

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 15 September 2020

Time: 5.00pm

**Location: Council Chambers
10 Graham Place, Casino**

**Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager**

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	5
2	PRAYER.....	5
3	PUBLIC ACCESS AND QUESTION TIME	5
4	APOLOGIES	5
5	MAYORAL MINUTES.....	5
	Nil	
6	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
6.1	Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on 18 August 2020	6
7	MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	7
8	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	7
9	PETITIONS.....	7
	Nil	
10	NOTICE OF MOTION	7
	Nil	
11	MAYOR'S REPORT	8
11.1	Mayor Attendances 11 August - 7 September 2020	8
12	DELEGATES' REPORTS.....	9
12.1	Delegates' Report Submitted to September 2020 Ordinary Meeting.....	9
13	MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE	13
13.1	Matters to be Determined Without Debate.....	13
14	GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS	14
14.1	Election of Deputy Mayor	14
14.2	Review of Code of Conduct and Gifts and Benefits Policy.....	17
15	FINANCIAL REPORTS	20
15.1	Financial Analysis Report - August 2020	20
16	TENDER REPORTS.....	31
	Nil	
17	GENERAL BUSINESS	32
17.1	Casino Showground Racecourse Recreation Reserve Plan of Management	32
17.2	Classification of Land - Future Rappville Hall Site	34
17.3	Rappville Reserve Draft Plan of Management.....	36
17.4	Road Maintenance and Construction Services Review Update on Implementation Actions	39
17.5	Evans Head Off-Leash Area.....	43
17.6	Renaming of Road - Duncan Street Broadwater.....	50
18	MATTERS FOR INFORMATION	52
18.1	Disclosure of Interests - Councillors and Designated Persons.....	52

18.2	Review of Access to Council Records by the Public Policy and Privacy Management Plan	54
18.3	Correspondence - Local Government Economic Stimulus Package	55
18.4	Correspondence - Submission to Legislative Council Inquiry into Government Grants Programs.....	61
18.5	Correspondence - Submission to Rous Future Water Project 2060.....	65
18.6	Grant Application Information Report - August 2020	67
18.7	Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 August to 31 August 2020	74
19	QUESTIONS ON NOTICE	81
19.1	Online Beach Permit System on Airforce Beach.....	81
20	QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING).....	83
21	MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL	84
21.1	Woodview Quarry Lease Negotiations	84
22	RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL	85

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor will provide 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**3 PUBLIC ACCESS AND QUESTION TIME****4 APOLOGIES****5 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2020

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 August 2020.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Ordinary Minutes 18 August 2020 (under separate cover)**

7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(Councillors to specify details of item and nature of interest)

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYOR ATTENDANCES 11 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report 11 August – 7 September 2020.

REPORT**August**

- 11th Rappville Advisory Group Meeting
- 14th Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting
- 15th BCA Rappville Hall Community Event
- 17th Clontarf Academy South Grafton
- 18th Vietnam Veterans Day – Casino
- 18th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 19th Charlie Cox OAM funeral
- 19th Rous County Council Ordinary meeting
- 20th Beef Week AGM
- 21st Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board Meeting
- 26th St Mary's Primary School meeting
- 27th Casino Town Tennis Club AGM
- 28th Mid-Richmond Historical Society AGM

September

- 1st Richmond Valley Councillor Information Session
- 3rd Legacy Wreath Laying
- 3rd Meeting with constituent
- 4th Casino RSM Cougars Junior Rugby League Football Club

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT SUBMITTED TO SEPTEMBER 2020 ORDINARY MEETING**

Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Delegates' Report for the month of August 2020.

REPORT

Council delegates are required to report on meetings/forums attended on Council's behalf. The following information has been provided regarding meetings/functions attended by Councillors.

Rous County Council

Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sandra Humphrys have provided the following summary of the main items of business for the Rous County Council meeting held on 19 August 2020.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rous County Council Meeting Summary 19 August 2020**



**Summary of main items of business for
Rous County Council meeting
19 August 2020**

1. Delivery program progress update: 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020

This report contained information about progress on achievement of the performance targets prescribed in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Delivery Program. The results for the reporting period were: 58% *Acceptable* (complete or on track according to schedule); 22% *Monitor* (in progress but behind schedule); 6% *Review* (corrective action required); 14% (no longer required).

2. Retail water customer account assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its '*Retail Water Customer Account Assistance*' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$3,561.17.

3. Preliminary 2019/20 End of Year financial summary

Council adopted this report providing a preliminary overview of the 2019/20 financial performance of the organisation, detailing the transfers to and from reserve and identifying the works to be carried forward to the 2020/21 financial year.

4. Release of easements for water pipeline – Skinner Shoot Road, Skinners Shoot

Council granted approval to the release of an easement for water pipeline supply 5.03 wide over Lot 13 in DP615522 located at Skinners Shoot, with the associated costs to be borne by the landowner, and delegated authority to the General Manager to release existing easements associated with the decommissioned Byron 150mm diameter pipeline for all future landholder requests.

5. Rous County Council Asset Management Strategy 2020-2024

Asset management is a high importance function with Council managing a large asset base valued at \$624million. The Strategy provides the strategic plan for achieving the asset management objectives of Council and outlines the role and scope of the Asset Management System and long-term approach for managing assets, as well as defining the asset management mission and objectives. The Strategy was developed and reviewed by staff following a series of workshops to gather a broad view on current practices across Council and to identify improvements.

Council endorsed the report as presented and adopted the proposed Asset Management Strategy 2020-2024.

6. Re-endorsement of landowner volunteer floodgate operator program

Council re-endorsed the landowner volunteer floodgate operator program. This program makes provision for landowners to operate agreed Council floodgates to enable tidal exchange outside of flood periods. Landowners who undertake this role do so as a volunteer of Council. The majority of Rous' modified floodgates operate automatically or are operated by Council staff. However, some floodgates have been operated by landowner volunteers. This volunteer activity has occurred in some locations for the past 20 years. Both staff and landowners support the continuation of the program.

Council meeting summary August 2020

7. Information reports

The following reports were received and noted:

i). Investments July 2020

- Total funds invested for July was \$34,766,029. This is a decrease of \$1,426,309 compared to the May 2020 figure. This is primarily due to semi-annual loan repayments and year end expenditure.
- The weighted average return on funds invested for the month of July was 1.69%. This represents a decrease of 13 basis points compared to the May result (1.82%) and is 159 basis points above Council's benchmark.
- Interest earned for July was \$49,184. Interest earned compared to the original budget is \$3,434 in excess of pro-rata budget.
- Cheque account balance as at 31 July 2020 was \$130,874.
- Ethical holdings represent 64.72% of the total portfolio. Current holdings in Ethical Financial Institutions equals \$22,500,000. The assessment of Ethical Financial Institutions is undertaken using www.marketforces.org.au which is an affiliate project of the Friends of the Earth Australia.

ii). Water production and usage / water fill stations: June 2020 and July 2020

- *Water usage June 2020*
Daily source usage for June 2020 averaged 26.555ML. This is an increase from the May 2020 daily average of 23.976ML. Rocky Creek Dam as of 30 June 2020 was at 99.00% of full capacity.
- *Water fill stations June 2020*
Total water usage for the public water fill station network for June 2020 was 2,290kL, a decrease from 3,523kL in May 2020.
- *Water usage July 2020*
Daily source usage for July 2020 averaged 27.507ML. This is an increase from the June 2020 daily average of 26.555ML. Rocky Creek Dam as of 31 July 2020 was at full capacity.
- *Water fill stations July 2020*
Total water usage for the public water fill station network for July 2020 was 5,248kL, an increase from 2,290kL in June 2020.

iii). Fluoride plant dosing performance report: Q2 - 2020

Council noted the Fluoride Dosing Plant Performance Report for Q2 – 2020 (April 2020 to June 2020), which shows that none of the plants have dosed above the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines upper limit of 1.5mg/L. Clunes, Corndale, Dorroughby and Knockrow have all operated within the target range in the NSW Health Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies. During Q2, there was one delivery of Sodium Fluorosilicate which was distributed to the Knockrow and Corndale plants. Fluoride deliveries were supplied and tested in accordance with Council's specifications.

iv). Reports pending

Noted as presented.

8. Audit Risk and Improvement Committee: meeting update

Council received the report and further noted the deferral of local government elections until 4 September 2021 due to COVID-19 and extended the appointment of the Councillor members of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a further 12 months (being, Councillor Cook (primary member) and Councillor Cameron (alternate member)).

For a copy of the draft minutes and business paper for this meeting, please go to Council's website www.rous.nsw.gov.au

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

Each Councillor is given the opportunity to indicate which items they wish to debate or question. Item numbers identified for debate or questioning will be read to the Meeting.

Following identification of the above items a motion will be moved in regard to the balance of items being determined without debate.

13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**RECOMMENDATION**

That items identified be determined without debate.

14 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

14.1 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 231 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (The Act) provides that the Councillors may elect a Deputy Mayor for the mayoral term or for a shorter term. The Deputy Mayor may exercise any function of the Mayor at the request of the Mayor, or if the Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function, or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of Mayor.

Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (The Regulation) provides for the method of conducting the election of Deputy Mayor.

Under the Regulation, nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor are to be made in writing by two or more councillors (one of whom may be the nominee) and delivered to the returning officer.

If more than one candidate is nominated, the Regulation provides for the election to be conducted by either preferential ballot, ordinary ballot or open voting. Following public declaration of the election result, nomination forms and any ballot papers used in the election may be destroyed.

As Council's term of office is due to conclude in September 2021, the Deputy Mayor may only be elected for a maximum 12-month term. It is recommended that the method of conduct for the election of Deputy Mayor be by open voting.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council elect a Deputy Mayor for a 12-month term.
2. Nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor be submitted in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Schedule 7.
3. The method of conduct for the election of Deputy Mayor be by open voting.
4. Following declaration of the election result, nomination forms be destroyed.
5. Notification of the result be made to the Office of Local Government and LGNSW.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.3: Ensure transparency and accountability in council's operations

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

No fee is specifically payable to the Deputy Mayor. Should Council determine that a fee be payable, the mayoral allowance would need to be reduced by the same amount.

REPORT

Section 231 of The Act provides for the following in relation to the position of Deputy Mayor:

- "(1) The councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the deputy mayor.*
- (2) The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.*
- (3) The deputy mayor may exercise any function of the mayor at the request of the mayor or if the mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of mayor.*
- (4) The councillors may elect a person from among their number to act as deputy mayor if the deputy mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising a function under this section, or if no deputy mayor has been elected."*

Schedule 7 of The Regulation outlines the requirements for conducting the election of Deputy Mayor. Under the Regulation, the General Manager, or a person appointed by the General Manager, acts as the returning officer for the election.

Nominating candidates

The Regulation provides for a councillor to be nominated without notice for the role of Deputy Mayor. Nominations must be made in writing by two or more councillors (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee consents to the nomination in writing. Nominations are then delivered to the returning officer and he or she announces the names of the nominees at the council meeting at which the election is to be held.

If only one councillor is nominated, he or she is elected. If more than one councillor is nominated, Council then determines by resolution, whether it will use open voting, ordinary ballot or preferential ballot for the election. The election must be conducted at the same meeting.

Deciding by open voting

Should Council decide to undertake the election via the open voting method, the preferred candidate is selected by show of hands.

If there are three or more candidates, the one with the lowest number of votes is excluded and the show of hands is taken repeatedly, using the same process, until there are only two candidates remaining. The person with the highest number of votes at the final poll is elected. If the final poll is a draw, the successful candidate is selected by lot.

Deciding by ordinary ballot

Should Council decide to undertake the election via ordinary ballot, the returning officer decides the manner in which votes are to be marked on the ballot paper. He then determines if all the ballot papers received are formal votes (using the guidance in cl 345 of the Regulation) and excludes any informal ballot papers. If there are only two candidates, the one with the highest number of votes is elected. If there are three or more candidates in the election, the one with the lowest number of votes is excluded after the first poll. The poll is then taken repeatedly, using the same process, until there are only two candidates remaining. The person with the highest number of votes at the final poll is elected. If the final poll is a draw, the successful candidate is selected by lot.

Deciding by preferential ballot

Generally, the preferential ballot system is only applied in larger councils, when there are more than two candidates for the role. Should council decide to use this method councillors are asked to mark their votes by placing the numbers 1, 2, 3 and so on against the various names on the ballot paper to indicate their order of preference for all the candidates. If a candidate has an absolute majority (more than half the first preference votes), that candidate is elected. If not, the candidate with the least number of first preference votes is excluded and his or her votes are transferred to those marked as the second preference on the ballot paper/s. This process continues until one of

the candidates has an absolute majority. If, at the final count, there are only two candidates left, each with the same number of votes, the successful candidate is selected by lot.

Choosing by lot

To choose a candidate by lot, the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes are written on similar slips of paper by the returning officer, the slips are folded by the returning officer so as to prevent the names being seen. The slips are then mixed, and one is drawn at random by the returning officer. The candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is chosen.

Declaring the result

The Regulation requires the returning officer to declare the results of the election, including the name of the successful candidate, at the council meeting where the election is held. The result must also be sent to the Office of Local Government and LGNSW.

CONSULTATION

Nomination forms have been provided to each Councillor.

CONCLUSION

This report provides details of the process required for the election of Deputy Mayor. Nomination forms for the position of Deputy Mayor have been forwarded to each Councillor. Additional nomination forms are available on request.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

14.2 REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT AND GIFTS AND BENEFITS POLICY

Author: Kate Alder-Conn, Governance Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted the 2018 *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (Model Code of Conduct) and *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (Procedures) in February 2019.

Following consultation undertaken by the Office of Local Government, the new 2020 Model Code of Conduct and Procedures have been prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (Regulation).

The new Model Code of Conduct and Procedures came into effect on 14 August 2020. Councils are to adopt a code and procedures based on the prescribed Model Code of Conduct and Procedures as soon as possible.

The amendment to the Code of Conduct requires an update of Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the 2020 *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* and *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW*, and
2. Adopts the revised Gifts and Benefits Policy.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.3: Ensure transparency and accountability in council's operations

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

In 2018 the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* and *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* was prescribed under the Regulation. Council adopted the 2018 Code and Procedures in February 2019.

Following Office of Local Government (OLG) consultation, the new 2020 Model Code of Conduct and Procedures have been prescribed under the Regulation and came into effect from 14 August 2020. Councils are to adopt a code and procedures based on the prescribed Model Code of Conduct and Procedures as soon as possible.

Key changes in the new Model Code of Conduct

1. Removal as a breach, the failure to comply with a council resolution requiring action in relation to a code of conduct breach (because it is now redundant);
2. Update of the language used to describe the various heads of discrimination in Clause 3.6 to reflect more contemporary standards;
3. Inclusion in the definition of council committee and council committee members, members of audit, risk and improvement committees (ARICs) in anticipation of the commencement of

the requirement for all councils to appoint an ARIC following the next local government elections; and

4. Amendments to the gifts and benefits provisions, as follows:
 - a. \$50 cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted has been increased to \$100;
 - b. Clarification that items with a value of \$10 or less are not “gifts or benefits” under the Code of Conduct and therefore, do not need to be disclosed;
 - c. Clarification that benefits and facilities provided by councils (as opposed to third parties) to staff and councillors are not “gifts or benefits” for the purposes of the Code of Conduct; and
 - d. Removal of the cap on the value of meals and refreshments that may be accepted by council officials in conjunction with the performance of their official duties.

Key changes to the Procedures:

1. The Procedures have been amended in response to the decision by the Supreme Court in the matter of *Cornish v Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment [2019] NSWSC 1134*. Consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision, under the new Procedures, councils have the following options when taking disciplinary action against councillors for breaches of their codes of conduct:
 - a. that a councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), or
 - b. that a councillor be formally censured for a breach under section 440G and the matter referred to OLG for further disciplinary action under the misconduct provisions of the Act.
2. The process for censuring councillors for breaches of the Code of Conduct has been significantly strengthened to ensure councillors are made publicly accountable to their electors for their conduct. When censuring councillors, councils are required to specify in their resolution the grounds on which the councillor is being censured by disclosing the investigator’s findings and determination and any other grounds that the council considers may be relevant or appropriate.
3. Councillors may seek to avoid public censure for breaches of the Code of Conduct by voluntarily agreeing to undergo training or counselling, to apologise for their conduct or to give undertakings not to repeat their conduct before the investigator finalises their report to the council. Investigators can finalise their investigations without a report to the council where they consider these to be an appropriate outcome to the matter they are investigating. However, it will remain open to investigators to finalise their report and to recommend censure where they consider this is appropriate and warranted.
4. The process for referral by councils of code of conduct breaches by councillors to OLG for further disciplinary action under the misconduct provisions of the Act has been streamlined. Investigators are required to consult with OLG before recommending the referral of matters to ensure the conduct in question is sufficiently serious to warrant disciplinary action for misconduct and that there is sufficient evidence of the breach to allow OLG to take further disciplinary action.
5. Other amendments include:
 - a. Panels of conduct reviewers are now permitted to be appointed without a resolution of the council, and
 - b. Referral of investigators’ reports to OLG for action under the misconduct provisions of the Act are now permitted where the council will not have a quorum to deal with the matter.

Gifts and Benefits Policy

In order to maintain consistency between Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy and the 2020 Model Code of Conduct, a review and update to Council's Policy was required. The amendment increases the cap on the value of gifts that may be accepted from \$50 to \$100. No other changes were made to the policy. It should be noted that, although the value of gifts that may be accepted has increased, the requirement to declare all gifts of greater value than \$10 remains.

CONCLUSION

Councils are required to adopt a code and procedures based on the prescribed Model Code of Conduct and Procedures as soon as possible. To meet the regulatory and best practice requirements it is recommended that Council adopt the 2020 *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* and *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* annexed to this report.

In order to maintain consistency between the Code of Conduct and Council's policies, an update to Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy is also recommended.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Code of Conduct - Councillors & Personnel Policy (under separate cover)**
2. **Gifts and Benefits Policy (under separate cover)**

15 FINANCIAL REPORTS**15.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - AUGUST 2020**

Author: Jono Patino, Financial Accountant

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 August 2020 including General Bank Accounts and Trust Funds is shown below.

Investment Portfolio	General Bank Accounts	Trust Funds	Total
\$53,798,990	\$2,021,236	\$87,050	\$55,907,276

The weighted average rate of return on Council's investments for August 2020 was 2.46% which was above the 90 Day Bank Bill Index for August of 0.90%.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing investment performance for the month of August 2020.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.4: Provide high level financial and business analysis advice to monitor performance

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As at 31 August 2020, Council had earned \$21,399 in interest and \$163,673 in fair value gains for total investment revenue of \$185,072 against an annual budget of \$1,003,025 (which equates to 18.45%).

Future fair value gains or losses will continue to be monitored and reported to Council.

REPORT**Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Cash Rate Update**

The RBA left the cash rate at 0.25% per annum at its August 2020 meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on investments in August 2020 was 2.46% a decrease of 58 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 156 basis points above the 90 Day Bank Bill Index of 0.90% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation Medium Term Growth Fund returned a further gain of \$68,270 during August 2020, taking the total gains for the financial year to \$150,156. The 2019/2020 financial year produced an overall gain of just \$33,631 due mainly to the impacts of COVID-19. It is important to recognise that these are long term investments that are subject to market fluctuations.

NSW Treasury Corporation issued another market update on 28 August 2020, which is included as an attachment to this report. This update provides an overview of the global market, highlights specific areas of Australia's economy and NSW Treasury Corporation's ongoing response to effectively manage its investments.

Council's Investment Portfolio

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

Investment Portfolio	Face Value	General Bank Accounts	Trust Funds
\$53,798,990	\$52,468,311	\$2,021,236	\$87,050

The Investment Portfolio balance at 31 August 2020 of \$53,798,990 is made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$8,965,000), Term Deposits (\$25,000,000) and NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$19,833,990).

Council's investment portfolio has maturity dates ranging from same day up to 731 days. Term deposits of \$25,000,000 represented 46.47% of the total portfolio as at 31 August 2020. Council made one new term deposit with AMP Limited. Although Council generally prefers providers without investment links to the fossil fuel industry, this term deposit was chosen as it offered the highest available return after diversification principles were applied in line with Council's Investment Policy. One term deposit matured during the month of August 2020.

Market conditions for term deposits are proving challenging at present due to the low returns being offered by banking institutions. In addition to the record low cash rate, the economic impacts of COVID-19 led to the Australian Government providing banks with access to 3-year loan funding at a rate of 0.25% in March 2020. This week the government also announced that these loans will be increased to \$200 billion across all Australian Banks. This has resulted in reduced demand for investment funds and lower returns.

Council is in the process of setting up a Cash Management Account with Macquarie Bank which is returning 0.80% at present. This return is higher than most of the returns currently offered on term deposits and has more flexibility.

Additional funds have been held in the Business Online Saver account as at 31 August 2020 due to rates instalments falling due. These additional funds will either be placed in the Macquarie Cash Management Account at 0.80%, in term deposits - if they offer returns in excess of 0.80% - or with NSW Treasury Corporation. Council had \$19,833,990 in longer term investments being the Cash Facility Trust and Medium-Term Growth Fund with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 August 2020. The investment values are shown below.

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31-August-2020	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) August 2020	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD
Cash Facility Trust	\$10,231,343	\$4,820	\$13,517
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$9,602,648	\$68,270	\$150,156
Total	\$19,833,990	\$73,090	\$163,673

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's current portfolio of \$53,798,990 includes \$36,833,990 or 68.47% with no direct investment in the fossil fuel industry. This includes Council's investments with NSW Treasury Corporation.

NSW Treasury Corporation continues to take a stewardship approach to ESI's (this policy was last updated in December 2018). The focus of this policy is on the management of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks and opportunities as well as active ownership of assets which

includes proxy voting and corporate engagement. A major focus is on the materiality of ESG issues including climate change which is expected to have an impact on portfolios over the long term both from a risk and opportunity perspective. These issues are managed through investment managers and stewardship principles are embedded into investment funds.

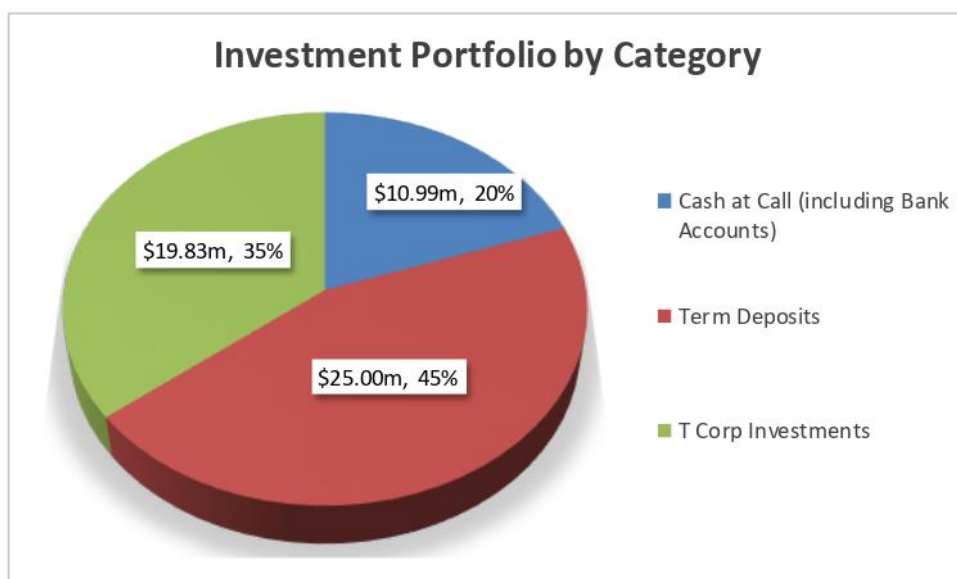
CONCLUSION

During the month of August 2020 Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy. As at 31 August 2020 Council's investments totalled \$53,798,990 with a further \$2,108,286 held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 2.46% for the month of August and total investment revenue equals 18.45% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 August 2020.

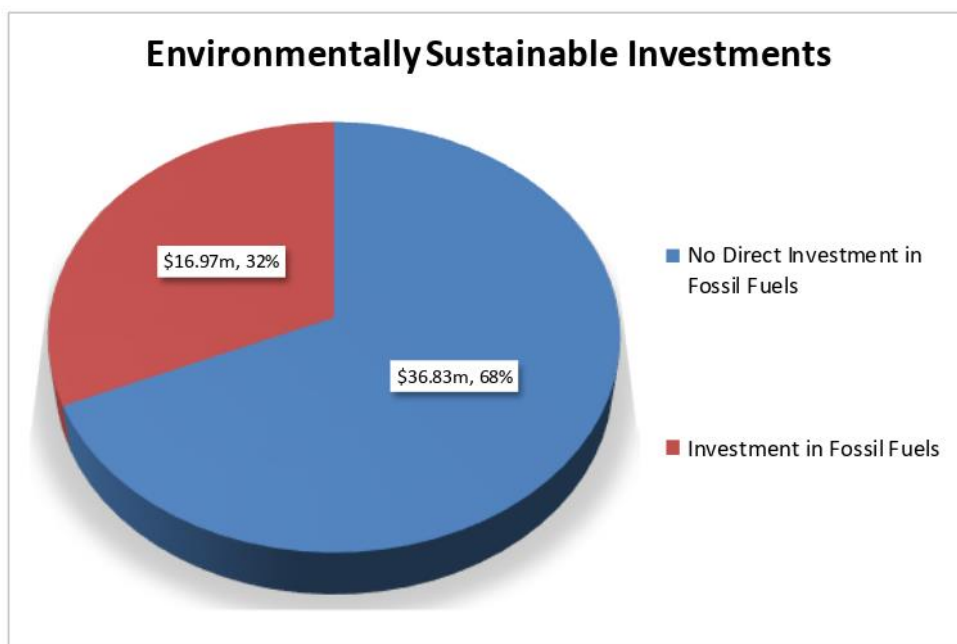
ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Financial Analysis Report Attachments**
- 2. TCorp Market Update - 28 August 2020**

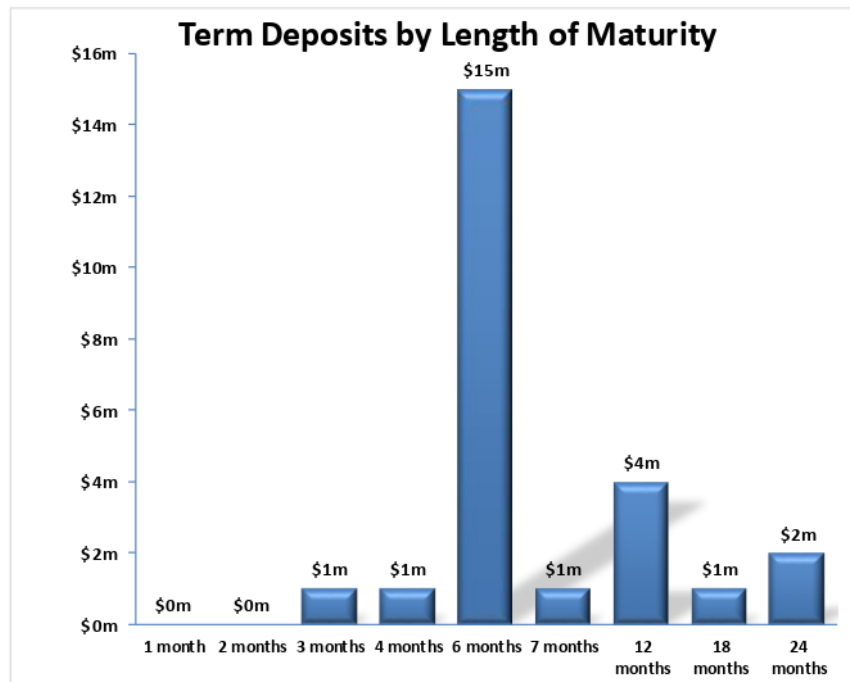
The following graph shows Council's investment portfolio by investment category as at 31 August 2020.



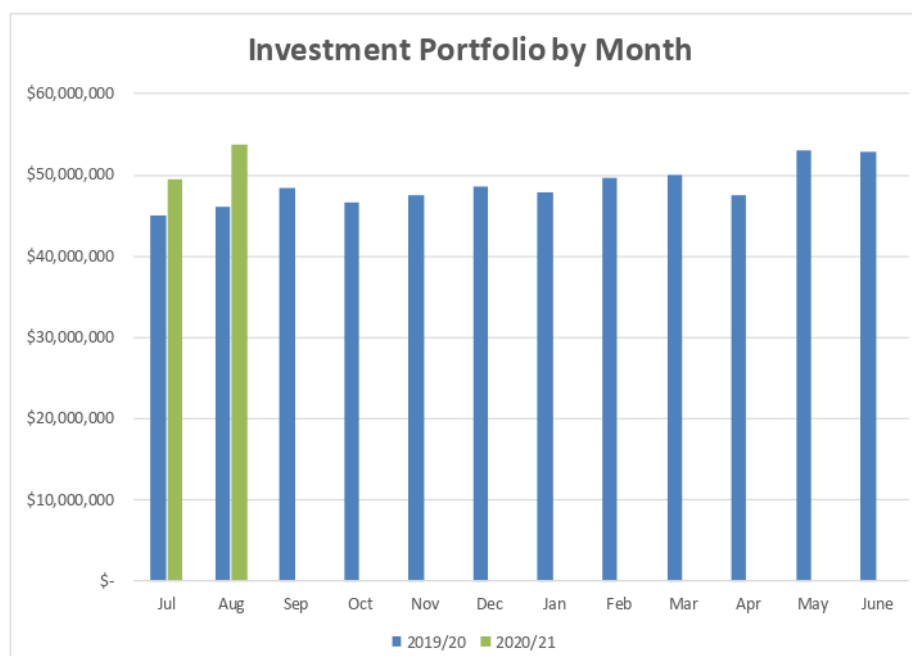
The following graph details Council's investments with no direct links to the Fossil Fuel Industry as a percentage of Council's investment portfolio as at 31 August 2020.



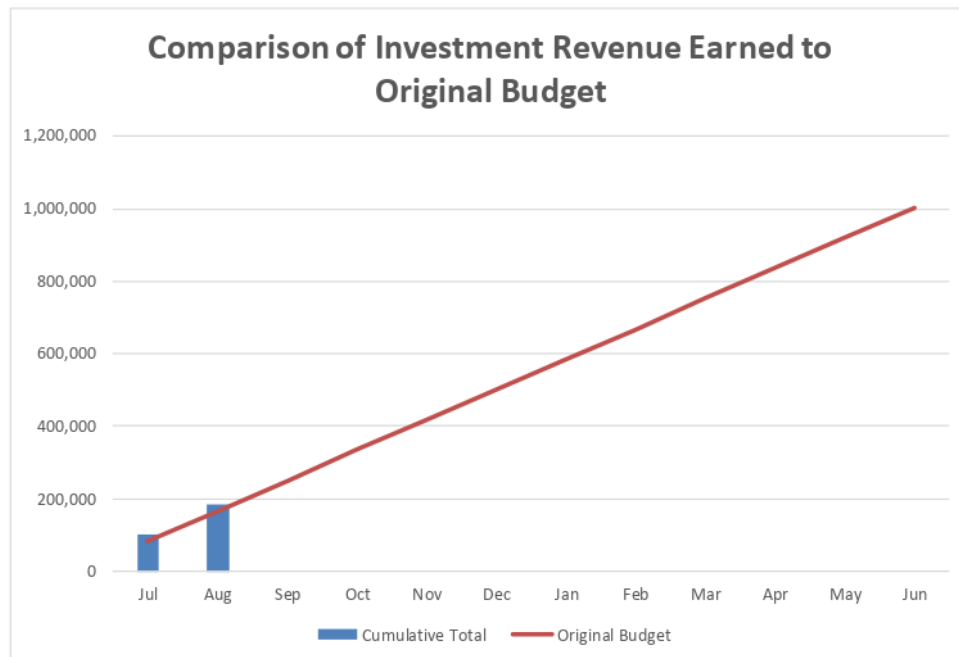
The following graph shows the length of time of Council's term deposit maturities as at 31 August 2020.



The following graph shows Council's total investment portfolio by month over the past two financial years to date.



The following graph compares Council's total investment revenue by month to the original budgeted revenue.



RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020										
Investment Source	Investment Type	Rating	Environmentally Sustainable Investments	Investment Date	Maturity Date	Rate of Return	Original Investment Value	Current Investment Fair Value	Interest/ Fair Value Gain Received	% of Total Portfolio
<u>Cash at Call</u> CBA Business Online Saver Interest on Other Bank Accounts	At Call	A1+/AA	N	At Call		0.35%	N/A	8,965,000	1,269 0	16.66%
						Total		8,965,000	1,269	16.66%
<u>Term Deposits</u>										
Defence Bank	Term Deposit	A2/BBB	Y	3/09/2018	3/09/2020	3.00%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	3/09/2019	3/09/2020	2.05%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	2/12/2019	1/12/2020	2.10%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
ING Direct	Term Deposit	A2/A-	N	2/03/2020	2/03/2021	1.50%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Warwick Credit Union	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	2/03/2020	2/09/2020	1.90%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	A2/BBB+	N	4/03/2020	30/08/2021	1.80%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	A2/BBB	Y	3/03/2020	3/09/2020	1.65%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Warwick Credit Union	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	3/03/2020	3/03/2021	1.90%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Auswide Bank	Term Deposit	A2/BBB+	Y	3/03/2020	3/03/2022	1.75%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Bank of Sydney	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	5/03/2020	7/09/2020	1.85%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	A1/A	N	6/03/2020	2/09/2020	1.65%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	10/03/2020	16/10/2020	1.85%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	A2/BBB	Y	16/03/2020	14/09/2020	1.75%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Bank of Sydney	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	20/05/2020	20/11/2020	1.60%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	A2/BBB+	N	1/06/2020	30/11/2020	1.80%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Bank of Sydney	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	1/06/2020	30/11/2020	1.60%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Bank of Sydney	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	2/06/2020	2/12/2020	1.54%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Members Equity Bank	Term Deposit	A2/BBB	Y	2/06/2020	30/09/2020	1.15%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Members Equity Bank	Term Deposit	A2/BBB	Y	4/06/2020	4/12/2020	1.05%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	A2/BBB+	N	9/06/2020	7/12/2020	1.75%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Bank of Queensland	Term Deposit	A2/BBB+	N	9/06/2020	9/12/2020	1.05%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Unrated	Y	11/06/2020	11/12/2020	1.60%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	A1+/AA-	N	11/06/2020	11/09/2020	0.90%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
Greater Bank	Term Deposit	A2/BBB	Y	13/06/2020	11/12/2020	1.20%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	A2/BBB+	N	24/08/2020	22/02/2021	1.00%	N/A	1,000,000	0	1.86%
AMP Rebate									679	
<u>Matured Term Deposits</u>										
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	A2/BBB+	N	24/02/2020	24/08/2020	2.05%	N/A		9,225	
						Total		25,000,000	9,904	46.47%
<u>NSW Treasury Corporation Hourglass Investments</u>										
Cash Facility Trust	Trust		N	Various	N/A	0.60%	9,498,282	10,231,343	4,820	19.02%
Medium Term Growth Fund	Trust		N	Various	N/A	8.52%	9,005,029	9,602,648	68,270	17.85%
						Total	18,503,311	19,833,990	73,090	36.87%
<u>Bank Accounts</u>										
		Balance \$	Total Investment Portfolio at Face Value					52,468,311		
Account Name		31-Aug-20	Total Investment Portfolio at Fair Value					53,798,990		
General Fund Bank Account		2,021,216	Interest Revenue Received					84,263		
Trust Fund Bank Account		87,050	Weighted Average Interest Rate					2.46%		
NAB Cheque Account		20	Total Bank Account Portfolio					2,108,286		
Total		2,108,286	Total Portfolio					55,907,276		



28 August 2020

Economic overview

- Investors continue to adopt an optimistic perspective of the economic recovery with most equity markets recording further healthy gains over the last month and the US S&P500 equity index reaching new record highs. Investors' faith in a strong and rapid recovery continues to be underpinned by confidence about the imminent availability of a vaccine for COVID-19 and hopes for additional policy stimulus from governments and central banks.
- While share markets continue to push higher, the economic data has been more mixed over the last month. Surveys of business conditions in Europe weakened in August, suggesting that the recovery stalled, with some governments forced to reintroduce restrictions on activity as COVID-19 case numbers increased once again.
- In the US, the economic momentum persisted in August, and housing demand appears to be very healthy. That said, initial weekly jobless claims remain around 1 million which highlights that despite some recovery in activity, many people continue to lose jobs. Moreover, the inability of US politicians to agree to an extension of additional unemployment benefits beyond the end of July suggests that spending may lose momentum in coming months.
- In Australia, a further deterioration in COVID-19 case numbers in July forced the Victorian Premier to adopt more stringent "stage 4" restrictions, affecting some previously exempt sectors, such as construction. While Victorian case numbers are now declining, the additional restrictions will take a heavy economic toll and suggest that the Australian recovery might also have stalled in the September quarter. Reflecting this, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) now expects a slower and more delayed recovery in activity over the next year.
- In bond markets, yields have generally risen over the last month. This partly reflects the large scale of issuance that the US Treasury is being forced to undertake to fund the fiscal stimulus. In Australia, the rise in yields has been more moderate as overseas demand for Australian and TCorp bonds remains strong.

TCorp Investments – investing on behalf of clients

Below we provide commentary on returns and positioning of the TCorpIM Funds.



Markets

- Investor optimism continued as economic indicators rebounded, notwithstanding localised outbreaks of COVID-19 around the world. Further data on the global impact of the pandemic on economies continued to be released, with the UK reporting a record 20.4% decline in GDP over the June quarter, and the US economy declining 9.5%. Closer to home, falling petrol prices and federal government childcare subsidies saw Australian inflation fall 1.9% over the June quarter, only the third negative quarter since 1949. However, a bounce-back in September is expected following the cessation of the childcare subsidies.
- Major global equity markets posted strong gains over the month to 25 August. Technology-related stocks rose strongly to push US equities up by 5.3%, with European stocks rising 3.8%, and Australian shares rose 3.9% (all local currency terms).
- The rally in technology-related stocks has been impressive in recent months, with the top five US stocks all being technology-related, and the same five now worth more than the entire Japanese share market. We are monitoring the risk impacts of the reduction in equity diversification on our portfolios in conjunction with our investment manager partners.
- Emerging market shares rose 2.8% over the same period, although Chinese shares rose a more modest 1.9%, following a very strong rise in July.
- The Australian dollar extended its rise, reaching 71.8 US cents as commodity prices rose strongly in US terms. The appreciating Australian dollar has dampened the returns on our unhedged overseas share exposures.
- The 10 year Australian government bond yield rose 0.07% to 0.89%, but the 3 year Australian government bond yield was stable at 0.26%, close to the RBA's target interest rate of 0.25%. Long term global bond yields also rose, consistent with improving risk sentiment.
- In a Commonwealth Government hearing, RBA Governor Philip Lowe indicated that the cash rate would remain at 0.25% until inflation rises closer to the RBA target of 2-3% and when we approach full employment. These conditions are not expected to occur for at least three years. This will result in low returns on defensive assets such as cash and safe-haven government bonds for the foreseeable future.
- We continue to monitor the impact of the renewed Victorian lockdown on the Australian economy, though we note that TCorp's funds have limited direct exposure to Victorian assets.

Managing the TCorpIM Funds

- TCorp's investment funds continue to participate in the market recovery. The TCorpIM funds are highly liquid and we have the portfolio flexibility to adjust the portfolios to maintain the desired risk and return characteristics during this rebound.
- Returns for the TCorpIM Medium Term and Long Term Growth Funds reflect the stronger market environment, returning 1.2% and 2.7% over the month to 25 August, increasing financial year to date returns of 2.0% and 4.1% respectively.
- The strong negative inflation print for the June quarter will see negative returns for the objectives of the diversified funds over short term horizons. This is expected to resolve over time, but highlights the importance of focusing on longer term performance.

TCorp market update

Unclassified / 2 of 4



- With the RBA expecting cash rates to be anchored near zero and with falling additional returns for holding AA bonds instead of AAA bonds, the future returns for the TCorpIM Cash and Short Term Income Funds will be lower than in past years.
- Nevertheless, compared to the official cash rate, the Cash Fund and Short Term Income Fund are generating strong, well above benchmark, performances.
- TCorp continues to monitor the evolution of market conditions and will take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

TCorp Debt – borrowing on behalf of clients

- TCorp has seen continued strong investor demand for long-term debt issuance (17 to 21 year borrowings) by Japanese and European investors and we have issued around \$2.5bn of funding into these tenors this financial year to date.
- TCorp benchmark spreads continue to contract as the high levels of cash in the financial system seeks higher yielding AAA investments. We have taken opportunities to issue \$5bn of funding financial year-to-date by tapping a number of our longer-term benchmark bonds.
- The RBA re-entered the bond market in mid-August to purchase 2022-2024 Commonwealth Government bonds, as their 3 year yield target had not been met for a few weeks. However, the RBA has not been required to intervene in the semi-government bond market since 6 May 2020.

Our client portfolios

- We are currently working with clients on FY21 management limits and strategies and will be monitoring these closely over the coming months, as the later than usual budget process creates some uncertainties.
- TCorp's liquidity remains very strong and our Come & Go facilities continue to provide for the ongoing working capital requirements of our clients.
- For clients that at times have surplus cashflow, TCorp's balance sheet offers an overnight deposit facility that currently pays 0.20% p.a. (with no transaction fees). This facility can be used in conjunction with the Come & Go facility to efficiently manage working capital.

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Important Information

The information in this Market Update is subject to change without notice. TCorp does not guarantee the accuracy, timeliness, reliability or completeness of the information and will not be liable for any errors, omissions or actions taken in reliance on this information. Investments in TCorpIM Funds are subject to investment risks, which could include delays in repayment, and loss of income and capital invested. None of TCorp, the NSW Government or any investment manager assumes any liability to an investor in connection with investments in TCorpIM Funds or guarantees the performance of the TCorpIM Funds or of any particular rate of return. The repayment of capital is not guaranteed. Investments in the TCorpIM funds are not deposits or liabilities of TCorp or of any investment manager.

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About New South Wales Treasury Corporation (TCorp)

TCorp provides best-in-class investment management, financial management, solutions and advice to the New South Wales (NSW) public sector. With A\$103 billion of assets under management, TCorp is a top five Australian investment manager and is the central borrowing authority of the state of NSW, with a balance sheet of A\$99 billion. It is rated AAA by S&P and Aaa by Moody's.

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16 TENDER REPORTS

Nil

17 GENERAL BUSINESS**17.1 CASINO SHOWGROUND RACECOURSE RECREATION RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

Author: Andrew Leach, Manager Asset Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council, with assistance from Locale Consulting, has developed a Draft Plan of Management for Casino Showground Racecourse Recreation Reserve. Over the past few years, Council staff have worked closely with stakeholders and user groups at the facility to develop an extensive Master Plan for the site.

The Master Plan process was initiated in 2018 following changes to the *Crown Land Management Act* and was adopted by Council on 18 September 2018 following public exhibition. The plan outlines a clear direction for future planning and management of the facility.

The Draft Plan of Management is required to be submitted to the relevant Minister for approval. After approval is received the document will be placed on public exhibition prior to being presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Submits the Draft Plan of Management to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing for approval
2. Places the approved document on public exhibition before it is presented to Council for adoption.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP1: Fresh and Vibrant Community

PP1.3: Provide clean, safe and accessible open spaces and recreational services to the community and visitors

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

REPORT

Council, with assistance from Locale Consulting, has developed a Draft Plan of Management for Casino Showground Racecourse Recreation Reserve. Over the past few years Council staff have worked closely with stakeholders and user groups at the facility to develop an extensive Master Plan for the site.

The Master Plan process was initiated in 2018 following changes to the *Crown Land Management Act* and was adopted by Council on 18 September 2018 following public exhibition. The Plan envisages opportunities for the site to increase its existing uses and expand its reach to become a regional centre for a range of equestrian, horse racing and other related activities.

The Master Plan is supported by the draft Plan of Management, which sets out a clear direction for future management of the facility. User groups and Council staff were involved in the development process for the attached draft.

Key elements identified in the draft plan are:

- Maintain and grow equestrian and other recreational uses
- Maintain and grow thoroughbred training and racing
- Achieve safe and effective access arrangements
- Integrate existing facilities with new facilities
- Define roles and responsibilities with user groups
- Establish short term visitor access (overnight camping)
- Integrate signage, public art and wayfinding devices
- Integrate, protect and enhance natural features
- Manage public safety in emergency situations
- Manage user group leases and licences
- Ensure adequate baseline infrastructure, such as water, sewer and electricity is available
- Simplify site zoning

CONSULTATION

Council staff have worked closely with stakeholders and user groups at the facility to develop the Draft Plan of Management.

The draft plan will be submitted to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing for approval. Once approval is granted, the document will be placed on public exhibition seeking feedback prior to being presented to Council seeking a resolution to adopt the Plan.

CONCLUSION

The draft Plan of Management, in conjunction with the Master Plan, will facilitate the desired growth and management of the facility and help it to become a regional centre for a range of equestrian, horse racing and other inter-related activities.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Casino Showground and Racecourse Plan of Management (under separate cover)**

17.2 CLASSIFICATION OF LAND - FUTURE RAPPVILLE HALL SITE

Author: Cherie Holdsworth, Coordinator Economic Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 23 June 2020 Council resolved to acquire two parcels of land in Rappville for the site of the future Rappville Hall development.

In order for the development to proceed, two further steps must be completed:

- The two parcels of land must be consolidated into one lot
- The land must be classified by Council as either operational or community land.

Section 31 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to adopt the classification by resolution.

While Council's intention is that the site is developed for long-term community use to support the recovery of Rappville, classifying the land as operational would provide more flexibility in the type of community facilities that could be established.

A public notice regarding the proposed classification of the land as operational was advertised for a period of 28 days on the Richmond Valley Council website in accordance with section 34(3) *Local Government Act 1993*. No responses or submissions were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Classifies the land at 3 Lyons Street, Rappville (being Lot 2 Section 5 DP 758869) and 10 Murray Street, Rappville (being Lot 3 Section 5 DP 758869) as operational land.
2. Consolidates the two parcels into one lot, as outlined in this report.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP1: Fresh and Vibrant Community

PP1.3: Provide clean, safe and accessible open spaces and recreational services to the community and visitors

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Costs to Council include preparation and registration of the consolidation plan being approximately \$1,430.00 including GST.

REPORT

Acquisition of land for the new Rappville Hall development was approved by Council at its June 2020 Ordinary Meeting. Two parcels of land have now been acquired in accordance with that resolution (highlighted in the diagram below in green):

- Lot 2 Section 5 DP 758869 being 3 Lyons Street
- Lot 3 Section 5 DP 758869 being 10 Murray Street



In order for the Rappville Hall development to be completed, the two parcels of land must now be consolidated into one lot. It is also recommended that the consolidated lot is classified as operational land to facilitate flexible development and use of the site.

Section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides:

Before a council acquires land, or within 3 months after it acquires land, a council may resolve (in accordance with this Part) that the land be classified as community land or operational land.

An operational classification will allow for flexible development and use of the site and will enable the project team to deliver an upgraded community facility that will become a focal point for Rappville's recovery. The consolidation of lots is necessary for the full use and activation of the site.

CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation has been undertaken regarding the Rappville hall redevelopment project. This includes:

- Richmond Valley Councillors
- Rappville Advisory Group
- BizRebuild part of the Business Council of Australia
- Richmond Valley Council executive and relevant staff

In accordance with section 34(3) *Local Government Act 1993*, a public notice regarding the proposed classification of the land as operational was advertised for a period of 28 days on the Richmond Valley Council website. No responses or submissions were received.

CONCLUSION

At its meeting on 23 June 2020 Council resolved to acquire two parcels of land in Rappville for the site of the future Rappville Hall development.

In order for the development to proceed, the two parcels of land must now be consolidated into one lot, to accommodate the hall design. It is recommended that the consolidated lot be classified as operational land to provide more flexibility.

Section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides that a council may resolve that the land be classified as community land or operational land.

A public notice of classification by resolution was given in accordance with section 34 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.3 RAPPVILLE RESERVE DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Author: Kim Anderson, GIS and Systems Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) requires all Council owned land classified as 'community' to be used and managed in accordance with a plan of management. The last known plan of management for Rappville Reserve was adopted by Council in 1996.

The Rappville Reserve Draft Plan of Management has been developed to identify any future uses and developments on the land which meet the values and expectations of the community. The 2019 bushfires which devastated the village have highlighted the importance of this land as a broader community facility. Future significant works have been proposed on this land as part of rebuilding the community. To enable this to occur it was proposed to alter the subject land categorisation from 'sportsground' to part 'general community use', and part 'sportsground'.

The Rappville Reserve Draft Plan of Management has completed the public exhibition requirements. A public hearing was conducted by an independent third party to satisfy legislative requirements to the public land re-categorisation. No public submissions have been received. The independent third party provided a recommendation to Council on the subject land as a written report at the completion of the public hearing. It is proposed for Council to acknowledge this report and adopt the draft plan in its current form.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the Final Public Hearing Report - Land Re-Categorisation Rappville Reserve 28 August 2020; and
2. Adopts the Draft Plan of Management for Rappville Reserve, Rappville.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP1: Fresh and Vibrant Community

PP1.3: Provide clean, safe and accessible open spaces and recreational services to the community and visitors

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

The Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) requires all Council owned land classified as 'community' to be used and managed in accordance with a plan of management. The last known plan of management for Rappville Reserve was adopted by Council in 1996.

The Rappville Reserve Draft Plan of Management has been developed to identify any future uses and developments on the land which meet the values and expectations of the community. The 2019 bushfires which devastated the village have highlighted the importance of this land as a broader community facility. Future significant works have been proposed on this land as part of rebuilding the community, which are required to be reflected in a current plan of management.

The draft plan of management proposes to alter the categorisation from 'sportsground' to part 'general community use', and part 'sportsground'. This will enable a broader range of community activities and facilities on the land.

The draft plan of management was presented to the Councillor Information Session on 7 July 2020 prior to public exhibition and consultation (Attachment 1).

The plan was placed on public exhibition and open for submissions on Council's website from 16 July 2020 until 28 August 2020 and advertised in local newspapers and Facebook. Council did not receive any submissions.

The Rappville Advisory Committee was consulted during a regular meeting held on 11 August 2020 where no issues were raised and no suggestions for changes provided.

Due to the change in categorisation Council was required to conduct a public hearing in accordance with Section 40A of the LG Act. The public hearing was held on 19 August 2020 at Richmond Valley Council Chambers in Casino. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, the public hearing took place via Skype for Business. This public hearing was chaired by Mr Mike Svikis from Mike Svikis Planning as an independent, as required by the LG Act. No submissions were received prior to holding the public hearing. No members of the public attended the hearing. No-one had pre-registered to speak at the hearing.

The final public hearing report was received by Council on 28 August 2020 and a copy made available on Council's website on 31 August 2020 (Attachment 2).

Two issues were identified and discussed in the final public hearing report as below.

- The reserve facilities/building structures appear to encroach into the road reserve, and
- There may be some encroachment by a private driveway on the south eastern corner of the land.

The report recommends a survey be conducted as soon as practicable to establish the property boundaries and any encroachments. The identified issues do not require a change in the draft plan of management nor affect the adoption of the draft plan of management in its current form.

The final public hearing report recommends retaining the land categorisations as exhibited as they represent the existing and/or proposed land use accurately.

CONSULTATION

The initial draft plan of management for Rappville Reserve was presented to the Council Information Session on 7 July 2020.

Advertisements and notifications for the draft plan of management and the public hearing included: Council's website (16 July 2020 until 28 August 2020).

Local newspaper ('Richmond River Independent' and 'The Northern Rivers Times', 29 July 2020).

Facebook (Council, Rappville Express).

Emails to:

- Rappville Advisory Group
- Rappville Post Office (for distribution).

The Rappville Advisory Committee was consulted during a regular meeting held on 11 August 2020.

A public hearing was held on 19 August 2020 at Richmond Valley Council Chambers in Casino.

CONCLUSION

The draft plan of management proposes to alter the categorisation from 'sportsground' to part 'general community use', and part 'sportsground'. This will enable a broader range of community activities and facilities on the land.

The draft plan of management has undertaken the relevant public exhibition requirements in accordance with the LG Act.

Council has not received any submissions or objections to the draft plan of management nor the proposed change in categorisation of the relevant land.

It is recommended that Council retains the proposed land categorisations as exhibited in the Rappville Reserve Draft Plan of Management as this represents the existing and/or proposed land uses accurately.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rappville Reserve Draft Plan of Management (under separate cover)**
- 2. Final Public Hearing Report - Land Recategorisation Rappville Reserve 28 August 2020 (under separate cover)**

17.4 ROAD MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES REVIEW UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Author: David Timms, Manager Infrastructure Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 2017 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to adopt the recommendations of the Road Maintenance and Construction Services Review. Up until September 2019, six-monthly update reports on actioning the recommendations were provided to Council. In September 2019 Council resolved the reporting period change to yearly.

This report provides commentary on the actions undertaken in response to the recommendations made in the report through to 31 August 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council receive and note the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Road Maintenance and Construction Services Review; and
2. A final progress report be submitted to Council at the August 2021 Ordinary Meeting.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP2: Getting Around

PP2.1: Improve Road Management practices at Richmond Valley Council

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

At the March 2017 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to adopt the recommendations of the Road Maintenance and Construction Services Review and to report to Council every six months on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations.

Reports have been provided at six monthly intervals up to September 2019, when a resolution was passed to change the reporting to an annual basis.

This report provides commentary on the actions undertaken in response to the recommendations made in the report, through to 31 August 2020.

The table below represents the annual update to Council on the implementation of the recommendations of the Road Maintenance and Construction Services Review.

KR = Key Recommendation from the Review

AR = Additional Recommendation from the Review

Recommendation from Report	Actions to Date
KR 1. Increased communication with the Richmond Valley Council community	Information on works continues to be included in the regular community newsletters and on Council's Facebook page and website. In addition to this, dedicated updates on roads were published in the Northern Star in March and July 2020. Individual staff continue to provide a high level of customer

Recommendation from Report	Actions to Date
	service and communication with residents regarding works and any queries they might have. Specific challenges associated with roads which were affected by the bushfires and floods were addressed via Facebook, with MyRoadInfo continuing to be the single source of accurate information for road closures and project information.
KR 2. Improved communication, consultation and team meetings among Council administrative and field staff	A round of team meetings was held in December 2019 and another round was scheduled for March and April 2020, however these had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Since restrictions have been eased a round of BBQ lunch meetings have been organised with field staff which commenced in August 2020. All managers are invited to these lunches along with any office-based staff which are closely connected with the field-based staff. Supervisors continue to communicate items which are raised in the Weekly Works Meetings to their staff.
KR 3. In-house staff for road inspections and road conditioning	This recommendation has been finalised previously and reported on.
KR 4. Additional funding to extend design lead times	No additional funding was allocated for 2020/2021. Designs are being delivered ahead of time and there is ongoing dialogue between Assets & Planning and Infrastructure delivery teams.
KR 5. Council to make a budget assessment on highlighted maintenance issues	Budget allocations for 2020/2021 have increased from 2019/2020 as follows: Urban Road Maintenance: \$679,765 to \$689,910 Sealed Rural Local Roads: \$617,639 to \$632,559 Unsealed Road Grading: no change (not required due to the amount of restoration works taking place under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements) Street Cleaning: \$334,602 to \$358,494
KR 6. Assessment of options for increased access to Technology in the field	New 'tough' style tablets continue to be rolled out to staff in the field with pre-installed applications which make it easier to report observations, conduct tool box talks, risk assessments and perform pre-start procedures. These tablets will continue to be rolled out as funds are provided. In addition to this more staff are equipped with Council mobile phones which contain the same pre-installed applications.
AR 7. Change to working hours for maintenance crews	Rural Grading Teams, Water & Sewer Construction Team (Casino), Electrical Team and the Open Spaces Team in Coraki all continue to work four (4) day weeks. Business cases for changing over to a four-day work week have been submitted from the Open Spaces and Workshop teams in Evans Head and are yet to be assessed. Flexible arrangements for other crews remain in place depending on the specific projects being undertaken.

Recommendation from Report	Actions to Date
AR 8. Documentation provided to plant operators detailing workshop servicing	The mechanical workshops have fully transitioned to be customer focused and are providing a high level of communication to internal staff and external customers (Rural Fire Service). Communication to operators regarding services is consistent and occurring frequently. Complaints are rare.
AR 9. Improved budgeting and reduced carry over works	The following works were carried over to 2020/2021: Roads (K&G) \$16,113 Roads (Fogwells Rd & Manifold Rd) \$463,484 Roads (Tatham Bridge Investigation) \$19,250 Footpaths (Evans Head Cypress St) \$50,000 Footpaths (Rappville Shared pathway) \$216,624 Considering the natural disasters which have impacted the LGA through the 2019/2020 year the level of carry overs is low and field staff did an exceptional job in delivering despite the interruptions and impacts.
AR 10. Re-allocate funding from sealing unsealed laneways to the specific problem areas in key recommendation 5	Funds have been reallocated to the maintenance items (shoulder grading, vegetation management etc.) from the fourth year of the current works program. Up to that year sealing of unsealed laneways will continue as planned.
AR 11. Use of GPS and cameras to protect Council assets	The GPS tracking systems trial in four Council vehicles is still in place (street sweeper, a Ranger vehicle, crew truck and a side arm rubbish truck). Discussions have also taken place with other providers and a decision will be made prior to the end of the financial year which system will be chosen for a rollout program.
AR 12. Additional Safety Audits	The People Safety Coordinator and People Safety Support Officer continue to engage with the field staff and perform safety audits of depots, facilities and work sites. The reports from the regular audits are logged in Vault and corrective actions assigned to staff responsible for attending to them. The Vault reporting system has proven popular and is being embraced by the field staff.
AR 13. Morning warm ups	Morning warm ups continue to be a regular activity at works depots with individual crews and teams.

CONSULTATION

Nil

CONCLUSION

The recommendations from the 2017 Road Maintenance and Construction Services Review continue to be actioned by Council Officers. The review has driven many worthwhile and important improvements which have made the delivery of maintenance and infrastructure safer, more efficient and to a higher standard for the Richmond Valley community. The recommendations of the review will continue to provide positive direction over the coming year.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.5 EVANS HEAD OFF-LEASH AREA

Author: Latoya Cooper, Coordinator Mid-Richmond

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has been working with the Evans Head community for some years to explore the option of fencing the existing off-leash area within Coast Guard Park.

At the August Councillor Information Session, a report was presented with the findings of recent consultation that did not provide a clear preference. This report details the findings of community consultation over time, as well as alternative options to provide additional dog-friendly facilities at Evans Head.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Leave the current off-leash dog area at Coast Guard Park Evans Head unfenced;
2. Upgrade and extend Airforce Beach off-leash area as outlined in this report; and
3. Allocate any remaining funding from the fencing budget towards additional dog-friendly facilities, as outlined in this report.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.1: Improve decision making by engaging stakeholders and taking community input into account

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

An amount of \$25,000 has been allocated within the 2020/2021 financial year for this project which is a carryover from the previous financial year.

REPORT

Council has been consulting with the Evans Head community for some years about fencing the existing off-leash area in Coast Guard Park. There have been varying views for and against the proposal, with concerns that the fence may detract from existing parkland/river views.

Over the years, Council has been presented with petitions of 200 plus signatures - both for and against, with signatures from locals as well as people from outside the local government area.

Council recently utilised social media to gather opinions and obtain further information as to how the community feels about a dog exercise area being fenced. The community was also asked whether the present location was suitable, or an alternative option (being Paddon Park) would be preferred. The results are listed below:

- 6 submissions for the current area to stay as is
- 1 submission for the current area to be fenced
- 8 submissions in total for Paddon Park to be the area of choice, with suggestions of it also being unfenced and made larger and preference for both areas to cater for large and small dogs
- 1 submission for neither area to be fenced as the areas proposed are too small to fence

- 2 neighbours of the Paddon Park area attended front counter in Evans Head strongly against the Paddon Park option
- The social media post reached 9024 – and 1370 engaged in the post by commenting or providing a like/dislike/share.

The residents and visitors of Evans Head seem uncertain as to where the boundary of the current dog exercise area is, as it is not marked. It does not cover the entire area of Coast Guard Park, only the area shaded on the map provided in Figure 1. This may have led to some confusion as to which area was proposed to be fenced. The current mapping will be reviewed so that it can be practically enforced.

Figure 1: Existing dog off leash area.



Costing

To fence a portion of the current off leash area as shown in Figure 2 with 1.5m high black PVC coated chain wire and two entry gates is estimated to cost approximately \$25,720. To install a concrete mowing strip around the perimeter of the fence would cost an additional \$11,200. The addition of seating and concrete access paths has been estimated between \$10,000 to \$15,000 depending on how much concreting is required.

Figure 2: Coast Guard Park – portion of current off leash area proposed to be fenced.



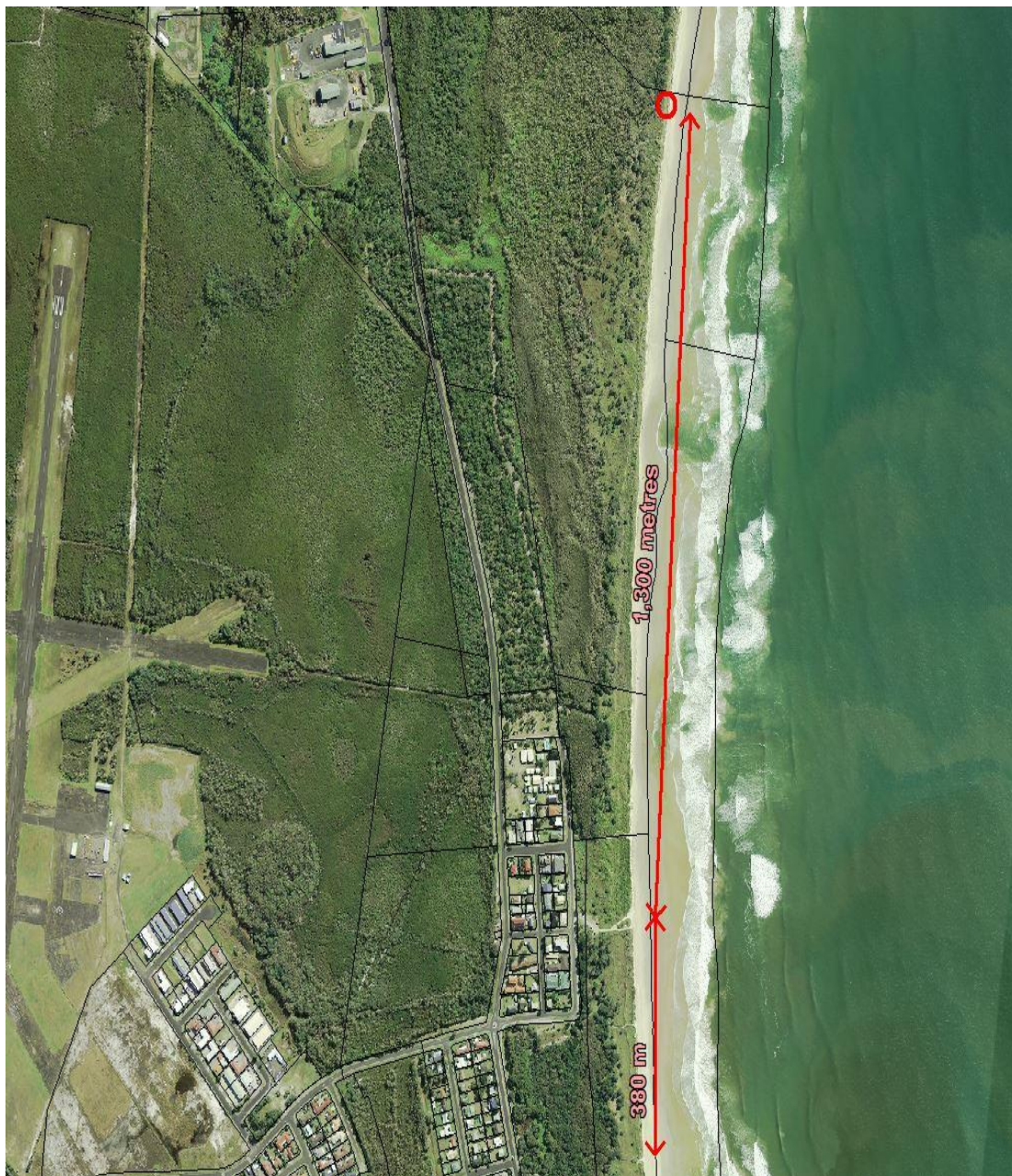
To fence the area proposed in Figure 3 (below) at Paddon Park with 1.5m high black PVC coated chain wire fencing and two entry gates is estimated to cost approximately \$29,450. Other additions could include a concrete mowing strip around the perimeter of the fence to stop smaller dogs escaping from the fenced area. This would cost an additional \$13,100. The addition of seating, providing water to the site and building concrete access paths has been estimated between \$10,000 to \$16,000 depending on how much concreting is required.

Figure 3: Paddon Park Option 2



Evans Head already has two un-fenced off leash areas. One over the bridge at Coast Guard Park and one on Airforce Beach for 1.45km. Council has received feedback that the small area of the off-leash section to the south of the entrance of Airforce Beach (150 metres of the 1.45km) which is not shared with vehicles is not long enough, particularly during the summer months when many people want to use the area which is free of vehicles. This area could be extended further to the south to the entrance of the semi-formal walking track off Beech Street (just south of Cudgerie St), making the total length 1.68km with 380 meters for dogs without the interference of vehicles as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Area of Airforce Beach that could be extended to include dogs off-leash.



The access points to Airforce Beach have been inspected and would not require upgrading to provide access for dogs. No construction works other than the placement of additional signage, waste services and drinking facilities would be required. The current beach access points are already maintained by Council's Parks and Gardens team within a roadside mowing schedule. There is adequate parking available in the vicinity of both access points and the changes are not expected to generate any significant safety or environmental issues. They may also encourage dog walking enthusiasts to use alternative access points to the existing 4WD access.

Costing

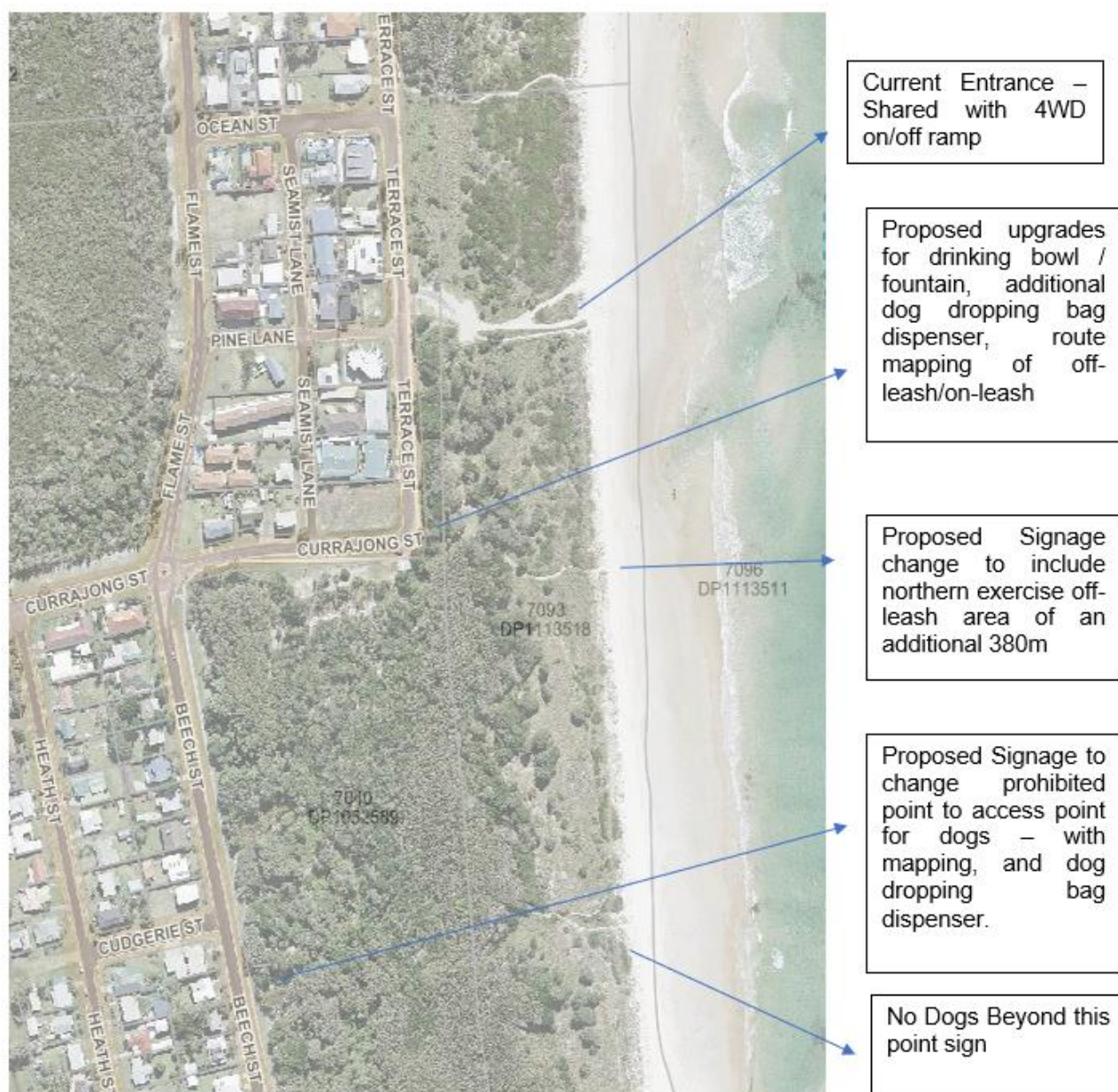
The cost of signage upgrades, drinking bowl access and dog dropping bag dispensers is not expected to exceed \$11,000.

Signage upgrades & dog off-leash mapping route sign - \$5,000

Dog dropping bag dispensers mounted - \$250

Pet friendly water fountain - \$5,000

Figure 5 below shows the areas where signage would change to include dogs, as well as the locations of proposed new signage with mapping and a drinking bowl.



CONSULTATION

Council has consulted with the community on a number of occasions over the past years, as this has been an ongoing topic of discussion. The most recent consultation was a social media post requesting written submissions and a letter box drop to residents opposite Paddon Park.

CONCLUSION

Evans Head currently has two off-leash areas, one on the beach, and one within parklands. Based on the information provided and submissions made from the social media posts and neighbourhood letterbox drops, there is no consensus within the community on the fencing issue, and both locations have neighbours opposing the construction of the fence.

It is therefore recommended that Council not proceed with the fencing proposal and that other options to provide dog-friendly facilities within Evans Head be explored.

This includes extending the off-leash area at Airforce Beach for an additional 230 metres to the south to allow for a larger area without the interference of vehicles.

Extending this off-leash area would require changes to signage to include dogs within the area as well as educational signage and drinking fountains. It is also suggested that a sign showing the various areas within Evans Head where dogs can go could be installed to help dog walking enthusiasts plan their journey.

Copies of petitions, submissions and supporting documents have been provided separately to Councillors.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.6 RENAMING OF ROAD - DUNCAN STREET BROADWATER

Author: Angela Jones, Director Infrastructure and Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the June 2020 Ordinary Meeting, Council endorsed the renaming of the east/west section of Cook Street in Broadwater. Following this an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper for the new street name to be Duncan Street, Broadwater. Council now requires a resolution to formalise this process through the NSW Place and Road Naming Proposal System.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Formally adopt Duncan Street, Broadwater as the new name for the east/west section of Cook Street, Broadwater
2. Proceed with the formal renaming processes through the NSW Place and Road Naming Proposal System; and
3. Supply and install street signage on either end of the street along with the supply of street number signage.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP2: Getting Around

PP2.1: Improve Road Management practices at Richmond Valley Council

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Costs to Council to formalise the street naming of Duncan Street, Broadwater will be for the supply and installation of two (2) street signs and signposts as well as mailing reflectorized street numbers to affected residents for ease of transition.

REPORT

Following the endorsement of Duncan Street, Broadwater at the June 2020 Ordinary Meeting, Council Officers notified the resident(s) who were directly affected by the proposed change. This report is to formalise the name and adopt as per procedural requirements.

Council has complied with the requirements of Clause 7 of the Roads Regulation 2008 and NSW Road Naming Policy, to advertise the proposed new name for a period of one (1) month in a local newspaper.

The map provided in Figure 1 shows the extension of Cook Street in red, which is proposed to be renamed Duncan Street. The remaining portion of Cook Street is shown in blue.

Figure 1: Map showing the location of the two Cook Streets in Broadwater with the red section to be renamed Duncan Street.



CONSULTATION

Advertisement notifying the proposed road renaming were placed in the local newspaper for a period of 28 days. There were no submissions received.

CONCLUSION

Due to there being no submissions received through the public exhibition period, it is recommended that Council formally adopt Duncan Street as the new name and proceed with the formal gazettal. This includes the installation of street signage on either side of the street along with the supply of street number signage.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

18 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

18.1 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS - COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS

Author: Kate Alder-Conn, Governance Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Disclosure of Interest Returns for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 be received and noted.

REPORT

In accordance with the Model Code of Conduct and Council's Disclosure of Interest Procedure, Councillors and Designated Persons were required to lodge their completed disclosure of pecuniary interest returns by 30 September 2020.

A Councillor or Designated Person must make and lodge with the General Manager a return in the form set out in Schedule 2 of the Code of Conduct, disclosing the Councillor's or Designated Person's interests as specified in Schedule 1 of the Code within three months of:

- Becoming a Councillor or Designated Person
- 30 June each year
- The Councillor or Designated Person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under Schedule 1 of the Code that has not been previously disclosed in a return.

A review of the list of Designated Person positions held at 30 June 2020 was conducted in March 2020 with the staff holding those positions being required to complete a return. All of the required disclosures have been received from Councillors and Designated Persons. The disclosures are tabled for the information of Council and will be made available on request to any member of the public at Council's Casino Administration Office.

In September 2019, the Office of Local Government issued Council Circular 19-21 '*Release of Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) Guideline 1 Returns of Interest*'. The circular outlines an obligation for Councils to publish designated persons' returns of interest on their websites. In circumstances where Council believes there is an overriding public interest against the disclosure of some of the information contained in the return, Council can elect to redact some information prior to publishing.

In order to maintain the privacy of designated persons and in accordance with Council Resolution 170320/20, redactions of signatures and references to addresses will be made prior to publishing the 2019/2020 returns on Council's website.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1 Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.2 Facilitate Council's compliance with legal and governance requirements, including risk and insurance

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Nil

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

18.2 REVIEW OF ACCESS TO COUNCIL RECORDS BY THE PUBLIC POLICY AND PRIVACY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Author: Kate Alder-Conn, Governance Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of Council's ongoing policy review process, a review has been undertaken of Council's Access to Council Records by the Public Policy, together with Council's Privacy Management Plan. The policy and plan have been updated to reflect current legislation and have been combined into one policy named Access to Council Records and Privacy Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Access to Council Records and Privacy Management Plan.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.2: Facilitate Council's compliance with legal and governance requirements, including risk and insurance

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

A review of Council Policy 1.3.2 Access to Council Records by the Public and the accompanying document, Privacy Management Plan has been undertaken. The policy and plan have both been updated to reflect current legislation. The policy now contains information regarding access rights under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, with the removal of references to the now redundant *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

For ease of customer use, the documents have been combined into one policy, now named 1.19 Access to Council Records and Privacy Management Plan.

CONSULTATION

The review has been conducted in consultation with relevant staff, together with the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC). Following feedback from the IPC the following sections were added: Types of Personal Information held by Council, Health Privacy Principles and Offences.

CONCLUSION

Changes in legislation have warranted a review of both the Access to Council Records by the Public Policy, together with Council's Privacy Management Plan. The documents have been combined into one policy named Access to Council Records and Privacy Management Plan. This change has been made in order to simplify user access to these complementary documents.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Draft Access to Council Records and Privacy Management Plan (under separate cover)**

18.3 CORRESPONDENCE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

That Council receives and notes the correspondence regarding the Local Government Economic Stimulus Packages.

AUTHORS

1. Richmond Valley Council letter to NSW Premier
2. The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government's response

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council wrote to the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, NSW Premier following a webinar with Councils across NSW sharing information and experiences regarding impacts of COVID-19 and the Local Government Economic Stimulus Packages. The Hon Shelley Hancock MP Minister for Local Government has responded to Council's correspondence.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Letter to NSW Premier
2. Minister for Local Government response letter



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ABN 54 145 907 009

24 July 2020

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
NSW Premier
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

Local Government Economic Stimulus

In response to your comments at the recent webinar with Councils across NSW, where you encouraged Councils to tell our own stories, I thought we'd provide you with some information on our experience with the impacts of COVID-19 here in the Richmond Valley.

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for the Local Government Economic Stimulus Package which has assisted Council in relation to the increased cost of the Emergency Services Levy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges for our us and as you know, every job in Regional NSW is vitally important to our community. As one of the largest employers in our local government area, Council has taken every measure available to it to ensure that our staff remain gainfully employed and continue to deliver vital services to our community. We have done this at considerable cost and see this as our contribution to keeping jobs and money flowing around our local economy.

As a strategic decision, Council did not become a party to the Local Government Splinter Award when it was introduced in April 2020. We have worked collaboratively with our employees to negotiate alternative work arrangements and alternative duties. I am pleased to say due to this open negotiation, not one single employee has been stood down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council is therefore unable to qualify for the Government's offer of a job retention allowance and pleasingly cannot meet the level of revenue reduction required to meet the qualification criteria. However, it should be noted that the concentration on lost revenue alone does not tell the full story of our Council's COVID-19 challenges.

To ensure a safe workplace throughout this period and to keep our staff gainfully employed in new environments such as working from home, Council had to substantially increase its operational expenditure.

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As an example, since the March lockdown period Council has expended:

- An additional **\$89,389** on personal protective equipment to ensure that staff can continue to safely perform essential services for the community
- An additional **\$42,800** on vehicle hire, to ensure that our outdoor staff can safely travel to worksites, maintaining adequate social distancing.
- An increased amount of **\$10,500** on cleaning services to ensure that our workplace and community facilities are appropriately sanitized
- An additional **\$10,000** on IT hardware, software, licenses and telco charges.
- An additional **\$10,500** to install Livestreaming technology at Council's Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange to ensure that this critical business activity can safely continue. During the shut-down period, the NRLX has seen up to 600 on-line bidders continue to engage in cattle sales, with record numbers of cattle passing through the sale yards. This has helped to safeguard thousands of local jobs in our region that rely on the beef cattle industry.

In addition to increasing operational costs, Council has sought to offer financial hardship support to its community, including:

- **\$85,000** in waived interest payments on rates and charges until September 2020. Following changes under the *COVID-19 Legislative Amendment (Emergency Measures-Miscellaneous) Act No.2*, Council has extended the interest-free period until 31 December 2020. This will result in a further revenue loss of at least **\$40,000**
- **\$39,000** in other council support measures such as refunded booking fees for halls and sports fields, reduced parking fines and other charges.
- **\$7,500** in crisis training for local small businesses.

This additional unbudgeted expense has been incurred in a climate of great economic uncertainty for our Council. While we have not yet seen a significant increase in rates and charges default, we are concerned that this situation could worsen once the Federal Government's Job Keeper and other support payments conclude.

We have also seen substantial reduction in the rate of return from Council's investment portfolio over this period. For example, RVC's NSW Treasury Corporation Medium Term Growth Fund suffered a loss of -\$740,995 in February-March this year. Although there has since been some recovery, Council has concluded the financial year with some **\$98,500** less in anticipated return on its investments.

These financial challenges which we know are faced by all Councils and Governments have presented themselves at a time when the community is relying heavily on RVC to maintain essential services and to provide economic stimulus by supporting local suppliers and job creation schemes.

Council has welcomed the grant funding we have received in recent years and in particular the benefits of the NSW Government's \$7M contribution under the Growing Local Economies Fund to our \$14M upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX). The NRLX posted records during the 2019/20 financial year with over 130,000 head of stock through the facility, with a sales revenue in excess of \$113M. This highlights the importance of this regional facility to the Richmond Valley economy and the Northern Rivers region.

Council has delivered an exciting number of projects in recent years and has more stimulus projects ready to progress when funding becomes available. Accompanying this letter is a document that outlines what we have delivered, what we are currently delivering and what could be delivered with further stimulus funding.

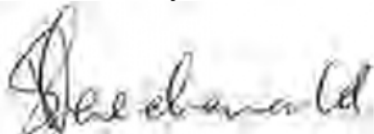
We also continue to support our community to recover from the devastating bushfires of 2019 and eagerly await the release of the funding criteria and guidelines for the Federal Government's funding that has been announced to support bushfire effected communities to recover.

We are working closely with our Local Member Chris Gulaptis MP and your Regional NSW team on the Northern Rivers and we would welcome the opportunity to capitalise on any stimulus funding programs the NSW Government provides.

Finally, we appreciate and acknowledge the support we have received from many NSW Government agencies to respond to the impacts of drought, bushfires, floods and now the pandemic.

Thank you for your strong leadership during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager





The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A714571/A712136

Mr Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager
Richmond Valley Council
Locked Bag 10
CASINO NSW 2470

Dear Mr Macdonald

Thank you for your letter of 24 July 2020 to the Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP about the Local Government Economic Stimulus Package. I also acknowledge your letter of 21 July 2020 to my portfolio Office, the Office of Local Government (OLG) regarding the same issue.

I appreciate that Richmond Valley Council (Council) is struggling with the financial impacts of COVID-19, including difficulties that impact council's financial position, services and staff. I also acknowledge the steps that the Council has taken to ensure that its staff remain actively employed during the pandemic and the financial support offered to its community.

The NSW Government is aware of the important role councils play in our economy and in local communities across the State. That is why the Treasurer and I announced the nation-leading \$395 million local government economic stimulus package to safeguard jobs, local services and infrastructure in the wake of this pandemic.

I have noted Council's inability to qualify for the Job Retention Allowance component, however the full components of the package recognise that COVID-19 has hit councils hard and is designed to give councils breathing space to adjust their structures and operations and be in a better position to effectively serve their communities throughout the duration of this crisis.

No other state or territory in the country responded so swiftly and comprehensively to secure an economic stimulus of this size for their local government sector.

Importantly, this package builds on the NSW Government's \$82 million to support 260 council-run childcare centres and \$25 million for local councils to rebuild and refurbish local showgrounds. The NSW Government has also announced a \$15 million Streets as Shared Spaces program that will fund council projects to provide more space for communities to safely walk, cycle and exercise. The Government is also providing a \$500,000 funding boost to council-run pounds to meet veterinary, staff and food costs during the pandemic.

These commitments bring the Government's COVID-19 support for the local government sector to over half a billion dollars.

Further details of the stimulus package, information and resources, are available on the OLG's website.

The NSW Government has also welcomed the Commonwealth Government's announcement of a new \$500 million Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program and the advanced payment of the Financial Assistance Grants for 2020-21.

GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 ■ P: (02) 8574 5400 ■ W: nsw.gov.au/ministerhancock

This program is part of the Commonwealth Government's \$1.8 billion boost for road and community projects through local governments across Australia. This will help local councils support jobs and businesses by delivering priority projects focused on infrastructure upgrades and maintenance.

Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

24 AUG 2020

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18.4 CORRESPONDENCE - SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO GOVERNMENT GRANTS PROGRAMS

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

That Council receives and notes the correspondence regarding the Inquiry into the Integrity, Efficacy and Value for Money of NSW Government Grant Programs

AUTHORS

1. Richmond Valley Council submission to Inquiry

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

The NSW Legislative Council Public Accountability Committee is currently conducting an Inquiry into the Integrity, Efficacy and Value for Money of NSW Government Grant Programs.

The Inquiry focuses on the range and availability of funding programs and the manner in which grants are determined and allocated. It also considers measures to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the schemes. Public submissions to the Inquiry were invited and Council has prepared the attached response.

The response highlights the vital role that grants programs play in sustaining local government in Regional NSW. Richmond Valley Council currently derives some 39% of its total income from grants and Council has been very successful in obtaining support for substantial infrastructure improvements in recent years. Council's submission emphasises the importance of developing positive working partnerships with State and Federal Governments, including people with local knowledge in the grants selection process, and ensuring that these processes are equitable and transparent.

The Inquiry is due to present its final report on 31 March 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Submission - Inquiry into the Integrity, Efficacy and Value for Money of NSW Government Grant Programs**



21 August 2020

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ABN 54 145 907 009

Mr David Shoebridge MLC
Chairman
NSW Legislative Council Public Accountability Committee

Dear Mr Shoebridge

Inquiry into the Integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grant programs

Richmond Valley Council is supportive of the intent of the Inquiry's terms of reference as we acknowledge the importance of ensuring that NSW Government grants programs are administered in a transparent, equitable and accountable manner.

Grants play a vital role in sustaining local government in Regional NSW. Our council derives some 39% of its total income from grants – 14% from operational grants, such as the Federal Government's Financial Assistance Grants program, and 25% from capital grants and contributions. These grants are critical to ensuring that communities in regional NSW have access to essential infrastructure and services and an opportunity to grow and prosper.

Our Council has been successful in securing significant grants funds in recent years which has enabled us to deliver a range of community building projects as well as projects that have stimulated our local economy. We have delivered substantial infrastructure improvements across the Richmond Valley through a positive and supportive partnership with both the Federal and NSW Governments.

As an example, Council welcomes the benefits of the grant funding we received from the NSW Government's \$7 million contribution under the Growing Local Economies (GLE) Fund to our \$14 million upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX). The NRLX posted record sales during the 2019/20 financial year with over 130,000 head of stock through the facility and revenue in excess of \$113 million.

This highlights the importance of this regional facility to the Northern Rivers Community. These benefits could not have been realised without the NSW Government's decision to support Council's (\$3.5 million) and the Federal Government's (\$3.5 million) investment in the facility. The NRLX is now a state of the art livestock exchange that supports Casino's place as the Beef Capital of NSW. This project has clearly helped our local economy to grow - which is the intent of the GLE Fund - and provided value for money outcomes for the NSW economy, which relies on our beef industry.

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Another example is the \$2.9 million received through the Stronger Country Communities Fund over the past three years, to provide much needed community facilities such as improvements to sports grounds, showgrounds, playgrounds and parks. Council has also received some \$254,000 from the Regional Cultural Fund (Round 2), including \$208,000 towards upgrading the main entertainment centre Civic Hall in Casino and \$42,000 towards providing arts and cultural programs for people in rural communities. This funding is important to our community, as it provides opportunities that are not readily available in regional NSW.

In a bid to secure these funds, Council expends considerable time and resources each year in preparing grant applications for projects that align with our Community Strategic Plan. Having made this commitment, it is reasonable for applicants to expect that the assessment process for each funding program is equitable, transparent and merit-based. RVC is very appreciative of the funding support from Government programs, however there have been times when Council has questions about the outcomes of the funding allocations. While Council understands that not all proposals can be funded, it is important that the process is seen to be fair and reasonable, and that funding decisions are subject to review. We seek feedback on our unsuccessful applications, which is appreciated, but this can lead to frustration as factors that are beyond our control impede successful outcomes.

Council acknowledges that there are times when discretionary powers need to be applied to funding allocations to ensure equity. For example, smaller regional communities often find it difficult to demonstrate a benefit/cost ratio >1 for projects due to the limited number of people using the service or facility. This does not mean that these projects are without merit, or vitally important to the community. The considerable difference in size and circumstance amongst regional communities means that it is not always possible to apply a 'one size fits all' approach to funding. Local councils understand and acknowledge these differences, but where exceptions and exemptions are applied in grants programs, it is important that the reasons are clearly explained and available to all applicants, and that these decisions are subject to scrutiny. It is also important that an elected Government can deliver on its mandate and to that end there will be circumstances where some discretion for the Premier is appropriate.

Council also acknowledges the value of having people with local knowledge involved in the selection process for regional grants programs. Using an example, Rounds 1 & 2 of the Stronger Country Communities program provided an allocation of funds for each council based on its population and enabled each council to select projects that were a priority for its community. RVC liaised with our local member in the selection of these projects and he was very supportive of our choices. The process included the NSW Government completing independent surveys to ensure Council's selections were a priority in each community. The methodology for Round 3 was changed to enable community groups to apply and compete with council selected projects. While the intent of doing this is understood, we believe better outcomes were achieved for our community in Rounds 1 & 2 as all projects delivered were consistent with the priorities of the community as set out in our Community Strategic Plan.

Sporting facilities are at the heart of communities across Regional NSW. While we understand the cultural and economic importance of investment in stadiums in capital cities, it can be challenging to explain the disparity in investment in sporting facilities in Sydney, against the standard of sporting facilities that can be provided across regional NSW. We would encourage increased investment options for

sporting facilities in regional NSW to support grass roots sports development, especially following the impacts on junior sport participation from the disruption caused by COVID-19.

To support greater transparency in funding programs, the Committee may consider a more standardised model for grant applications and assessment processes, with regular review by the Auditor General. This could achieve efficiencies in both preparing and assessing grant applications, while also allowing due process to be observed across the various funding programs.

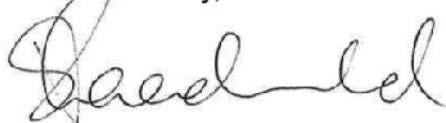
Another suggestion is to consider more untied grants, as the Federal Government does with its annual FAGs allocation, and more recently its Bushfire Recovery funding where we received \$1.4 million. Council also received untied Drought Assistance funding of \$1 million and Community Infrastructure stimulus of \$1 million. In each case Council determined its priorities based on our Community Strategic Plan and our knowledge of local community needs. The Federal Government reviewed these decisions to ensure they met the funding criteria, and then Council got on with delivering the projects. This is a much more efficient system than the competitive process generally applied for government funding. Local decision-makers are in the best position to know what their communities need.

Council has delivered an exciting number of projects in recent years with the support of the NSW and Federal Governments and the increased investment in regional NSW is evident in the Richmond Valley and beyond. The Integrated Planning and Reporting reforms in local government, which require the preparation of Community Strategic Plans and long-term Resourcing Strategies, have provided NSW Councils with a strong foundation to support better strategic planning, leading to increased investment and therefore improved outcomes for our communities.

While rate pegging continues to exist in NSW, local councils in regional NSW will continue to rely on grant funding from the Federal and NSW Governments to support the growth and prosperity of their communities. New revenue streams are challenging to secure and while the Richmond Valley has grown in recent years and experienced significant reductions in unemployment and growth in housing prices, many residents have limited capacity to sustain substantial increases in rates and annual charges.

Thank you for considering the matters raised in this submission. Council looks forward to receiving the Inquiry's recommendations on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

18.5 CORRESPONDENCE - SUBMISSION TO ROUS FUTURE WATER PROJECT 2060

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

That Council receives and notes the correspondence regarding Rous County Council's Future Water Project 2060.

AUTHOR

Richmond Valley Council – submission to Future Water Project 2060 public consultation.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council resolved at its Ordinary Meeting of 18 August 2020 to endorse Rous County Council's Future Water Project 2060 and the community consultation process that supports it. It was further resolved that the General Manager prepare a submission to Rous, based on the matters identified in the August report.

The attached submission recognises the role that Rous County Council plays in providing sustainable and safe drinking water to more than 110,000 people in the Northern Rivers and supports the Future Water Project's aim to secure our region's drinking water supplies in the face of changing climate conditions.

While Council recognises that both key options proposed – increased use of groundwater, or construction of the Dunoon Dam – will require further development and community discussion in the coming years, it is important to begin these investigations now to ensure that the future of our region is secure.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Richmond Valley Council submission to Rous Future Water Project 2060



31 August 2020

10 Graham Place Casino NSW 2470
Postal: Locked Bag 10 Casino NSW 2470
t: 02 6660 0300 f: 02 6660 1300

council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au
www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

ABN 54 145 907 009

Phillip Rudd
General Manager
Rous County Council
PO Box 230
LISMORE NSW 2480

Dear Phil

Future Water Project 2060: Submission

At Council's Ordinary Meeting of 18 August 2020, it was unanimously resolved to endorse Rous County Council's proposed *Future Water Project 2060* and the community consultation process that supports it.

Water sustainability is an issue of utmost importance for communities in the Northern Rivers and Council recognises the vital role that Rous County Council plays in supplying sustainable and safe drinking water to more than 110,000 people in our region.

In Richmond Valley, RCC supplies bulk water to the Mid Richmond towns and villages of Broadwater, Rileys Hill, Evans Head, Coraki and Woodburn. Our Council relies on this supply to support continued growth in this region.

Council believes that the Future Water Project 2060 will help to future-proof the region's drinking water supplies and support increased resilience in the face of changing climate conditions. In a region that has recently experienced the challenges of sustained drought and bushfire, a secure and reliable water supply is vital. The RCC Project will provide for the next 40 years of growth within our region and ensure the levels of service our community expects can be maintained.

While Council recognises that both key options proposed – increased use of groundwater, or construction of the Dunoon Dam – will require further development and community discussion in the coming years, we believe it is important to begin these investigations now, to ensure that the future of our region is secure.

Richmond Valley Council is currently undertaking its own investigations to improve water security for the Casino water supply, in the face of a changing climate. This study will consider a number of options, including additional off-stream storage at Casino, raising Jabour Weir, exploring groundwater sources, or connecting to the Rous County Council regional supply.

Given the limited groundwater resources in our district, and the water quality challenges of the Richmond River catchment, Council expects that connection to RCC will emerge as a strong option in the study. In this regard, the Dunoon Dam proposal would be a significant benefit to our community and Council supports continued investigation into this option.

Thank you for considering this submission. Richmond Valley Council looks forward to working with Rous County Council in the future to help secure safe and reliable water supplies for our region.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vaughan Macdonald", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

Love where we live and work



18.6 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - AUGUST 2020**Author: Jono Patino, Financial Accountant****RECOMMENDATION**

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

REPORT

This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications submitted for the month of August 2020.

During the reporting period three grants were approved and funding was received for eight grants totalling \$2,315,821. Council was notified as being unsuccessful with two grant applications and three grants were applied for.

Grants that have been approved

Woodburn Riverside Park Jetty Upgrade	
Project ID	10338
Funding Body	Roads and Maritime Services
Funding Name	Round 3 Boating Now Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$127,370
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$ 95,527.50
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 31,842.50
Date Application Submitted	13 August 2020
Date Approved	March 2020
Comment (if required)	Original ROI was lodged in December 2019 before a formal grant application was submitted on 27 March 2020.

Coraki Park Pontoon Extension	
Project ID	10339
Funding Body	Roads and Maritime Services
Funding Name	Round 3 Boating Now Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$58,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$43,500
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$14,500
Date Application Submitted	13 August 2020

Date Approved	March 2020
Comment (if required)	Original ROI was lodged in December 2019 before a formal grant application was submitted on 27 March 2020.

Woodburn-Coraki Road Major Upgrade	
Project ID	10382
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	N/A
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$10,000,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$10,000,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Approved	12 August 2020
Comment (if required)	Funding was a Nationals in Government election pledge which has now been approved.

Grants that have had funding received

Woodburn Recreational Oval Enhancement of Sporting Facilities	
Project ID	10285
Funding Body	Office of Regional Development
Funding Name	Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF)
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$98,714
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$98,714
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	3 May 2018
Date Received	\$32,576 received 26 August 2020
Total Funds Received To Date	\$65,152
Comment (if required)	N/A

Coraki Hockey Club Training Facilities: Windsor Park Revitalisation	
Project ID	10287
Funding Body	Office of Regional Development
Funding Name	Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF)

Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$95,053
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$95,053
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	3 May 2018
Date Received	\$32,319 received 31 August 2020
Total Funds Received To Date	\$95,053 (total funding received)
Comment (if required)	N/A

Casino Scenic and Heritage Walk

Project ID	10354
Funding Body	Tourism Bushfire Recovery (RTBR) Grants Program
Funding Name	N/A
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (exc GST)	\$125,230
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$125,230
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$62,615 received 18 August 2020
Total Funds Received To Date	\$62,615
Comment (if required)	N/A

North Coast Waste Investment Report Project

Project ID	10361
Funding Body	Department of Regional NSW
Funding Name	N/A
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$140,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$140,000
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$90,608 received 7 August 2020
Total Funds Received To Date	\$90,608
Comment (if required)	N/A

Coronation Park Viewing Platform (Casino Drill Hall), Coraki Caravan Park Facility Block Upgrades and Ellangowan Rd Bridge	
Project ID	10381
Funding Body	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Funding Name	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grants (LRCI)
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (exc GST)	\$1,005,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$1,002,214
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 2,786
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$501,107 received 7 August 2020
Total Funds Received To Date	\$501,107
Comment (if required)	N/A

Financial Assistance Grant 2020/2021	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	N/A
Funding Name	NSW Local Government Grants Commission
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (exc GST)	\$5,241,584
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$5,241,584
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$632,296 received 17 August 2020 (General Purpose Component \$433,843, Local Roads Component \$198,453)
Total Funds Received To Date	\$3,344,696
Comment (if required)	N/A

Roads to Recovery Program 2020-2024	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
Funding Name	Roads to Recovery Program

Government Level	Federal
Project Value (exc GST)	\$5,011,072
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$5,011,072
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A – annual allocation
Date Received	\$505,300 received 21 August 2020
Total Funds Received To Date	\$1,507,514
Comment (if required)	N/A

Regional Roads Block Grant 2020/21

Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Roads and Maritime Services
Funding Name	Regional Roads Block Grant 2020/2021
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$918,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$918,000
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A – annual allocation
Date Received	\$459,000 received 27 August 2020
Total Funds Received To Date	\$459,000
Comment (if required)	N/A

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

McDonald Park Jetty Upgrade	
Project ID	10335
Funding Body	Roads and Maritime Services
Funding Name	Round 3 Boating Now Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$72,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$54,000
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$18,000
Date Application Submitted	27 March 2020
Date Advised Unsuccessful	13 August 2020
Comment (if required)	Original ROI was lodged in December 2019 before a formal grant application was submitted on 27 March 2020.

Chatter Boxes and Trailers Richmond Valley Place Activation	
Project ID	10375
Funding Body	NSW Department of Primary Industries and Environment
Funding Name	Streets as Shared Spaces
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$59,600
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$54,600
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 5,000
Date Application Submitted	10 June 2020
Date Advised Unsuccessful	18 August 2020
Comment (if required)	N/A

Grant Applications Submitted

MR145 Casino-Coraki Road (Cooper's Lane)	
Project ID	10379
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	NSW Road Safety Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$493,102
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$493,102
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	19 August 2020
Comment (if required)	Works located on MR145, 850m north of Cooper's Lane, work length 0.378km – works to improve superelevation on corner, widen shoulder, repair pavement defects and upgrade seal

Richmond Valley Short Film – Our Culture	
Project ID	10380
Funding Body	Aboriginal Affairs NSW
Funding Name	2020 NAIDOC Grants
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$4,027
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$3,000
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$1,027

Date Application Submitted	27 August 2020
Comment (if required)	N/A

Tendering for Government Contracts Training	
Project ID	10380
Funding Body	A NSW Treasury
Funding Name	Small Business Month 2020
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$2,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$2,000
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	26 August 2020
Comment (if required)	This funding is part of a collaboration with Ballina Shire Council, Clarence Valley Council and Lismore City Council. The training will be delivered in the form of community workshops for small business owners to assist them in tendering for government contracts.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

18.7 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST TO 31 AUGUST 2020

Author: Andy Edwards, Manager Development and Environment

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the development application report for the period 1 August to 31 August 2020.

REPORT

This report provides a summary of development activity on a monthly basis. All Development Applications determined in the month are outlined in this report, including Section 96 approvals, applications that are refused and withdrawn, and applications with no development value such as subdivisions.

Council receives a fortnightly summary of the status of applications (including all received). Council notifies all determinations of Development Applications in the local newspaper pursuant to Clause 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (as amended) on a monthly basis.

The total number of Development Applications and Complying Development Applications determined within the Local Government area for the period 1 August to 31 August 2020 was 23 with a total value of \$3,737,515.00.

The graph below shows the monthly dollar value of development applications processed by Council over the past five financial years.

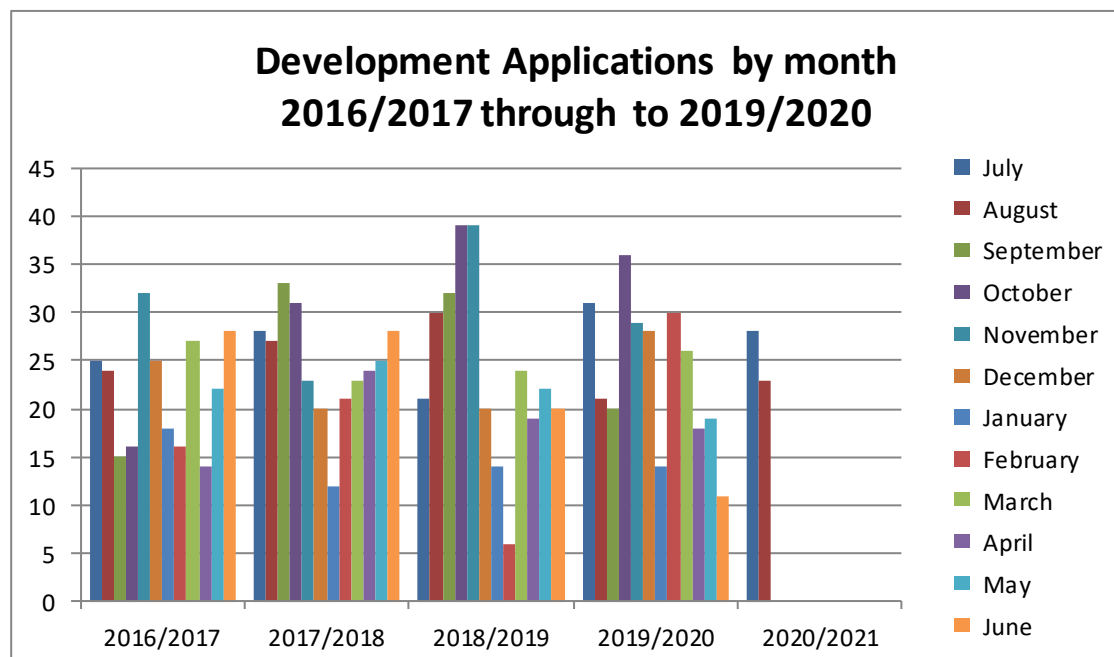


Figure 1: Monthly dollar value of development processed by Council over five financial years.

Figure 2 graph provides the annual value of Development Consents issued by Council over five financial years and Figure 3 provides a detailed review of the value for the reporting month of August 2020.

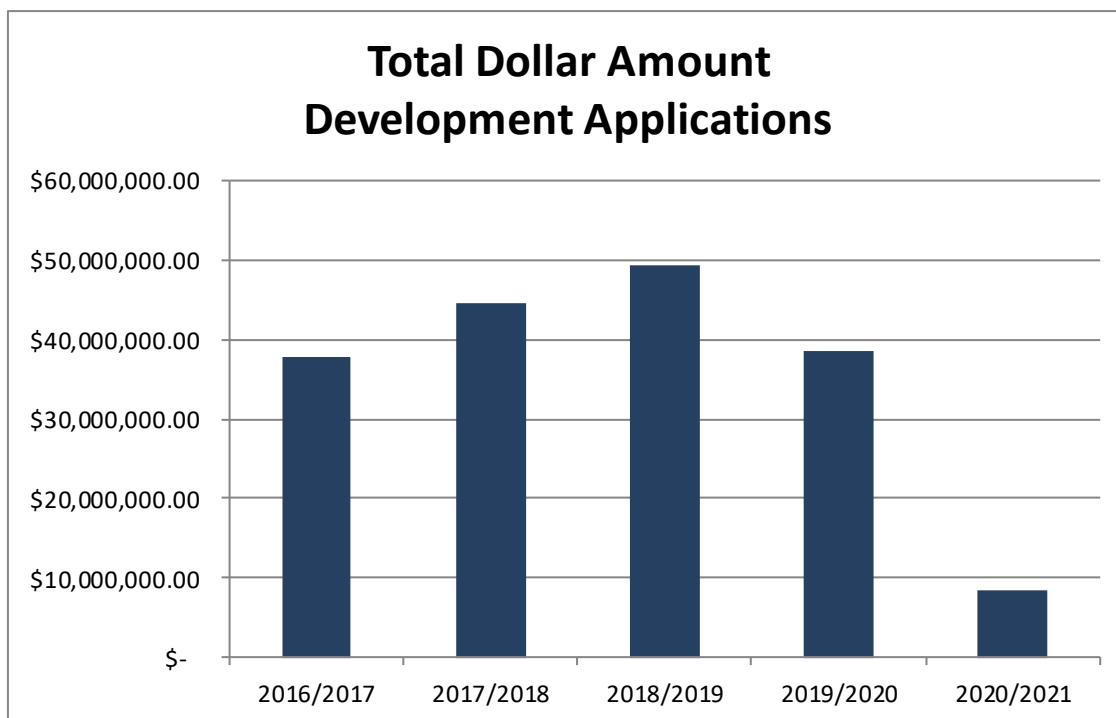


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

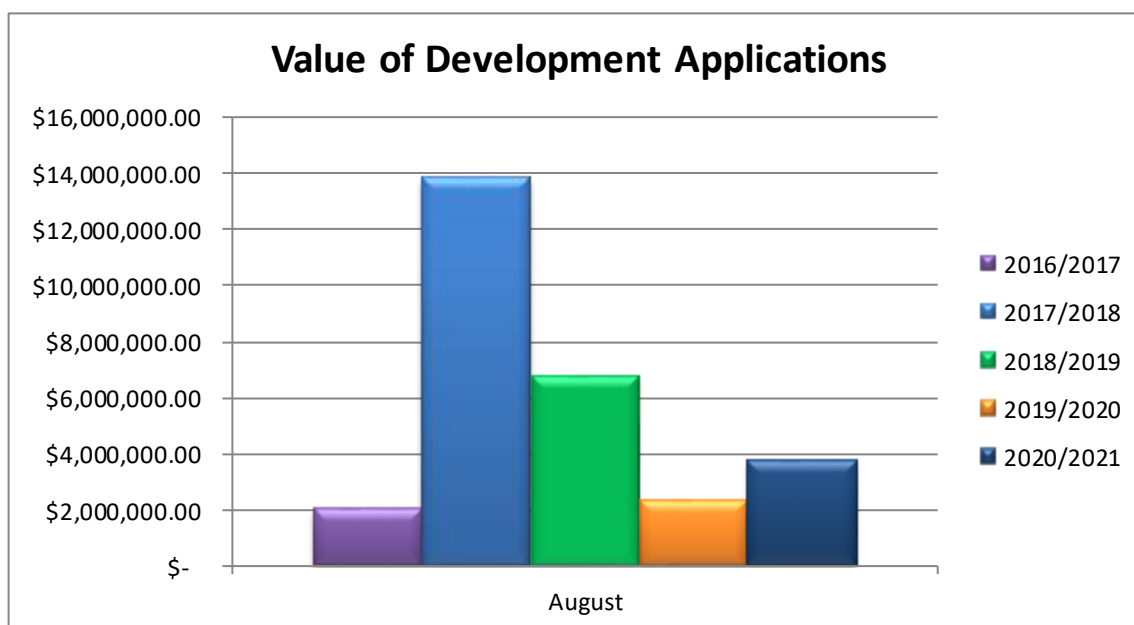


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of August.

Number of Development Applications

The number of applications received by Council does not necessarily reflect the value of developments as single large developments can be equivalent in value to a large number of more standard type developments such as sheds, dwellings and small commercial developments.

During this reporting period, Council officers assessed and approved another Development Application for a bushfire affected property. This application was determined within Council's self imposed service level target of 5 days, with the application being determined in 4 working days.

Figures 4 and 5 detail the number of applications determined by Council over the past five years.

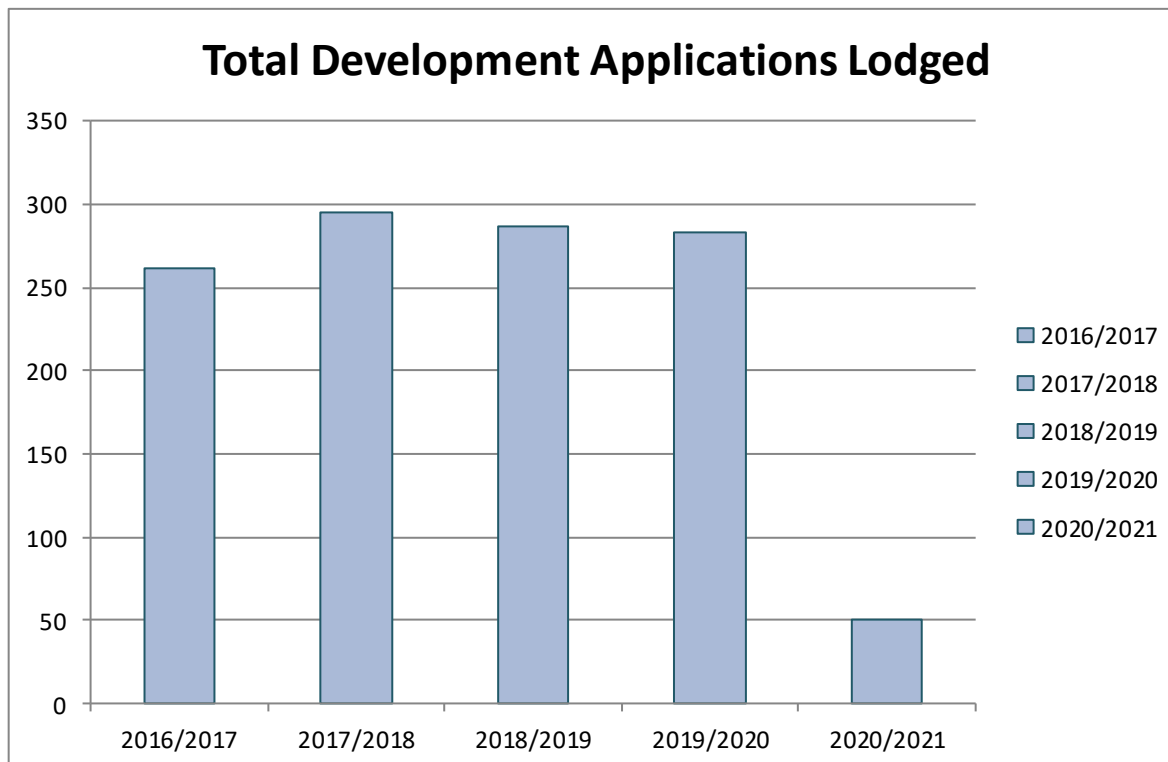


Figure 4: Number of Development Applications per month over five financial years.

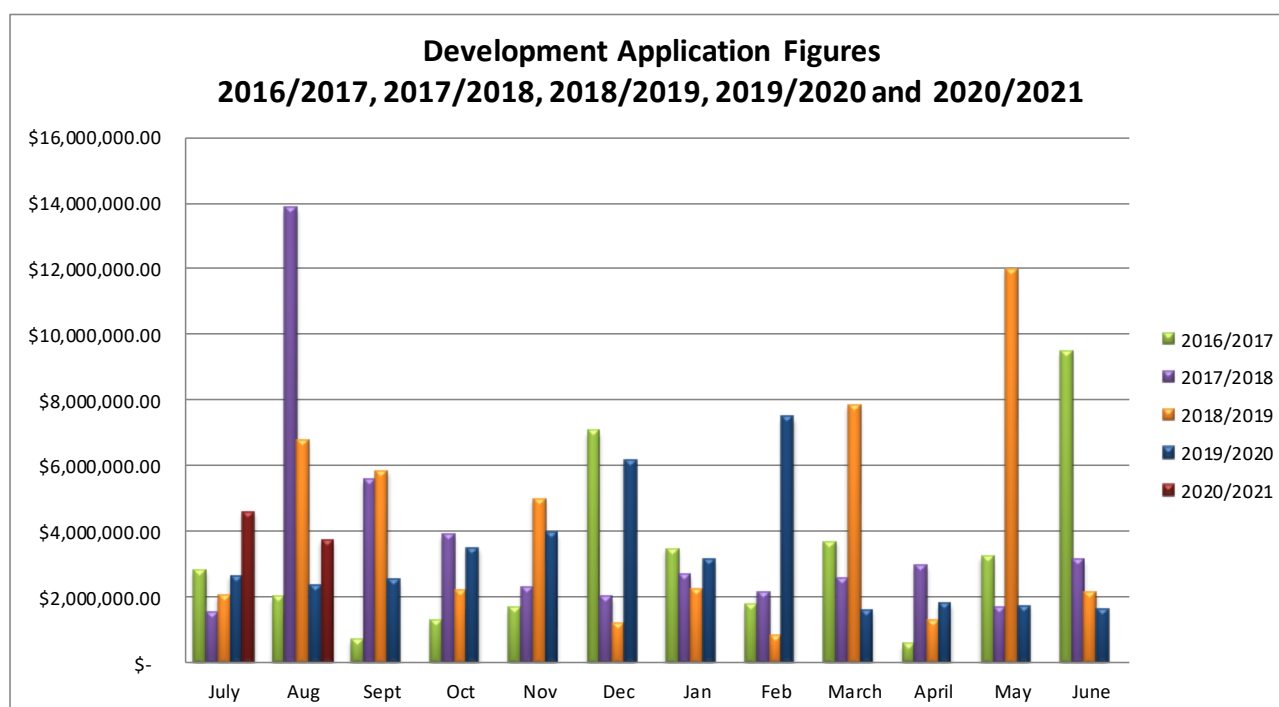


Figure 5: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

Activity for the month of July 2020

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 96s)	22
Section 96 amendments to original consent	0
Subdivision	1
Refused	0
Withdrawn	0
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	0
TOTAL	23

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Growing our Economy

EC1: Driving Economic Growth

EC1.6: Improved customer satisfaction with the DA process

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Nil

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 August 2020							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2019/0151	Newton Denny Chapelle	P E & E L Creighton	8845 Pacific Highway, Woodburn	Boundary adjustment to create 5 Lots	17/12/2018	11/08/2020	\$ -
DA2020/0212	Russell Dent Builder	P A & R L Mitchell	47A River Street, Woodburn	Front deck extension	11/05/2020	18/08/2020	\$ 35,000.00
DA2020/0213	Newton Denny Chapelle	The Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust	93 Manifold Road, North Casino	Alterations and additions to an existing educational establishment and associated works	13/05/2020	4/08/2020	\$ 2,000,000.00
DA2020/0228	DCS Building & Consulting	P A Green	73 Ocean Drive, Evans Head	Deck extension	10/06/2020	18/08/2020	\$ 10,000.00
DA2020/0229	Mr G Galea	S & G Galea	9085 Summerland Way, Leeville	Construction of a plant nursery, associated office space, storage area and sanitary facility	11/06/2020	20/08/2020	\$ 80,000.00
DA2020/0237	Mrs T M Hundy	T M & N J Hundy	121 River Street, Woodburn	Alterations & additions to existing building and detached storage shed to the rear to provide staff amenity, ancillary office and storage area, installation of refrigerated container and associated fit out works to continue its use as a supermarket	18/06/2020	6/08/2020	\$ 500,000.00
DA2020/0242	Mr A R Firth	A R Firth	Rappville Road, Rappville	Change of Use from shed to dwelling	23/06/2020	7/08/2020	\$ 154,000.00
DA2020/0243	Ms T E Kramer	A M Hyde & T E Kramer	11 North Street, Casino	Change of use of a room within the existing dwelling to undertake beauty therapy as a "home business"	24/06/2020	13/08/2020	\$ 11,897.00
DA2021/0008	Mr J S Anderson & Ms T J Garside	T J Garside & J S Anderson	622 Spring Grove Road, Spring Grove	Above ground swimming pool & associated fencing	10/07/2020	3/08/2020	\$ 13,100.00
DA2021/0009	Mr C Strong & Mrs K A Strong	C & K A Strong	4 Carrabeen Court, Evans Head	Inground swimming pool & associated fencing	13/07/2020	26/08/2020	\$ 30,000.00
DA2021/0012	Mrs E T Morris	E T Morris	91 Canterbury Street, Casino	Colorbond shed	17/07/2020	27/08/2020	\$ 12,440.00
DA2021/0014	Barker Studio Architects	K W & H M Bloem	14 Riverview Street, Evans Head	Deck & swimming pool with associated fencing	21/07/2020	4/08/2020	\$ 60,000.00
DA2021/0018	Mr T L Gilbert & Ms R M Owens	T L Gilbert & R M Owens	33 Pennefather Close, Yorklea	Shed	28/07/2020	13/08/2020	\$ 19,449.00
DA2021/0021	Evoke Pools	T J Farr & E M Green	8 Lakeside Drive, Casino	Swimming pool with associated fencing	30/07/2020	10/08/2020	\$ 44,575.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 August 2020							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2021/0025	Mrs A M O'Connor	A M O'Connor	5 Woodburn Street, Woodburn	Shed	31/07/2020	12/08/2020	\$ 45,000.00
DA2021/0034	Mr B D Cole	B D & B J A Cole	210 Pacific Highway, Broadwater	Shed	10/08/2020	26/08/2020	\$ 19,100.00
DA2021/0035	Mr M K Hanley	N L Cuskelly & M K Hanley	8 Wallum Drive, Doonbah	Double carport & double garage	10/08/2020	31/08/2020	\$ 23,000.00
DA2020/0178	Mr R J Hayes	M L Spencer	3/2-4 Sunderland Street, Evans Head	Construction of additional dwelling to create multi dwelling housing development	10/03/2020	27/08/2020	\$ 350,000.00
DA2020/0220	North Coast Petroleum	Brown Duck Pty Ltd	60 Hare Street, Casino	Installation of a 10KL self bunded double walled combustible liquids tank (fire proof)	27/05/2020	20/08/2020	\$ 30,000.00
DA2021/0002	Trueline Patios & Extensions Northern Rivers	J M & A D L Hills	500 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Doonbah	Insulated patio roof	2/07/2020	10/08/2020	\$ 20,000.00
DA2021/0023	Mr G Cole	G & V L Cole	95 Ellangowan Road, Yorklea	As Built - bathroom in exempt shed	31/07/2020	26/08/2020	\$ 7,000.00
DA2021/0015	Newton Denny Chapelle	Health Administration Corporation	19 Woodburn Street, Evans Head	Construction of two (2) awnings and a shed for the existing health services facility	21/07/2020	18/08/2020	\$ 30,000.00
Summary of Development Applications for Bushfire Affected Properties determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 August 2020							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2021/0019	TMMM Constructions Pty Ltd/as GJ Gardner Homes	S R & A D Crabtree	2929 Old Tenterfield Road, Busbys Flat	Dwelling	28/07/2020	3/08/2020	\$ 242,954.00

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

19.1 ONLINE BEACH PERMIT SYSTEM ON AIRFORCE BEACH

Author: Andy Edwards, Manager Development and Environment

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Robert Hayes.

Question

With the ongoing complaints regarding 4WD usage of Airforce Beach, can Council staff investigate further and report back to Council, determining what is involved and what cost to Council will be required to implement a fee free online permit system for 4WD access to Airforce Beach, so that the local Rangers and the Police can better regulate this area.

Response

Council is responsible for managing beaches within the local government area and ensuring an appropriate balance between environmental protection and opportunities for recreation. All councils on the North Coast have sought to address the potential conflicts between passive beach uses (walking, swimming, fishing relaxing) and more active pursuits, such as 4-wheel-driving, with most implementing some form of permit system for beach vehicle access.

To introduce a permit system for beach access, RVC would need to undertake the following actions:

- Develop a Vehicles on Beaches policy to inform the rules and conditions relating to beach access
- Determine which legislative instrument will be used to issue and enforce the permits - generally s632 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- Establish a means of issuing the permits
- Provide the required signage and community information
- Establish a program for enforcing the permit requirements.

Of the seven North Coast councils who currently have a beach permit system, only one, Ballina, currently uses a ticketing system and App. The other councils generally require users to purchase a permit in person either at the council building or via a local outlet, such as the visitor information centre. All councils using the permit system levy an annual fee – ranging from \$66 to \$230, or between \$18 and \$60 for a visitor pass (varying from 1 day to 30-day access). The fee covers the cost of implementing the system and, in some cases, provides funds for beach restoration and improvement works.

If RVC chose to introduce a no-charge permit system, the cost of establishing and maintaining the system would be shared by the ratepayers.

Options for implementing an on-line permit include:

- Developing an in-house solution – such as filling out a form on Council's website, printing out a permit, or using a QR code to access an on-line form
- Using an existing App, such as EasyPark, or similar

Both options would require council to maintain an on-line data base, so that Rangers could verify that the person driving the vehicle had applied for a permit and the vehicle registration details matched. This information is essential to support any regulatory action, such as issuing a fine for not having a permit.

With an in-house system, Council would be required to securely store personal information associated with the permits, to provide secure access to this information so that Rangers could enforce the requirements, and to undertake audits of the system to ensure it remained secure. The estimated development cost for an in-house system is approximately \$10,000.

If Council chose to use an existing App, licensing fees for the product would apply and there would be additional costs associated with integrating the system with Council's network (so Rangers could enforce the requirements). Licensing fees vary depending on the App selected, however the estimated cost of using and integrating these systems is \$10,000 to \$15,000. Additionally, most existing Apps require users to enter their credit card details prior to accessing the form. So, even if Council chose not to charge for the permit, users would still have to share their personal information to access the system.

To ensure Rangers could enforce the permits under s632 of the Act, Council would need to erect additional signs, or update its existing signage at beach access points. The estimated cost of additional signage is \$4000.

A consistent monitoring and enforcement program would also be required to ensure that drivers were complying with the permit rules.

As neighbouring councils continue to increase regulation and further restrict vehicle access to their beaches, it can be expected that 4WD activity on RVC's beaches may increase.

Other options for better regulating vehicles on Airforce Beach might include:

- Introducing a curfew system to prevent driving on the beach after dark. (This matter was raised following a recent serious accident on the beach)
- Restricting the area available for vehicle access, for example, up to the coffee rock area
- Encouraging residents to use the Snap, Send Solve App to report inappropriate behaviour
- Increasing patrols on the beach
- Aligning with other North Coast councils' policies and paid permit systems – for example Nambucca, Kempsey and Port Macquarie-Hastings Councils currently have reciprocal permit arrangements.

Council Rangers will continue to monitor the situation at Airforce Beach over the coming months and further updates will be provided to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the information provided.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

20 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

21 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

21.1 Woodview Quarry Lease Negotiations

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) 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 commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL