

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 16 November 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

5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL

Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the announcement of \$9.9 million in Federal Government funding to complete the Bentley to Lismore section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail
2. Writes to the Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, MP and the Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis MP to thank them for their continued support of the Rail Trail project.

REPORT

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail project has taken another major step forward with the recent announcement of \$9.9 million in Federal Government funding to complete the Bentley to Lismore section of the Trail. Combined with the Casino-Bentley section, to be constructed by Richmond Valley Council, this will create the single longest continuous section of Rail Trail in NSW.

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail will be a tremendous boost for local tourism, providing a unique experience for visitors and creating new business opportunities in the Richmond Valley. The Bentley to Lismore project builds on the work that Council has been progressing since 2019 to design and construct the Casino to Bentley section of the Trail. With support from a \$7.5 million grant from the Federal Government's National Tourism Icons Program, Council has now completed the planning and design phase for this section and is wready to commence construction.

Phase One works included a master plan, and concept designs, which were developed in consultation with the community, adjoining landowners and local Aboriginal leaders. The plans include:

- Refurbishing the old Casino station precinct, to highlight the history of the line and provide visitor facilities
- Developing an adventure playground and campsite near Bentley
- Providing a viewing area and bush tucker walk on top of the Naughtons Gap tunnel
- Refurbishing the 12 bridges along the Trail.

Phase Two will see construction work begin in early 2022. Council is currently working with NSW Government agencies to finalise leasing arrangements for the corridor and develop a governance model for the future management and promotion of the Trail. Meanwhile work on the Tweed section of the project is also progressing well, and we hope to ultimately see the full 130 km length of the Casino-Murwillumbah Trail across the Richmond Valley, Lismore, Byron Bay and Tweed council areas connected.

Council has received great support from Local Members, Kevin Hogan and Chris Gulaptis, in establishing the Rail Trail vision and securing important funding for design and construction and looks forward to their continued involvement in the project. When completed, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail will provide a world-class facility for our local communities and firmly establish the Northern Rivers as one of the State's leading eco-tourism destinations.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

5.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL STAFF

Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That Council extends its thanks to Richmond Valley Council staff for their support and dedication throughout the 2016-2021 Council term.

REPORT

The November meeting of Council marks the close of one of the longest terms of office for an elected Council in the Richmond Valley.

It has been more than five years since the current Council was elected and we will later consider the End of Term Report, which highlights many achievements over the 2016-2021 local government term. This has been a time of great change and challenge for us all and I feel it is appropriate to pause and reflect upon the strength and perseverance that the Richmond Valley community has shown over these unprecedented times of drought, bushfire, flood and global pandemic.

Our community has seen no less than five natural disasters in less than two years and, despite these challenges, we have worked together to build back better and become more resilient. I want to acknowledge the tremendous support that our community has received from Federal and State Government and the many volunteers and charitable organisations over this time, to assist in our continued recovery.

Throughout this term, the elected Council has also received outstanding support from the staff of Richmond Valley Council and I would like to gratefully acknowledge this contribution and extend my personal thanks to the General Manager, Vaughan Macdonald and his team. I know there are many staff members who have gone the extra mile over the past few years to keep our community safe in times of disaster and to support those whose lives have been devastated through fire and flood.

The past two years have seen additional challenges with the onset of the global pandemic and its many impacts upon the local economy. I'm proud to say that throughout this time, our council staff have risen to the challenge and continued to deliver essential services to the community.

It takes a big team to run a council and I want to acknowledge the work of the many staff who are out there in our community day by day, doing their part to make the Richmond Valley a great place to live – whether it's fixing our roads, collecting the bins, supporting our library and customer services, providing safe water to drink, keeping our parks and gardens looking great, delivering projects, or managing regulatory services, everyone has made an important contribution. I also acknowledge the senior leadership team and the many administration, service and support staff who work behind the scenes to keep our council running smoothly. It has been particularly rewarding over this term to see the progress of our local Richmond Valley trainees who are making their mark as emerging leaders and contributing to our community with innovation and enthusiasm. Congratulations on your achievements.

I trust my fellow Councillors will join with me in acknowledging Council staff for their support and dedication during the 2016-2021 Council term.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2021

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 October 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Minutes Ordinary Meeting 19 October 2021 (under separate cover)**

6.2 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES 19 OCTOBER 2021 AND 3 NOVEMBER 2021

Author: Ryan Gaiter, Director Organisational Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Minutes of the Internal Audit and Risk Committee Meetings held on 19 October 2021 and 3 November 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Internal Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 19 October 2021 (under separate cover)**
- 2. Internal Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 3 November 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 12 OCTOBER - 12 NOVEMBER 2021**

Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report from 12 October – 12 November 2021.

REPORT**October**

- 19th Richmond Valley Council Internal Audit and Risk Committee meeting
- 19th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 20th Rous County Council meeting
- 22nd Meeting with constituent
- 25th Casino Food Co-op AGM
- 25th Site visits Casino
- 27th Woodburn Coraki Road Announcement with MP Chris Gulaptis
- 27th Official Opening of Evans Head Library with MP Chris Gulaptis
- 28th FNC Group CWA Annual General Meeting
- 28th Military Museum/Drill Hall meeting
- 29th Rappville Creative Event - Arts Northern Rivers

November

- 2nd Bungabbee Bridge Official Opening
- 2nd Melbourne Cup Function RSM Casino
- 3rd Premier's meeting with Mayors of the Hunter and North Coast Regions & Broken Hill (Zoom)
- 3rd Richmond Valley Council Internal Audit and Risk Committee meeting
- 3rd Richmond Valley Councillor Information Session
- 5th Community Safety Precinct Committee meeting
- 5th Rappville Rural Fire Brigade Opening
- 6th BlazeAid thank you for volunteers' BBQ
- 8th Community Transport Team Meeting
- 9th VRA Rescue NSW – Premier's Bushfire Citations Presentation Casino
- 11th Remembrance Day Service Casino Drill Hall
- 12th Northern Rivers Joint Organisation meeting (zoom)

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT SUBMITTED TO NOVEMBER 2021 ORDINARY MEETING**

Author: Robert Mustow, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report for the month of November 2021.

REPORT

Council delegates are required to report on meetings/forums attended on Council's behalf.

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 Ordinary Meeting held on 20 October 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rous County Council meeting 20 October 2021**



**Summary of main items of business for
Rous County Council meeting
20 October 2021**

1. Council meeting summary 2022

Council determined its meeting schedule for 2022 with meetings to be held on the third Wednesdays commencing **10.00am** at the Rous County Council Administration Office on 16 February; 20 April; 15 June; 17 August; 19 October and 14 December.

When meetings are not scheduled to be held, Council briefings or workshops will be scheduled on 16 March; 18 May; 20 July; 21 September and 16 November.

2. Annual Financial Report and Auditor Report for year ended 30 June 2021

Council's external Auditor presented on the financial results for 2020/21. Public notice for the presentation of the draft 2020/21 Financial Reports was issued on Wednesday, 13 October 2021 and invited both inspection and submissions. The financial statements can be viewed on our website.

Council expressed its appreciation to staff for their effort in achieving an unqualified report.

3. Quarterly Budget Review Statement for quarter ending 30 September 2021

The results presented in the QBRs were noted and variations were authorised to the amounts from those previously estimated.

It was noted that all budget items, other than those identified in the Council report, had performed within the parameters set by Council in adopting the 2020/21 Operational plan.

Voting against: Crs Cook and Ekins

4. Retail water account customer assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$1,383.28.

5. Award of contract for the construction of an urban water supply bore – Clarence-Moreton Basin Aquifer

Open tenders for the proposed contract for the 'construction of an urban water supply bore at Wollongbar' were called by RCC through a Request for Tender process.

Council accepted the tender by 'The Impax Group Pty Ltd' in the amount of \$419,243 (incl GST) for the Construction of an Urban Water Supply Bore into the Clarence-Moreton Basin Aquifer at Wollongbar and approved an additional amount of \$42,000 (incl GST) as a contingency amount.

Voting against: Cr Cadwallader

6. Award of contract for St Helena 600/525 Elevated Main Corrosion Repairs

Council accepted the tender by Advanced Concrete Engineering Pty Ltd in the amount of \$620,011 (incl GST) for the St Helena 600/525 - Elevated Main Corrosion Repairs and approved an additional amount of \$144,100 (incl GST) as a contingency amount.

The works involve repair of corroded pipework at a number of concrete headwalls where buried water mains emerge from the ground to cross creeks as elevated sections, and at the concrete support piers for the elevated sections of pipework. The work also involves painting the elevated sections of the main.

7. Review of developer servicing charges for secondary dwellings

Council considered the above report and resolved that:

- i). Council notes the update on the assessment and review of secondary dwelling water consumption and the financial impact to Council.
- ii). The Development Servicing Plan for Bulk Water Supply 2016 methodology apply for all development applications lodged with constituent councils on or after 1 November 2021 for secondary dwelling bulk water developer contributions including granny flats.
- iii). Council notes that its decision of 19 August 2015 ([72/15]) will continue to have effect for relevant development applications lodged with constituent councils but not yet determined as at 31 October 2021 inclusive.

The current RCC position for waiving of developer charges for secondary dwellings is inconsistent with the policies of most constituent councils. The position no longer meets RCC's primary objective of supporting the constituent councils in their objectives of encouraging infill development and alternative low-cost housing.

A full review of the DSP will be undertaken in 2021/22 and will include the investigation of options for secondary dwellings.

8. Expansion of water fill station network update

Council approved the conversion of the two public access fill stations at North Lismore and Bangalow industrial estate from a temporary drought arrangement to a permanent facility for the community.

In December 2019, in response to prolonged drought conditions in the region, Council approved the installation of two public access water fill stations at North Lismore and Bangalow and the installation of an additional two bulk water fill stations. The two public access water fill stations have been operational for approximately 18 months and based on the usage data, they have been well received and utilised by the community during dry weather periods.

Across the Lismore and Byron areas, where the highest demand was observed during the 2019 drought, 13 potential sites were investigated for new bulk water fill stations. The sites were assessed based on avoiding pressure and flow impacts within the Rous water network and for nearby retail customers, suitable access for trucks and proximity to residences.

The preferred sites for further investigation were identified as Lagoon Grass Road, Lagoon Grass (north of Lismore) and Foxs Lane, Tyagarah. Construction of the bulk water fill station at Foxs Lane, Tyagarah is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Investigation and design costs for the two sites have been higher than anticipated. The Lagoons Grass bulk water fill station site has investigations and cost estimates continuing.

9. Deferral of developer contributions – SHIFT project

Council agreed, in accordance with clause 2.5 of Council's Development Servicing Plan for Bulk Water Supply 2016, to approve the deferral of the Rous County Council developer contributions, payable by *The S.H.I.F.T Project Byron Incorporated* in relation to DA10.2021.399.1.

10. Gallans Road reclassification

Council resolved to note the advertisement for a period of 28-days ('Notice Period') regarding the proposed classification of the land known as and located at 57 Gallans Road, Ballina being Lot 57 in DP 1045745 (the 'land') as Operational Land, and:

- a) if no material submissions are received during the Notice Period, the land is classified as Operational Land for the purposes of section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* without a further report being made to the governing body; or
- b) if material submissions are received during the Notice Period, Council will consider those submissions at its February 2022 meeting.

11. Policy (revised): Backflow prevention

Council customers with a high or medium hazard water connection are required to install a 'Testable Backflow Prevention Devices' (TBPD) and have it registered with Council under Council's existing Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control policy.

The key differences between the current and proposed policy are:

- a) Responsibility for ownership, installation and testing of the 'Testable Backflow Prevention Devices' (TBPD) will transfer from the customer to Council. That is, Council will own, install, operate, maintain, renew and test all TBPD on services up to and including 32mm.
- b) Criteria based on the connected properties land zoning will used to identify the hazard rating and requirement for a TBPD.

The primary objective of the revised policy is to reduce the risk of pathogen and/or chemical contamination to all customers from backflow, back siphonage and cross connections. The revised policy will ensure that all properties connected to Council's bulk water supply distribution system are compliant with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, the Plumbing Code of Australia and the relevant Australian Standards.

The revised policy was adopted by Council without amendment.

12. Policy (revised): Work, Health and Safety

The core of the revised WHS policy remains the same with a greater emphasis on the following commitments to align with the new standard:

- providing a framework for setting objectives
- providing a safe and healthy workplace for the prevention of physical and mental work-related injury and / or ill health

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- eliminating hazards and reducing risk
 - continual improvement
 - consultation
 - healthy workplaces.

The adoption of the revised Work Health and Safety policy will result in greater alignment of Council's policy position with the Standards.

The revised policy was adopted with an additional point that '*WHS policy and procedure be incorporate within Councillors' Inductions*'.

13. Policy (new): Cyber Security

The Audit Office of NSW issued a final management letter for the year ended 30 June 2019 which noted that Council does not have a specific cyber-security framework, including formal policies and procedures covering the identification, protection, detection, response and recovery of information systems.

The proposed policy has been informed by Cyber Security NSW cyber security policies / frameworks. Those documents have been developed for state government agencies and the policy in particular notes: "*This policy is not mandatory for state owned corporations, however it is recommended for adoption in state owned corporations, as well as local councils and universities*".

The new policy was adopted by Council without amendment.

14. Policy (new): Human resources – employment conditions

The right to request Flexible Work Arrangements (FWA) forms part of the National Employment Standards (NES). In NSW, this right is also reflected in the *Local Government (State) Award 2020* (Award).

The inclusion of FWA in the 'Human Resources - Employment Conditions' policy, and expansion of the provision to allow all employees regardless of employment status or tenure to request FWA will allow Council to continue to meet its internal objectives from the Workforce Management Plan and ensure Council can confidently compete with other organisations when undertaking recruitment and remain an 'Employer of Choice' for existing employees.

The new policy was adopted by Council without amendment.

15. Information reports

i). Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee: meeting update

The report provided a summary of the key messages from the latest Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held in July 2021.

Key messages included:

- Risk and compliance
- Works Health and Safety statistical update
- Status update on the implementation of outstanding internal and external audit recommendations

-
- Financial Management Report – July 2021
 - Service Review - Organisation structure and resourcing review
 - The 2020-21 Committee Performance Report – which was presented to the Council meeting by Committee Chair, Brian Wilkinson.

ii). Annual Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics

The Model Code of Conduct complaints statistics for the reporting period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 was presented.

iii). Debt write-off information summary

Council received and noted the debt write-off information summary with debts written-off totalling \$16,945.54 for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

iv). Delivery program progress report 1 January to 30 June 2021

The report provided an update on the status of the actions due to be delivered between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021 as set out in Council's combined Delivery program | Operational plan.

v). Demand management status report and scorecard 2020-2021

The report provided a summary of progress on the delivery of actions against key performance indicators of the Regional Demand Management Plan (RDMP) during 2020/2021. The demand management program continues to progress towards achieving defined actions including most notably, strengthening business partnerships across the region to identify and deliver projects that reduce demand on the potable water supply.

There is momentum in delivering actions that are the responsibility of Rous or where Rous is directly involved including the Sustainable Water Partner Program; Residential Rainwater Tank Rebate Program; and communications and engagement activities.

A key highlight of 2020/21 has been progressing engagement with top-order, high water consuming businesses (using more than 5 megalitres annually) and continuing to drive industry involvement in projects that reduce demand on our potable water supply. This work will continue to be a focus for 2021/22.

vi). Disclosure of Interest Returns

Councillors' Returns for June-July 2020/21 were tabled.

vii). Fluoride Dosing Plant Performance Report for April-June 2021

Council noted the Fluoride Dosing Plant Performance Report for April-June 2021 which shows compliance with dosing targets prescribed by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and the targets range within the NSW Health Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies.

viii). Investments – September 2021

- At the RBA's September 2021 meeting it was decided to leave the cash rate at 0.10%. The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) increased to 0.01%. The low rate will continue to put pressure on interest yields in the foreseeable future.

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- Total funds invested for September was \$39,883,820. This was a decrease of \$8,221,377 compared to the July 2021 figure. This was primarily due to the purchase of the new consolidated work location and a semi-annual loan repayment.
 - The weighted average return on funds invested for the month of September was 0.60%. This represents a decrease of 8 basis point compared to the July result (0.68%) and is 59 basis points above Council's benchmark (the 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) increased to 0.01%).
 - Interest earned compared to the original budget was \$35,225 below the pro-rata budget.
 - Cheque account balance as at 30 September 2021 was \$604,813.
 - Ethical holdings represent 47.64% of the total portfolio. The assessment of Ethical Financial Institutions is undertaken using www.marketforces.org.au which is an affiliate project of the Friends of the Earth Australia.

ix). Local government election and term of chairperson and deputy chairperson

Council noted:

- a) That the terms of Council's chairperson and deputy chairperson, each elected on 21 October 2020, will become vacant on 4 December 2021 in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.
- b) That the scheduled 15 December 2021 Council meeting will not be held due to the timing and conduct of the local government election on 4 December 2021.

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

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

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

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

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

That items identified be determined without debate.

14 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

14.1 ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Report is a key point of accountability between Council and its community. It reports on Council's financial performance and its progress in implementing the Delivery Program and achieving Community Strategic Plan outcomes.

The 2020/2021 financial year has been another dynamic year in the Richmond Valley marked by new challenges and opportunities. The Valley embraced a period of growth and recovery, whilst also experiencing some significant natural disasters including flooding and storms.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Richmond Valley Council 2020/2021 Annual Report.
2. In accordance with section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, posts the Annual Report on Council's website and provides a link to the Minister for Local Government and the Office of Local Government.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1 Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.2 Facilitate Council's compliance with legal and governance

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

REPORT

Council is required under section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to prepare an Annual Report. The document reports on Council's progress in implementing its Delivery Program and achieving Community Strategic Plan outcomes.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 also prescribes additional information for inclusion in the Annual Report including Council's audited financial statements and notes, and any information required by the Office of Local Government Guidelines.

The 2020/2021 financial year has been a dynamic year in the Richmond Valley marked by new challenges and opportunities. The community embraced a period of growth and recovery, whilst also experiencing some significant natural disasters including flooding and storms.

Despite these challenges, Council has maintained key community services and continued its commitment to deliver signature projects. Highlights have included:

- Evans Head Library upgrade;
- Colley Park soccer field revitalisation;
- Broadwater Youth Space completion;
- Coraki Riverside Caravan Park amenities block, and;

- Woodburn-Coraki Road upgrade commencement.

A copy of the 2020/2021 Draft Annual Report has been circulated separately to each Councillor. The Report will be posted on Council's website and advice of this provided to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2021.

CONSULTATION

Notification of the report will be made via social media, Council's website and the community newsletter.

CONCLUSION

The Richmond Valley Council 2020/2021 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and associated Regulations and Guidelines and is presented to Council to receive and note.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

14.2 END OF TERM REPORT**Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under the NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines, Council is required to produce a report on its progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) during its term of office. The report must be tabled at the final meeting of the outgoing Council.

The End of Term Report provides an update to the Richmond Valley community on how the Council has progressed in achieving the objectives of the CSP and reflects on how effective the CSP has been in delivering desired outcomes for the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the End of Term Report 2016 – 2021.
2. Notes that the End of Term Report 2016 – 2021 will be appended to Council's 2020/2021 Annual Report and submitted to the Minister for Local Government.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1 Leading and Advocating for our Community

CS1.2 Facilitate Council's compliance with legal and governance

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

REPORT

The End of Term Report outlines Council's progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) during its term of office and must be presented to the final meeting of an outgoing council.

In preparing the Report, Council is required to consider its full term (in this case, a five-year term) and reflect on its progress in delivering the priorities outlined in the Richmond Valley Made 2030 Community Strategic Plan and achieving the community's vision of "A great community with a relaxed lifestyle, beautiful environment and vibrant economy".

The 2016-2021 Council term has been a time of great challenge for the Richmond Valley, as the community continues to recover from the impacts of drought, fire, flood and a global pandemic. Council has continued to deliver the CSP strategic priorities and signature projects despite these challenges.

Highlights of the 2016-2021 term include:

- Completion of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange upgrade
- Development of the Evans Head Community Hub, including the library upgrade
- Woodburn riverside park revitalisation
- Coraki riverside precinct
- Casino industries activation project
- Casino Drill Hall and riverside precinct
- Broadwater Rileys Hill Community Hall and Memorial Park redevelopment
- Commencement of the Casino Showground upgrade
- Design work and community consultation for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail
- Commencement of the Casino Memorial Pool upgrade
- Bushfire recovery works and commencement of the Rappville Community Hall replacement.

A copy of the End of Term Report 2016 – 2021 will be circulated to Councillors separately and uploaded to Council's website following the meeting.

CONSULTATION

Council's CSP was developed with extensive community consultation and this Report will be made available to the community.

CONCLUSION

The End of Term Report outlines Council's progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan during the 2016-2021 term of office and is presented in accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15 FINANCIAL REPORTS

15.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020/2021

Author: Dean Fordham, Manager Finance and Procurement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted the audited financial statements for 2020/2021 at its Ordinary Meeting held 19 October 2021. At that Meeting, Council also resolved to present the audited financial statements and auditor's reports to the public at its November Ordinary Meeting. The presentation of these reports to the public is in accordance with section 419 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the final step in complying with the legislative requirements regarding annual financial reporting.

Council's external auditor, the Audit Office of New South Wales has advised that its representative firm, Thomas, Noble and Russell (TNR) will provide a presentation on the auditor's reports in relation to the 2020/2021 financial statements at this meeting. The Auditor has expressed an 'unmodified opinion' on the financial statements. This means that it was of the opinion that the financial reports present fairly the financial position of Council as at 30 June 2021 and its financial performance and cash flows were presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other legislative requirements.

As reported to the October Ordinary Meeting, Council achieved a surplus from continuing operations of \$10.086 million for the 2020/2021 financial year, compared to a surplus of \$6.306 million in the previous year. Council recorded a loss before capital grants and contributions of \$2.407 million for 2020/2021, compared to a loss of \$3.476 million for the 2019/2020 financial year. The improvement in this result is positive and was one of the objectives of Council's special rate variation in moving towards a break-even result before capital grants and contributions over the medium term. Council also achieved improvements in four out of nine of its key performance measures, with all but four of the ratios meeting or exceeding the industry benchmark. Further details are provided in the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the audited financial statements and auditor's reports for the 2020/2021 financial year be presented to the public in accordance with section 419 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS2 Great Support

CS2.13 Ensure compliance with Accounting Standards and Local Government legislation.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Detailed within this report.

REPORT

Section 418 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to fix a date for a meeting where the financial statements are to be presented to the public and Section 419 (1) requires Council to present the financial reports and auditor's reports to the meeting on the date fixed. Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 October 2021 that the financial statements would be presented at the meeting to be held on 16 November 2021.

Council's total revenue increased to \$71.633 million, from \$69.032 million in 2019/2020. The main changes included increases in rates and annual charges of \$1.341 million and capital grants and contributions of \$2.711 million, offset by decreases in operating grants and contributions of \$1.37 million.

Council received \$12.493 million in capital grants and contributions during 2020/2021, an increase of \$2.711 million from the previous year. The main increases were in roads and bridges \$1.309 million and NSW Rural Fire Service non-cash grants of \$1.154 million.

Total operating expenditure was \$61.547 million, a decrease from \$62.726 million from the previous year. The main changes included an increase in depreciation of \$0.662 million and other expenses of \$0.296 million. These increases were offset by a reduction in the net loss from the disposal of assets of \$1.738 million.

Council's operating result from continuing operations for 2020/2021 was a surplus of \$10.086 million, compared to a surplus of \$6.306 million in 2019/2020. Excluding capital grants and contributions, there was a loss of \$2.407 million in 2020/2021, compared to a loss of \$3.476 million in the previous year. Council's total cash, cash equivalents and investments increased by \$8.42 million to \$61.776 million as at 30 June 2021 and the majority of Council's key performance indicators remain above the industry benchmark.

There was an improvement in the operating result before capital grants and contributions, from a loss of \$3.476 million in 2019/2020 to a loss of \$2.407 million in 2020/2021. This is a positive improvement, despite another challenging 12-month period of ongoing recovery from drought, bushfires and further flood events and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council received \$12.493 million in capital grants and contributions during 2020/2021, which was an increase of \$2.711 million from the previous year and mainly related to increased grants for roads and bridges and NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) grants.

Net losses from the disposal of assets totalled \$0.971 million, a decrease from \$2.709 million in the previous year. This was mainly due to a higher profit on sale of real estate assets in 2020/2021 and a higher disposal of infrastructure assets in 2019/2020.

The summarised financial results for the year ended 30 June 2021 are as follows:

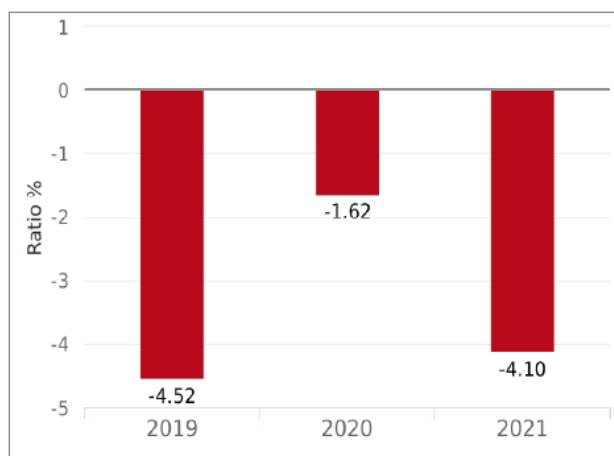
Income Statement	Actual 2021 \$'000	Actual 2020 \$'000
Total Income from Continuing Operations	71,633	69,032
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	61,547	62,726
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	10,086	6,306
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(2,407)	(3,476)

Statement of Financial Position	Actual 2021 \$'000	Actual 2020 \$'000
Total Current Assets	72,437	66,602
Total Non-Current Assets	804,879	792,654
Total Assets	877,316	859,256
Total Current Liabilities	20,594	15,864
Total Non-Current Liabilities	23,230	24,928
Total Liabilities	43,824	40,792
Net Assets	833,492	818,464
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	369,653	359,567
Revaluation Reserves	463,839	458,897
Total Equity	833,492	818,464

Statement of Cash Flows	Actual 2021 \$'000	Actual 2020 \$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities - receipts	72,903	69,879
Cash Flows from Operating Activities - payments	(41,369)	(43,819)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities	31,534	26,060
Cash Flows from Investing Activities - receipts	14,735	3,111
Cash Flows from Investing Activities - payments	(23,456)	(28,006)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities	(8,721)	(24,895)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities - receipts	0	0
Cash Flows from Financing Activities - payments	(2,830)	(2,651)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Financing Activities	(2,830)	(2,651)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	19,983	(1,486)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	6,686	8,172
Cash and Cash Equivalents - end of year	26,669	6,686
Plus: Investments on Hand - end of year	35,107	46,670
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	61,776	53,356

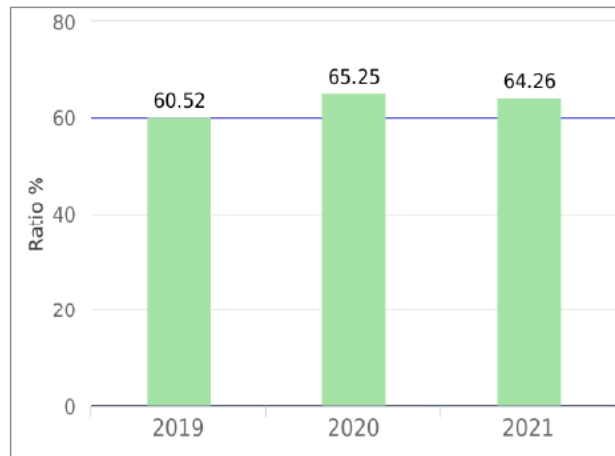
Council's key performance measures remain strong, with the majority of these being above the industry benchmark. These are summarised below:

Operating performance ratio



Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Own source operating revenue ratio

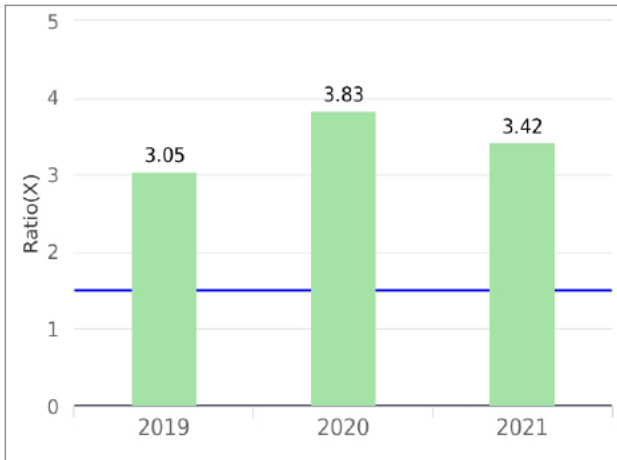


Benchmark: — > 60.00%

Council's operating performance ratio has declined to -4.10% on a consolidated basis, from -1.62% in 2019/2020. This is despite Council's net operating result before capital grants and contributions improving from a loss of \$3.476 million in 2019/2020 to a loss of \$2.407 million in 2020/2021. This ratio excludes fair value gains on investments and capital grants and contributions, both of which increased from 2019/2020. This has led to Council's operating income decreasing comparatively to 2019/2020 for the purpose of this ratio. The main decrease was \$1.37 million in operating grants and contributions. In addition, Council's operating expenditure increased comparatively to 2019/2020 after the net losses from the disposal of assets are excluded, which they are for the purpose of this ratio. The main increase was \$0.662 million in depreciation. The industry benchmark for this ratio is > 0.00%. As such, there is still a significant gap to close to ensure Council continues to move towards a break even result in the medium-term and this will remain as a key focus moving forward.

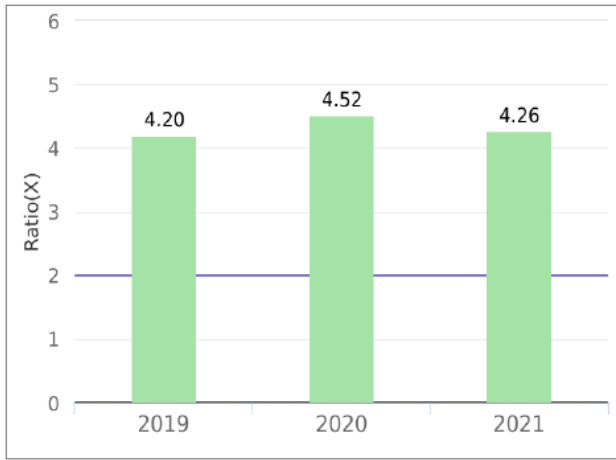
Council’s own source operating revenue ratio has remained relatively stable at 64.26%, compared to 65.25% in 2019/2020. Council’s special rate variation has contributed to having less reliance on external funding such as operating grants and contributions. The industry benchmark is > 60.00%.

Unrestricted current ratio



Benchmark: — > 1.50x

Debt service cover ratio

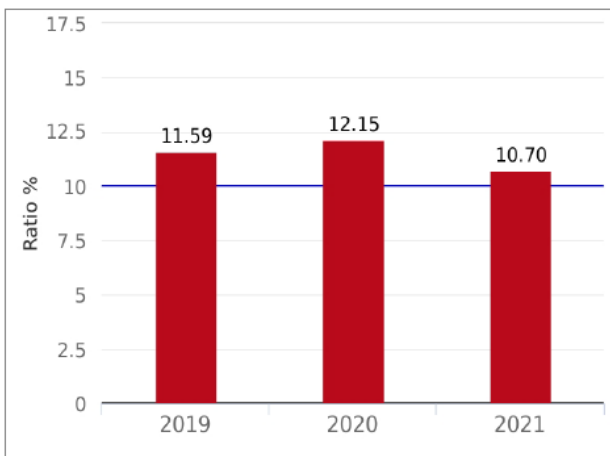


Benchmark: — > 2.00x

Council’s unrestricted current ratio has decreased to 3.42x, from 3.83x in 2019/2020, meaning Council now has \$3.42 in unrestricted current assets for every \$1 of current liabilities. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 1.50x.

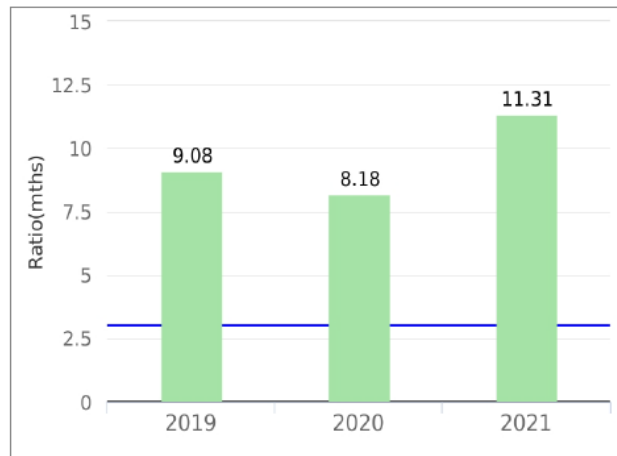
The debt service cover ratio remains relatively consistent at 4.26x, decreasing from 4.52x in 2019/2020. This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 2.00x.

Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



Benchmark: — < 10.00%

Cash expense cover ratio

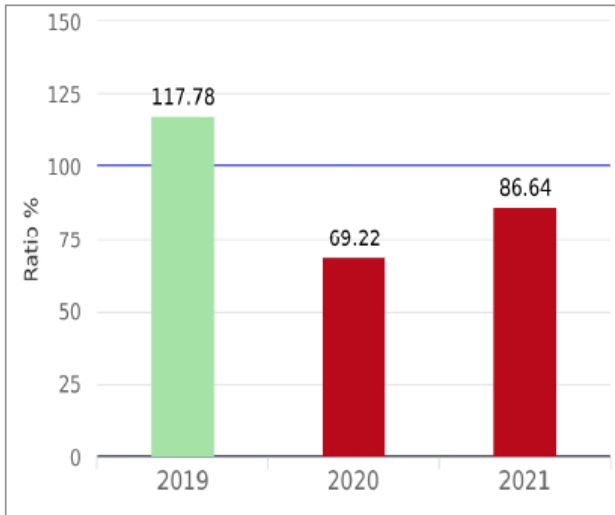


Benchmark: — > 3.00mths

Council’s rates and annual charges outstanding percentage has improved to 10.70% on a consolidated basis, from 12.15% in 2019/2020. While this ratio does not meet the industry benchmark of < 10.00%, it is impacted by the fact that Council levies its water and sewerage annual charges in arrears. The general fund ratio is a more representative measure of outstanding rates and annual charges, which also improved to 5.01%, from 6.63% in 2019/2020. Given the number of challenges the Richmond Valley has faced in the last 12 months, this is a positive result and demonstrates that Council continues to actively monitor and pursue outstanding balances through its debt recovery practices. In addition, the general fund ratio is well below the benchmark of < 10.00%.

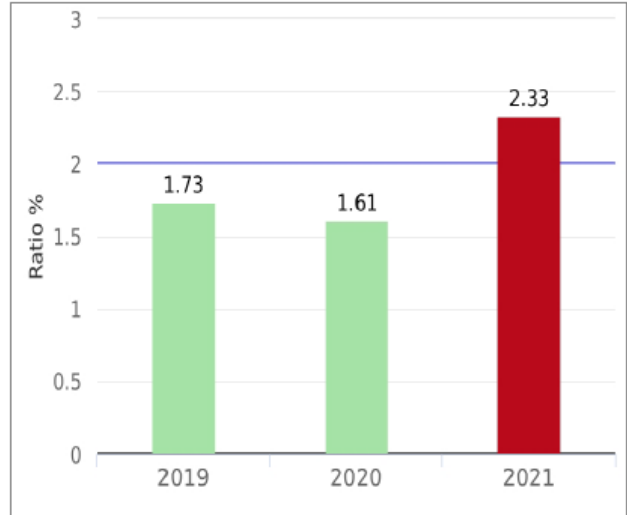
The cash expense cover ratio has improved to 11.31 months, from 8.18 months in 2019/2020. This ratio indicates the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow and is well above the benchmark of > 3 months.

Buildings and infrastructure renewals



Benchmark: — $\geq 100.00\%$

Infrastructure backlog ratio

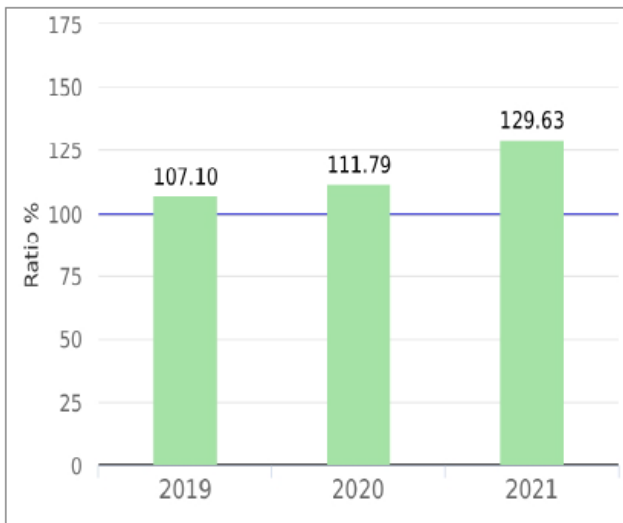


Benchmark: — $< 2.00\%$

Council's buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio has improved to 86.64%. The special rate variation has assisted with moving this ratio towards the benchmark. Focussing on the renewal of existing buildings and infrastructure, rather than expenditure on new assets will also assist in moving this ratio closer to the benchmark. The industry benchmark is $\geq 100.00\%$.

Council's infrastructure backlog ratio has increased to 2.33%, from 1.61% in 2019/2020. This is mainly due to the damage caused to roads and bridges from the flood events of 2020/2021. Council is currently working with Transport for NSW, which administers natural disaster funding, to restore these assets to pre-flood condition. The industry benchmark is $< 2.00\%$.

Asset maintenance ratio



Benchmark: — $> 100.00\%$

Council's asset maintenance ratio has improved to 129.63%, from 111.79% in 2019/2020. This is above the benchmark of $> 100.00\%$, which indicates that Council is investing sufficient funds to stop its infrastructure backlog growing.

As at 30 June 2021, Council had \$61.776 million in cash, cash equivalents and investments, an increase of \$8.42 million from the previous year ended 30 June 2020. The schedule of restricted assets (reserves) held by Council as at 30 June 2021 is as follows:

Restricted Asset	30 June 2021 \$'000	30 June 2020 \$'000
External Restrictions		
Bonds and Deposits	481	581
Developer Contributions - General Fund	3,572	3,694
Developer Contributions - Water Fund	2,153	1,950
Developer Contributions - Sewerage Fund	4,237	3,874
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	6,119	3,670
Water Supplies	5,399	5,220
Sewerage Services	7,974	7,727
Domestic Waste Management	5,465	4,431
Stormwater Management	665	617
Other	877	968
Total External Restrictions	31,386	32,732
Internal Restrictions		
Employee Leave Entitlements	1,385	1,245
Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library	147	141
Other Waste Management	4,132	3,681
Insurance Reserve	602	761
Plant Replacement	3,899	2,694
Real Estate and Infrastructure	4,178	2,772
Petersons Quarry	2,390	2,242
Woodview Quarry	1,911	1,513
Quarry Rehabilitation	252	208
Road Rehabilitation Reserve	1,608	1,273
Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange	2	119
Rural Road Safety Program	92	89
Unexpended Special Rates Variations	645	805
Financial Assistance Grant Advance Payment	2,708	2,712
TfNSW State Roads Maintenance Contract	6	6
Public Cemeteries Perpetual Maintenance Reserve	166	247
Carry Over Works	379	116
Revolving Energy and Sustainability Fund	0	0
Total Internal Restrictions	24,502	20,624
Total Restrictions	61,444	53,356
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	61,776	53,356
Unrestricted Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	332	0

CONSULTATION

Council is currently advertising the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 to the public and is inviting submissions in writing, closing at 4:00pm Tuesday 23 November 2021. Any submissions will be reported to the first full Ordinary Meeting of the newly elected Council. Copies

of the financial statements have been made available for viewing and download by the public from the date public notice was given until the day after the meeting where the financial statements were presented.

CONCLUSION

The presentation of Council's financial statements to the public is the last step in complying with the legislative requirements regarding annual financial reporting. Council has also advertised the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021, advising that they will be presented to the public at this Ordinary Meeting and inviting submissions. Section 420 of the *Local Government Act 1993* invites submissions from the public on the financial statements and Section 420 (3) requires Council to refer any submissions it may receive to the Auditor. Submissions close at 4:00pm Tuesday 23 November 2021. If any submissions are received, these will be reported to the first full Ordinary Meeting of the newly elected Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Financial Statements 2020/2021 (under separate cover)**

15.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - OCTOBER 2021**Author: Dean Fordham, Manager Finance and Procurement****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the status and performance of its cash and 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 cash and investments at 31 October 2021 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$15,429,119	\$25,000,000	\$4,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$15,458,644	\$62,638,153

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments for October 2021 was negative 1.17% which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for October of 0.00%, which is Council's benchmark.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing the performance of its cash and investments for the month of October 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 October 2021, Council has earned \$69,257 in interest and \$101,755 in fair value gains for total interest and investment income of \$171,012. This equates to 20.12% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$850,000 at the end of October 2021. Council currently receives a net return of 0.35% on its Macquarie CMA Account after Council's financial advisors receive their commission of 0.05%. Commissions for the 2021/2022 financial year to 31 October 2021 total \$1,519.

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 October meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in October 2021 was negative 1.17%, an increase of 221 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 117 basis points below 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 losses of \$92,988 during October 2021, following net gains of \$194,743 in the first quarter. It is important to note that these are long term investments with returns being subject to market volatility, particularly in times of economic uncertainty. The Medium Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a loss of \$80,972 and the Long Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a loss of \$12,016. The MTGF has a recommended investment timeframe of 3-7 years (original investment was October 2018) and the LTGF has a recommended investment timeframe of 7 years or greater (original investment was June 2021).

Term deposits and floating rate notes continue to offer low rates of returns with some banking institutions still limiting the amount of deposits they will accept and others not accepting any deposits at present. In some cases, Council's bank accounts are returning a higher rate of interest than what is being offered for term deposits and floating rate notes.

Council's Cash and Investments Portfolio

Council held cash and investments of \$62,638,153 at 31 October 2021. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$3,970,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,003,397), Term Deposits (\$25,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$4,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$15,458,644) and other bank accounts (\$1,455,722).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$31,750,390 represented 50.69% of the total portfolio as at 31 October 2021.

Council made the following new investment during October 2021:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	6 months	0.86%
Total			\$1,000,000		

Council had the following investment maturity during the month of October 2021:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
ME Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,849
Total			\$1,000,000	\$1,849

Council's cash and investments decreased by \$2,773,886 from the balance of \$65,412,039 held at 30 September 2021, mainly due to payments made for operations and capital works and due to the next rates instalment not being due until 30 November 2021.

Council had \$15,458,644 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 October 2021. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31 Oct 21	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Oct-21	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$12,399,015	(\$80,972)	\$61,711	\$1,393,986
Long Term Growth Fund	\$3,059,629	(\$12,016)	\$40,044	\$59,629
Total	\$15,458,644	(\$92,988)	\$101,755	\$1,453,615

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESIs)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$62,638,153 at 31 October 2021 includes \$39,208,644 or 62.6% with no direct investment in the fossil fuel industry.

These include Council's investments with NSW Treasury Corporation and Northern Territory 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. The stewardship policy states NSW Treasury Corporation believes incorporating these principles into investment decisions results in better risk-adjusted financial outcomes. Even though NSW Treasury Corporation takes this stewardship approach, its monthly reporting only highlights the different asset classes, not individual investments and the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry.

Northern Territory Treasury Corporation utilises funds to assist with its infrastructure requirements such as housing, transport, health and education services. Whilst no statement has been provided on its investment strategy, it has been assumed that providing funding towards its own infrastructure will not involve direct investment in the fossil fuel industry.

CONCLUSION

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

As at 31 October 2021 Council's cash and investments totalled \$62,638,153 with \$15,429,119 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was (1.17%) for the month of October and total investment revenue equals 20.12% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 October 2021.

ATTACHMENT(S)

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

16 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

17 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

17.1 COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2021/2022 ROUND ONE

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Community Financial Assistance Program 2021/2022 Round One allocations.

REPORT

Under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (The Act) Council may by resolution contribute financial assistance to individuals, groups and organisations seeking financial assistance. At the November 2016 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to delegate authority to the General Manager to approve the allocation of funds in accordance with Council's Policy 1.2 Community Financial Assistance Program.

Council has allocated \$75,000 in the 2021/2022 budget for the Community Financial Assistance Program. The policy provides for two approximately equal rounds, allowing for \$37,500 to be allocated in the first round. This round of funding was advertised in October 2021 and Council received 23 applications.

All applications received have been reviewed in accordance with the policy. Of the 23 applications, 22 were deemed eligible and 12 will be partially or fully funded.

In determining the allocation of funds, consideration was given to Council's Community Strategic Plan as well as the Program's eligibility requirements, prior funding, prior acquittal performance and selection criteria.

Councillors had the opportunity to review the proposals and provide feedback at a workshop on 2 November 2021, with the General Manager approving the allocation of funds under the delegation.

The following table summarises eligible projects that will be partially or fully funded.

Organisation	Requested allocation	Proposed use	Amount allocated
Broadwater Community Hall	\$907.00	Ride on court sweeper	\$907.00
Casino and District Historical Society	\$4,991.00	Installation of air-conditioning in main display area and research room.	\$4,991.00
Casino Anglican Parish	\$4,500.00	Install a WIFI Radio Network	\$4,500.00
Casino Community Men's Shed	\$3,104.80	Twin drum sander	\$3,104.80

Organisation	Requested allocation	Proposed use	Amount allocated
Casino Sport and Recreation Association Inc	\$1,395.20	Purchase specialised equipment for Inclusion Games.	\$1,395.20
Clovass McKees Hill Soldiers Memorial and Community Hall Inc	\$5,000.00	Internal painting	\$2,500.00
Evans Head District Cricket Club	\$2,370.00	Purchase a cover for the turf wicket	\$2,370.00
Evans River Rugby Union Club	\$5,000.00	Training equipment	\$3,000.00
Greenridge Memorial Hall and Social Activities Club Inc	\$1,899.00	Replace fridge to cater for larger functions	\$1,899.00
New Italy Museum Inc	\$4,509.00	Acknowledging Country and welcome sign – three languages.	\$4,509.00
Scouts Australia NSW Branch 2 nd Casino Scout Group	\$3,089.85	First aid training for youth and hiking tents	\$989.85
Woodburn Pony Club	\$4,988.00	Fabrication and erection of steel post and rail fencing.	\$4,988.00

Round One was over-subscribed, and as such, the following applications have not been allocated funding in this round. Applicants will be advised of the outcome and offered feedback on their application and assistance to secure future funding, or alternative solutions to address their needs.

Organisation	Requested allocation	Proposed use
Casino Lions AFL Club	\$5,000.00	Lighting, storage, portable seating, hot water
Casino Netball Association Incorporated	\$2,259.00	Water cooler
Casino Pony Club Incorporated	\$5,000.00	Show jumps
Casino Show Society Inc	\$5,000.00	Shelving and storage container
Fairy Hill Hall Committee	\$1,700.00	Internal upgrades
Far North Coast Legacy	\$5,000.00	Legacy activities throughout the year
Keep Our Freedom Youth Indigenous Corporation	\$5,000.00	Install vending machine
Lismore Regional Mission	\$5,000.00	Security fencing
Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre	\$5,000.00	Contribution to Food Recovery Project
The Big Scrub Orchestra/ Arts Northern Rivers Auspice	\$5,000.00	Ten week band program at Casino West Public School

Organisation	Requested allocation	Proposed use
Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service	\$5,000.00	Four Electronic Flight Bags

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

17.2 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT STATISTICS

Author: Kate Allder-Conn, Governance Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

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.

REPORT

Councils in NSW are required to report on Code of Conduct complaint statistics, within three months of the end of September each year.

The requirements are outlined in Clause 11.1 and 11.2 of the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, with the report being forwarded to the Office of Local Government.

Council has received no Code of Conduct complaints during this period.

A copy of the complaint statistics report for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 is attached for information.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics 1 September 2020 - 31 August 2021**

Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics Richmond Valley Council			
Number of Complaints			
1	a	The total number of complaints received in the period about councillors and the General Manager (GM) under the code of conduct	0
	b	The total number of complaints finalised in the period about councillors and the GM under the code of conduct	0
Overview of Complaints and Cost			
2	a	The number of complaints finalised at the outset by alternative means by the GM or Mayor	0
	b	The number of complaints referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG) under a special complaints management arrangement	0
	c	The number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer	0
	d	The number of code of conduct complaints finalised at preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	e	The number of code of conduct complaints referred back to GM or Mayor for resolution after preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	f	The number of finalised code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer	0
	g	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be no breach	0
	h	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be a breach	0
	i	The number of complaints referred by the GM or Mayor to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police	0
	j	The number of complaints being investigated that are not yet finalised	0
	k	The total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints within the period made about councillors and the GM including staff costs	0

Preliminary Assessment Statistics	
3	The number of complaints determined by the conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage by each of the following actions:
a	To take no action (clause 6.13(a) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
b	To resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(b) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
c	To refer the matter back to the GM or the Mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(c) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
d	To refer the matter to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police (clause 6.13(d) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
e	To investigate the matter (clause 6.13(e) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
Investigation Statistics	
4	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was no breach , in which the following recommendations were made:
a	That the council revise its policies or procedures <input type="text" value="0"/>
b	That a person or persons undertake training or other education (clause 7.37 of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.40 of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
5	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the following recommendations were made:
a	That the council revise any of its policies or procedures (clause 7.36(a) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.39 of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
b	In the case of a breach by the GM, that action be taken under the GM's contract for the breach (clause 7.36(h) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.37(a) of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
c	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 (clause 7.36(i) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.37(b) of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
d	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the matter be referred to OLG for further action (clause 7.36(j) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.37(c) of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
6	Matter referred or resolved after commencement of an investigation (clause 7.20 of the 2018 or 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>

Categories of misconduct	
7 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach with respect to each of the following categories of conduct:	
a General conduct (Part 3)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b Non-pecuniary conflict of interest (Part 5)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
c Personal benefit (Part 6)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
d Relationship between council officials (Part 7)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
e Access to information and resources (Part 8)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Outcome of determinations	
8 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council failed to adopt the conduct reviewers recommendation	<input type="text" value="0"/>
9 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council's decision was overturned following a review by OLG	<input type="text" value="0"/>

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

Author: Andy Edwards, Manager Development & Certification

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 October 2021 to 31 October 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 October 2021 to 31 October 2021 was 17, with a total value of \$1,161,466.40 with one of these applications being for a bushfire affected property.

The Richmond Valley lost a total of 62 dwellings during the 2019/2020 bushfire disaster. Our Development Assessment team adopted a self-imposed 5 working day KPI to have these applications determined, upon review the average determination period has been 4 days. Since lodgement of the first bushfire affected development application on 1 May 2020 Richmond Valley Council has approved 14 applications for new dwellings, 3 modifications to approved dwellings and 1 shed extension to accommodate a bathroom whilst preparing for a new dwelling. Council has also issued 10 Construction Certificates and to date 5 Final Occupation Certificates have been issued for the finalisation of dwellings. Amongst the Richmond Valley there are still two Minderoo Recovery Pods being utilised for temporary accommodation.

Richmond Valley Council committed to assisting the rebuilding of the bushfire affected communities and executed this by waiving all fees associated with the lodgement of development applications for a period after the disaster. To date, Council has waived \$46,299.91 in development fees.

Council has also approved a new development for "Construction of a community facility (community hall) and associated works" to replace the Community hall in Rappville that was lost during the 2019 bushfire. Approval was granted for a new development for "Rappville Rural Fire Station and 2 rainwater harvesting tanks". A final occupation certificate for this development has been issued.

Bushfire Affected	Totals
New approved dwellings	14
Modifications to dwellings	3
Shed addition	1
Construction Certificates	10
Occupation Certificates	5
Total waived fees	\$46,299.91

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

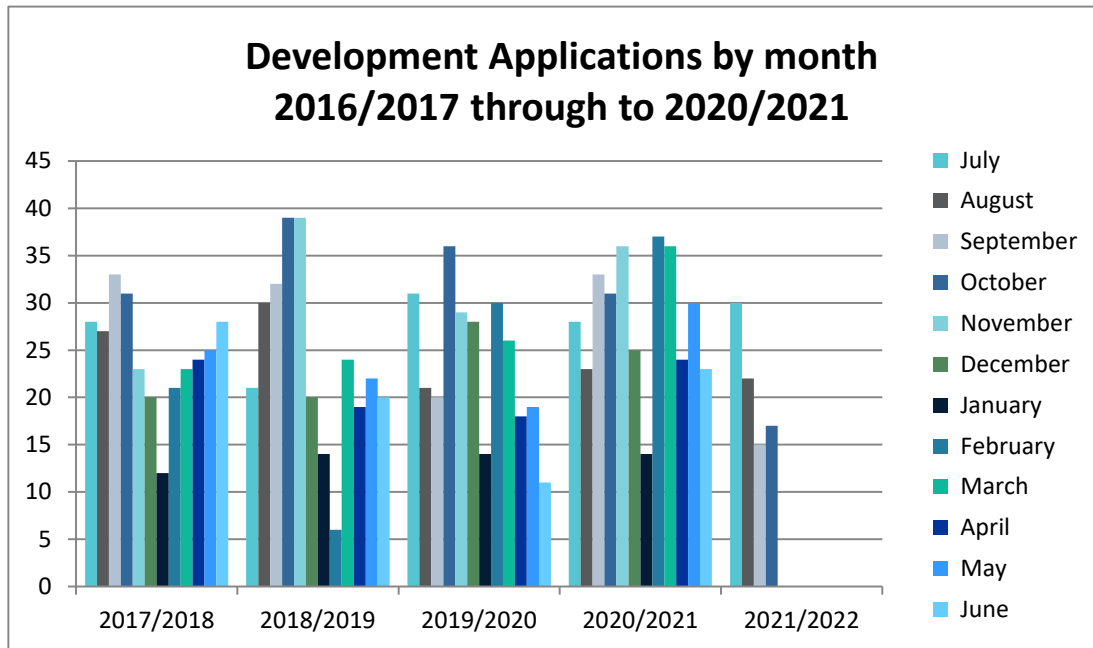


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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 October 2021.

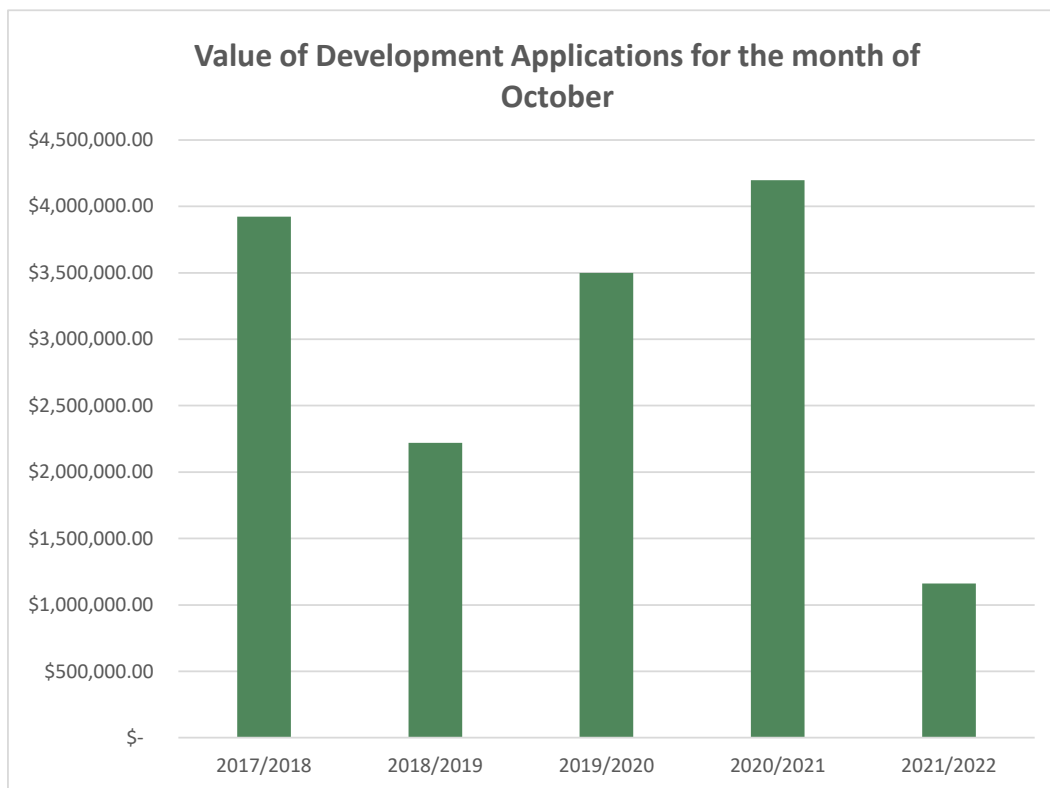


Figure 2: Value of development for the month of October.

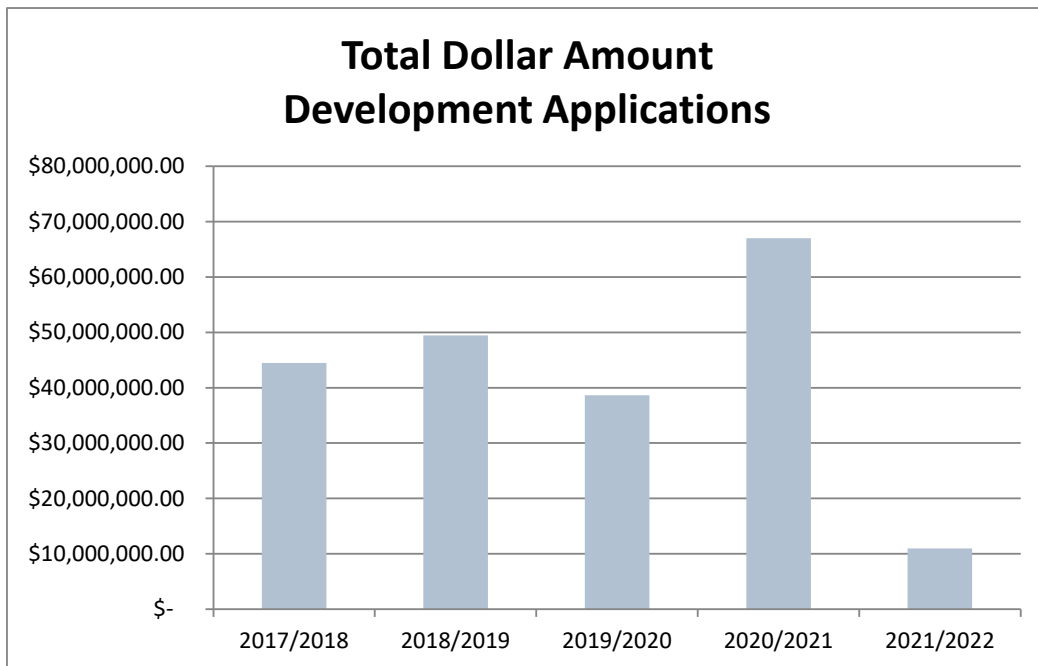


Figure 3: Annual value of development.

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.

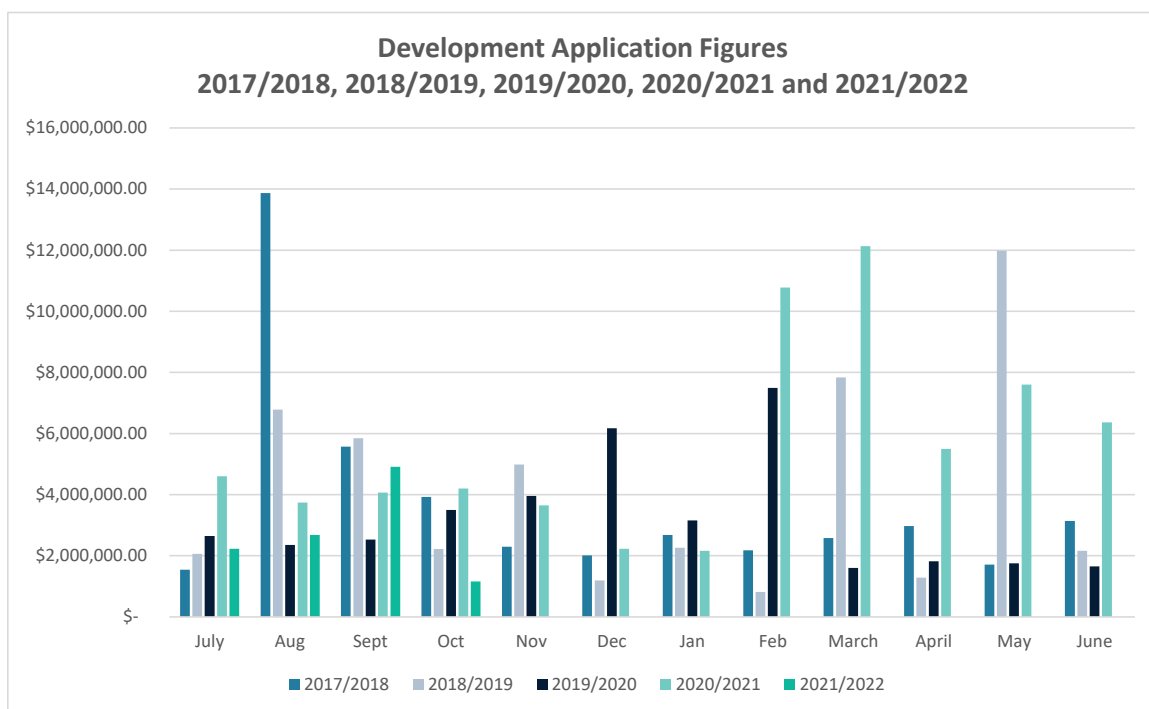


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

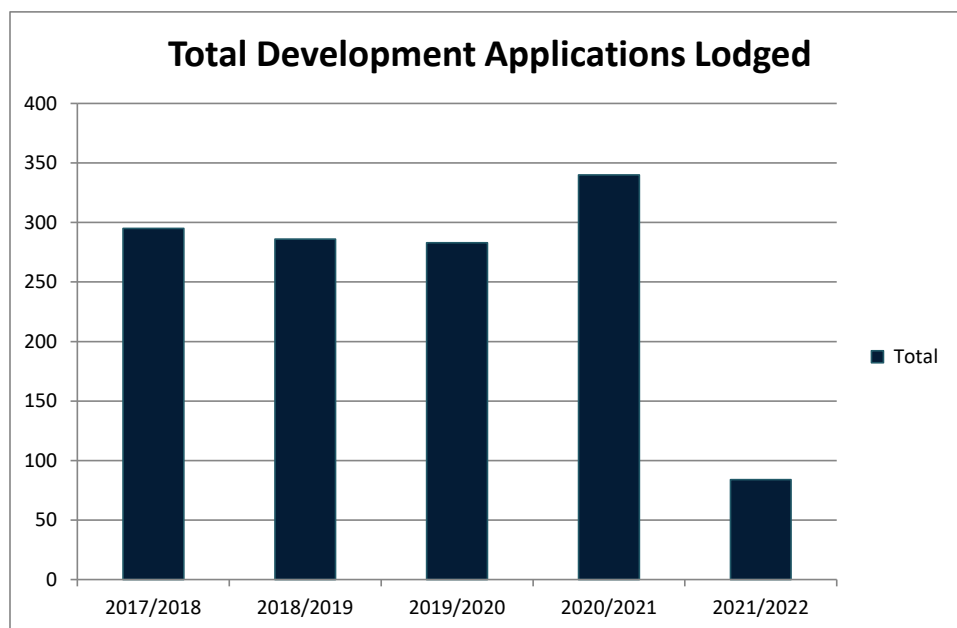


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the month of October 2021

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	12
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	2
Subdivision	3
Refused	
Withdrawn	
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	
TOTAL	17
Average assessment days for applications determined in October 2021	37
No. of Integrated development applications determined in October 2021	1
No. of Designated development applications determined in October 2021	1
No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in October 2021	56

Please note: A private contractor has been engaged to undertake inspections in the Mid Richmond.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Growing our Economy

EC1: Driving Economic Growth

EC1.6: Improved customer satisfaction with the DA process

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Nil

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

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2021/0316	DD & FG Duce	FG & DD Duce	57 Forest Street, Coraki	Dwelling	24/06/2021	12/10/2021	\$ 270,000.00
DA1989/0062.01	Groundwork Plus Pty Ltd	Richmond Valley Council	Woodview Quarry 4250 Bruxner Highway, Woodview	Section 4.55 (2) modification to approved Extractive Industry to enable: a. The annual extraction limit to be described in tonnes rather than cubic metres b. The annual extraction limit to increase from 50,000m3 to 73,740m3, which if expressed in tonnes (t) is an increase from 139,000t to 205,000t c. Modernisation / alignment with the conditions of the Environment Protection Licence	24/06/2021	7/10/2021	\$ -
DA2022/0035	Chris Burley Constructions	ND & EJ Greber	5 Clarence Street, Casino	Construction of shed	11/08/2021	7/10/2021	\$ 3,800.00
DA2022/0036	KL McCullough	KL McCullough	59 Eucalypt Drive, Swan Bay	Shed with wash area including plumbing for toilet and shower	13/08/2021	7/10/2021	\$ 36,460.00
DA2022/0037	GJ Hansen	GJ Hansen	8 Memorial Airport Drive, Evans Head	Strata Subdivision of an existing industrial building to create two (2) Lots being Lot 1 (108m2) & Lot 2 (250m2) and common property	13/08/2021	21/10/2021	\$ 5,000.00
DA2022/0039	P Trotter	P Trotter	41 Richmond Terrace, Coraki	Construction of a single story shed to park cars and use for storage	20/08/2021	8/10/2021	\$ 27,600.00
DA2022/0042	F Jeffs	F Jeffs	33 Jersey Drive, North Casino	Installation of patio awning attached to existing house	24/08/2021	6/10/2021	\$ 33,000.00
DA2022/0043	KL Brown	KL Brown	Busbys Flat Road, Leeville	New Single Dwelling - 1 bedroom with septic system and stand alone solar system	25/08/2021	18/10/2021	\$ 86,926.40
DA2022/0048	RJ Franey	S & RJ Franey	6 Ivory Circuit, Casino	Strata Title subdivision of existing detached dual occupancy development into two (2) Strata lots being Lot 1 and Lot 2	1/09/2021	26/10/2021	\$ -
DA2022/0051	Artisan Pools Pty Ltd	SA Fletcher	122 North Street, Casino	Installation of an in ground fibreglass swimming pool and associated fencing	8/09/2021	21/10/2021	\$ 56,960.00
DA2022/0054	B & T Garages & Sheds Pty Ltd	GJ & CM Scott	14 Flatley Place, North Casino	Shed	13/09/2021	21/10/2021	\$ 61,150.00
DA2022/0055	Crestwood Drafting Services	VL Wale	46 Simpson Parade, Casino	Shed	13/09/2021	21/10/2021	\$ 10,600.00
DA2021/0088.01	AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	Connolly Construction Company Pty Ltd	1270 Mongogarie Road, Mongogarie	Section 4.55 (A) modification to approved farm shed being a roof extension and addition of sliding doors	14/09/2021	5/10/2021	\$ 80,000.00
DA2022/0056	Hayes Building Consultancy	Mondoro Superannuation Pty Ltd, DB Moore & JJ Moore	11 Cypress Street, Evans Head	Strata subdivision of existing dual occupancy to create two (2) lots being (Lot 1 376m2 and Lot 2 507.5m2 and common property).	14/09/2021	28/10/2021	\$ 10,000.00
DA2022/0058	HS Thompson	HS & JL Thompson	6 Johnston Street, Casino	Shed	15/09/2021	21/10/2021	\$ 14,500.00
DA2022/0059	BA Collison	BA Collison	15 Canning Drive, Casino	Removal of garden shed 3x3m and replacing with a 6x6m shed	16/09/2021	29/10/2021	\$ 11,500.00

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

DA2022/0081	Craftsman Homes Grafton	JM Johnston	2676 Old Tenterfield Road, Wyan	*** BUSHFIRE AFFECTED *** - Rebuilding new dwelling, single storey, with alfresco & double garage	20/10/2021	26/10/2021	\$ 453,970.00
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ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.4 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2021**Author: Dean Fordham, Manager Finance and Procurement****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of October 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 that were submitted for the month of October 2021.

During the reporting period, one grant was approved and Council received funding for seven grants totalling \$1,146,433. Council was not notified as being unsuccessful with any grant applications and three grant applications were submitted.

Grants that have been approved

School Zone Infrastructure Program	
Project ID	10437
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	School Zone Infrastructure Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$211,664
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$211,664
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	13 July 2021
Date Approved	12 October 2021
Comment	This funding will be used to improve paths, install wombat crossings and improve pavement markings at various schools in the Richmond Valley LGA.

Grants that have been received

Summerland Way Shared Pathway Connection Eccles to Light Street Casino	
Project ID	10350
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Active Transport Program – 2020/21 Walking and Cycling Program
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$181,832
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$143,332
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 38,500

Date Application Submitted	25 February 2020 (approved 5 February 2021)
Date Received	\$80,832 received 28 October 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$143,332 (total funding received)
Comment	N/A

Richmond River Flood Study

Project ID	10362
Funding Body	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
Funding Name	Coastal Estuary and Floodplain Management Program 2020
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$201,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$133,999
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 67,001
Date Application Submitted	30 April 2020
Date Received	\$ 58,057 received 22 October 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$ 58,057
Comment	N/A

NSW Bushfires 31 August 2019 onwards AGRN871 – Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works

Project ID	10391
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$2,178,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$2,178,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$16,695 received 28 October 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$137,306
Comment	Payment for progress claim on Camira Creek Bridge

NSW Storms and Floods 10 March 2021 onwards AGRN960 – EPAR Packaged Works 1-15

Project ID	10436
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Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$5,800,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$5,800,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$549,801 received 28 October 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$1,176,786
Comment	N/A

NSW Storms and Floods March 2021 AGRN960 – Emergency & Immediate Reconstruction Works	
Project ID	10443
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$189,887
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$189,887
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$189,887 received 7 October 2021
Total Funds Received To Date	\$189,887 (total funding received)
Comment	Progress Claim 1

Public Library Subsidy 2021/2022	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	State Library of NSW
Funding Name	Public Library Subsidy
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$126,679
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$126,679
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$126,679 received 22 October 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$126,679 (total funding received)
Comment	Per Capita Subsidy of \$62,249 and Subsidy Adjustment of

	\$64,430
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MR153 Regional Roads REPAIR Program 2021/2022 – Woodburn-Evans Head Road	
Project ID	N/A
Funding Body	Transport for NSW
Funding Name	N/A
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$326,428
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$163,214
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$163,214
Date Application Submitted	N/A
Date Received	\$124,482 received 28 October 2021
Total Funds Received to Date	\$124,482
Comment	N/A

Grant Applications Submitted

Digital Promotions – promote, inform and entertain	
Project ID	10447
Funding Body	State Library of NSW
Funding Name	Public Library Infrastructure Grants 2021/22
Government Level	State
Project Value (excl GST)	\$63,397
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$53,759
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 9,638
Date Application Submitted	28 October 2021
Comment (if required)	If successful, this funding will allow the installation of three digital signage systems to promote library services at Casino, Evans Head and Kyogle Libraries.

Casino Indoor Community Aquatic and Recovery Facility	
Project ID	10448
Funding Body	National Recovery and Resilience Agency
Funding Name	Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (excl GST)	\$4,700,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$4,700,000
Council Funding (excl GST)	\$ 0
Date Application Submitted	5 October 2021

Comment (if required)	If successful, this funding will allow the construction of an indoor community aquatic and recovery facility with adult and family change rooms and associated infrastructure to support patronage with a roof-top solar system.
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A Sporting Chance – Upgrades to Rappville Sportsground	
Project ID	10449
Funding Body	National Recovery and Resilience Agency
Funding Name	Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program
Government Level	Federal
Project Value (excl GST)	\$506,000
Grant Funding (excl GST)	\$476,000
Committee Funding (excl GST)	\$ 30,000
Date Application Submitted	6 October 2021
Comment (if required)	Submitted on behalf of the Rappville Sportsground Committee. If successful, Council would administer the grant funding. Council is not making any cash contribution.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.5 CORRESPONDENCE - SHARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND EVANS HEAD AMBULANCE STATION

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes correspondence forwarded in relation to the Shark Management Program and Evans Head Ambulance Station.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following letters have been provided following Council's September Ordinary meeting resolutions: -

1. Council writes to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW the Hon John Barilaro MP and the Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis MP to thank them for their continued support for this vital beach safety program.
2. Council writes to the Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis MP, to express its concern at staffing arrangements for the Evans Head Ambulance Station and the reported increase in waiting times for 000 calls.

Council is yet to receive a response to this correspondence.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Letter to Deputy Premier - Shark Management Program
2. Letter to Chris Gulaptis - Evans Head Ambulance Station



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

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

ABN 54 145 907 009

28 October 2021

The Hon. Paul Toole, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Regional
Transport and Roads
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Deputy Premier

Shark Management Program

Richmond Valley Council writes to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW. We look forward to working with you to support the continued growth and prosperity of regional communities throughout NSW.

In September, our Council resolved to write to your predecessor the Hon. John Barilaro MP to thank him for the Richmond Valley's continued inclusion in the NSW Shark Program. This program has been of tremendous benefit to our community and a great boon for our local tourism industry. The active collaboration it encourages between government agencies, councils and volunteer networks has not only helped to save lives, but also improved our understanding of shark management by providing valuable data from shark tagging and drone surveillance. Council looks forward to the continuation of this important initiative.

As a popular tourist destination, the Richmond Valley welcomes many thousands of beach goers to Evans Head each year, including holiday makers and local families. The level of reassurance that the Shark Safety Program provides has been critical to sustaining our local economy and supporting the Richmond Valley's continued recovery from bushfire, drought, and the Covid pandemic.

Council will continue to strongly support and promote the NSW Shark Program and we look forward to working with you in the future on this vital initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Mustow", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Mustow
Mayor

Cc. Chris Gulaptis MP

Love where we live and work





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

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

ABN 54 145 907 009

6 October 2021

Mr Chris Gulaptis MP
11 Prince Street
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Via email: clarence@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chris

Evans Head Ambulance Station

At Richmond Valley Council's 21 September Ordinary meeting Council resolved to write to you, expressing its concerns with current staffing arrangements at the Evans Head Ambulance Station and a reported increase in emergency response times in Evans Head over the past two years.

We would seek your support to raise this important matter with the Minister for Health the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, and to request a review of emergency ambulance service arrangements for Evans Head and surrounding communities.

Council noted that the ambulance service was particularly important to the Evans Head community, as the town has a high proportion of elderly residents and no local hospital or 24-hour medical centre to provide emergency care. The median age of residents in Evans Head is 51 years old, with people aged 65 and over making up 30% of the population. An additional 7.2% of the population is registered for assisted day to day care due to disability.

At the Council meeting, community members expressed their concern that ambulances from the Evans Head Station were being allocated to non-urgent patient transfers outside of the area, impacting on the availability of ambulances for local services and emergencies. There have been a number of reported incidents where emergency response times exceeded 45 minutes.

As you would appreciate, this is a matter of great concern for our community and we would seek your assistance in advocating on our behalf to ensure these issues are addressed.

Thank you for your continued support for our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Mustow", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cr Robert Mustow
Mayor

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17.6 CORRESPONDENCE - ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL'S FUTURE WATER PROJECT AND FAR NORTH COAST WATER SECURITY

Author: Vaughan Macdonald, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the correspondence received from the Hon Shelley Hancock MP and the Hon Melinda Pavey MP regarding the Rous Future Water Project and the independent review of Far North Coast water security.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council resolved at its August 2021 Ordinary meeting:

That Council:

1. Notes the resolution of the Rous County Council 21 July 2021 Extraordinary Meeting regarding the Future Water Project;
2. Writes to Rous County Council expressing its concern with the decision;
3. Notes that the Dunoon Dam proposal was identified in the draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy as an option for further consideration;
4. Seeks support from the Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro MP and the Minister for Water the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, to complete the detailed cultural heritage and biodiversity assessments associated with the proposed Dunoon Dam, in consultation with relevant Traditional Custodians, prior to finalisation of the Regional Water Strategy;
5. Supports the calls by our local member Chris Gulaptis MP and the Parliamentary Secretary for Water Infrastructure, Sam Farrow MLC for an independent study to investigate water storage and security, flood mitigation, river health and water quality in the area serviced by Rous County Council.
6. Requests the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP and the Minister for Water, the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP undertake a review of the Rous Water Integrated Water Cycle Management planning process to determine if Rous County Council has:
 - a) Complied with its legislative responsibilities, specifically in regard to community consultation and its decision-making processes on behalf of its constituent Councils;
 - b) Appropriately addressed water security risk management within its area of operations.

The correspondence was forwarded in September and Council has now received a response from the Minister for Local Government (attached) and a joint press release from the Minister for Water the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP and the Parliamentary Secretary for Water Infrastructure, Sam Farrow MLC announcing an independent review of Far North Coast water security by the CSIRO. The review will help to inform the final Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Response letter from Minister Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP**
2. **Media Release - Minister Pavey**



The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A791611

Clr Robert Mustow
Mayor
Richmond Valley Council
Locked Bag 10
CASINO NSW 2470

Email: council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clr Mustow

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 September 2021 regarding Rous County Council's (Councils) Future Water Project and the decisions associated with the project.

While I have noted your concerns, neither I nor the Office of Local Government (OLG) are able to directly intervene in this matter. The NSW Government promotes sustainable water conservation practices, planning and water demand management and encourages the effective and efficient delivery of water supply and sewerage services throughout NSW.

I have been informed by the Water Group in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE Water), that the long-term water security measures Council has adopted in its Future Water Project 2060 have been informed by detailed technical analyses and extensive community consultation.

DPIE Water has also informed me that it released and consulted on a draft water strategy for the Far North Coast region in October 2020. Dunoon Dam was included in the long list of options published in the draft strategy. The final Far North Coast Regional Strategy is due to be completed next year.

Should you continue to have further queries about this matter, I would encourage you to contact Rous County Council or the Regional Water Strategies Division of DPIE Water.

Thank you for bringing the matter to attention of the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shelley Hancock'.

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

29 OCT 2021



Melinda Pavey

Minister for Water, Property and Housing

Sam Farraway

Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier and for Water Infrastructure

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 3 November 2021

CSIRO TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO FAR NORTH COAST WATER SECURITY

The NSW Government has engaged Australia's national science agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), to review options being considered in the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy, a long-term blueprint for water security for the region and support the management of healthy rivers, communities, industries and the environment over the coming decades.

CSIRO will provide independent advice with a focus on reviewing water management options proposed in the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy in the broader context of flood risk management, particularly for the city of Lismore, river health and water security.

Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said the Far North Coast faces a complex set of challenges and the review will form part of the evidence base for the final Strategy.

"The CSIRO's expert review will help us put forward the best possible mix of infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions for the region," Mrs Pavey said.

"We're exploring new dams, storages and pipeline options, desalination, water efficiency, additional groundwater schemes and recycled water options, among many other diverse and innovative solutions highlighted in the draft strategy published last year."

Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier and for Water Infrastructure, Sam Farraway said the Far North Coast is one of the most biodiverse regions in Australia with more than a third of water extraction used for town water supply, and we need to plan now to boost resilience, protect against future drought and support opportunities for economic development in the region.

"The strategy will put forward solutions to the Far North Coast's water challenges. This independent review will assist the community, council and water utilities in developing the first-ever long-term plan," Mr Farraway said.

"All options are on the table and the CSIRO will be providing an independent review

of the Regional Water Strategy considering the complex future needs of our Far North Coast communities.”

Mr Farraway said the review will look at a range of water storage and delivery options which appear in the draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy. These include options such as connecting Toonumbar Dam to augment town water supplies, the use of recycled stormwater and waste water, groundwater access and a new dam at Dunoon, to secure water supply and improve flood mitigation and river health.

The draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy went on public exhibition in late 2020. The shortlisted options will be put on public exhibition in the coming months, and the community will be invited to have its say before the Strategy is finalised.

MEDIA: Imogen Posa | Minister Pavey | 0439 349 976
Lachlan Barnsley | Sam Farraway | 0447 182 864

18 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

19 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)