

A big bill in unpaid rates

The financial statements for the period ending April 30 highlighted the amount of outstanding rates owed to the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

Council was still owed \$114,561 on rates dating back more than five years, although a breakdown on the amounts owed to the former Cardwell and Johnstone Shire Councils was not included.

Council was also owed \$38,265 from five years ago, \$46,916 from four years ago, \$77,182 from three years ago and \$176,586 from two years ago.

A further \$676,065 was still outstanding from a year ago and \$2,610,209 for up to one year.

"That's an awful lot of overdue rates," Mayor Bill Shannon said. "We might have to start thinking about taking action; it might get to the sad stage of selling people's properties, which would be regrettable."

Chief Executive Officer Terry Brennan said there were legal procedures to be followed before that final step was taken.

The financial statements also revealed Council was owed \$9504 in outstanding parking infringement notices.

As there has been no parking officer employed by the CCRC since it came into existence, all these fines date back to the previous councils, but again there was no break-down of figures into where the fines originated.