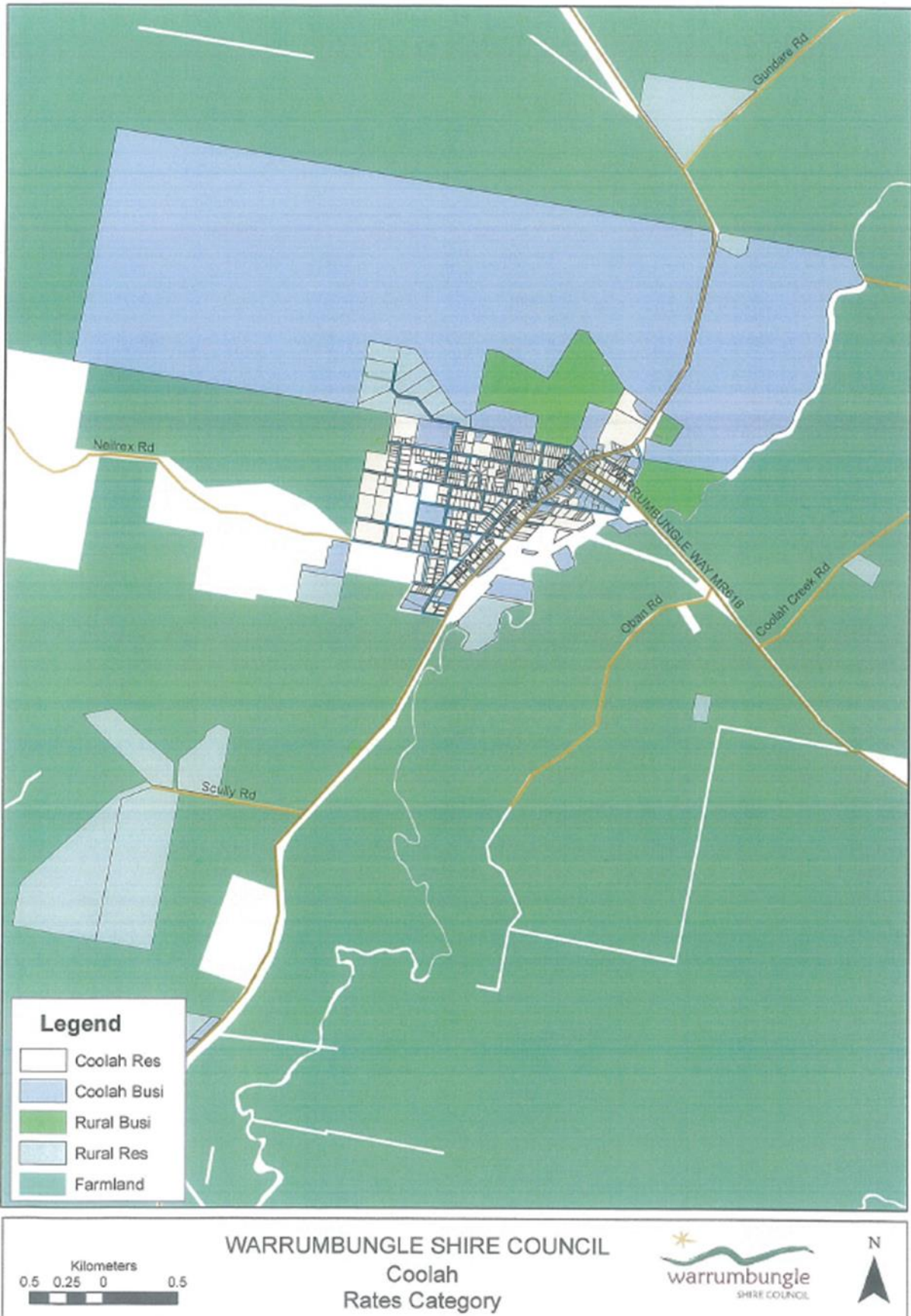
Council will consider applications for financial assistance at ordinary meetings twice per year. Before considering applications for financial assistance, Council will make a public call for applications. Generally, the calls for applications will take place in February and August of each year. Financial assistance donations are made within each financial year, and recipients must accept payment of funds within six (6) months of being notified of their successful application. Funds unclaimed after 6 months are taken to be forfeited.

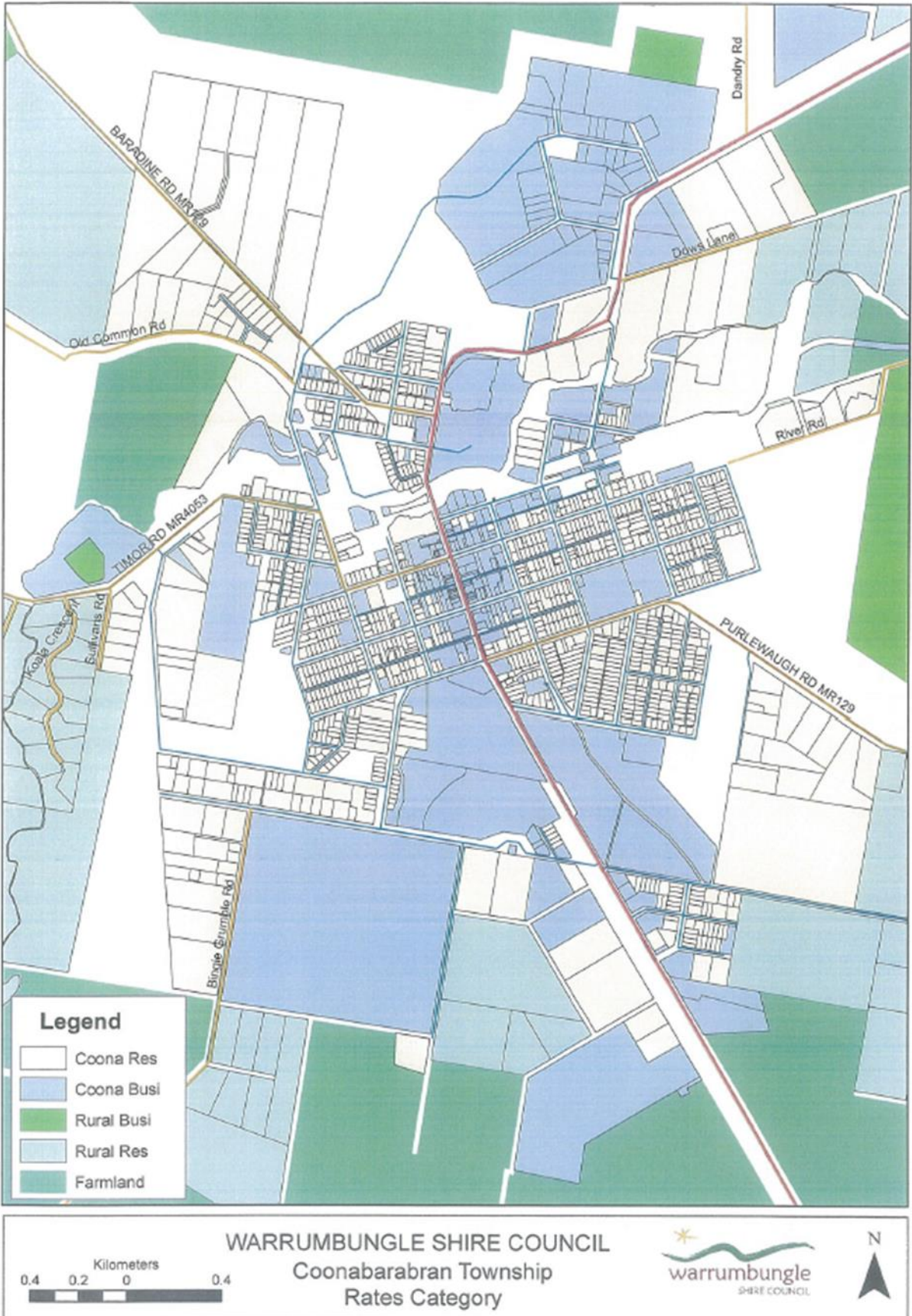
Appendix 3: Rates Maps

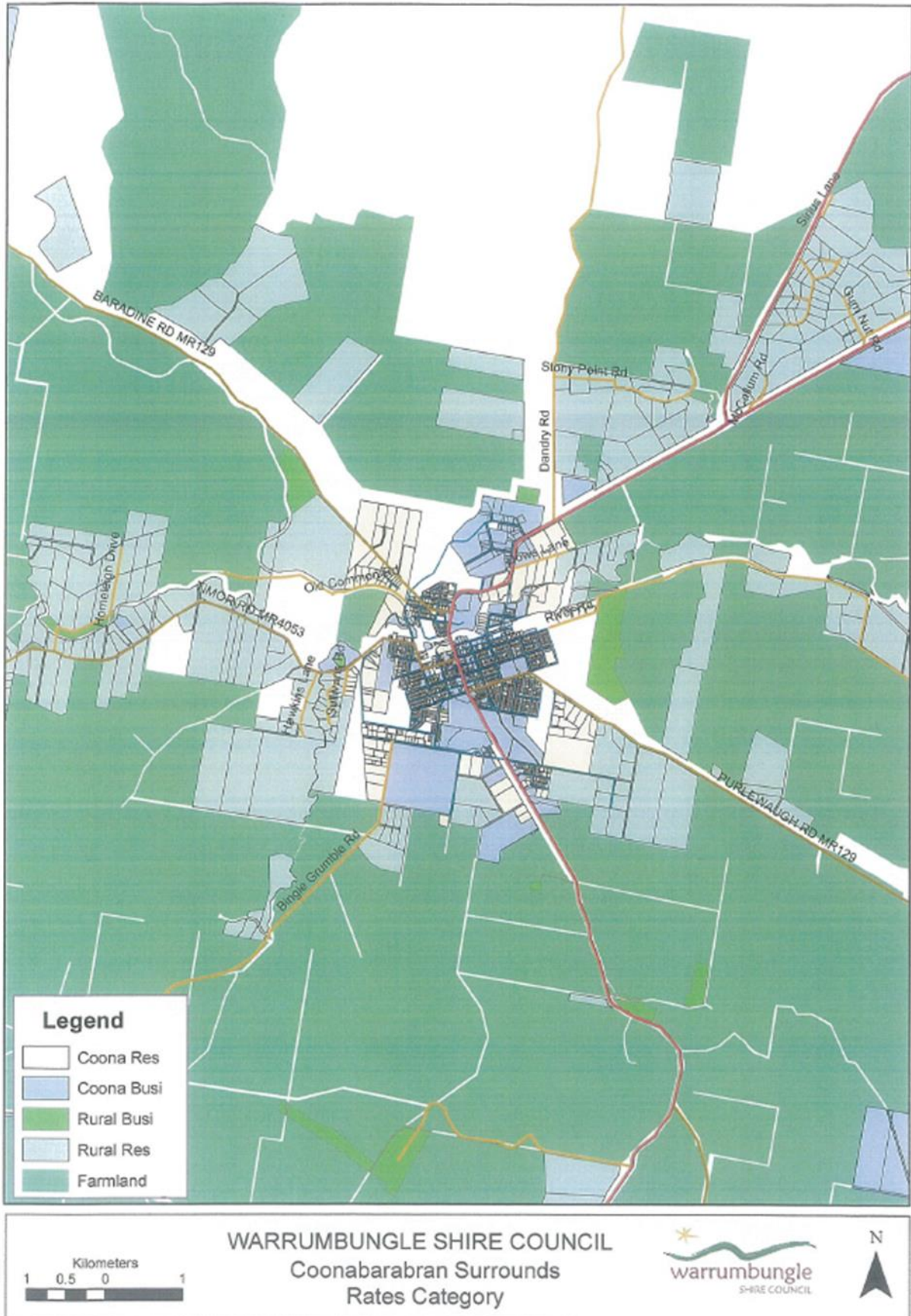


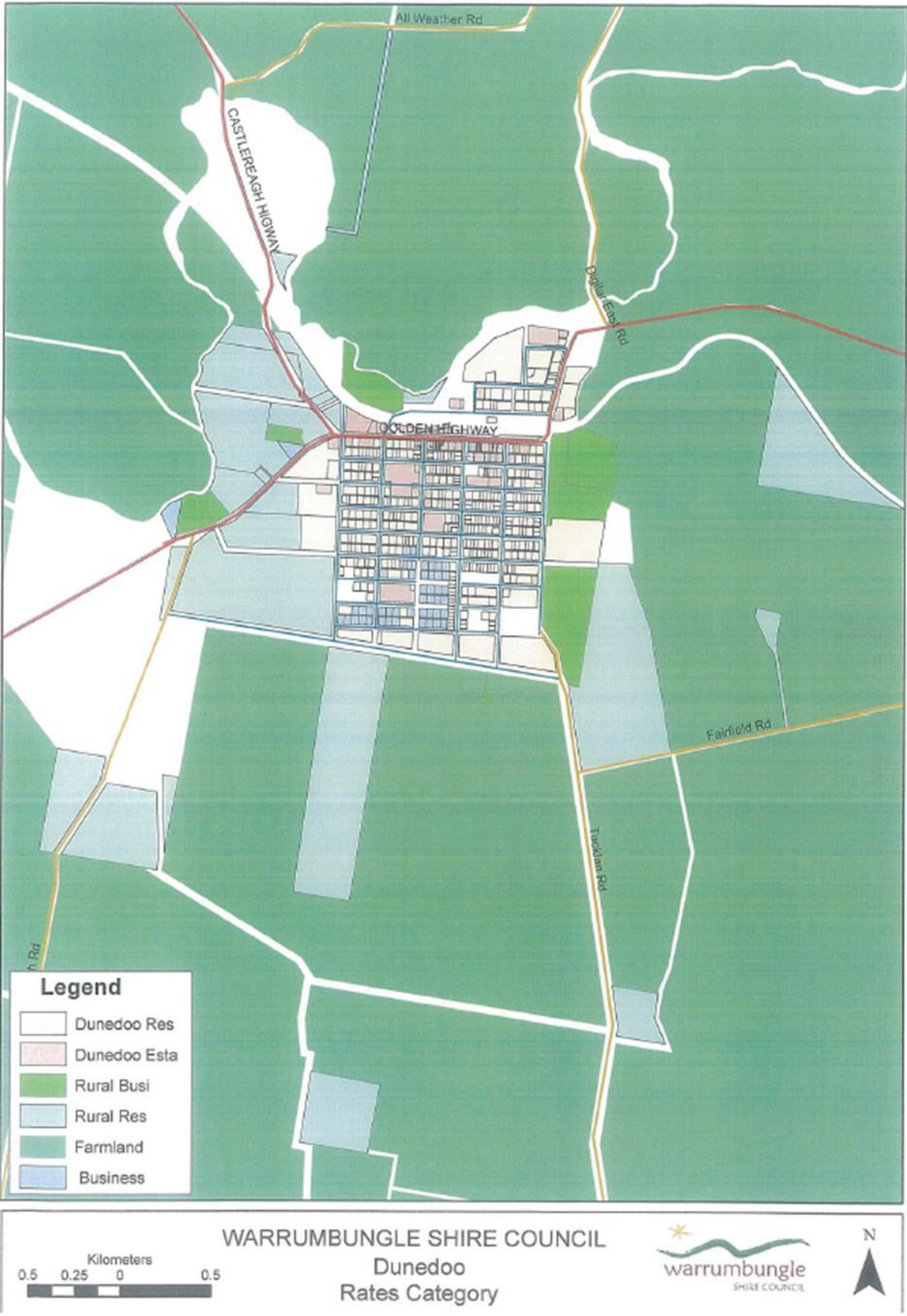


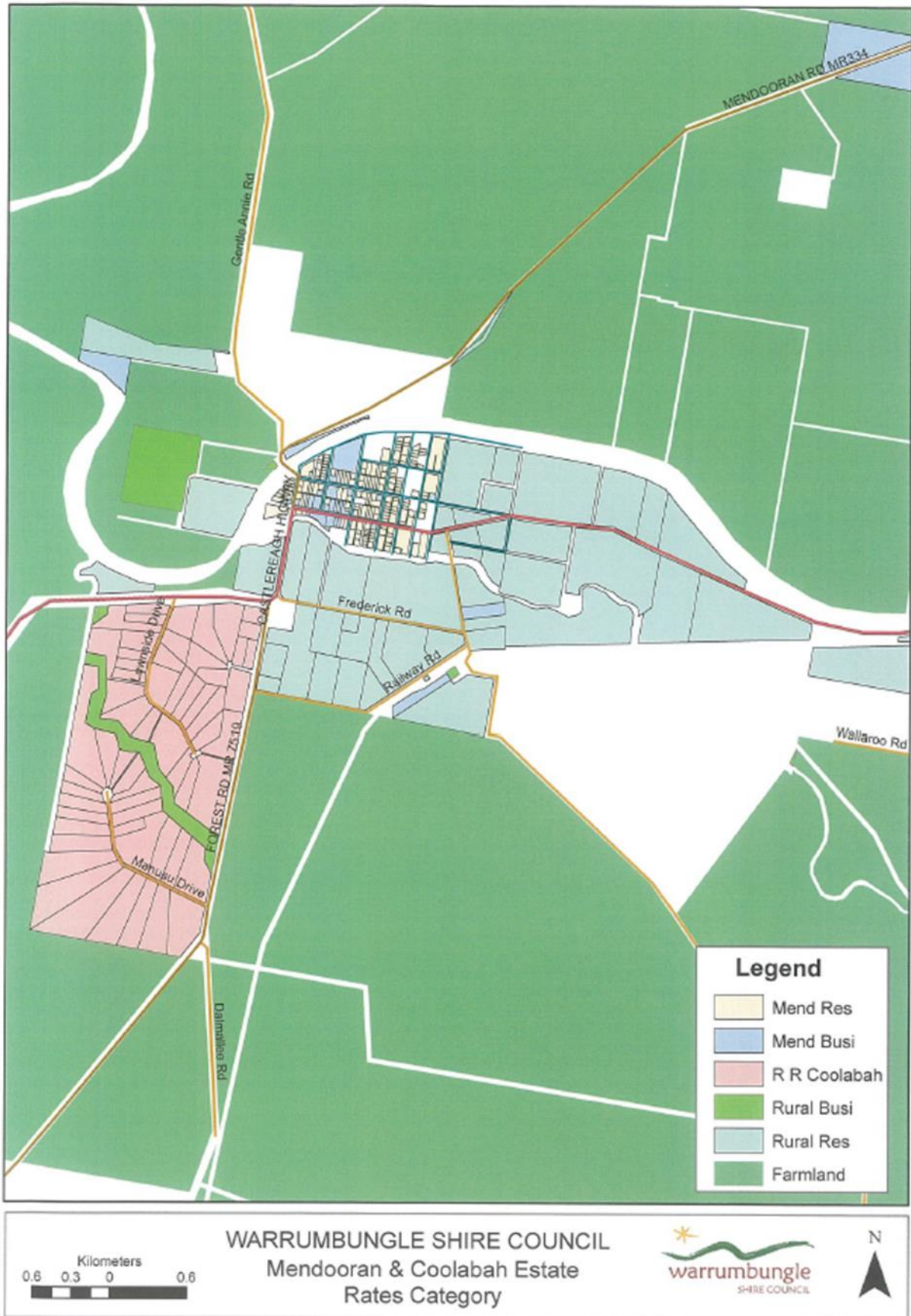


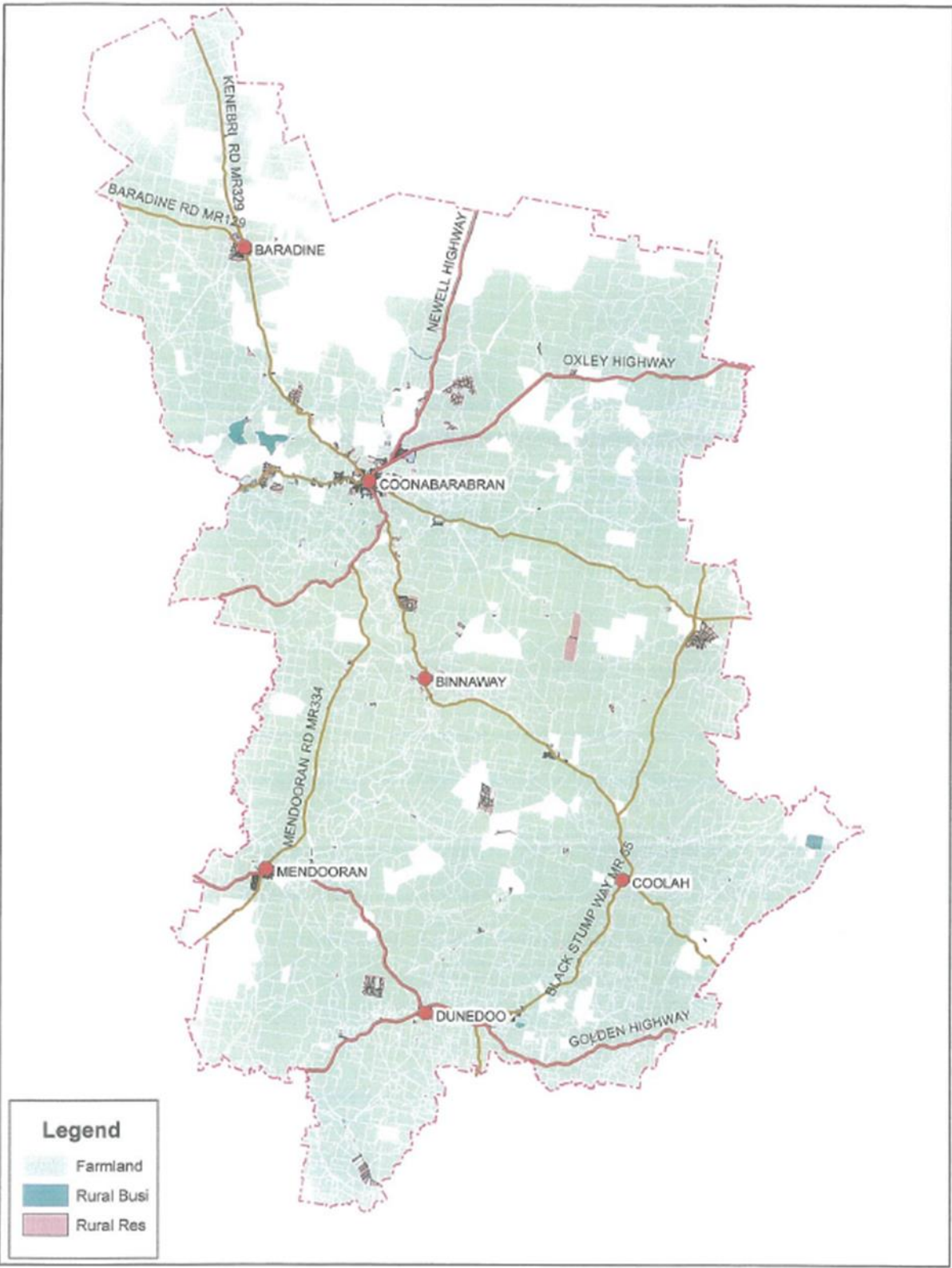












WARRUMBUNGLE SHIRE COUNCIL
 SHIRE MAP
 Rates Category

Kilometers
 10 5 0 10

warrumbungle
 SHIRE COUNCIL

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Warrumbungle Shire Council

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