

Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
23 June 2020**

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**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2020 AT 5.00PM**

Please note: these minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council Meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.

PRESENT: Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Sam Cornish, Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Jill Lyons, Cr Daniel Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Angela Jones (Director Infrastructure & Environment), Ryan Gaiter (Chief Financial Officer/Manager Mid-Richmond), Jenna Hazelwood (Strategy Manager), Scott Walters (Manager Information Technology Services), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor) and Kate Alder-Conn (Governance Officer).

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country by reading the following statement on behalf of Council:

"Richmond Valley Council recognises the people of the Bundjalung Nations as Custodians and Traditional Owners of this land and we value and appreciate the continuing cultural connection to lands, their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region in the past, present and future."

2 PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

3 PUBLIC ACCESS AND QUESTION TIME

Nil

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 MAYORAL MINUTES**5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - THE FUTURE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ACROSS REGIONAL NSW****RESOLUTION 230620/1**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Council write to:

- 1) State member Chris Gulaptis MP,
- 2) Deputy Premier John Barilaro MP and
- 3) Federal Member Kevin Hogan MP

seeking support for funding programs to assist in the establishment of a new weekly print newspaper for our communities.

CARRIED**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2020****RESOLUTION 230620/2**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 19 May 2020.

CARRIED**7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Nil

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

NIL

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYOR ATTENDANCES 12 MAY - 15 JUNE 2020****RESOLUTION 230620/3**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receive and note the Mayor's attendance report 12 May – 15 June 2020.

CARRIED

12 DELEGATE'S REPORTS

Nil

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE****RESOLUTION 230620/4**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That items 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5 identified be determined without debate.

CARRIED

14 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS**14.1 MAYORAL ALLOWANCE/COUNCILLOR FEES 2020/2021****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Each financial year, the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determines the minimum and maximum remuneration payable to Mayors and Councillors for carrying out their duties. The determination by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is pursuant to Sections 239 and 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council has received notification that the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined that the Mayoral and Councillor Fees are not to increase for the 2020/2021 financial year. The tribunal stated in its determination report that although it could have increased the minimum and maximum fees by up to 2.5%, when considering the current economic and social circumstances it decided to leave the fees the same as this current financial year.

The current fees adopted last year which will apply in 2020/21 are as follows:

	Current Fee
Councillor Annual Fee	\$20,280
Mayoral Additional Annual Fee	\$44,250

RESOLUTION 230620/5

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Recommended that:

1. Council note there will be no increase in the Mayoral and Councillor fees for 2020/2021.
2. Council set the Mayoral Allowance for the 2020/2021 financial year effective from 1 July 2020 at \$44,250 per annum or \$3,687.50 per month.
3. Council set the Councillor Fee for the 2020/2021 financial year effective from 1 July 2020 at \$20,280 per annum or \$1,690.00 per month.

CARRIED

14.2 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE PROPOSED FEE STRUCTURE 2020/2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a proposed fee structure for the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX). The proposed structure has been incorporated into the 2020-21 Draft Revenue Policy, for Council's consideration.

NRLX conducted a detailed email survey in relation to stakeholder information, fees and online bidding and streaming of sales for a proposed period of three years. The results of the survey were substantial with 205 responses received.

The NRLX has operated under a simple fee structure for Yard Fees for a prolonged period, and there are differing views amongst stakeholders regarding the existing fee structure. Some stakeholders believe that the certainty and simplicity attached to having one fixed price for all livestock types is a positive, while others view this as an unfair system. There are concerns that the current model provides limited flexibility and does not represent the best interests of NRLX or its vendors. NRLX needs to be commercially competitive in the local market to retain existing clients but also to win new business from neighbouring facilities and direct consignments.

The 2018 Operational Review found that all stakeholders, with the exception of agents, agreed that agent fees should be levied as a percentage of gross revenue. The existing Agent Fees are currently calculated as per head charges. Percentage-based Agent fee structures that are reflective of market conditions and pricing are becoming more common within the marketplace and in the long term NRLX should endeavour to commence this system with an approximate fee of 0.2% of gross sales. Based on the current financial year of 2019/20 and the fees levied to agents under the current agreement it equates to approximately 0.13% against gross sales values. The 2018 Operational Review had recommended that a longer-term plan would be to work towards reaching 0.3% of gross sales. This option provides for increased revenue when a season is strong and the NRLX would also see small financial benefits with this system. When the market is down however we are also tied to the decrease in revenue and experience similar decreases to the agents. It is noted that agents currently charge vendors on a percentage of gross sale value. However, it is proposed that the existing agent fee structure of per head charges should remain for the 20/21 Revenue Policy at the rate set out in the draft Revenue Policy.

There were no consistent responses in the 2018 review when it came to vendor charges and many different models exist in the market place. NRLX has now considered some options including consideration of a price-based vendor fee structure as a basis for driving increased throughput and subsequently increased operating revenue. The Operational Review indicated a percentage of gross revenue model would be an appropriate way to charge vendors, however there are many complications in applying this process via a third party such as an agent.

The 2020 survey conducted found that in response to the two fee options proposed there were five available responses and the table below identifies these responses. Option 2 received the majority of votes at 34.31%, above option 1 at 28.92%. Combining the total of the two identified structures results in Option 2 receiving 47.55%, Option 1, 35.78%, with an alternative fee structure option receiving 16.67%.

Available responses	Individual result	Combined result
An alternative fee structure.	16.67%	16.67%
Option 1	28.92%	
Option 1 with different rates.	6.86%	35.78%
Option 2	34.31%	
Option 2 with different rates.	13.24%	47.55%

The Casino Auctioneers Association Incorporated has indicated that it is in favour of retaining the existing vendor yard fee charges model of a singular price category for a number of reasons. The CAAI's concerns with the Option 2 fee structure are

- Lack of clarity relating to a vendor's sale price on the day
- The new fee system will involve operational changes and software changes to their businesses in billing their clients
- The higher priced livestock are at increased risk of moving to direct consignment due to attracting a higher yard fee
- Higher value livestock vendors choosing other facilities over NRLX due to the higher fee associated with higher value stock

NRLX's main challenge while offering far greater facilities and services over neighbouring yards is that these alternative locations have much lower yard fees than both options proposed for the NRLX fee structure. While the CAAI's concerns are understandable, it should be noted that they do not align with the majority of responses received in the survey.

Having considered the views of stakeholders, a modification of the Option 2 fee structure is proposed.

Price Bracket	Per head Charges
\$0.01 - \$600.00	\$9.00
\$600.01 - \$900.00	\$11.15
\$900.01 and above	\$13.50
Bulls (Non-Stud)	\$15.50

Online bidding and streaming of sales has been part of the long-term vision of NRLX to become a modern and premier livestock exchange while future proofing the business by staying at the forefront of technology and innovation. Richmond Valley Council included infrastructure upgrades for online bidding and streaming into the Stage One redevelopment. It should be noted that the 2017-2018 Operational Review commissioned by Richmond Valley Council included the following scope;

Ascertain the suitability of the Software and Technology currently being used at the NRLX.

Comment:

The current software (Livestock Exchange), has been used at the NRLX for a number of years, with the NRLX making itself available to run trials on upgrades to the software during this period. Council believes it is time to determine whether the current software is suitable for a modern state of the art facility, and if it is, are there functionalities within the software that the NRLX is not utilising. Additionally, Council wishes to investigate how other technology could be incorporated into the upgraded modern facility, especially the potential for live streaming of sales and online buying platforms that could run in conjunction with the traditional selling and buying methods. The review should include a recommendation on software that could/should be used, and an examination on any technology that could potentially benefit the NRLX.

In response to the scope the reviewer Kattle Gear Australia noted in 2018;

An important aspect of this part of the review's scope is the reference to 'potential for live streaming' and the ability for bidders to be real time involved in the selling process . . . The process has been utilised successfully in the facilities at RLX, Carcoar, Barnawartha and others and there appear to be no impediments to its use in the upgraded NRLX environment. An API sits between the auction software and the saleyard software to facilitate the process. It is understood the costs involved are not specifically defined and subject to many variables, but an order of magnitude cost of \$1 per head has been suggested.

The support from stakeholders for the use of live streaming, live offsite bidding on lots, was unanimous in stakeholder consultations, providing there was no degradation in the speed of the auction. The justification for support included increase in competition and a system which reduces collusion.

Richmond Valley Council has continued with infrastructure upgrades for online bidding. Streaming infrastructure was incorporated and further improvements were added during Stage Two.

The 2020 NRLX survey responses in relation to online streaming and bidding was overwhelming in its support for these services to continue with a combined total of 73.68%. Only 26.32% of responses did not wish for online bidding and streaming to continue. Online services, technology and innovation will play a strong part in the future of NRLX and the saleyard industry at a national level, it is critical for the long-term sustainability of operations to evolve and adapt to remain at the forefront of the industry. The results from the survey were:

- 64.66% of respondents were in favour of streaming for weekly prime sales
- 69.17% of respondents were in favour of streaming for Friday Store sales
- 76.69% of respondents were in favour of streaming for Special Stud sales
- 41.35% of respondents said that \$2 per head for streaming was a fair price they were willing to pay
- 32.33% of respondents indicated that \$2 per head for streaming was too high but would like online streaming and bidding to continue
- The combination of respondents in favour for online streaming and bidding to continue equates to 73.68%
- 26.32% of respondents did not wish for online bidding and streaming to continue

RESOLUTION 230620/6

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Daniel Simpson

That Council receive and note the following fees for Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, which are included in the Draft Revenue Policy and following adoption, are to commence as at 1 August 2020 and be in place until 30 June 2023.

	Price Bracket	Charges	
Vendor Usage Fee	\$0.01 - \$600.00	\$9.00	per head
Vendor Usage Fee	\$600.01 - \$900.00	\$11.15	per head
Vendor Usage Fee	\$900.01 and above	\$13.50	per head
Vendor Usage Fee	Bulls (Non-Stud)	\$15.50	per head
Capital Works Levy	All livestock yarded	\$2.05	per head
Agent Business Usage Fee	All livestock yarded	\$1.00	per head
Agent Annual Permit Fee		\$10,500.00	per annum
Stocklive Online Streaming	All livestock yarded	\$1.50	per head
Stocklive Stud Sales		\$1,650.00	per sale

CARRIED

14.3 DRAFT REVISED DELIVERY PROGRAM 2017/2021, DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020/2021 (INCLUDING DRAFT FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2020/2024) AND DRAFT REVENUE POLICY 2020/2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its Ordinary Meeting held 19 May 2020, Council resolved to place the Draft Delivery Program, Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates), Draft Revenue Policy (including Draft Quarry Product Prices) and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan on public exhibition.

This report provides information regarding public submissions received by Council during the exhibition period, details minor amendments that have been made to the Draft Financial Estimates and recommends that Council adopt the documents.

RESOLUTION 230620/7

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That

1. Council adopt the Revised Delivery Program 2017/2021, Operational Plan 2020/2021 (including Financial Estimates 2020/2024), Revenue Policy 2020/2021 (including Quarry Product Prices) and Long-Term Financial Plan 2020/2030.
2. In respect to the general land rates contained in the 2020/2021 Draft Revenue Policy, Council in accordance with Sections 535 and 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* make the following General Rates for the 2020/2021 financial year:

Rating Category	Base Amount	% Yield from Base Amount	Rate in Dollar (Ad Valorem)
Residential	\$310.00	28.67%	\$0.00512
Rural Residential (sub-category)	\$275.00	29.07%	\$0.00357
Business	\$360.00	11.22%	\$0.01431
Farmland	\$360.00	20.18%	\$0.00385

3. That in relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council make and impose the maximum charge for interest, as determined by the Minister for Local Government and in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as follows:
 - (i) for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020; 0.0% per annum
 - (ii) for the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021; 7.0% per annum
4. In respect of annual charges and user charges for Waste Management, Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Management Service Charges, in accordance with Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council make these charges as detailed in the 2020/2021 Draft Revenue Policy to apply to the 2020/2021 financial year.

CARRIED

15 FINANCIAL REPORTS**15.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MAY 2020****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the status and performance of its investment portfolio in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Section 625), *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (Clause 212), Australian Accounting Standard (AASB 9) and Council's Investment Policy.

The value of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 May 2020 including General Bank Accounts and Trust Funds is shown below.

Investment Portfolio	General Bank Accounts	Trust Funds	Total
\$53,068,243	\$761,262	\$87,050	\$53,916,555

The weighted average rate of return on Council's investments for May 2020 was 4.59% which was above the 90 Day Bank Bill Index for May of 0.095%.

RESOLUTION 230620/8

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council adopt the Financial Analysis Report detailing investment performance for the month of May 2020.

CARRIED

15.2 MONTHLY BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS REPORT - MAY 2020**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details the proposed budget adjustments for the month of May 2020. The main adjustment includes the addition of a new project for the relining of the Evans Head Low Zone Water Reservoir which has had a minor leak for several years. This proposed project will offer a long-term solution to the problem and will be completed over two financial years, with \$81,265 being estimated for each year. Further adjustments include the transfer of \$91,748 back to water reserves from projects that have been completed under budget as well as numerous reallocations of funds between projects for waste and cemetery projects.

The proposed changes see Council's expenses from continuing operations decrease by \$17,294 and capital works increase by \$19,334 to a projected total of \$19,971,084. Council's projected surplus of \$122,219 for 2019/2020 remains unchanged as all proposed changes are fully funded from reserves or reallocations from other project budgets. The report provides further details of the proposed changes as well as the revised budget position as at 31 May 2020.

RESOLUTION 230620/9

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Approve the proposed budget adjustments for the month of May 2020.
2. Note the revised budget position for 2019/2020 as at 31 May 2020.

CARRIED

15.3 CASINO INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM INSURANCE CLAIM**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Casino Indoor Sports Stadium was closed for a period of four weeks over the December 2017/ January 2018 Christmas period. During this time, torrential rain led to water entering the stadium through side vents and damaging the flooring. Despite various attempts to dry out and repair the floor, it could not be brought back to a suitable condition and full replacement was required. As the cost of the replacement work was substantial, an insurance claim was lodged with Council's insurer in February 2020. The insurance claim provided for most of the replacement cost. There is a shortfall of some \$60,000 to be funded by Council.

RESOLUTION 230620/10

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council approve the funding shortfall for floor replacement at the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium of \$60,013 to be funded from Council's Real Estate Reserve.

CARRIED

15.4 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE STATISTICS AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) financial performance as at 31 March 2020, as well as monthly throughput information from 2012/2013 to 2019/2020 YTD. Comparatives of averages for periods prior to 19/20 and the adjusted averages including 19/20.

NRLX throughput at 31 March was at the highest levels seen since 2005/06 where 96,662 were accumulated compared to 95,502 this year. It is clear there have been a number of significant influencing factors such as the prolonged drought conditions compounded by the significant fire impacts across the region. 37,617 head were processed for the March quarter compared to 57,885 head for the first half of the financial year.

With widespread rain through February the market kicked which sustained the high throughput for the first quarter. The March quarter saw significant increases in price across the board for all categories and this is demonstrated by the quarterly throughput value of \$38,772,658 exceeding the half yearly value of \$36,465,756.59.

Income from user charges and fees at 31 March was \$1,177,056 and 85.35% of the previously revised projected yearly budget. The original NRLX budget forecast annual revenue of \$1,277,183 from user charges and fees. Operating expenditure is \$1,034,563 exclusive of depreciation showing a cash profit of \$242,620 before depreciation. The depreciation YTD is \$345,858 which delivers an Operating loss of \$128,325 as at 31 March 2020. Again, the budget had been revised at 31 December to reflect the higher throughput and a new forecast of 105,000 head throughput, expense and associated on costs to support the increased throughput. A budget adjustment for \$160,000 in expenses for a Bio-solids project was also included lifting forecast expenditure to \$1,893,335.

It is important to note that the recent successes of NRLX have been from a number of contributing factors and personnel over a period of time. The upgrades of Stage One and Stage Two have been significant influences to the attraction and reputation of NRLX which has positioned the facility as a genuine and well established competitor. The positive and efficient press releases issued by RVC regarding the NRLX operations have garnered widespread attention and positive focus that has no doubt significantly contributed to the ongoing success of the business. This media coverage presents NRLX as a modern, successful and value adding operation that has enabled the facility to attract new vendors and buyers.

The Bio-solids project has continued, and expenses were incurred during the March quarter however delays were encountered due to the significant rainfall in February and March. The increased demands of the record-breaking March compounded with the NRLX staffing restructure contributed to an over extension of resources and an inability to further progress this project. It is anticipated that some product will be delivered in late June however the bulk of the anticipated income will not occur until the first quarter of the new financial year

Covid-19 requirements had significantly impacted operations for sale days with requirements for the facility to be completely closed and access via one entry gate by a registered buyers list. Covid-19 declaration forms for every attendee have been completed and meat processors have been very strict on social distancing requirements, with restriction of entry to vendors and non-essential personnel.

RESOLUTION 230620/11

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receive and note the performance of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange as at 31 March 2020.

CARRIED**16 TENDER REPORTS**

Nil

17 GENERAL BUSINESS**17.1 CROWN ROAD TRANSFER TO COUNCIL - MURPHYS ROAD, YORKLEA****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of November 2016, Council resolved to have two Crown Road Reserves in the Greenridge area transferred to Council's control. This was to ensure local residents had access to public road reserves which could be used as part of a link between Endries Lane Greenridge and Murphys Road Yorklea, especially during a flood event. A subsequent Crown Road Closure application has been lodged with Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) - Crown Lands in May 2020, covering another section of Crown road used as part of this connection.

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to transfer the remaining sections of Crown Road between Endries Lane Greenridge and Murphys Road Yorklea to Council's control.

RESOLUTION 230620/12

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That:

1. Council apply to Department of Planning, Industry & Environment – Crown Lands to transfer the Crown Road Reserves between Endries Lane and Murphys Road Yorklea, as shown in the attached diagram, to Council's control.
2. Any improvements or modifications to the road reserve (including fencing) be at the expense of the person(s) seeking the improvements. Council will not be taking on maintenance of this road.
3. Any gates proposed to be installed across the road reserve comply with Council's existing Public Gates and Bypasses (Cattle Grids) Procedure.
4. Council records in its asset database the limits of the road to be maintained.

.CARRIED

17.2 RENAMING OF ROAD - COOK STREET, BROADWATER**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the Ordinary Council Meeting in March 2020, Council endorsed the renaming of the east/west section of Cook St, Broadwater to Maloney Street, or Henry Street, if Maloney Street was rejected. The renaming was necessary to resolve confusion over street addressing. Both endorsed names were subsequently rejected by the Geographic Names Board.

This report recommends Council endorse a new road name – Duncan Street - which has been accepted by the Geographic Names Board.

RESOLUTION 230620/13

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council endorse the renaming of the east/west section of Cook Street, Broadwater to Duncan Street

CARRIED

17.3 INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS POLICY**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has reviewed its Installation of Street Lights Policy to provide clearer information and guidance for staff and the community.

RESOLUTION 230620/14

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council adopt the amended Installation of Street Lights Policy.

CARRIED

17.4 CEMETERIES AND BURIAL POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has developed a draft Cemeteries and Burial Policy to encourage best practice in the overall management of cemetery infrastructure and interments. The policy will help to ensure Council complies with relevant Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice relating to interment services and interment rights in NSW cemeteries. It will also provide guidance to council officers, the community and funeral directors on providing appropriate interment services to meet the needs of the families of the deceased.

The '*Specifications for Approved Headstones, Plaques & Fittings Casino, Coraki & Evans Head Lawn Cemeteries Memorial Gardens and Niche Walls*' is an accompanying document to the policy and provides technical information pertaining to the cemetery infrastructure associated with an individual grave site or memorial.

While the draft policy is based on Council's past management practices for cemeteries, it may be appropriate to invite community comment on these matters before endorsing the document, to ensure the draft policy reflects current community expectations.

RESOLUTION 230620/15

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council places the draft Cemeteries and Burial Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to consider community feedback.

CARRIED

17.5 EXTENSION TO KERBSIDE COLLECTION - WEST CORAKI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council carried out an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to assess the viability to extend our kerbside waste collection services to a number of properties in West Coraki. The assessment of the EOI supports an opportunity to extend kerbside collection to a total of six properties on parts of Springville Road and Coraki-Ellangowan Road. Given the current economic circumstances, Council may wish to consider waiving the Waste Service Availability charge for the 2020/21 financial year for any of the six properties not taking up the full service.

RESOLUTION 230620/16

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council waive the \$125 waste service availability charge for the 2020/2021 financial year to any of the six properties not taking up the full service as identified within the Springville Road and Coraki-Ellangowan Road collection area.

CARRIED

18 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RESOLUTION 230620/17**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Recommended that the following reports submitted for information be received and noted.

CARRIED

18.1 IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ON THE NORTHERN RIVERS**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It expected that impacts arising from the COVID-19 Public Health Orders will have a significant effect on the Richmond Valley economy both in the short and long terms.

The summary report attached shows the current headline forecasts for the Richmond Valley and Northern Rivers councils. Comparison against data released in May shows a decrease in the forecasted impacts across the board.

Programs under the COVID-19 Community and Economic Development Resilience Package continue to be implemented and are receiving positive engagement and responses from participants and the community.

RESOLUTION 230620/18

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the information provided on the economic impacts of COVID-19.

CARRIED

18.2 APPRECIATION FOR LOCAL CONTRACTORS FOLLOWING THE 2019 NORTHERN RIVERS BUSHFIRES**RESOLUTION 230620/19**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council formally acknowledges the work local contractors undertook in support of Council's operations and its residents following the Northern Rivers bushfires which commenced in October 2019.

CARRIED**18.3 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MAY 2020****RESOLUTION 230620/20**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of May 2020.

CARRIED**18.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 MAY TO 31 MAY 2020****RESOLUTION 230620/21**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 May to 31 May 2020.

CARRIED**18.5 REVIEW OF FRAUD PREVENTION POLICY****RESOLUTION 230620/22**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the updated Fraud Prevention Policy.

CARRIED

18.6 RAPPVILLE COMMON PROJECT - LAND ACQUISITION**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In the immediate days following the Busby's Flat Road fire which burned through the Rappville township destroying 11 homes and other structures, work began on the clean-up and recovery. The primary focus was to restore access, electricity and water supply to the affected area. Council has played a vital role in the coordination of both the emergency response and the continued recovery efforts.

A key feature of this recovery was the adoption of "Rebuilding the Richmond Valley – Community Revitalisation Plan from 2019 Bushfires." This plan is a locally-led approach to recovery and will be delivered in accordance with three recognised lines being Economic, Community and Social and Infrastructure and Environment.

A feature of the plan is the rebuild of the Rappville Hall, which would form part of a greater Rappville Common, a community hub central to the recovery of the Rappville Community. To realise this vision, Council is exploring the acquisition of two land parcels to facilitate the Rappville Common construction.

RESOLUTION 230620/23

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the information contained in the Rappville Common Project – Land Acquisition report.

CARRIED

18.7 CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO TARGET STORE CASINO CLOSURE**RESOLUTION 230620/24**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receive and note the correspondence regarding the proposed closure of the Target store in Casino.

CARRIED

19 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

20 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

Nil

21 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**21.1 Rappville Common Project Land Acquisition - Closed Council**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (c) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

The General Manager reported that no written representations had been received in respect to the item listed for consideration in Closed Council.

The Chair called for verbal representations from the gallery.

There were no representations from the gallery.

The Chair advised under section 10A of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public are to be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A(2) as outlined above.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 230620/25

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Jill Lyons

That:

1. Council resolved to enter Closed Council to consider the business identified in Item 21.1, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to Section 10A(2) - (c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A(2) as outlined above.
3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council closed its meeting at 5.25pm. The public left the Chamber.

CARRIED

The Open Council Meeting resumed at 5.27pm.

22 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL

The following resolutions of Council, passed while the meeting was closed to the public, were read to the Open Council Meeting by the Chair.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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21.1 Rappville Common Project Land Acquisition - Closed Council

That Council:

1. Authorise the General Manager to negotiate and complete the sale of the two properties in Rappville as described in this report.
2. Authorise the General Manager to sign and endorse relevant documents, including affixing the seal of Council where appropriate, generally in accordance with the details considered by Council.

The Meeting closed at 5.28pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 July 2020.

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CHAIRPERSON