

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 20 April 2021

Time: 5.00pm

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

**Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager**

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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 16 MARCH 2021

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 March 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed minutes Ordinary Meeting 16 March 2021 (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 MAYORAL ATTENDANCES 9 MARCH - 10 APRIL 2021****Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report 9 March – 10 April 2021.

REPORT**March**

- 12th Casino Art Group Exhibition
- 13th Casino & District Historical Society Inc AGM
- 16th Council Ordinary Meeting
- 17th Rous County Council Extraordinary Meeting
- 18th Deputy Premier and Ministers Meeting at NSW Parliament House
- 19th Sunnyside Park Community Meeting
- 21st Rotary Club of Evans Head Official Charter function
- 27th BlazeAid Dinner

April

- 6th Councillor Information Session
- 7th Rappville Community Bus Funding Announcement
- 7th Waratahs Senior Group Morning Tea
- 7th Official Opening of Maria Clinic Suite 2
- 9th New Ambulance Station announcement for Casino
- 10th Riley's Hill Community Hall Outdoor Movie Night.

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT SUBMITTED TO APRIL 2021 ORDINARY MEETING****Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Delegates' Report for the month of March 2021.
2. Authorises the General Manager to prepare a submission to Rous County Council's Future Water Project public consultation, based on Richmond Valley Council's previous response.

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 Extraordinary Meeting held on 17 March 2021.

The meeting considered Rous County Council's Revised Future Water Project and resolved to place the document on public exhibition for a period of eight weeks. The revised strategy removes the option of the Dunoon Dam proposal and identifies groundwater sources, recycled water and desalination as the preferred strategies for future water supply within the region.

Richmond Valley Council has previously expressed its concern at the decision to discontinue investigations into the Dunoon Dam proposal at this stage of the options assessment and resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of 16 February 2021 to write to Rous County Council reiterating its position.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Minutes of Rous County Council Extraordinary Meeting 17 March 2021**
2. **Future Water Project Community Summary brochure (under separate cover)**

Rous County Council

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

17 March 2021

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Meeting commenced at 1.04pm

In attendance:

Councillors (at Molesworth Street, Administration Office, Lismore, NSW)

Keith Williams (Chair), Sharon Cadwallader (Deputy Chair), Basil Cameron, Darlene Cook, Vanessa Ekins, Sandra Humphrys, Robert Mustow and Simon Richardson.

Staff (at Molesworth Street, Administration Office, Lismore, NSW)

Phillip Rudd (General Manager), Helen McNeil (Group Manager People and Performance), Guy Bezrouchko (Group Manager Corporate and Commercial), Andrew Logan (Group Manager Planning and Delivery), Adam Nesbitt (Group Manager Operations), Michael McKenzie (Future Water Strategy Project Manager), Luka Taylor (IT Support Officer) and Noeline Smith (minute taker).

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council showed its respect and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land, of all Elders, on which this meeting took place.

3. PUBLIC ACCESS

The Chairperson acknowledged and thanked those that provided deputations during the Public Forum held prior to the Council meeting:

- Big Rob (speaking against Agenda item 5i.)
 - Richard Trevan (speaking against Agenda item 5i.)
-

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

i). Revised draft Future Water Project – Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy: public exhibition

MOVED (Ekins/Cook) that Council:

1. Receive and note this report and the attached revised draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' in response to resolution 61/20 point 3 from its meeting of 16 December 2020.
 2. Approve the public exhibition of the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' from 1 April 2021 for a period of eight weeks.
-

RCC Extraordinary Minutes 17 March 2021

-
3. Receive a further written report on the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' for proposed adoption at an extraordinary meeting in July 2021, including an overview of the feedback received during the public exhibition period and how that feedback has been considered.

An **AMENDMENT** was moved (Cadwallader/Humphrys) that Council:

1. Receive and note this report and the attached revised draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' in response to resolution 61/20 point 3 from its meeting of 16 December 2020.
2. Approve the public exhibition of the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' from 1 April 2021 for a period of eight weeks.
3. Receive a further written report on the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' for proposed adoption at an extraordinary meeting in July 2021, including an overview of the feedback received during the public exhibition period and how that feedback has been considered.
4. Concurrently investigate the Dunoon Dam proposal in addition to the development of scenario 1 of the revised draft IWCM with these investigations to include the following studies:
 - Explore options to mitigate known impacts
 - Complete the geotechnical investigations and geological mapping
 - Undertake further cultural heritage surveys and investigations, including consultation with the registered Aboriginal stakeholder group.
 - Update the ecological surveys and investigations based on the current legislative requirements
5. Direct the General Manager to delay the report to Council into the orderly exit from Dunoon Dam as an option in the FWP, including disposal of land for a period of 3 years.
6. Direct the General Manager to include the necessary funding for these studies in year 5 of the Delivery program/Operational plan.

Councillor Mustow proposed a **FORESHADOWED MOTION** to be considered if the **AMENDMENT** was lost or withdrawn.

The **AMENDMENT** on being put to the meeting was **LOST**.

Voting against: Crs Williams, Cameron, Richardson, Cook, Ekins.

The following **MOTION** foreshadowed earlier in the meeting was moved (Mustow/Cadwallader) that:

1. Council receive and note this report and the attached revised draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' in response to resolution 61/20 point 3 from its meeting of 16 December 2020.
2. Council approves the public exhibition of the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' from 1 April 2021 for a period of eight weeks.

-
3. Council receives a further written report on the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' for proposed adoption at an extraordinary meeting in July 2021, including an overview of the feedback received during the public exhibition period and how that feedback has been considered.
 4. The General Manager prepare a report for Council's April meeting outlining the process associated with a community poll at the upcoming Local Government Elections.
 5. That the content of the poll question being asked to be along the lines of..... *"should further investigations associated with the previous preferred and lowest whole of life cost option for the Dunoon Dam, form part of the Rous Future Water 2060 Strategy"*.

MOTION TO BE NOW PUT

Moved (Richardson/Cook) that the **MOTION** be now put.

RESOLVED (Richardson/Cook) the Motion be now put.

Voting against: Crs Mustow, Cadwallader, Humphrys.

FORESHADOWED MOTION (Mustow/Cadwallader) that:

1. Council receive and note this report and the attached revised draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' in response to resolution 61/20 point 3 from its meeting of 16 December 2020.
2. Council approves the public exhibition of the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' from 1 April 2021 for a period of eight weeks.
3. Council receives a further written report on the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' for proposed adoption at an extraordinary meeting in July 2021, including an overview of the feedback received during the public exhibition period and how that feedback has been considered.
4. The General Manager prepare a report for Council's April meeting outlining the process associated with a community poll at the upcoming Local Government Elections.
5. That the content of the poll question being asked to be along the lines of..... *"should further investigations associated with the previous preferred and lowest whole of life cost option for the Dunoon Dam, form part of the Rous Future Water 2060 Strategy"*.

The **FORESHADOWED MOTION** on being put to the meeting was **LOST**.

Voting against: Crs Williams, Cameron, Richardson, Cook, Ekins.

The original **MOTION** was then put and voted on.

RESOLVED (Ekins/Cook) that Council:

1. Receive and note this report and the attached revised draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' in response to resolution 61/20 point 3 from its meeting of 16 December 2020.
2. Approve the public exhibition of the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' from 1 April 2021 for a period of eight weeks.

-
3. Receive a further written report on the draft 'Future Water Project 2060 Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy' for proposed adoption at an extraordinary meeting in July 2021, including an overview of the feedback received during the public exhibition period and how that feedback has been considered.

6. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.22pm.

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 DISASTER RECOVERY WORKS UPDATE

Author: Andrew Leach, Manager Asset Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council Local Government Area has experienced five major adverse natural events in 18 months, starting with the October 2019 Busby's Flat Road and Myall Creek Road bushfires, followed by flood events in February and December 2020, a storm in February 2021, and most recently another flood in March 2021. These events have been declared as Natural Disasters which has allowed Council to claim funding to restore infrastructure. Council has claimed \$13.9M in works and programmed repairs, with an estimated \$12.5M of damage yet to be claimed from the March 2021 flood event.

The NSW Bushfire Community Recovery Officer (CRO) program has been extended a further 12 months and will now include flood recovery. Richmond Valley Council has been announced as one of the LGAs to have its funding extended.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the information contained in this report on the impacts of the Natural Disasters being experienced by the Richmond Valley community, and
2. Writes to the local Federal and State members of Parliament to acknowledge both Governments' ongoing support for the Richmond Valley community's recovery from the five Natural Disasters since October 2019.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP3: Working Together

PP3.1: Improve our Engagement/Consultation with the Community

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

To date Council's contribution to the disasters is approximately \$200,000.

REPORT

The Richmond Valley Local Government Area (LGA) has been impacted by 5 natural disasters since October 2019 as listed below:

- Rappville and Myall Creek fires (AGRN 871)
- February 2020 Floods (AGRN 898)
- December 2020 Floods (AGRN 943)
- February 2021 Storm Event and; (AGRN 954)
- March 2021 Flood event (AGRN 960)

The associated numbers are the unique identifier for that event as allocated by the Government.

Rappville and Bora Ridge Bushfires – (AGRN 871)

In total, the claim of \$3,578,118 has been approved by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) for Emergency, Intermediate and Essential Public Asset Restoration (EPAR) works. Council's "excess" contribution to this event was \$91,000. Key elements within this claim are;

- Busby's Flat Road Bridge
- Bora Codrington Bridge
- Camira Creek Bridge
- Mt Marsh Rd Culvert
- Baileys Lane Culvert

Claims are in process for further vegetation works and other sundries estimated at \$494,500 with funding extensions sought and approved. Issues to note are the abovementioned bridge works have all been delayed in construction due to the recent flooding.

February 2020 Floods – (AGRN 898)

Emergency Works claims have been finalised, with letters of offers received. A total of \$474,637 has been claimed and paid. Immediate reconstruction works for this event approved by TfNSW was costed at \$4,902,710. Cost to Council in this event is estimated at \$90,000. Major works include;

- Codrington Lane Culverts,
- Ainsworth Road Embankment slip,
- Gores Road Culvert Slip
- Upper Cherry Tree Embankment Slip

The challenge remains that these features have been re-damaged in following events, compounding and complicating the claim process.

December 2020 Flood – (AGRN 943)

Emergency works claims were lodged for \$181,564. Immediate reconstruction works claims were lodged for \$87,607. EPAR works to the value of \$4,193,000 have been approved. There is still the ability to claim for more in this event, however we have since had another flood.

March 2021 Flood – (AGRN 960)

Full network inspections are still required with flood waters still receding in some catchments. Further bad weather was experienced over the Easter period which delayed the inspections.

An initial estimate of costs is \$12.5m due to issues such as;

- Transitioning re-damaged sites from other events to this event and the scale of damage to bridge approaches,
- Severity of the Naughtons Gap Road landslip which will require approximately 3 months of monitoring to inform an appropriate design solution before any construction works can commence. These critical steps in relation to investigation, design and construction could result in the road being closed for a significant period, and
- The increased scale of damage due to the Bungawalbin Creek Levy bank being breached.

Community Recovery Officer Update

In response to widespread natural disasters across various LGAs in New South Wales the Federal Minister for Emergency Management, David Littleproud MP and New South Wales Deputy Premier and Minister Responsible for Disaster Recovery, John Barilaro MP announced a 12 month extension of the NSW Bushfire Community Recovery Officer (CRO) program with support to be extended to include flood recovery.

Following the bushfires, Kelly Moroney (Manager Customer Experience) was seconded to the temporary Recovery Manager position which became the CRO for Richmond Valley Council when funding support was offered. The CRO currently works with the community and agency staff including non-government and government organisations to identify recovery needs and to coordinate services for impacted residents.

Kelly Moroney will continue in the CRO role, with Council accepting the extension of funding for this important and worthwhile position. One of the key focuses for the role over the coming 12 months will be disaster preparedness to assist in identifying risks and to build resilience within the community for future disasters.

A number of events have been organised to support this including a partnership with Red Cross facilitating Community Resilience Teams (CRT) within a number of locations leading to better connected resilient communities. The program encourages community groups and individuals to take an active role in preparing for the impacts of emergencies. In addition, a number of "Get Ready" events are planned to be held later in the year. The Get Ready program is an information program providing practical tools for community service organisations, businesses and individuals. The aim is to foster and support community resilience to help prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters. Resilient communities have demonstrated they have strength and capacity to better cope with emergencies and the recovery process. The benefits of a resilient community may include faster economic recovery, improved community wellbeing and fewer mental health impacts.

CONCLUSION

The succession of natural disasters over the past 18 months has presented a significant challenge for the Richmond Valley to maintain community safety and connectivity. The documentation, assessment, record keeping and administration to allow Council to claim disaster funds is a huge task and remains ongoing as Richmond Valley Council continues its recovery from these events.

Council has claimed \$13.9m worth of works since the fires in 2019, with Council contributions to date approximately \$200,000. Approved works from this figure will be undertaken as designs, tenders and construction can be programmed. The major consideration at this stage is that Council is effectively 'starting from scratch' following the March 2021 event and faces the challenges of rolling over claims.

This Disaster Recovery work is being resourced from existing salaried resources which will contribute to some delays in programmed work as we re-prioritise deliverables. The continued wet weather is also impacting on the delivery of the capital works program along with Council's regular maintenance programs as many areas are inaccessible due to the ground being waterlogged.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

14.2 RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Author: Jenna Hazelwood, Leader Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council has been working to strengthen its risk management practices to help Council adapt to a changing environment, improve performance and deliver its strategic goals. The Risk Management System has five key components, four of which are already in place. The final element, the Risk Management Framework has now been completed and is presented for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Richmond Valley Council Risk Management Framework.

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

Risk management is a fundamental part of Council's governance, strategic planning and service delivery. It helps Council to successfully adapt to a changing environment, improve performance and deliver its strategic goals.

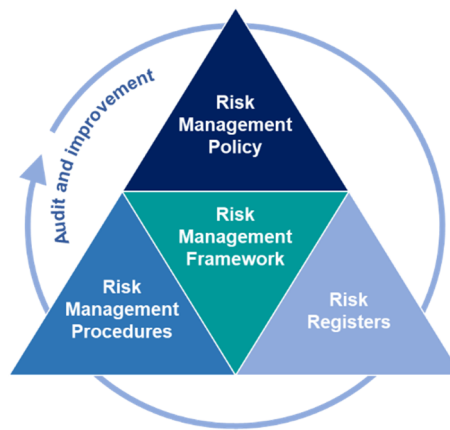
Council operates in a complex risk environment and has a two-part responsibility for risk management under the *Local Government Act 1993*:

- To proactively and effectively manage risks within the organisation (s.8C and 428A)
- To manage risks to the community, through effective long-term planning and stewardship over community resources and assets (s.8A and 8C).

Since 2016, Council has been working to strengthen its risk management systems and to better integrate them with IP&R and other business processes. The improvements achieved under the Internal Audit and Risk Committee's four-year program have provided a strong foundation for this work.

Council's risk management system includes five key elements – four of which are already in place. The final element of the system – a Risk Management Framework compliant with ISO 31000: 2018 – has now been completed and is attached for Council's consideration.

The diagram on the following page shows how the various elements of the system fit together.



Developing the new Risk Management Framework

The Risk Management Framework is the centre-piece of the system. It outlines Council's strategic approach to risk management and explains how the other elements of the system work together. The framework supports Council's risk policy and reaffirms that everyone within the organisation has a role to play in risk management. The framework document includes:

- Values, principles and corporate commitment to risk management
- Legislative responsibilities
- RVC's risk environment and stakeholders
- Key risk areas for the organisation
- Risk appetite statements
- Risk management processes
- Roles and responsibilities
- Monitoring and review

Should Council adopt the framework, it will form the basis for future reporting on risk management within the organisation and support Council's transition to the new Risk Management requirements for NSW councils, due to commence in March 2022.

CONSULTATION

The Framework has been prepared in consultation with Councillors and Council's Executive and Management teams. It incorporates the consultation requirements of ISO 31000: 2018 in its risk management processes.

CONCLUSION

Council has been working to strengthen its risk management systems for the past few years, with the final element of the system now completed. The Risk Management Framework will guide future risk management decisions within the organisation and help Council to meet its responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1993* for managing risk within the organisation and the wider community.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Draft Risk Management Framework (under separate cover)**

15 FINANCIAL REPORTS**15.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MARCH 2021****Author: Jono Patino, Financial Accountant****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

The value of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 March 2021 is shown below.

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$23,823,923	\$22,000,000	\$3,250,390	\$11,906,022	\$60,980,335

The weighted average rate of return on Council's investments for March 2021 was 3.59% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for March of 0.00%, which is Council's benchmark.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing investment performance for the month of March 2021.

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 March 2021, Council had earned \$364,348 in interest and \$484,896 in fair value gains for total investment revenue of \$849,244 against an annual budget of \$1,003,025 (which equates to 84.67%). Council currently receives a return of 0.35% on its Macquarie CMA Account and Council's financial advisors receive a commission of 0.05%. Commissions for the 2020/2021 financial year to 31 March 2021 total \$2,997.

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 maintained the cash rate at 0.10% per annum at its March meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on investments in March 2021 was 3.59%, an increase of 451 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 359 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.00% which is Council's benchmark. Council's Financial Management team continually looks for investments, within the adopted investment policy, that will give Council the most advantageous return.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of \$154,988 during March 2021, increasing the overall gain for the 2020/2021 financial year to 31 March 2021 to \$484,896.

Council is currently holding larger than normal cash balances. This is predominantly due to the reduced rates of return on offer for term deposits and floating rate notes - with some banking institutions not even accepting deposits at present. Council also received \$5.2m in Natural Disaster Funding which had not yet been invested elsewhere as it was received on the reporting date of 31 March 2021.

Council's Investment Portfolio

The Investment Portfolio balance at 31 March 2021 of \$60,980,335 is made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$7,920,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,003,397), Term Deposits (\$22,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$3,250,390), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$11,906,022) and other bank accounts (\$5,900,526).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits and floating rate notes of \$25,250,390 represented 41.41% of the total portfolio as at 31 March 2021.

Council made the following new investments during March 2021.

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	1 year
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	6 months
Warwick Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	6 months
Macquarie Bank	Floating Rate Note	N	\$1,000,390	5 years
Bank of Sydney	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	6 months
Auswide Bank	Floating Rate Note	Y	\$1,500,000	3 years
Total			\$6,500,390	

Council had the following investment maturities during the month of March 2021.

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
ING Direct	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$15,000
Warwick Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$18,957
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$4,986
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$5,256
Bank of Sydney	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,603
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$4,238
Total			\$6,000,000	\$68,041

Council had \$11,906,022 in longer term investments being the Medium-Term Growth Fund held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 March 2021. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below.

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31-Mar-2021	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Mar 2021	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD
Cash Facility Trust	\$0	\$0	\$31,366
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$11,906,022	\$154,988	\$453,530
Total	\$11,906,022	\$154,988	\$484,896

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESIs)

Council's portfolio of \$60,980,335 at 31 March 2021 includes \$31,156,022 or 51.1% with no direct investment in the fossil fuel industry.

These include Council's investments with NSW Treasury Corporation.

NSW Treasury Corporation has a stewardship approach to ESIs which focuses on managing environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities, particularly climate change which is expected to impact portfolios over the long term.

CONCLUSION

During the month of March 2021 Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 31 March 2021 Council's investments totalled \$60,980,335 with \$23,823,923 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 3.59% for the month of March and total investment revenue equals 84.67% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 March 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Investment Report Pack - March 2021 (under separate cover)**

16 GENERAL BUSINESS**16.1 REVIEW OF GATHERING INFORMATION POLICY**

Author: Kate Alder-Conn, Governance Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of Council's ongoing policy review process a review has been undertaken of the Gathering Information Policy. The policy has been renamed Gathering Information for Legal and Insurance Matters. This change has been made to clarify the purpose and application of the policy. In addition, a supplementary procedure has been established to assist staff in implementing the policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Gathering Information for Legal and Insurance Matters policy.

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

REPORT

Council's Gathering Information Policy (CPOL 1.3.5) has been reviewed as part of an ongoing policy review process.

The policy has been renamed 'Gathering Information for Legal and Insurance Matters'. This change has been made in order to assist staff in better understanding the purpose and application of the policy.

The content of the policy has been reduced and moved across to a supplementary procedure, which will be implemented at an operational level.

Changes to the content (now housed in the procedure) are minimal and do not impact upon the application of the procedure. Changes include:

- Update to new format;
- Inclusion of legal privilege information;
- Update of references to Australian Standards; and
- Inclusion of new legislation section.

CONSULTATION

The draft policy has been reviewed in consultation with Council's insurance provider, CivicRisk Mutual.

CONCLUSION

The Gathering Information Policy has been reviewed, with the body of the content now being contained within a standalone procedure. The revised policy now provides the framework for the operational procedure and is presented for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Gathering information for legal and insurance matters policy**

Council Policy



Policy Title:	Gathering information for legal and insurance matters
Policy Number:	1.20
Focus Area:	CS1 Leading and Advocating for our Community
Responsibility:	Governance & Risk
Meeting Adopted:	Date of Council Meeting – Resolution Number

OBJECTIVE

This policy has been prepared to ensure that Council has clear and concise directions for the systematic collection of data that documents the operations and management of Council. The collection and retrieval of accurate information is critical in the defence of public liability, professional indemnity, workers compensation and/or other claims. Council has prepared a set of procedures to assist with this. The objectives of these procedures are to:

1. Ensure that data recorded on relevant documentation used by Council satisfies the minimum data required;
2. Implement a flowchart that represents a systematic approach to the steps involved in Council's incident reporting procedure; and
3. Establish a list of all internal and external documentation that may be used in the information gathering process and for preparation of reports.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers and contractors of Richmond Valley Council.

POLICY

Richmond Valley Council understands the importance of gathering information for both legal and insurance matters in an accurate and timely manner. Council will strive to collect all relevant information so that matters can be dealt with efficiently and effectively. Council has prepared a set of procedures to assist with this process. All staff are required to follow these procedures when gathering information for legal and insurance matters.

Aims

1. Ensure that data recorded on relevant documentation used by Council satisfies the minimum data required under current best practice.
2. Implement a flowchart that represents a systematic approach to the steps involved in Council's incident reporting procedure.
3. Establish a list of all internal and external documentation that may be used in the information gathering process and for the preparation of reports.

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Adopted: **Date**

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4. Provide guidelines for ensuring that Council and staff comply with best practice procedures.
5. Establish a simple, systematic and readily useable system for hazard and incident reporting, investigation and remediation.

REFERENCES

This policy is to be read in conjunction with Richmond Valley Council Procedure 1.20 Gathering information for legal and insurance matters.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by Council at the time of any relevant legislative changes, compliance requirements or at least every four years.

Version Number	Date	Reason / Comments
1	20 September 2005	New policy
2	INSERT DATE	Review including the establishment of a separate procedure.

16.2 NAMING OF ROADS TO RESOLVE ADDRESSING CONFUSION

Author: Kim Anderson, GIS and Systems Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is a Roads Authority, under Section 7 of the *Roads Act 1993*, and is responsible for formally naming public roads in accordance with the Act and Regulation.

The following roads have been identified where properties front or have access to roads without a formal road name or where addressing confusion exists. This impacts on residents' ability for service delivery and possible delays in an emergency response.

Council exhibited thirteen proposed road names calling for public submissions during February and March 2021. The ten road names included in this report have not received any objections to the proposed road names. Where submissions and objections were received alternative proposed names have been identified and are currently under review. These names will be presented in a future Council report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally adopts the following road names:

- (a) Ahern Road
- (b) Morandini Road
- (c) Gava Road
- (d) Tedesco Road
- (e) Redgate Road
- (f) Swan Bay Road (name extension)
- (g) Thady Lane
- (h) Country Lane
- (i) Tulk Road
- (j) Myall Creek Road (name extension)

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP2: Getting Around

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

Council is a Roads Authority, under Section 7 of the *Roads Act 1993*, and is responsible for formally naming public roads in accordance with the Act and Regulation.

The following roads have been identified where properties front or have access to roads without a formal road name or where addressing confusion exists. This impacts on residents' ability for service delivery and possible delays in an emergency response.

The following names have undertaken public exhibition. Affected residents have been notified in writing on the proposed road names. Council received responses in support or no responses were received on the proposed road names.

Ahern Road BUNGAWALBIN - This proposal resolves addressing confusion where the road is currently unnamed. Ahern Road commences at the intersection of Bungawalbin Whiporie Road and traverses east to the T-Intersection (Lot 99 DP755603).

Morandini Road NEW ITALY - This proposal resolves addressing confusion where the road is currently unnamed, and part duplicated road name. Morandini Road commences at the intersection of Moonem New Italy Road/Gava Road and traverses south to Doubleduke State Forest.

Gava Road NEW ITALY/BUNGAWALBIN - This proposal resolves addressing confusion where the road is currently unnamed. Gava Road commences at the intersection of Moonem New Italy Road/Morandini Road and traverses west to the T-Intersection (Lot 116 DP755609).

Tedesco Road NEW ITALY/BUNGAWALBIN - This proposal resolves addressing confusion where the road is currently unnamed. Tedesco Road commences at the intersection of new named road (Morandini Road) and traverses west to Doubleduke State Forest.

Redgate Road NEW ITALY - This is an existing road name in use and this proposal formalises the extents. It commences at the Pacific Highway (adjacent to Whites Road), following the south western boundary of Lot 31 DP 755614, continuing south to T-Intersection, navigating east then south until terminating at Tabbimoble Swamp Nature Reserve (Lot 38 DP755614).

Swan Bay Road EAST CORAKI - It is proposed to rename the section of road between the LGA boundary and Oakland Rd. This resolves confusion caused from the road name changing along the long straight stretch of road rather than an easily identified location such as an intersection. Extension of the existing road name "Swan Bay Road" to the intersection of Oaklands Road.

Thady Lane CASINO - This is an unnamed laneway behind the commercial complex along Johnson Street. There is current confusion with this unnamed lane, and Country Lane, which is located further south. The origin of the name is derived from the original landholder 'Thady Walsh', a local police member who passed away in 1902. Commences at Foy Street (south of Lot 4 DP548881) travelling east and terminates at Kent Street (west of Lot 27 DP1170).

Country Lane CASINO - This is an existing road name in use and this proposal formalises the extents. Commences at Foy Street (south of Lot 16 DP1170) travelling east and terminates at Kent Street. Southern location running parallel with Thady Lane.

Myall Creek Road WEST BUNGAWALBIN - It is proposed to extend the road name "Myall Creek Road" to Physics Creek. This road name has some confusion for residents and has made it difficult for emergency services, this proposal is to resolve the confusion. Google Maps show part of this road name being 'Swampy Trail', a name usually reserved for national parks/state forests, not public roads. Extension of the existing road name "Myall Creek Road" to the Physics Creek.

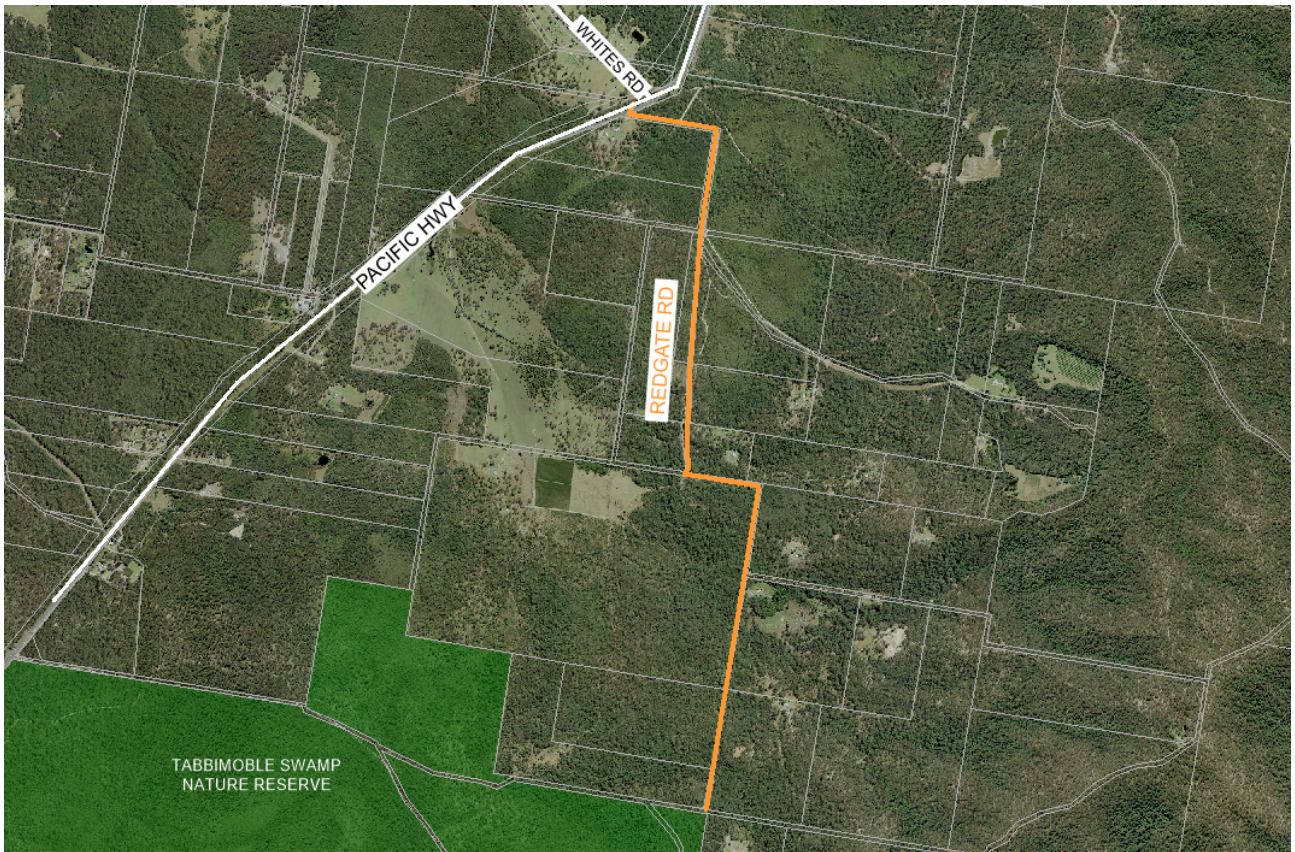
Tulk Road MYRTLE CREEK/WEST BUNGAWALBIN - This road has been known as Myall Creek Road and is a duplication causing confusion for residents. The name originates from historical owners, as per the parish map. One property is currently addressed to this section of road and is in support of the road name change. This is being named to resolve duplication and prevent confusion with other parts of Myall Creek Road. Commences at Myall Creek Road travelling south west to Myrtle State Forest.



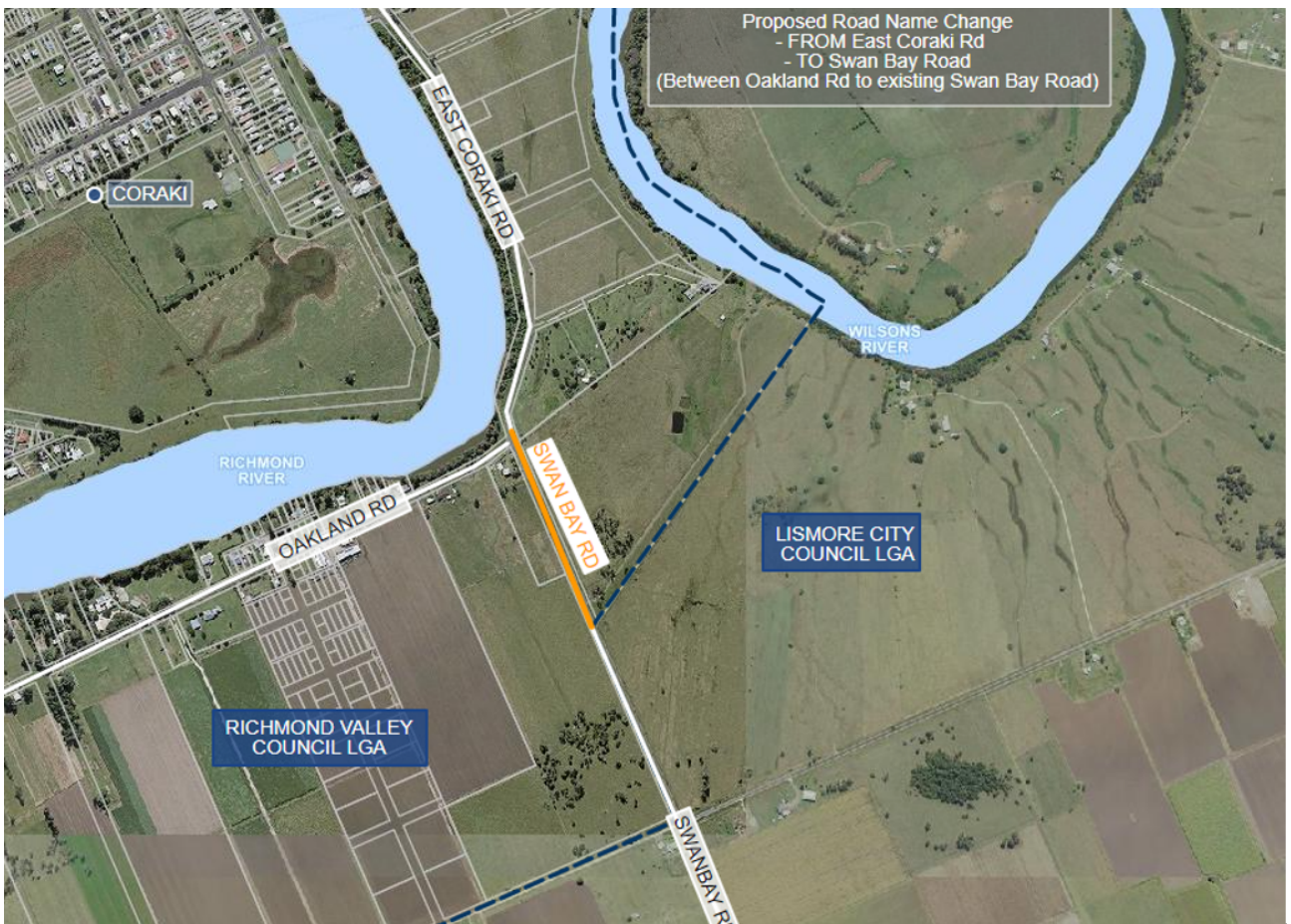
Map 1 – Showing location of proposed road name ‘Ahern Road’



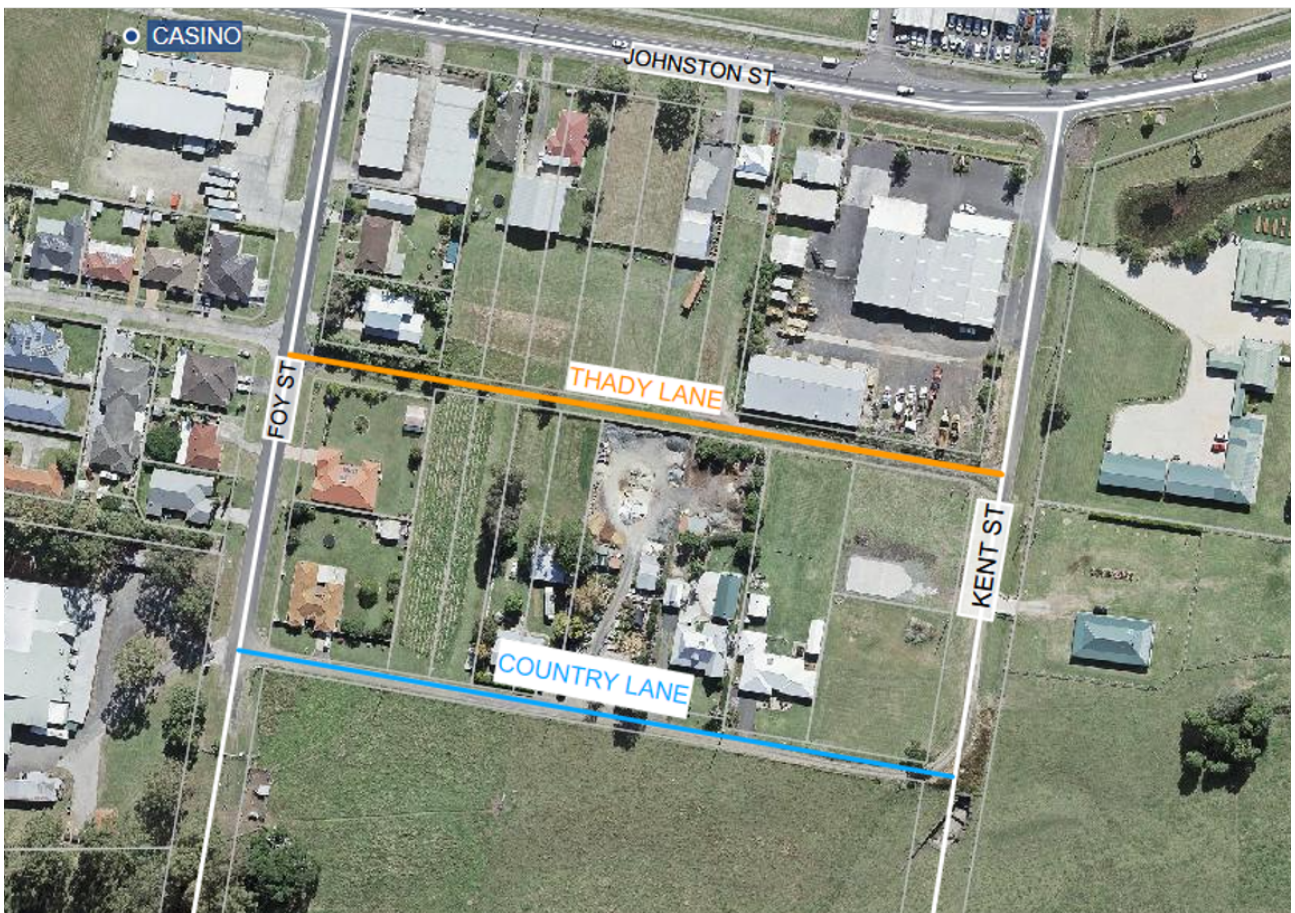
Map 2 – Showing location of proposed road names ‘Morandini, Gava, Tedesco’



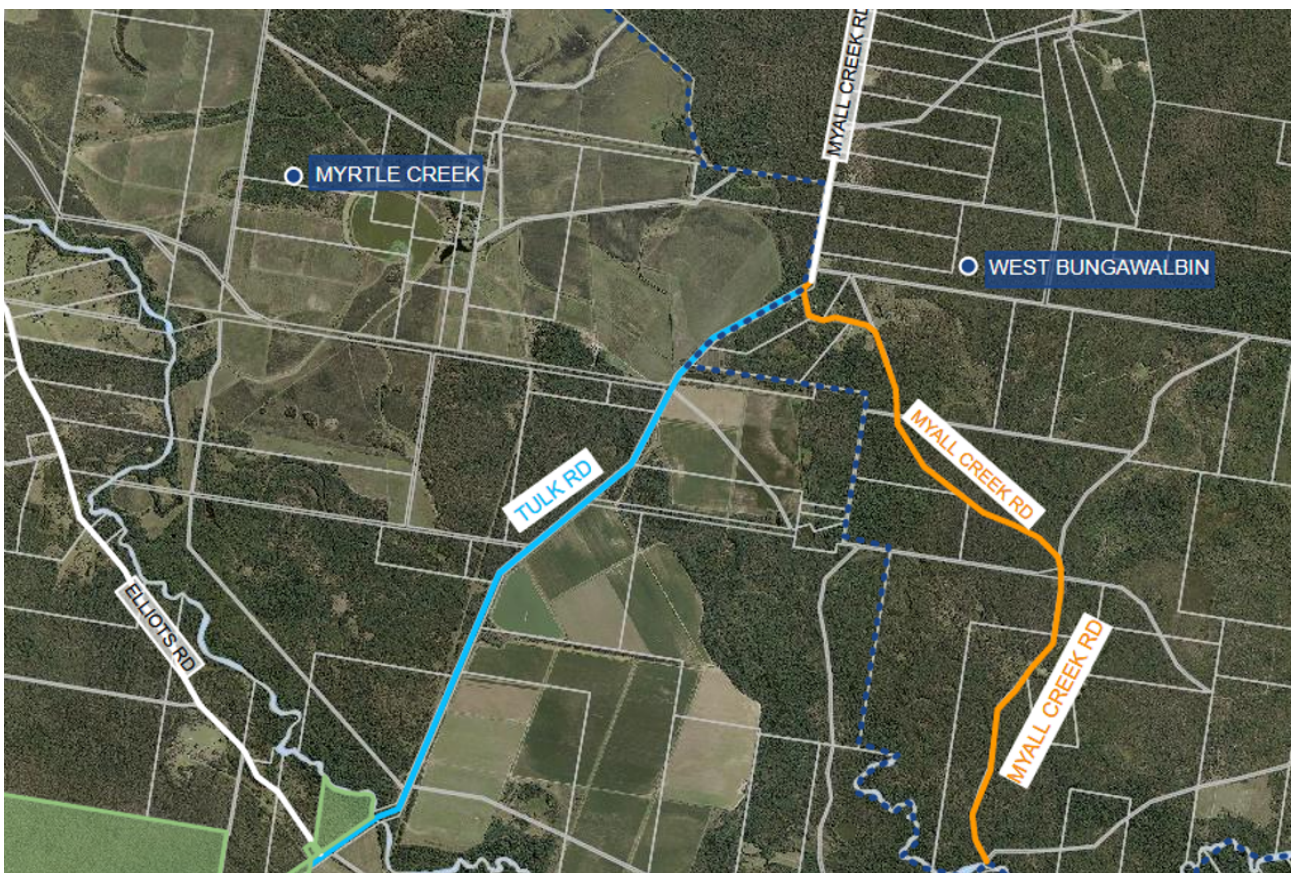
Map 3 – Showing location of proposed road names 'Redgate Road'



Map 4 – Showing location of proposed road name extension 'Swan Bay Road'.



Map 5 – Showing location of proposed road names Thady and Country Lane.



Map 7 – Showing location of Tulk Road and Myall Creek Road

CONSULTATION

In accordance with Clause 7 of the Roads Regulation 2018 and NSW Road Naming Policy, each proposed road name has been subject to the following advertising and consultation:

- Published notice in local newspaper and published on Council's website
- Served notice of the proposal on the prescribed authorities listed in Clause 7.1
- Written notification to affected residents

During the public consultation period a total of 13 road names were proposed. Where submissions of objections were received alternative proposed names have been identified and are currently under review. These names will be presented in a future Council report.

Council received one submission from a resident's legal representative who has had significant issues with the identification of his property including through the devastating 2019 bushfires. The response received was in support for the proposed road name Myall Creek Road stating '*this will make the properties local on Myall Creek Road more readily identifiable and locatable*', and that this is '*both obvious and positive changes, which should have been implemented some time ago*'.

Council received no objection from Lismore City Council for the road name extension of Swan Bay Road. That this '*does appear to be more logical that Swan Bay Road continues to Oakland Road intersection*'.

Council received four additional verbal and written submissions in support of the proposed road names.

CONCLUSION

Council has completed the required consultation for the road name proposals outlined in this report. It is recommended that Council, as the Road Naming Authority, now formally adopts the new names to resolve addressing confusion within the Local Government Area.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

16.3 CASINO SHOWGROUND AND RACECOURSE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Author: Kim Anderson, GIS and Systems Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council, with assistance from Locale Consulting, has developed a draft Plan of Management for Casino Showground and Racecourse in accordance with the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) and the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act).

The draft Plan of Management was developed to provide a clear direction for future management of the facility and set a path to deliver the adopted Master Plan.

Council resolved at the Ordinary meeting on 15 September 2020 to submit the draft plan to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing for approval prior to public exhibition.

The draft plan was placed on public exhibition and no submissions were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the attached Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse Plan of Management, as publicly exhibited in accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

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 and Racecourse in accordance with the CLM Act and the LG Act.

Council staff have worked closely with stakeholders and user groups at the facility to develop a Master Plan for the site which was adopted by Council on 26 June 2018. Council continued working with stakeholders to develop a draft Plan of Management to provide a clear direction for future management of the facility and further support the adopted Master Plan.

The draft Plan of Management is categorising the reserve for the first time in accordance with the LG Act as 'general community use'. This will enable a broader range of community activities and facilities on the land and further support the adopted Master Plan. As this is the first time the reserve has been categorised Council was not required to hold a public hearing in accordance with Section 3.23(7)(c) of the CLM Act.

The draft Plan of Management was presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 15 September 2020 prior to Ministerial approval and public exhibition. Council received approval from the Minister for the draft Plan of Management on 8 February 2021. The draft Plan was placed on public exhibition from 17 February to 2 April 2021.

CONSULTATION

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

The draft Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition in accordance with Section 38 LG Act for 28 days and was open for public submissions for a total of 42 days, closing 2 April 2021. During this period no public submissions were received.

Council was not required to hold a public hearing for this draft plan of management in accordance with Section 3.23(7)(c) of the CLM Act.

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.

The draft Plan of Management has included extensive engagement with relevant stakeholders and the relevant public exhibition requirements have been undertaken, in accordance with the LG Act and the CLM Act. Council has not received any submissions during the public exhibition period and the draft Plan is now presented for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

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

16.4 NSW SHARK PROGRAM UPDATE

Author: Latoya Cooper, Coordinator Mid-Richmond

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past five years, Richmond Valley Council has benefited from being included in the Shark Management Program delivered by NSW Department of Primary Industry and funded by the NSW Government. The funding to support the mitigation measures currently in place comes to an end on 30 June 2021. This report provides an update on the status of the Program. The initiative has helped to improve safety for beach users at Evans Head, particularly over the holiday months, and provided vital data for the DPIE Shark Management Team to implement appropriate mitigation measures. It is recommended that Council seeks additional funding from the NSW Government to ensure this important program continues.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the status of the NSW Government's Shark Program, concluding on 30 June 2021;
2. Writes to the NSW Department of Primary Industries Shark Management Team providing feedback on shark mitigation measures and requesting that the program be funded by the NSW Government on an ongoing basis;
3. Notes that the General Manager will submit a response to the shark management stakeholder survey being conducted by the University of Wollongong and Charles Sturt University.

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

To date, the NSW Shark Management Program has been funded by the NSW Government. Prior to the program commencing, Council approved funding to provide a shark alarm at Evans Head and this will continue as part of the annual budget allocation.

REPORT

The NSW Department of Primary Industries Shark Management Team has, over the last five years, trialled and tested a range of shark mitigation measures across NSW beaches.

Funding from this program was allocated to Airforce Beach in Evans Head for drone surveillance, SMART drumlines, shark tagging and shark listening stations. This program ended on 30 June 2020, however additional funding was provided by the NSW Government, extending the program for a 12-month period which finishes on 30 June 2021.

Drones operated on Airforce Beach in Evans Head between 9am and 4pm during patrolled times, this includes both NSW school holidays and QLD school holidays. Part of the NSW Government funding for the Shark Mitigation Program was used to purchase drones for the Evans Head Surf Life Saving Club for future use. Volunteer-run drone inspections will continue to take place after the Shark Mitigation Program is completed.

The attached NSW Shark Management Strategy provides a snapshot of results from the various measures of mitigation across NSW.

Council has been asked to submit a response to the survey attached to this report to provide feedback to the University of Wollongong and Charles Sturt University researching on behalf of the NSW Department of Primary Industries on preferences of future shark mitigation measures in our Local Government Area.

CONSULTATION

The NSW Department of Primary Industries, Shark Management Team has worked collaboratively with the community and other government agencies to ensure the shark mitigation measures currently implemented in our LGA are effective and in keeping with the program framework.

CONCLUSION

The inclusion of Evans Head in shark mitigation measures by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Shark Management Team has been well received and appreciated by the community and Council. With the observation of 254 sharks from the program across the coastline over the 2019/2020 period, it is recommended that Council advocates for the continuation of funding for this program, as well as providing feedback to other government agencies on preferred measures for future shark management at Evans Head.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Shark Management Strategy Overview (under separate cover)**
- 2. Shark Management Strategy Stakeholder Survey (under separate cover)**

17 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

17.1 REVIEW OF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST PROCEDURE AND DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST

Author: Kate Allder-Conn, Governance Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A review has been undertaken of Council's Disclosure of Interest Procedure, together with the positions Council nominates as designated persons. The purpose of this report is to outline the changes proposed to this procedure.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised List of Designated Persons, together with the revised Disclosure of Interest Procedure.

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's Disclosure of Interest Procedure has been undertaken. The purpose of the review was two-fold, namely, to ensure that:

- The procedure incorporated the changes adopted by Council in September 2020 to the Model Code of Conduct and Gifts & Benefits Policy; and
- The List of Designated Persons is appropriate and up to date.

Updates to the List of Designated Persons

Each position to be included within the List of Designated Persons has been considered on its merits, and in line with guidance provided within Council's Disclosure of Interest Procedure.

Generally, Council designates the Councillors, General Manager, and senior staff. The procedure guides the appointment of other staff as "designated persons" by requiring the following staff to be included:

- Staff with a financial delegation of \$50,000 or more; and
- Staff who make significant regulatory and contractual decisions e.g. planning decisions, decisions about access to information or decisions about large contracts.

The current review has considered these guidelines and recommends removing the following positions from Council's list, based on the understanding that each of these staff members is overseen by a manager who ultimately directs operations and is responsible for significant decisions within their department:

- Coordinator Purchasing and Stores
- Coordinator Planning Services
- Coordinator Building Services
- Development Assessment Planner
- Building Certifier
- Compliance Officer.

An assessment has been undertaken on the approach adopted by various other regional and metro councils within NSW, and the approach proposed within this report is consistent with a number of other councils.

Updates to Disclosure of Interest Procedure

In addition to the aforementioned update of the List of Designated Persons, a whole of document review has been undertaken of the Disclosure of Interest Procedure. Minor changes were necessary to bring the procedure in line with the updated Model Code of Conduct, adopted by Council in September 2020.

Therefore, minor adjustments were made to Annexure B, Annexure C and Schedules 1 – 3, with these sections directly mirroring the updated Code of Conduct.

CONSULTATION

Nil.

CONCLUSION

A review of Council's Disclosure of Interest Procedure has been carried out, with a reduction of positions nominated as "designated persons" being proposed.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Draft Disclosure of Interest Procedure (under separate cover)**

17.2 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 JANUARY 2021 - 31 MARCH 2021

Author: Sharon Banning, Acting Manager Customer Experience

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021.

REPORT

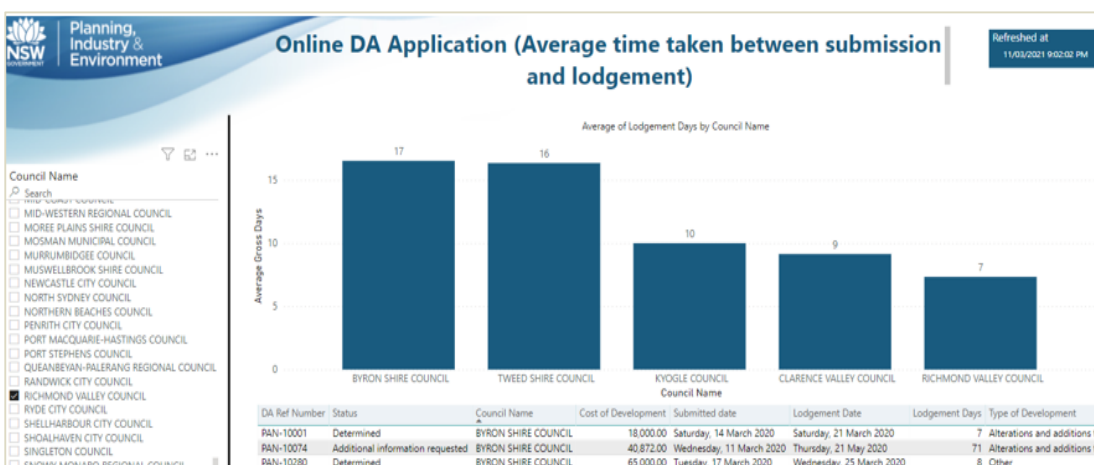
Council is committed to providing a high level of customer service to the community. The Customer Service Framework was adopted by Council at the 19 July 2016 Ordinary Meeting and reviewed at the 25 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting. As a result, quarterly reporting on Council's performance against the standards in the framework has been introduced. This report also contains details on the resolution of customer requests made through the Contact Centre. Analysis is undertaken to determine what strategies or areas of improvement may be required.

The report includes three parts:

- Customer Service Contact Centre data,
- Customer Request Management System (CRM) data, and
- Development Concierge Statistics

As at 1 July 2021, the NSW State Planning Portal will become the mandatory lodgement channel of all development applications, requiring assessment by Council. ePlanning has been rolled out in stages to councils from 2019 and will become mandatory for all LGAs on 1 July 2021. The portal requires all elements of a development approval process to be submitted individually with a full suite of supporting documents. A typical development approval process may consist of up to 4-6 separate applications including Development Application, Construction Certificate, Section 68 Approval etc, with each individual application being assessed in isolation.

During the reporting period, a number of Customer Experience staff were appointed and trained as "First Responders" to specialise in the triage of development applications through the ePlanning portal. RVC commenced a 'soft launch', inviting our most experienced and regular customers to lodge their applications via the portal from 1 January 2021. It has been a steep learning curve for everyone, however the team has worked closely with customers to ensure quality applications are lodged ready for assessment.



Customer Service Contact Centre Data - Key Statistics

Call Statistics

A total of 8,128 calls were received during the report period which is a 1.2% decrease from the same period last year, and a 13.1% increase on the previous quarter's volumes. The Contact Centre has significantly exceeded all service targets for the report period including 88.97% of calls answered within 20 seconds, average time each caller spends in the queue is 13.6 seconds and the percentage rate for calls abandoned is less than 1%.

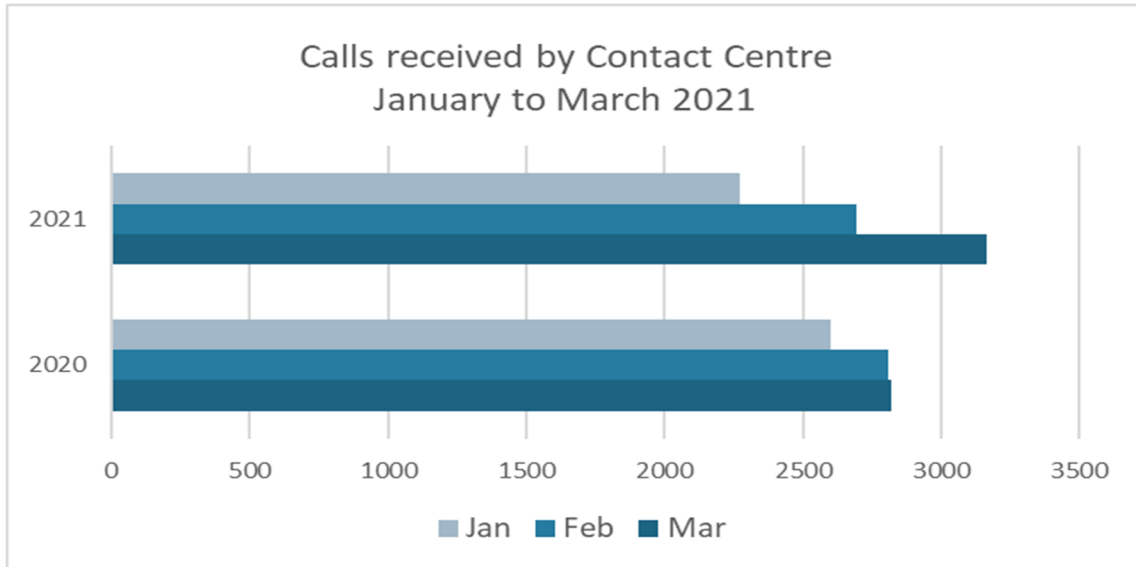


Figure 1: Calls received through the call centre

Receipt and Administration Statistics

A total of 3,071 receipts were processed for the report period which is a slight decrease of 7.8% for the same period of the previous year. February did see a marked increase in number of receipts processed, which can be attributed to the third quarter rates instalment.

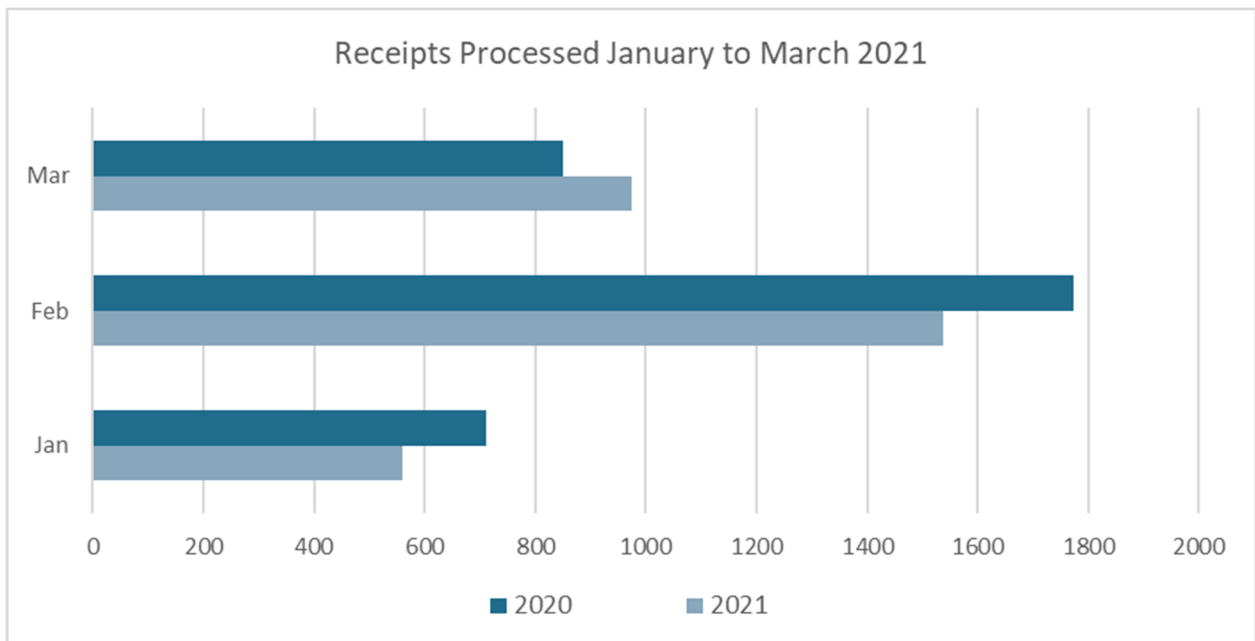


Figure2: Total Number of Receipts

Certificates and Customer requests

99.8% of Section 735A, 10.7, 603 certificates were completed within set timeframes in accordance with Council’s service standards. The marked increase in CRMs is attributed to the weather events during December and March

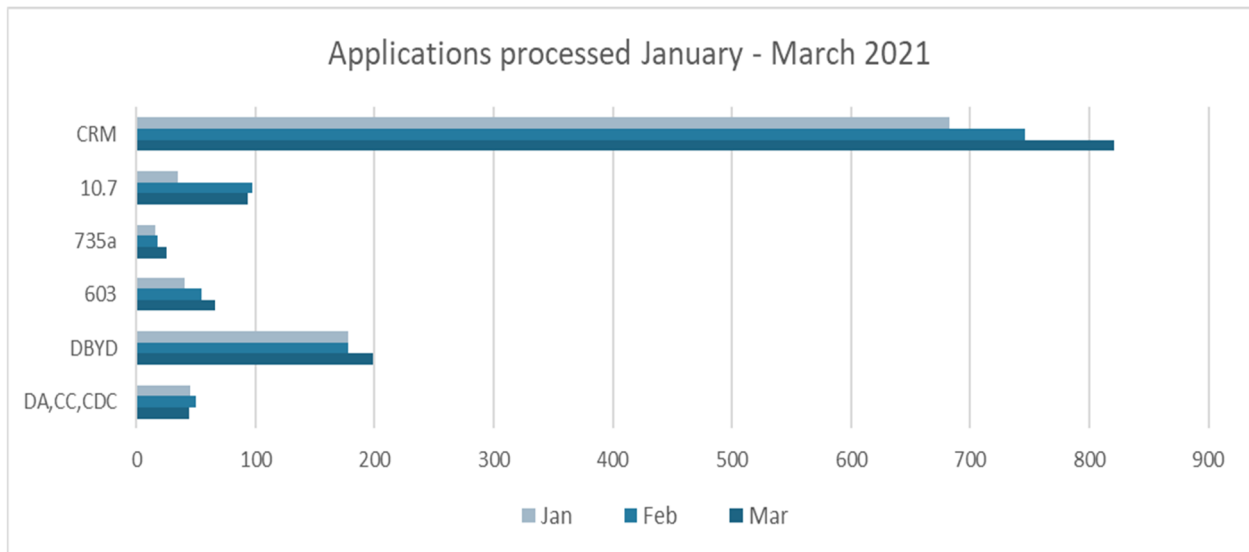


Figure 3. Administration Statistics

Council has experienced a 20.1% increase in applications, compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Possibly attributed to the extreme weather events, economic growth in the area and a competitive real estate market.

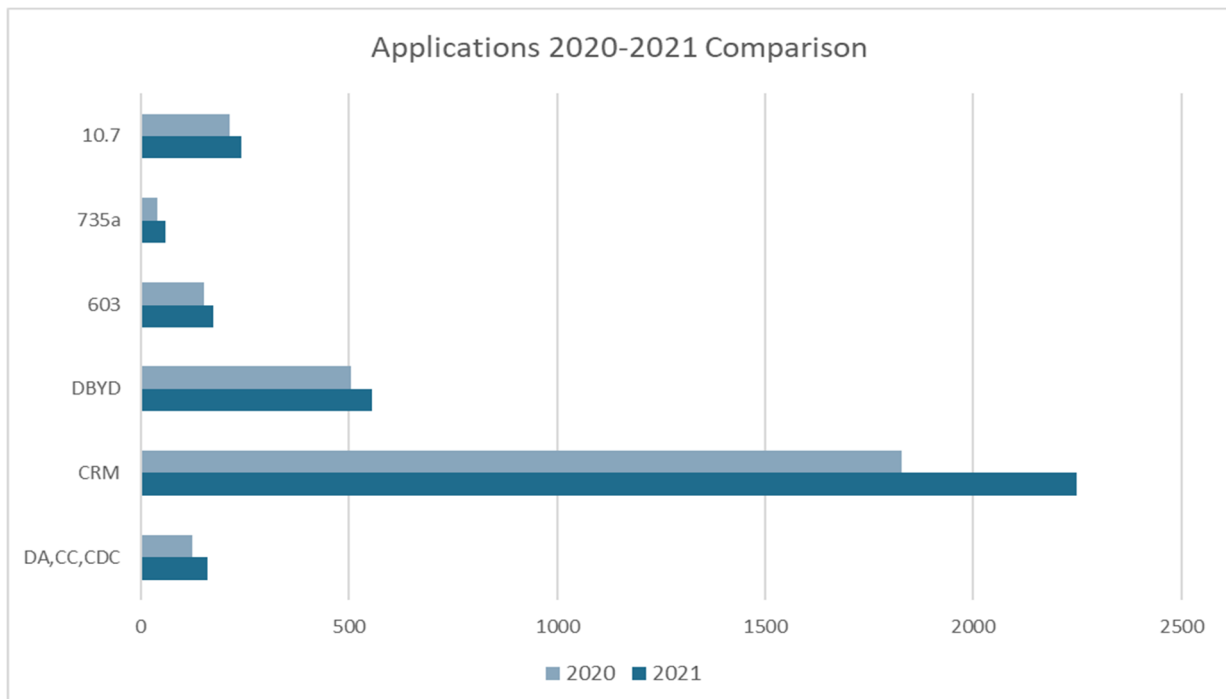


Figure 4. Applications comparison

Customer Request Management System - Key Statistics

During the reporting period, a total of 2,250 requests were logged, an increase of 20% compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, despite the flood event prior to Christmas which

saw a spike in roads and drainage requests in December. Council’s Roads and Water & Sewer crews received the majority of requests this quarter, primarily relating to storm water drainage issues and road closures.

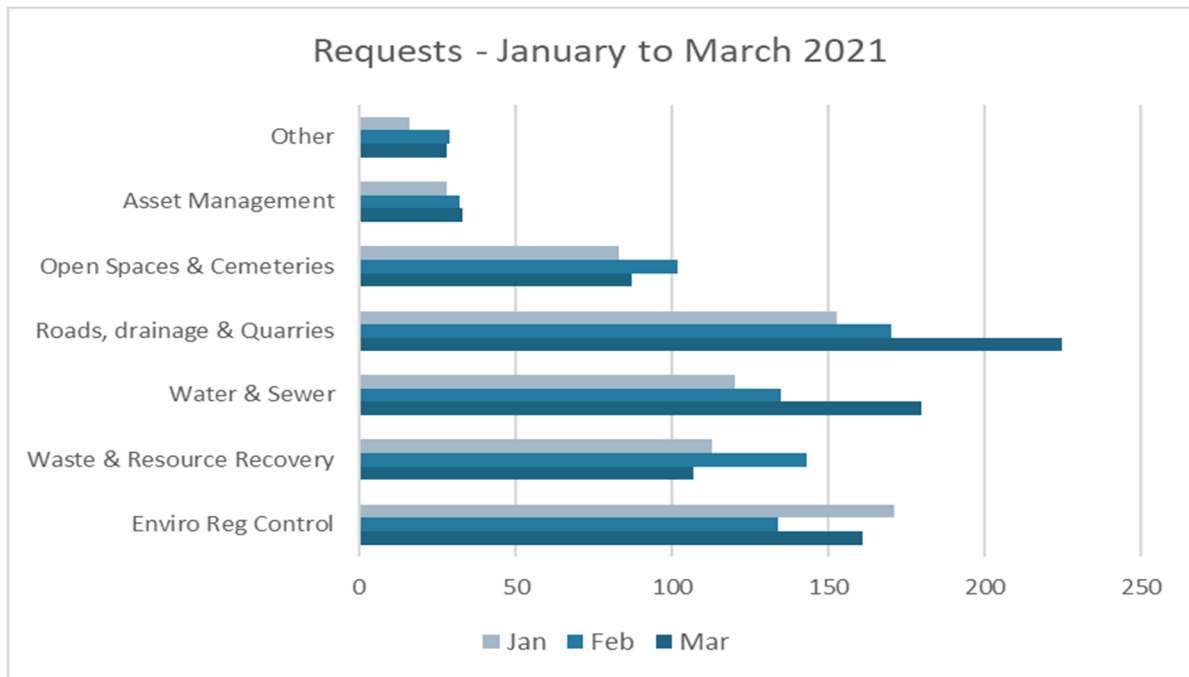


Figure 5: Number of Requests

Development Concierge – Key Statistics

The success of the Development Concierge model is regularly reinforced with positive recognition from the community and appreciation of the assistance provided in streamlining the development application process. Enquiries numbers across all categories have increased.

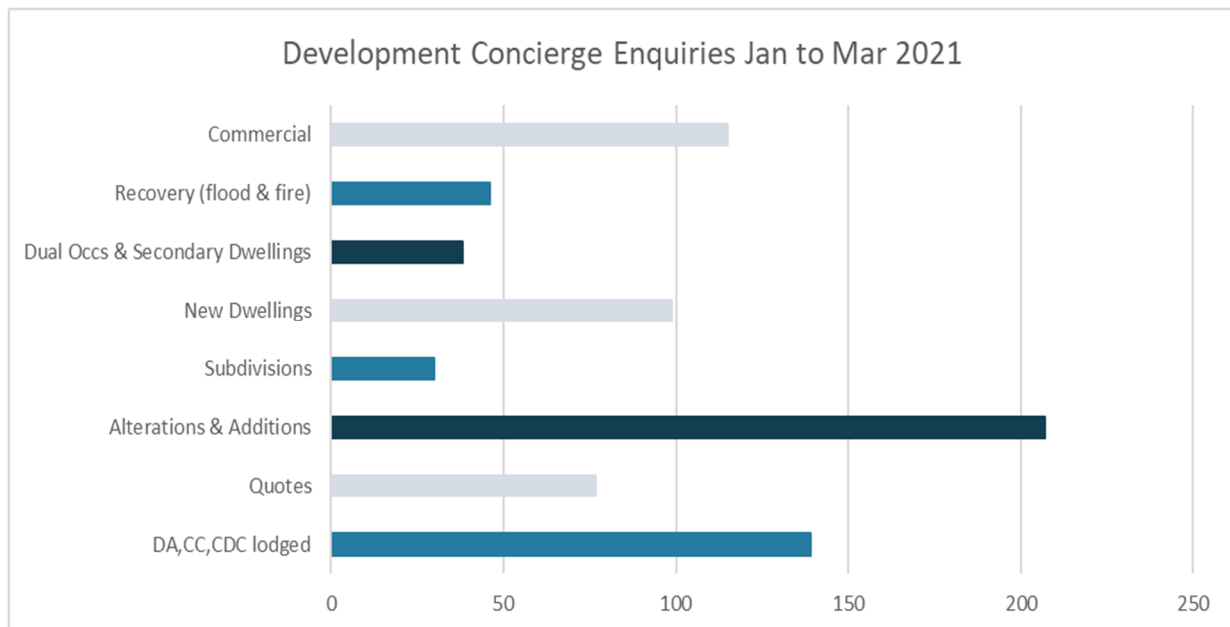


Figure 6: Development Concierge assisted enquiries

Opportunity for Improvement

Following a review of the report results, an opportunity for improvement has been identified. This area as highlighted below and will be the focus of the customer experience team in the coming months.

Maintain processing timeframes

During the early days of implementation of e-Planning, the First Responder team provided additional support to customers to ensure timeframes between submission and lodgement were kept to a minimum whilst still ensuring the quality of applications was high. To further assist and support our customers with the transition to electronic lodgement, community engagement and education sessions are planned in the coming months.

CONCLUSION

The information contained in this report demonstrates the significant volume of tasks and actions which are required to be completed by Council's frontline Customer Experience staff. The Customer Service standards are generally met and more often than not exceeded. The implementation of ePlanning has been challenging, with Council officers from a number of teams within the organisation rising to the occasion and working together to ensure we have the best product available to our customers.

Analysis of Customer Service Contact Centre data, Customer Request Management System (CRM) and the Development Concierge statistics enables identification of opportunities to improve Council's customer service and ensure processes are efficient and effective.

In accordance with Council's Customer Service Framework, staff continue to strive for high standards of customer service to the community, to monitor performance and implement efficiencies and improvements to process.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2021

Author: Andy Edwards, Manager Development and Environment

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021.

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 4.55 approvals, applications which were 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) and notifications of all determinations of Development Applications are included in the Community Newsletter on a monthly basis.

The total number of Development Applications and Complying Development Applications determined within the Local Government area for the period 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021 was 31 with 5 applications withdrawn, totalling a value of \$12,126,351.00.

The graph below shows the number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

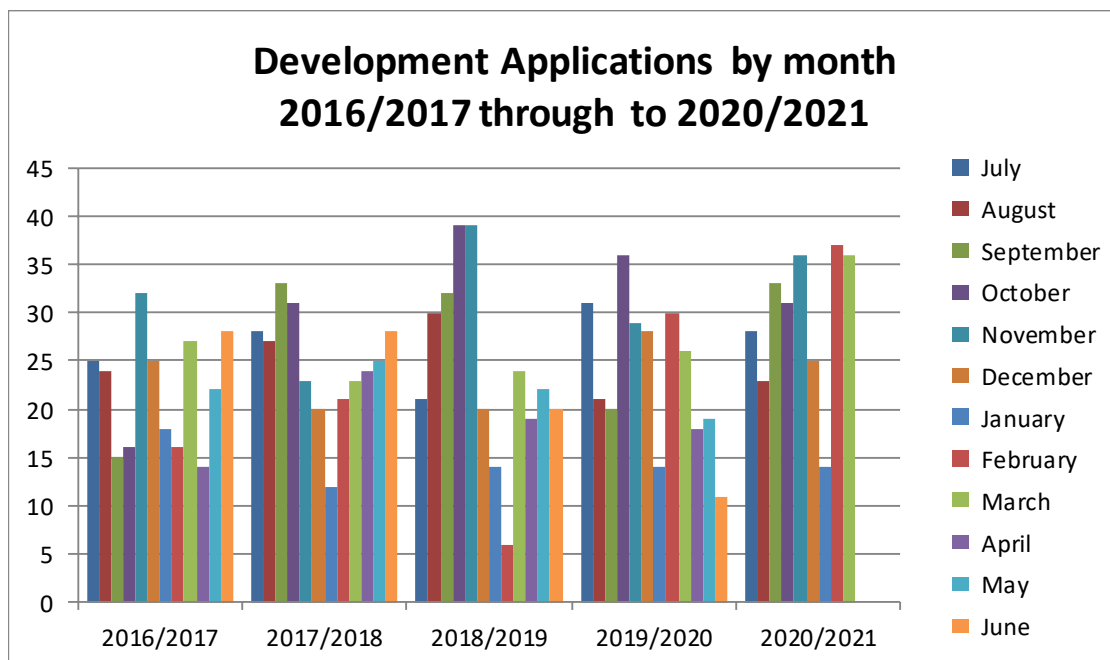


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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 March 2021.

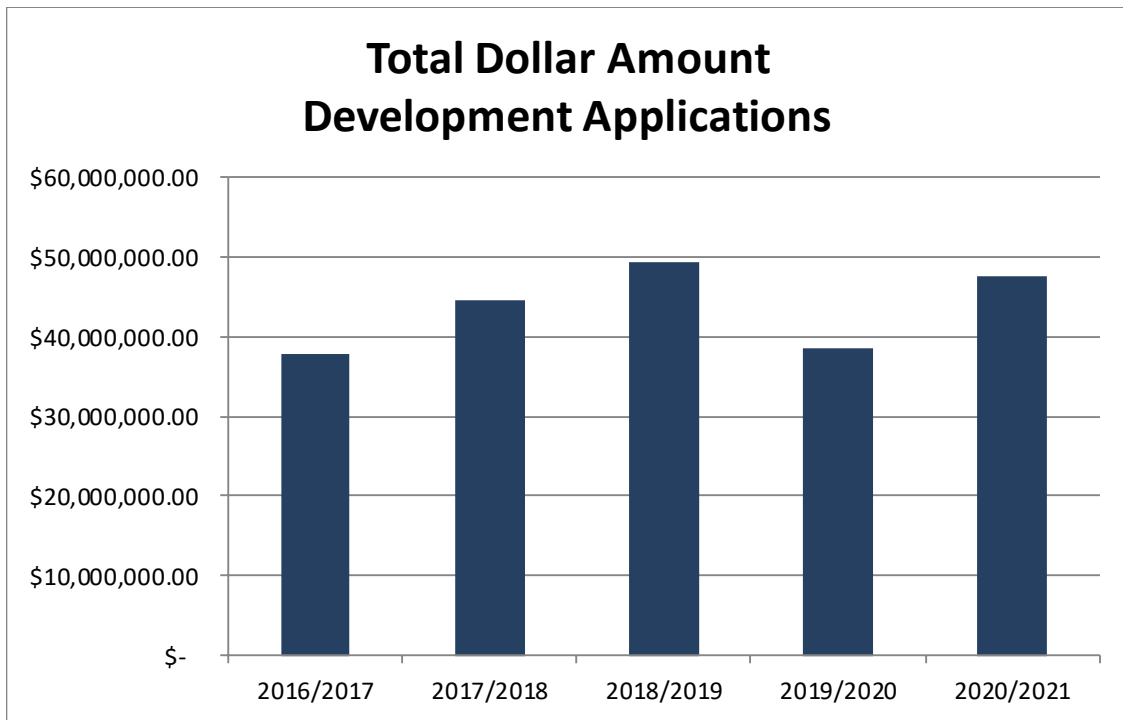


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

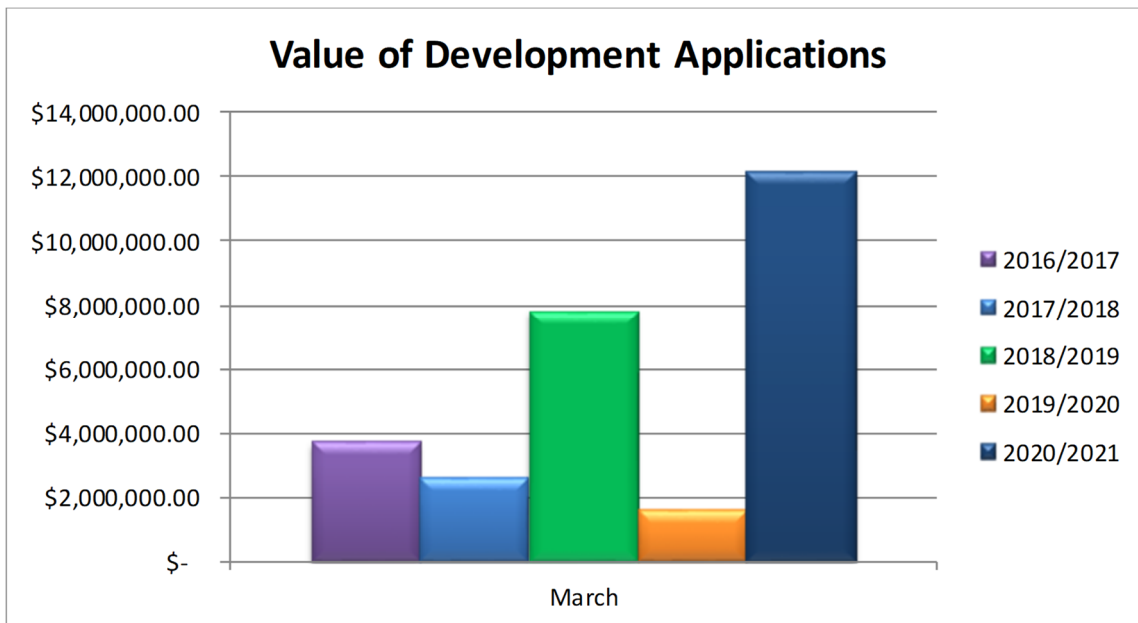


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of March.

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.

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

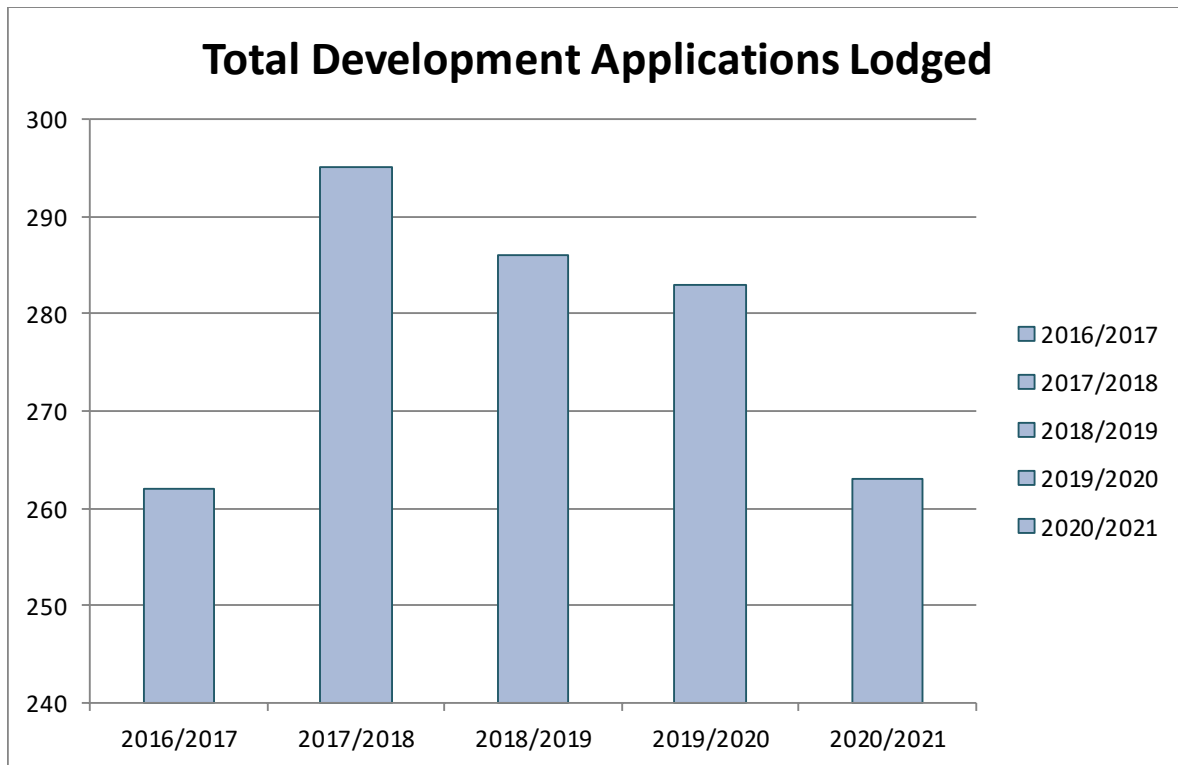


Figure 4: Number of Development Applications per month over five financial years.

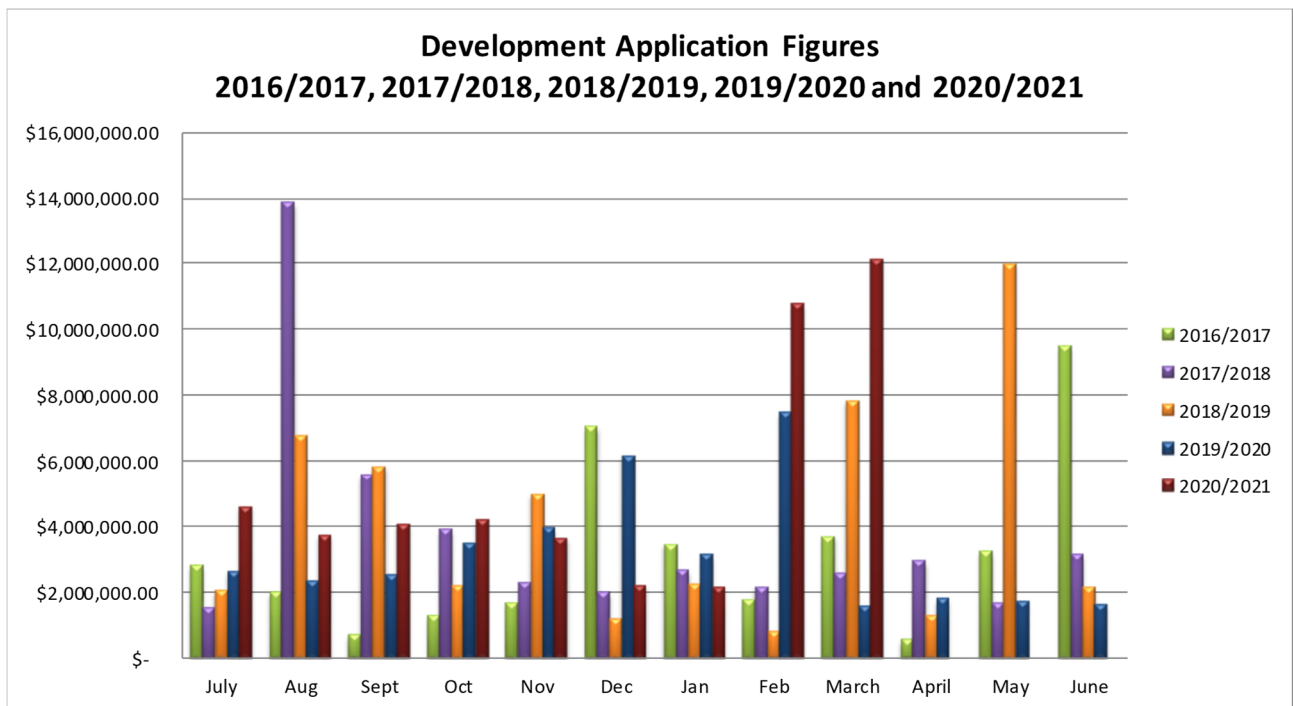


Figure 5: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

Activity for the month of March 2021

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 96s)	25
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	4
Subdivision	2
Refused	
Withdrawn	5
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	
TOTAL	36

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2021/0028	Ardill Payne & Partners	DMJ Willis	386 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Doonbah	Two storey dwelling	3/08/2020	18/03/2021	\$ 400,000.00
DA2021/0071	Newton Denny Chapelle	JK Stuart	38 Mangrove Street, Evans Head	Site amalgamation of Lot 3 and Lot 173, re-subdivision to create two lots being Lot 1 (464m2) & Lot 2 (500.6m2) and associated variation to Clause 4.6 of RVLEP	14/09/2020	16/03/2021	\$ -
DA2021/0139	Newton Denny Chapelle	BJ & MD Gooley	63 Flatley Place, North Casino	Subdivision of Lot 13 DP 1140721 into four (4) Rural Residential Lots and One (1) Primary Production Lot being: Proposed Lot 1: 1 ha Proposed Lot 2: 1 ha Proposed Lot 3: 1 ha Proposed Lot 4: 3.4 ha Proposed Lot 5: 27.8 ha and associated site and civil works	12/11/2020	30/03/2021	\$ -
DA2021/0154	Newton Denny Chapelle	Third Sector Australia Limited (3SA)	115 Centre Street, Casino	Construction of a two (2) storey residential flat building comprising eight (8) units as an Affordable Housing Development, car parking, landscaping and associated works	3/12/2020	2/03/2021	\$ 1,961,476.00
DA2021/0175	GMB Builders	RJ Joyes & BM McGahan	370 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay	New dwelling	4/01/2021	16/03/2021	\$ 160,000.00
DA2021/0183	Ms L R Pauling	GI Bell & LR Pauling	28 Forest Street, Coraki	Shed for storage	7/01/2021	11/03/2021	\$ 10,000.00
DA2021/0188	Trueline Patios & Extensions Northern Rivers	SG & KL Harris	2 Leilani Close, Casino	Installation of patio roof to side of existing house	21/01/2021	1/03/2021	\$ 16,350.00
DA2021/0193	Perry Homes (Aust) Pty Ltd	KM & MH Brettner	51 Junors Road, Backmede	Construction of a new single storey dwelling with an attached double garage to create a detached dual occupancy development and associated works	27/01/2021	11/03/2021	\$ 408,050.00
DA2021/0203	Mr M G Wynne	MG Wynne	46 Rileys Hill Road, Broadwater	Shed	8/02/2021	10/03/2021	\$ 14,467.00
DA2021/0205	Mr H J Grissell & Ms T N Stanford	HJ Grissell & TN Stanford	98 Sheppard Street, Casino	Installation of an inground fibreglass swimming pool	9/02/2021	1/03/2021	\$ 40,420.00
DA2021/0208	Trueline Patios & Extensions Northern Rivers	M & WJ T Ayre	1293 Ellangowan Road, Ellangowan	Enclosed patio roof	11/02/2021	25/03/2021	\$ 60,000.00
DA2021/0210	Mrs D H Read & Mr W G R Read	WGR & DH Read	90 Knoetzechs Road, North Casino	Installation of an inground fibreglass swimming pool & associated fencing	12/02/2021	1/03/2021	\$ 41,705.00
DA2021/0211	Mr J A Dowd	JA & EM Dowd	15 Flatley Place, North Casino	Shed	12/02/2021	4/03/2021	\$ 19,890.00

**Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
for the period 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021**

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2019/0032.01	Mr A M Chapman & Mrs T J Chapman	AM & TJ Chapman	465 Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge	Section 4.55 (1a) modification to approved dwelling to include larger deck area and conversion of enclosed deck area into internal living space	15/02/2021	8/03/2021	\$ -
DA2021/0212	Chris Burley Constructions	CJ & NCJ Out	28A Fergusson Street, Casino	Replacement of existing deck with an increase in size and new shade sail roof	16/02/2021	4/03/2021	\$ 16,940.00
DA2021/0213	Mr W J Webster	WJ Webster	14 Ash Street, Evans Head	Dwelling extension being additional of bedroom, ensuite & extension of existing front porch	16/02/2021	9/03/2021	\$ 40,000.00
DA2021/0214	Pplan	AL & NL Armstrong	32 Verulam View, Spring Grove	Dwelling	18/02/2021	9/03/2021	\$ 371,223.00
DA2021/0216	Mr B J Baker	BJ Baker & CJ Rennie	50 Fergusson Street, Casino	Garage	19/02/2021	12/03/2021	\$ 19,500.00
DA2021/0217	Ms M A Boyle	M A Boyle	70 North Street, Casino	Installation of a fibreglass composite inground swimming pool	22/02/2021	12/03/2021	\$ 44,650.00
DA2021/0218	Mr N T Garrett	NT & AI Garrett	1460 Woodburn Coraki Road, Coraki	As built deck and swimming pool with associated fencing	24/02/2021	5/03/2021	\$ 3,836.00
DA2021/0219	Certifiers2U	N J Self	86 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Coraki	Relocated dwelling	24/02/2021	22/03/2021	\$ 140,000.00
DA2021/0220	Ms J L Connolly	JL Connolly & HT Pratt	26 Convent Parade, Casino	Demolition of existing shed and garden sheds to erect a new colorbond shed	1/03/2021	17/03/2021	\$ 18,000.00
DA2021/0221	Ms C J Saul	C J Saul	21 Diary Street, Casino	Colorbond shed with carport	1/03/2021	22/03/2021	\$ 12,820.00
DA2021/0222	Mr D E Winkler	KL Winkler	17 Maple Lane, Evans Head	Swimming pool & associated fencing	3/03/2021	22/03/2021	\$ 17,000.00
DA2021/0224	Metricon Homes QLD Pty Ltd	C Pyke-Nott	64 Canning Drive, Casino	New dwelling and retaining walls	4/03/2021	25/03/2021	\$ 396,160.00
DA2021/0225	Pplan	MT & KL Gooding	6 Country Lane, Casino	Single storey dwelling with attached double garage and retaining walls	4/03/2021	23/03/2021	\$ 266,564.00
DA2017/0054.02	Planit Consulting	Serenitas Communities Holdings Pty Ltd	Memorial Airport Drive, Evans Head	Section 4.55 (1) Modification to approved Manufactured Housing Estate comprising 199 dwelling sites, community building, swimming pool and associated works being amendment of Condition 4	5/03/2021	15/03/2021	\$ -

**Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
for the period 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021**

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2021/0129.01	Figtree Building & Design	BJ & AE Dyki	35 Bells Road, Rileys Hill	Section 4.55 (1) being the removal of 2 clerical error conditions to approved Stage 1 & Stage 2 development of dwelling extension to create new living area, relocation of kitchen, demolition of single detached garage, relocation of main bedroom, additional ensuite and enclosing the carport to create a garage.	10/03/2021	10/03/2021	\$ -
DA2021/0228	Trueline Patios & Extensions Northern Rivers	SR & KL Thompson	101 Schielers Road, Tomki	Patio roof	10/03/2021	30/03/2021	\$ 23,000.00
DA2021/0231	Narellan Pools Northern Rivers	DG & EA Slade	10 Musgraves Road, North Casino	Installation of a fibreglass inground swimming pool and associated fencing	15/03/2021	30/03/2021	\$ 39,300.00
DA2020/0094.01	Ms A N Hovard	AN Hovard	194-198 Pacific Highway, Broadwater	Section 4.55 (1a) modification to approved dwelling window locations, door location, deck on western side, and change of dwelling and shed heritage colours	17/03/2021	23/03/2021	\$ -

**Summary of Development Applications Withdrawn under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
for the period 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021**

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Withdrawn Date	Estimated Cost
DA2019/0112	Newton Denny Chapelle	JR Bulk Liquid Transport Pty Ltd	111 Hotham Street, Casino	Multi Dwelling Housing (18 single storey units (14 x 2 bedroom units and 4 x 3 bedroom units), Strata Title Subdivision, Demolition of Existing Dwelling and Associated Works	29/08/2018	24/03/2021	\$ 4,085,000.00
DA2021/0022	Newton Denny Chapelle	AR & LB Barker	69 Ocean Drive, Evans Head	Construction of a dwelling to form a detached dual occupancy, associated civil works & strata subdivision	31/07/2020	22/03/2021	\$ 600,000.00
DA2021/0033	Zone Planning Group Pty Ltd	Doyle Enterprises (Casino) Pty Ltd	146-152 Johnston Street, Casino	Construction of centre-based child care facility for a maximum of 100 children, car parking comprising 25 spaces and associated works	7/08/2020	15/03/2021	\$ 2,200,000.00
DA2021/0081	Newton Denny Chapelle	CL Connolly & AG Brown	84 Currajong Street, Evans Head	Construction of a detached dual occupancy development & associated torrens title subdivision to create two lots being Lot 1 (420.8m2) and Lot 2 (440.6m2)	22/09/2020	17/03/2021	\$ 700,000.00
DA2021/0223	Newton Denny Chapelle	AE & MJ Moss	133 Woodburn Street, Evans Head	Strata Title Subdivision from one lot into two being Lot 1 (343.1m2) Lot 2 (392.3m2)	4/03/2021	9/03/2021	\$ -

17.4 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MARCH 2021**Author: Jono Patino, Financial Accountant****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of March 2021.

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 March 2021.

During the reporting period six grants were approved, one grant had further funding approved and funding was received for eleven grants totalling \$6,152,836. Council was notified as being unsuccessful with one grant application and five grants were applied for.

Grants that have been approved

NSW Bushfires 31 August 2019 Onwards - Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works	
Project ID	10390
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$1,562,873
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$1,480,545
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 82,328
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Approved	24 March 2021
Comment (if required)	Additional funding of \$80,927 has been allocated for Immediate Reconstruction Works on Crown Roads.

Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse Upgrade	
Project ID	10397
Funding Body	Regional NSW
Funding Name	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$8,200,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$8,200,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Approved	3 March 2021

Comment (if required)	This project is for a significant upgrade to the Showground and Racecourse facilities to establish the site as a regional centre for equestrian and related activities.
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Casino Showground Upgrade 2	
Project ID	10417
Funding Body	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
Funding Name	Crown Lands Showgrounds Stimulus Funding Program (Phase Two)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$918,814
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$918,814
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Approved	10 March 2021
Comment (if required)	This project will construct a new toilet block, refurbish existing toilet facilities, install new lighting, complete further electrical upgrades and extend the cutting yard.

NSW Storms and Floods 15 January 2020 Onwards Immediate Reconstruction Works	
Project ID	10420
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$4,902,710
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$4,902,710
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Approved	10 March 2021
Comment (if required)	\$4,871,650 allocated for Local Roads Immediate Reconstruction Works and \$31,060 allocated for Regional Roads Immediate Reconstruction Works.

NSW Storms and Floods December 2020 Onwards - Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works	
Project ID	10421
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$4,193,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$4,193,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Approved	11 March 2021
Comment (if required)	These funds allocated for EPAR Works; Local Roads including Bungawalbin, Busby Flat Pikapene, Mongogarie, Rappville, Shannonbrook, Mt Marsh, Ainsworth Road Mongogarie and Naughtons Gap Road and Regional Roads including Coraki Culverts and Casino Coraki Road.

NSW Storms and Floods 10 December 2020 Onwards - Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works	
Project ID	10422
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$262,296
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$170,893
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 91,403
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Approved	24 March 2021
Comment (if required)	These funds are allocated for Emergency Works on Local Roads \$53,466, Emergency Works on Regional Roads \$29,821 and Immediate Construction Works on Local Roads \$87,607.

Grants that have been received

Drought Recovery Project	
Project ID	10347
Funding Body	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. Administered by the Business Grants Hub
Funding Name	Drought Communities Programme (DCP)
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (excl GST)	\$1,000,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$1,000,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$200,000 received 18 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$700,000
Comment (if required)	N/A

Casino Drill Hall Upgrades and Walk, Coraki Caravan Park Facility Block Upgrades, Ellangowan Rd Bridge and Razorback Lookout	
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 (excl GST)	\$2,289,963
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$2,287,177
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 2,786
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$642,482 received 19 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$1,143,589
Comment (if required)	The original funding of \$1,002,214 was further extended by \$1,284,963.

MR145 Woodburn-Coraki Road Major Upgrade	
Project ID	10382
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	N/A
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$10,000,000

Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$10,000,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$258,823 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$278,210
Comment (if required)	N/A

NSW Storms and Floods 15 January 2020 Onwards Immediate Reconstruction Works

Project ID	10420
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$4,902,710
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$4,902,710
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$4,871,650 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$4,871,650
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 (excl GST)	\$5,011,072
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$5,011,072
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A – annual allocation
Date Received	\$75,000 received 12 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$1,662,514
Comment (if required)	N/A

Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy 2020/2021	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Roads and Maritime Services
Funding Name	Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy 2020/2021
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$92,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$92,000
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A – Annual allocation
Date Received	\$92,000 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$92,000 (total funding received)
Comment (if required)	N/A

MR145 Regional Roads REPAIR Program 2020/21 – 14.3km to 15.2km east of Casino	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Roads and Maritime Services
Funding Name	MR145 Regional Roads REPAIR Program 2020/21
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$16,352
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$ 8,176
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 8,176
Date Application Submitted	N/A – Annual allocation
Date Received	\$8,176 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$8,176 (total funding received)
Comment (if required)	N/A

Speed Zone – Community – Rileys Hill Rd, Broadwater to Rileys Hill	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Speed Zone – Community
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$5,428
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$5,428
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A

Date Received	\$983 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$3,299
Comment (if required)	Speed limit signage on Rileys Hill Road, Broadwater to Rileys Hill.

Speed Zone – Community – Verulam View, Spring Grove Road

Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Speed Zone – Community
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$1,032
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$1,032
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$1,032 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$1,032 (total funding received)
Comment (if required)	Speed limit signage at Verulam View Estate, Spring Grove Road.

Speed Zone – Community – Reynolds Road

Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Speed Zone – Community
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$2,584
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$2,584
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$754 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$754
Comment (if required)	Speed limit signage at Reynolds Road, North Casino.

Evans Head Visitor Information Signage	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Signage Upgrade - Community
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$1,936
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$1,936
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$1,936 received 31 March 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$1,936 (total funding received)
Comment (if required)	Signage on main roads and local roads directing traffic to the Evans Head Visitor Information Centre.

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

Crawford Square Park Cattle Themed Playspace	
Project ID	10395
Funding Body	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
Funding Name	Everyone Can Play 2020-21 Round 3
Government Level	State
Project Value (exc GST)	\$590,000
Grant Funding (exc GST)	\$295,000
Council Funding (exc GST)	\$295,000
Date Application Submitted	3 November 2020
Date Advised Unsuccessful	12 March 2021
Comment (if required)	Installation of new inclusive playground with furniture and paths.

Grant Applications Submitted

Richmond Valley Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy	
Project ID	10413
Funding Body	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Funding Name	Building Better Regions Fund – Community Investments Stream – Round 5
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (excl GST)	\$20,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$20,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	3 March 2021
Comment (if required)	To produce a strategy document in conjunction with NSW State Forestry and the Dirty Wheels Mountain Bike Club.

Broadwater Community Hall Solar Panels	
Project ID	10415
Funding Body	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Australian Government)
Funding Name	Stronger Communities Programme Round 6
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (excl GST)	\$5,636
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$2,818
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$2,818
Date Application Submitted	17 March 2021
Comment (if required)	N/A

Casino Overland Flood Study & Risk Management Study & Plan	
Project ID	10416
Funding Body	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
Funding Name	Floodplain Management Program 2021
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$57,015
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$38,010
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$19,005
Date Application Submitted	18 March 2021
Comment (if required)	N/A

Increase Richmond Valley Youth Activities during April School Holidays (April Holiday Break)	
Project ID	10418
Funding Body	Office for Regional Youth
Funding Name	April Holiday Break Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$5,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$5,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	29 March 2021
Comment (if required)	N/A

Connecting our Local Seniors through Devices and Data	
Project ID	10419
Funding Body	NSW Department of Communities and Justice
Funding Name	Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors Grant Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$32,317
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$16,039
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$16,278
Date Application Submitted	29 March 2021
Comment (if required)	N/A

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

17.5 DRAFT STATE WATER STRATEGY SUBMISSION**Author: Jenna Hazelwood, Leader Strategy****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Draft State Water Strategy submission

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of 16 March 2021:

“That Council:

- 1. Notes the issues raised in the Draft NSW Water Strategy regarding water quality and long-term security*
- 2. Authorises the General Manager to make a submission on Council’s behalf to the Draft Strategy public consultation.”*

The submission was prepared and forwarded to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment on 26 March 2021. A copy is included for Council’s information.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. RVC submission to Draft State Water Strategy**

SUBMISSION



nsw.waterstrategy@dpie.nsw.gov.au

26 March 2021

Draft NSW Water Strategy

Summary

Richmond Valley Council welcomes the Draft NSW Water Strategy and its commitment to ensure that communities in regional NSW have the water they need to thrive and grow in the future.

This is particularly relevant to our Council as we explore the opportunities of our recent designation as a Regional Jobs Precinct. Our community needs a safe, reliable supply of water if it is to achieve its vision of long-term sustainability and prosperity.

In this regard, the Draft Water Strategy's findings that water supplies within NSW could be less secure than originally believed and that the State may experience longer droughts, higher temperatures, less rainfall and reduced river flows in the future is a sobering message for all regional communities. Council supports the Strategy's focus to 'do more with less' to make our water resources go further in the future. This includes reducing water usage and exploring options to diversify water sources and invest in appropriate infrastructure. All levels of government will need to work together to achieve this outcome.

For many years, local government has had to undertake water planning in isolation, without the benefit of state and regional strategic planning to guide its decisions. The development of an over-arching strategy for the State, supported by the 12 Regional Water Strategies finally brings the pieces together so that all levels of government may plan holistically. Our Council welcomes this initiative.

However, to deliver the water quality and security benefits envisaged, all three levels of planning must be linked in a meaningful and cohesive manner. This has not yet been achieved and the draft NSW Strategy is not sufficiently clear on how these links will be supported and embedded. Local water utilities look to the NSW Government for leadership in providing a more collaborative and robust approach to water planning at local, regional and state level.

This submission addresses the priority areas and actions that are directly relevant to our Council.

Strengthening links between local, regional and state planning

Data sharing

The Draft NSW Water Strategy outlines the linkages between the State strategy and the 12 regional water strategies, which are being developed concurrently. However it does not provide a clear framework for linking these plans with local water management planning and for sharing water modelling data between water management authorities. At present, local water utilities rely on stand-alone models that have been developed on varying platforms,

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depending on need. The modelling required under the IWCM framework is complex, expensive and, to some extent, irrelevant to Local Water Utilities, although councils must invest up to \$500,000 to satisfy the IWCM checklist requirements. The modelling developed for the regional strategies is far more robust than previous methodologies and would be of great benefit to local government in undertaking yield analysis and demand projections.

However, there is currently a disconnection between the planning that is undertaken by local councils and the planning that is undertaken at regional and State level. Local councils do not have access to water modelling undertaken by State agencies. Figure 22 of the draft Regional Water Strategy demonstrates how the State's climate change modelling has predicted increased cease-to-flow events in the Richmond River. While our council can read about these findings in a public consultation document, it cannot access the data that led to this conclusion, nor utilise the modelling to support water security planning for our community.

If we are to improve water management outcomes state-wide, then water management planning should be wholly integrated between state, regional and local levels to provide the most cost-effective and reliable results across catchments and council boundaries. This cannot be achieved without a willingness from State agencies to share valuable research, modelling and data with local water utilities and other stakeholders. This body of work has been funded through public resources and it should be openly available for public benefit. In this respect, Council welcomes Action 1.3 of the Draft Strategy to enhance modelling capabilities and make more data and models openly available. However, the draft strategy is unclear as to how this will actually be achieved.

Infrastructure solutions

Despite the comprehensive work being undertaken to develop state and regional water strategies (RWS), there is still no formal process to link the infrastructure solutions proposed in the RWS to the infrastructure planning undertaken by local councils. Without these links much of the change envisaged in the State and regional strategies may never eventuate. Although councils are being consulted in the development of the RWS - and the options in each strategy are largely sourced from assessments undertaken by councils - this does not necessarily ensure that these solutions will ever be delivered, or that they will be delivered in a holistic and complementary manner.

Our region's recent experience with shared water planning is an example of the inherent challenges of the system. Richmond Valley Council is currently a member of Rous County Council, which is responsible for bulk water supplies in the Northern Rivers. Over the past six years, Rous has undertaken extensive studies to inform its Future Water Strategy which, amongst other options, included exploring proposals to construct a new dam at Dunoon. The Dunoon proposal was included as an option in the Regional Water Strategy for the Far North Coast and presented as part of the consultation process for the draft RWS.

However, despite this body of work, Rous County Council recently resolved to discontinue investigations into the dam and to sell the land reserved for the project. This decision has seen the regional planning process over-turned before the final Regional Water Strategy has even been published. It has also disrupted constituent councils' IWCM planning by reframing future water security options. While Richmond Valley Council is yet to form its position on the merits of the Dunoon proposal, it is concerned that all options have not remained on the table until such time as the required investigations were completed and implementation of the Regional Water Strategy had commenced.

If the NSW Government wants to deliver the draft Water Strategy's vision for the State, then greater collaboration and co-development/design of regional water management solutions between local and State authorities will be required.



Responding to regional growth

While traditionally, regional towns have experienced slower growth rates with longer lead times for asset augmentation or renewal, the COVID-19 pandemic and the NSW Government's focus on revitalising Regional NSW has changed the operating environment for Local Water Utilities. Regional areas have seen a rapid influx of new residents and new business investment in the past 12 months. While this is ultimately a positive outcome for regional communities, in the short term, it has created housing stress and increased pressure on local councils to release lands and provide supporting infrastructure for growing residential and industrial development.

As the draft Strategy notes, water is an essential input for many regional economies and access to long-term, affordable water supplies is required to give businesses the certainty they need to invest or expand. The need to increase town water security is a key concern for the Richmond Valley following our recent designation as a Regional Jobs Precinct.

In this regard Action 5.1 of the draft State Strategy to provide greater certainty to regional businesses that rely on secure access to water is strongly supported and Council believes the proposed timeframe to commence delivery within the next one-two years is essential. We note that the draft strategy identifies the Regional Water Strategies as the means to deliver an optimal mix of management and infrastructure investment to support jobs and economic growth, however, this will require stronger connections between regional and local water management planning.

Improving catchment outcomes

One of the key challenges local water utilities face is the need to adapt to changing water source quality within our catchments. Catchment integrity is largely beyond the control of local government and we look to the NSW Government for leadership, resourcing and support in this matter. As the draft strategy notes, more than half of the water supplies operated by local water utilities in regional NSW are in the highest bands of water quality risk. Richmond Valley Council's Casino water supply catchment is rated at risk level 5 and we face the challenge of addressing this risk on a daily basis. Deteriorating water source quality forces councils into a cycle of increased investment in increasingly complex water treatment processes to address catchment risks. This in turn increases inter-generational debt and reduces the capacity of councils to source suitably qualified and experienced personnel to manage the treatment plants. In this regard, our Council welcomes Action 3.2 of the Draft Strategy to undertake landscape scale action to improve river and catchment health. There is much to be gained by improving water quality at the source, rather than allowing catchments to deteriorate and imposing increasingly unachievable targets on local water utilities to improve their treatment processes. Council acknowledges that improving catchment health is a complex issue that will require a considered and collaborative approach between the various stakeholders and a commitment to long-term investment by the NSW Government.

Rebuilding regulatory models

Council notes the draft strategy's observations about existing ineffective regulatory mechanisms for local water utilities. However, it is concerned that the Action associated with this issue (6.2) seeks to "*Work collaboratively with local water utilities to reduce risks to town water supplies*" rather than working collaboratively to rebuild the regulatory model.



There is clear evidence that the current regulatory model is failing to deliver quality water management outcomes for the 1.85 million people in regional NSW who rely on these services. The Auditor-General's September 2020 report examining whether the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has effectively supported the planning for and funding of town water infrastructure in regional NSW found a lack of meaningful engagement with LWUs and poorly defined regulatory and strategic models.

It is time to shift to a new paradigm, with an outcomes-based regulatory model that is fit for purpose and respectful of councils' operating environment.

Our council would strongly support a move away from the Best Practice Guidelines and a return to full integration of the strategic planning, financial and asset management aspects of council's water business with the IP&R framework prescribed under the *Local Government Act 1993*. RVC also shares the concerns expressed by most regional water utilities regarding the Section 60 approvals process and its lack of consistency and transparency. We would welcome discussion on an alternative model that ensures due diligence, while respecting councils' right to make decisions on behalf of the community regarding infrastructure investments.

The Town Water Risk Reduction Program

Richmond Valley Council also welcomes the Town Water Risk Reduction Program (Action 6.3) and supports the six key elements proposed for the program – particularly the need to address skills gaps and shortages.

This is a significant problem for our council, and an even greater challenge for smaller rural councils. Our council has ongoing difficulties with sourcing suitable training for employees who wish to develop their skills, and often finds itself competing with larger water utilities for an ever-diminishing cohort of qualified new recruits. Council acknowledges the work of the Water Directorate in this area and looks forward to working with the TWRRP team to develop a long-term solution to skills shortages within the water industry.

Conclusion

The Draft NSW Water Strategy sets a clear direction to improve water security and quality in NSW through Seven Key Priority areas and 41 proposed actions. However, this is only the starting point for delivering meaningful change to communities in Regional NSW. A renewed approach that supports ongoing collaboration and respect between local, regional and state authorities, and improved regulation and resourcing will be required to achieve the Draft Strategy's 20-year vision.



17.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW - ANNUAL REPORT**Author: Jenna Hazelwood, Leader Strategy****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the correspondence from Local Government NSW regarding the LGNSW annual report.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council resolved at its November 2020 Ordinary meeting to write to LGNSW seeking clarification of any matters raised in the association's Annual Report that were not addressed at the annual conference.

Following the conference, correspondence was forwarded to LGNSW Chief Executive Officer Scott Phillips, seeking clarification on several matters.

LGNSW has now responded to Council's correspondence and the reply is attached for information.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Letter to LGNSW - Annual Report- December 2020**
2. **Response from LGNSW**



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ABN 54 145 907 009

14 December 2020

Mr Scott Phillips
Chief Executive Officer
Local Government NSW
GPO Box 7003
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au

Dear Scott

LGNSW Annual Report 2019-20

Thank you for providing a copy of LGNSW's 2019-20 Annual Report for Richmond Valley Council's review. I note that Council's delegates also received a report on the association's financial performance at the recent annual conference.

Council is a long-standing member of the association and currently contributes some \$40,000 each year in membership fees, and additional expenditure for LGNSW services, procurement and events. These funds are sourced directly from our community and we have a responsibility to ensure that they are carefully managed and accounted for.

In this regard, our delegates had some concern that the association concluded the 2019-20 financial year with a reported loss of \$3.49m, after the previous year's surplus of \$585,000. Treasurer Cr Jeromy Laxale's presentation to the conference was helpful in outlining the particular pressures that LGNSW has experienced during this year and its plans to return to a more positive financial outlook

However, having reviewed the annual report and financial statements in detail, Council still has a number of questions regarding these matters and has asked me to write on its behalf, seeking further information.

Expenditure increases

At the conference, Cr Laxale explained the impacts of the pandemic on LGNSW's traditional income streams, such as training and events. However, there was limited explanation of expenditure increases for the 2019-20 financial year.

Specifically, Council notes that total staff expenses for LGNSW have increased from \$7.9 million to \$9.6 million – an additional \$1.7 million or 21.5%. This is a significant increase compared to what local councils are experiencing with their employee costs.

Love where we live and work



For example, Richmond Valley Council currently employs 257 FTE and has total staff expenses of \$21.6m. Our employee expenses have increased by 4.8% over the last financial year. This is substantially less than LGNSW – noting that the annual report identifies 59 employees (including 12 part-time) as the total workforce. Assuming 53 FTE for LGNSW, this equates to total expenses of some \$181,000 per employee, compared to RVC's average of \$81,000 per employee. Council would welcome further clarification regarding these increasing staff expenses.

Additionally, in Note 7 of the financial statements, there is a reference to 'other employee expenses' increasing from \$1.2m to \$2.1m for the consolidated entities (an increase of some 78%) but no detail is provided as to what is driving this significant increase and what specifically constitutes 'other employee expenses'. Clarification of these matters would be appreciated.

Council services

Within the *Statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income*, there is a revenue and expenditure line for 'Council services'.

Council notes that for 2019/2020 there was revenue of \$2.7m and expenditure of \$1.87m, resulting in a surplus of \$0.83m (44.5%). As there is no detailed note disclosure for this revenue source, as opposed to other revenue streams, could you please provide further details as to what these services are, and how they contribute to the association's financial position.

LG Procurement

The various arrangements surrounding the association's procurement businesses appear to be complex and Council would welcome an explanation of how the interaction between the various entities is governed. However, we note that the reported revenue for the Procurement Partnership was some \$10.27 million, with approximately \$1 million being returned to councils (compared to \$1.5m the previous year) and some \$4.7 million directed to employee benefits expenses. Could you please clarify how many persons are employed by the Partnership, as the Annual Report does not make this clear.

Council also notes that LGNSW received some \$8.83 million in 'procurement commissions' during the year (note 5) but there appears to be no explanation regarding this income. Could you provide further information as to the nature of these commissions and how they were obtained.

Other commissions

Additional commissions from Statecover (\$1.17m) and JLT (\$525,000) are also noted. Could you please clarify the nature of these commissions and what LGNSW does to receive them.

Given your new to the role with LGNSW, I wanted to make you aware that Council, together with Parkes Shire Council, wrote to LGNSW in January 2019, expressing its concerns around insurance brokerage arrangements for local government. The letter was tabled at the February 2019 Board meeting, with the Board resolving "to request staff to provide advice to the next meeting on options for calling for full transparency in relation to the independence surrounding the brokerage services provided by insurance companies to NSW local government".

Council has received no further response from LGNSW on this matter. We look forward to receiving an update on the Board's deliberations on this matter.

You may also be aware that the class action now has thirteen member councils who fully support the action, with significant interest growing as the case is strong and mediation and trial dates have been set. I'd be happy to brief you further on this matter given these Councils are also members of LGNSW. The action is aimed at returning funds to our communities and improving transparency.

As I'm sure you would appreciate, 2019-20 has been a difficult year for many councils in NSW, including RVC, with bushfires, floods and the Covid-19 pandemic all taking their toll. Many councils have had to substantially reduce their expenditure wherever possible, in response to declining income.

Our council is concerned that the LGNSW financial statements do not reflect a similar level of constraint in the Association's expenditure and we would welcome your further explanation of the matters outlined in this letter.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you when I'm in Sydney, however we would also welcome a written response to the matters raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vaughan Macdonald', written in a cursive style.

Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

Attachments:

1. Parkes Shire Council & Richmond Valley Council – joint letter to LGNSW
2. LGNSW response – 22 February 2019



Our ref: R17/0019 Out-32431

3 March 2021

Mr Vaughan MacDonald
General Manager
Richmond Valley Council

Email: vmacdonald@rvc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Vaughan

LGNSW Annual Report

My apologies for the delay in responding to your December 14 letter seeking elaboration on the LGNSW 2019/20 Annual Report. Your inquiries are very welcome, as it is this sort of genuine two-way engagement that is the lifeblood of a strong, accountable LGNSW. I thank you for this opportunity to provide further detail on the issues you have identified, and to outline some additional ways we are working to deliver further value to Richmond Valley Council and the broader membership.

As you rightly point out, the \$3.49 million deficit for the 2019/20 financial year was a disappointing result. LGNSW was not immune from the economic havoc wreaked by the COVID-19 pandemic. We experienced a major downturn in our alternative revenue streams, used to keep membership fees as low as possible, and significant capital losses on investments. Also contributing to the deficit were asset write-offs related to an overdue office refurbishment, and higher staff-related costs reflecting wage price index increases and an organisational restructure which commenced but not completed under the former Chief Executive.

In the interests of clarity and transparency I have sought to address each of your concerns in further detail below.

Expenditure Increases

The increase in staff costs from \$7.9 million in 2018/19 to \$9.6 million in 2019/20 followed this restructure, which was designed to deliver better and more responsive service to members. I am advised it was presented to the LGNSW Board as a budget-neutral reform, but the process stalled with the departure of the Chief Executive and the stated budget aim failed to materialise.

A subsequent review identified unbudgeted severance payments of \$630k, additional positions established to reflect member service needs, transition costs as some staff moved from part- to full-time work and others from a 35-h to 38-hour week. Minor remuneration uplifts were approved in certain positions to bring them into line with market benchmarks. You may be assured that I am working with the Executive Leadership Team and Board to ensure an affordable and sustainable LGNSW structure going forward and can advise that we have made some initial salary savings through staff departures and vacancies.

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Average Salaries

If superannuation and other on-costs are excluded, the average salary in LGNSW now stands at around \$130,000. This is higher than the RVC average due to the different staffing profiles which make it difficult to properly compare the two organisations.

Other Operating Expenses

Note (7) of the LGNSW financial statements discloses a break-up of staff costs, including the line item '*other operating expenses*.' This line item includes Payroll Tax, Fringe Benefits Tax, staff insurances and severance pay. The primary driver of the increase was the \$630k in severance payments, which were one-off expenses that will not recur.

Council Services

The Council Services line item in the financial statements primarily represents the revenue and expenditure associated with the LGNSW Learning and Development programs. The expenditure line item also includes the rebates that LGP returns to Councils, Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) and Joint Organisations (JOs).

LG Procurement (LGP) Ownership and Governance

Local Government Procurement (LGP) is a wholly owned subsidiary of LGNSW, operating under the original Partnership Trust model created in 2006 between what was then two local government Associations (SA and LGA). These remain the two Trust entities and are reflected in the appointment of two Non-Voting Members appointed to the LGP Board to represent the interests of LGNSW. In order to maintain its tax-exempt status, LGP is required to return all operating surplus back to LGNSW, after distributions have been made via two Trust entities.

LGP Rebate Distribution

Over the past five years the LGP rebate scheme has shared more than \$6.1m in rebate payments to Councils, ROCs and JOs, using a pool of funds derived from 40% of the annual operating surplus (before distributions).

There was a \$409k reduction in rebates from FY19, attributable to a \$334k fall in the FY20 operating surplus and a financial distribution into the LGP Disaster Recovery Program, to continue our support for councils impacted by bushfires, drought, and flood.

LGP Employee Benefits Expenses

The \$4.7m *Employee Benefits Expense* refers to LGP's total Personnel Costs. This expense line includes all salaries, superannuation, insurances, training, and other people-related costs.

LGP Procurement Commissions

Procurement Commissions relate to the commissions paid to LGP by Approved Contractors under LGP contracts. These commissions are not paid by LGP to LGNSW - LGNSW only receives the annual operating surplus. Whilst the commissions are not received by LGNSW, they are declared in the LGNSW Annual Report because LGP is a wholly owned subsidiary.

Other commissions

LGNSW was closely involved in the inception of the StateCover Mutual and Statewide Mutual insurance schemes for local government in NSW. The current arrangements reflect that relationship and involvement. As you are most likely aware, the StateCover Board includes council representatives, in addition to LGNSW representatives, and both are regular sponsors of LGNSW events such as the LGNSW Annual Conference.

In the case of StateCover there is a Promotional and Support Services Agreement in place that outlines the fee for services obligations. The Statewide relationship is a legacy arrangement that entitles LGNSW to a share of the brokerage in respect of insurance placed by member councils with Jardine Lloyd Thompson. It is understood that this was put in place to offset revenue foregone to LGNSW when the scheme was introduced.

Both provide important revenue streams for LGNSW and help keep membership fees as low as possible.

Class action and Board response

Thank you for updating me on the status of the class action. While 13 member councils are now participants to the class action, a significant proportion of our membership is also member to the Statewide Discretionary Mutual Insurance Scheme. This continues to wedge LGNSW in a position where it cannot reasonably or ethically take any partisan approach to proceedings. However, this in no way diminishes our commitment to providing broader support to Richmond Valley Council as a highly valued member of LGNSW. We share your commitment to transparency as a key principle of good governance, and I would like to reissue LGNSW's invitation to contact our Corporate Counsel Susan Budd to help us understand areas in which transparency could be improved. Ms Budd can be contacted by phone on 9242 4005 , or email at Susan.Budd@lgnsw.org.au.

I trust you will also allow me to take this opportunity to outline the breadth and depth of other areas in which LGNSW offers membership value to Richmond Valley Council and its community.

Advocacy

LGNSW influences decision makers on matters that affect and improve our sector. We have built extensive relationships at all levels of Government and politics. At the state level we have made more than 90 significant submissions on behalf of members to the NSW Government and policy makers since January 2019. This is work our individual members do not have to undertake themselves: it not only prevents the diversion of council resources but ensures we speak with a strong and united voice that cannot be ignored.

At a national level we represent you on policy and funding matters via the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). One need only consider the \$5.3 billion in recovery and resilience funding won for our sector from the State and Federal governments in the 2019/20 financial year wake of drought, bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic to recognise the value delivered by this united approach.

This is particularly relevant for Richmond Valley Council given the severity of the 2019/20 bushfires and the impact on your local government area. I am delighted we were able to facilitate your request for assistance from the Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group – and rest assured that LGNSW has diligently represented the interests of Richmond

Valley on the various State Recovery Committees. We were pleased to support Council in lobbying the NSW Government for funding for Council roads in bushfire-affected forestry areas, and I understand funding for these roads was subsequently provided to Council.

At a broader level, we are proud that LGNSW was able to help deliver \$60m in federal funding for 42 of the most bushfire affected councils, including Richmond Valley, \$2b in federal funding for bushfire recovery, and more than \$1b in NSW funding over two years, to rebuild back better in bushfire-impacted communities.

LGNSW was also proud to partner with the NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) on behalf of member councils for the successful Renew Our Libraries campaign, which secured an additional \$60 million in public library funding over four years. This secured for Richmond Valley Council a 54 per cent increase in NSW Government library funding in 2019/20 which, at \$42,881, exceeded the cost of Richmond Valley's LGNSW 2019/20 membership fee in that year alone. The quantum of library funding for Richmond Valley and other councils has risen even further in the current financial year.

Advocacy around ratings reform remains a key advocacy priority, in line with our commitment to drive greater financial sustainability, for local governments squeezed at both ends by rate capping and cost shifting.

Advice and Services

Membership has given Richmond Valley Council staff full access not only to LGNSW policy networks but to the extensive resources, expertise and advice available on issues including planning, environment, finance, social & community issues, and legal and industrial issues.

Since 2018, LGNSW has represented Richmond Valley Council in two industrial disputes, has provided a range of confidential industrial and legal advices, and Richmond Valley Council was a member of the LGNSW Award Working Party for the negotiation of the *Local Government (State) Award 2020*.

Council maintains an Award Supply subscription and purchased our Local Government Management Solutions analytics package in 2019/20. A wide range of other subscriptions and products are available to members at reduced prices. And while I note that Council was not seeking to fill job vacancies at the time of writing, I would invite you to consider LGNSW's Careers at Council jobs portal when circumstances change and you wish to extend your recruitment pool at a significantly lower cost than other general recruitment sites.

LGNSW Professional Networks, Awards, Summits, and Learning and Development Courses

LGNSW manages and facilitates a number of professional networks free to members, through which council staff can connect, seek advice, share knowledge and resources with peers and discuss sector-specific issues.

Your council staff are members of our Professional Events and Communications Networks – and I understand they are particularly active in our environmental networks, playing a key role in the LGNSW consultation on the emergency waste sub-plan. This expertise saw Richmond Valley take out two of LGNSW's Excellence in the Environment Awards in 2019 – an enviable

track record. Your local government area benefited from more than \$210k in LGNSW managed grants relating to climate change resilience and Flying Fox management. A further Expression of Interest in a Flying Fox Habitat Restoration Grant was received from Richmond Valley Council in early January.

Training and professional development courses were accessed by 66 of your staff in 2020, while Richmond Valley Council staff were also represented at our Employment Law, EA/PA, and HR Conferences over the same period.

Summary

Each and every one of the programs and services I have outlined above are designed to deliver value to our membership.

A 2017 Value Audit commissioned by LGNSW concluded that we deliver \$9.56 of benefits for every dollar collected in membership – but we are committed to driving the value of those membership dollars further still.

We are proud to have Richmond Valley Council as a longstanding member, and we are committed to continuing this relationship well into the future.

On a personal level, I would welcome the opportunity to work with you to identify existing services which could deliver further value to Council and your community. Similarly, I encourage you to reach out at any time.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Phillips
Chief Executive

18 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

19 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)**20 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:

20.1 Tender - Construction of Shared Pathway Bruxner Highway (Colches Street to Centre Street) & Replacement of existing pathway on Summerland Way (Light Street to Eccles Street)

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.

20.2 Tender – Rectification and Underpinning at Casino Raw Water Plant

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.

20.3 Tender VP232432 - Design and Construct Bridge - Sandy Creek No. 1, Coraki - Ellangowan Road

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.

21 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL