

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 15 March 2022

Time: 6pm

**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 FLOOD EVENT

RECOMMENDATION

For Council's consideration.

REPORT

The Mayor will present this item at the meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15 February 2022.

REPORT

See attached minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed minutes 15 February 2022 (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 7 FEBRUARY - 10 MARCH 2022****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report from 7 February –10 March 2022.

REPORT**February 2022**

- 8th Rous County Council discussion
- 8th Meeting with community member
- 10th Casino Beef Week Launch
- 15th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 16th Rous County Council Ordinary meeting
- 16th LGNSW Mayoral Meeting - ALGA Federal Election Campaign
- 17th Casino Food Co-op Northern Rivers NSW photo opportunity
- 17th Richmond Valley Council – Community Engagement Casino
- 18th Meeting with Hanabeth Luke – election candidate
- 22nd Meeting with community member
- 23rd Webinar - Managing social media risks
- 26th Thrive Disability event
- 26th Webinar - Risk Management and Internal Audit
- 28th Northern Rivers Flood response

March 2022

- 1-3rd Northern Rivers Flood Emergency Attendances
- 6th Premier of NSW and Resilience NSW Commissioner Visit – Coraki
- 9th Prime Minister visit to Lismore Emergency Operations Centre
- 10th NSW Premier and Deputy Premier Visit to the Northern Rivers.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT MARCH 2022****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report for the month of March 2022.

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 16 February 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rous County Council Meeting Summary February 2022**

Rous Council Meeting 16 February 2022

Summary of main items of business



1. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

Cr Robert Mustow was declared Chair and Cr Sharon Cadwallader declared Deputy Chairperson. (*Copy of Council's [Media Release](#)*).

2. Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) – appointment of Councillor Member

Cr Rob was appointed as the Council representative of the ARIC. The term of office will be for two years.

3. Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group – appointment of Councillor Members

Cr Ndiaye was appointed Chair, with Cr Rob alternate Chair. The term of office will be for the term of the Council.

4. Quarterly Budget Review Statement for quarter ending 31 December 2021

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

It was also agreed that Council should make representations to State members regarding changes to funding and concerns about local and regional impact on weeds management.

5. Retail water customer account assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its '*Retail Water Customer Account Assistance*' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$2,829.05.

6. Southern Cross University (SCU): Rising Star Scholarship program

Council approved the renewal of sponsorship for the SCU Rising Stars Scholarship program for a total of three (3) one-year scholarships of \$5,000 per annum with the first scholarship to be granted in 2022 and subsequent scholarships offered in 2023 and 2024. The continued support of the scholarship will encourage and support students with knowledge and skills that complement Council's core functions.

7. Information reports

i). Fluoride dosing performance: October to December 2021

Council noted the Fluoride Dosing Plant Performance Report for October to December 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.

It was also agreed that future dosing performance reports are not included in future Council agendas; however dosing exceedances will be reported to Council.

ii). Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – meeting update

Key messages from the ARIC meeting update included:

- Annual financial reports
- Standard financial management reports
- Office of Local Government 'A new risk management and internal audit framework'
- Volunteer floodgate operator program
- Policy and delegation review
- Organisation structure and resourcing review.

iii). Environmental Management System (EMS) action list progress update 2021

The EMS action list identifies required actions, responsibilities and target timeframes to progress environmental management objectives within Rous.

iv). The Debt write-off information summary

Council received and noted the debt write-off information summary with debts written-off totalling \$699.60 for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021.

v). Investments – January 2022

- At the RBA's February 2022 meeting, it was decided to leave the cash rate at 0.1%. The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) has increased to 0.07%. The low rate will continue to put pressure on interest yields in the foreseeable future.
- Total funds invested as at 31 January 2022 = \$39,708,321.
- Return for January 2022 = 0.61%. This represents an increase of 1 basis point compared to the September 2021 result (0.60%) and is 54 basis points above Council's benchmark.
- Interest earned for January 2022 = \$16,255 .
- Budget forecast for interest revenue to decrease by \$156,500. 'Year to Date' interest earned of \$114,698 has resulted in an unfavourable budget variance of \$94,135 when compared to the original pro-rata budget of \$208,833. The primary reason for the variance is that actual interest rates available in the market are well below that used in the estimates prepared in April 2021.
- Ethical holdings represent 42.82% of the total portfolio. Current holdings in Ethical Financial Institutions equals \$17,000,000. The assessment of Ethical Financial Institutions is undertaken using www.marketforces.org.au which is an affiliate project of the Friends of the Earth Australia.

vi). Water production and usage – January 2022

The table below is the January 2022 bulk water sales to the constituent councils in kilolitres compared to the corresponding January sales for 2021 and 2020.

Council	Jan 2020 (kL)	Jan 2021 (kL)	Jan 2022 (kL)	% of Total Sales
Ballina Shire Council	360,405	329,897	313,013	37.7%
Byron Shire Council	237,933	234,381	222,702	26.8%
Lismore City Council	258,627	253,288	243,023	29.3%
Richmond Valley Council	57,332	55,405	51,616	6.2%
Total monthly consumption constituent councils	914,297	872,971	830,354	

- o Rocky Creek Dam capacity as of 31 January 2022 was 100.3%
- o Emigrant Creek Dam capacity as of 31 January 2022 was 102.8%

8. Notice of Motion – Dunoon Dam

Council agreed to:

1. Adopt Revision 7 of the Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy and update Revision 7 of the IWCM to reflect the inclusion of Dunoon dam investigations as part of the Future Water Project 2060.
2. Approve the completion of detailed cultural heritage and biodiversity assessments associated with the proposed Dunoon dam in consultation with relevant Traditional Custodians.
3. Defer implementing the resolution associated with the proposed Dunoon dam, resolved by Council at its meeting of 16 December 2020 (resolution [61/20] Item 2), until after Stage 3 options have been determined.
4. Utilise existing budget allocations for Dunoon dam land management to progress the actions in Item 2.

Council's media release in relation to the Dunoon Dam decision (issued 16/02/2022) is available [here](#)

9. Confidential reportsi). Retail water customer account assistance

In accordance with section 582 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, Council approved financial assistance as listed in Table 1 of the report, subject to receipt of a valid Water Use Audit Report.

ii). Duck Creek Weir

Council agreed to enter into direct negotiations for the sale of Uralba Road, Lynwood NSW and Bruxner Highway, Alstonville NSW and accept an offer for the purchase of the property provided the minimum conditions of sale set out in the Council report can be satisfied.

Council's business paper and draft meeting minutes can be found via the following link:
<https://rous.nsw.gov.au/business-papers-and-meeting-minutes>

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

14.1 RICHMOND VALLEY FLOOD EVENT - STATUS REPORT

Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Richmond Valley has experienced one of the most significant flood events in its history, and every community within the local government area has been directly impacted. Some 2800 homes have been affected by flood waters, with approximately 1600 experiencing significant flooding.

As the waters continue to recede, Council is gaining a clearer picture of the extent of the damage and the magnitude of the task ahead to rebuild the Richmond Valley and help our communities recover. Early estimates of the damage bill for critical infrastructure exceed \$150 million. It is expected that the recovery process will take at least three years.

The initial focus during the event was on providing direct support to Emergency Services, restoring critical services such as drinking water, sewerage and waste collection, and repairing major roads so that supplies of food and fuel could reach isolated communities.

All services have now been restored to a basic level and key transport links have been reopened, pending further repairs.

This report provides an outline of progress so far.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Receives and notes the report.
2. Continues to explore all avenues for assistance and to advocate strongly for the Richmond Valley community to support recovery from the 2022 flood event.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP1: Fresh and Vibrant Community

PP1.9: Planning, preparedness, response and recovery to Emergency Services

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council has suffered major damage to infrastructure and assets across the local government area, as well as incurring significant expense in the early response phase of the disaster. It is hoped that support from Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, insurance claims and government grants will address the majority of flood-related expenses, but there will still be significant cost to Council from the ongoing impacts of the event. Council received a \$1million grant from the NSW Government on 7 March 2022 to assist with operational expenses and urgent recovery works.

REPORT

The flood levels experienced in the Richmond Valley over the past weeks were unprecedented, with every community within the local government area impacted to some degree. Two weeks into the disaster, Council is now moving from the initial Response phase to the long journey of recovery. Early estimates of the damage bill for critical infrastructure such as roads, water, sewerage and public buildings exceed \$150 million. It is expected that the recovery process will

take at least three years. Inspection and assessment of the flood damage will continue over the coming weeks and further status reports will be presented to Council. This report provides an outline of progress so far.

Road damage and restoration

Approximately 60% of Council's road network has been inspected and the majority of roads have experienced flood damage. This includes a further land slip at Naughtons Gap, which will now require reassessment before repairs can begin. So far, the most significant damage includes:

Sealed Roads

- Spring Grove Rd, North Casino – slump in road, extensive potholing and damage from heavy use by highway bypass traffic. Load limits and speed restrictions implemented
- Bentley Rd, North Casino – significant landslip. Two sections under alternating traffic flow

Unsealed Roads

- Upper Cherry Tree Rd, Mongogarie - Bridge approaches and causeway washed away, road washed away for 80m. Currently impassable to traffic.
- Ainsworth Rd, Mongogarie – The approach to Middle Creek Bridge has been washed away. Currently impassable to traffic.
- Old Dyraaba Rd – Large scours and washouts
- Rambaldinis/Gores Rd, Naughtons Gap – Large scours and washouts
- Ellems Bridge Rd, Piora - Large scours and washouts
- Coraki Ellangowan Road - large scours and washouts in five locations
- Caniaba Rd - Large scours and washouts in two locations
- Leeville Station Rd – Damage due to excessive use by Summerland Way bypass traffic
- Upper Mongogarie Road – Major wash out over the last 5 km of road.



Major wash-away at Upper Cherry Tree Road.



Landslip on Bentley Road

The declaration of a Natural Disaster for the Richmond Valley local government area opens access to the Federal Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to help restore damaged roads, bridges and other key infrastructure. Council has previously received substantial funding from this scheme following the 2019 bushfires and subsequent floods and will be working closely with the funding administrators, Transport for NSW, over the coming months to complete essential repairs and secure a commitment of funds for future works.

Water and sewerage services

Council worked hard to restore essential water and sewerage services to flood affected communities, although loss of electricity services and inundation of key sites created many challenges. A number of mains breaks occurred due to landslips and falling trees. All services have now been restored to a basic level, however there has been substantial damage to Council's water and sewerage networks, with an initial estimate of \$50m in replacement and repair costs. Council hopes to recover some of these costs through insurance claims and government funding.

Casino's water supply was subject to a boil water alert from 24 February to 9 March, after increased turbidity levels in the Richmond River made it difficult to reliably purify the water. Council worked closely with NSW Health and DPIE Water to ensure the water supply system was flushed clean and the boil water alert was lifted as soon as possible. High turbidity levels in the river are expected to continue for several weeks and Council will be closely monitoring water quality from the treatment plant.

Water services to Coraki, Broadwater and Rileys Hill were interrupted during peak flood times, due to loss of electricity, but have since been restored. The Evans Head water supply was largely unaffected.

Council's sewerage network has experienced significant damage, with three out of four sewage treatment plants seriously affected. There has also been substantial loss of switchboards, pumps, motors and other electrical equipment throughout the network and damage assessment will continue over the next few weeks. The Broadwater pressure sewerage system has been significantly impacted and it is expected that the majority of control panels at homes will

need to be replaced. Council received strong support from the Water Directorate and Hunter Water during the early stages of the emergency and continues to work closely with DPIE Water as we begin the recovery phase.

Waste services

Council's normal kerbside collection service has now been restored and we have co-ordinated the bulk street clean-up program, using local approved contractors. Council is working closely with Public Works Advisory to support the further distribution of stockpiled waste from temporary transfer stations to licensed waste facilities in other regions. This program is being funded by the NSW Government, however Council is required to outlay the initial costs of employing contractors to remove and transport the waste, and then claim reimbursement. So far some \$1.5m has been expended on the Casino, Rappville and Evans Head bulk clean up, with some 1000 homes being serviced. Work continues on bulk clean ups for Broadwater, Woodburn and rural areas, as floodwaters recede. As a first response, Council provided serviced skip bins to support local businesses and schools that were impacted by flood water to ensure they could re-open as soon as possible. Specialist staff have also been carrying out inspections of the bulk waste to identify and manage hazardous substances such as asbestos and chemicals. The ultimate cost of the bulk clean-up for the Richmond Valley is expected to be \$6 million.

Damage to facilities and fleet

Council is still at the early stages of assessing flood damage to community facilities and council fleet and equipment. We are working closely with our insurer, CivicRisk Mutual, to progress insurance claims and complete the damage assessment. So far, significant losses are confirmed at the Coraki Depot and workshop, the Woodburn Visitor Information Centre and the Woodburn Pool plant room, all of which were inundated.

Ten council vehicles are known to have been submerged in floodwaters, including a waste compactor truck, with a replacement value of \$500,000. Further losses will be confirmed as flood waters recede. The insured value of the vehicles claimed so far is \$700,000, with a total replacement value of \$970,000.



Woodburn Visitor Information centre.

NRLX

Despite the challenging conditions, the NRLX was able to conduct a sale on Wednesday 9 March to assist local cattle producers, with 588 cattle being sold for a total of \$1,016,852. A further sale was conducted on 11 March and four more are scheduled for this week. Maintaining NRLX services will be essential for the recovery of regional agricultural industries.

Council has also been assisting during the flood event with animal welfare checks and fodder drops, as required, and our rangers have been rounding up stray stock from urban areas and removing snakes from properties as floodwaters recede.

Support and information

Throughout the emergency, Council maintained its customer service lines and provided up-to-date information via Facebook, website, radio interviews and media releases. During the first 10 days of the disaster, the Customer Experience Team responded to more than 2000 calls from residents seeking information or reporting issues.

Council's Facebook page and website experienced high traffic between 24 February and 10 March including:

Facebook:

Posts: 153

Reach: 77,9356

Link clicks: 72,554

Likes/reactions: 7739

Shares: 4275

Comments: 2722

Top post: *Summerland Way open* on 3 March; 31,937 reached

Website:

Users: 10,291 (105.86% increase over same period last month)

Pageviews: 23,212 (90.32% increase over same period last month)

With the support of Resilience NSW a Recovery Centre has been established at Casino Community Centre and a second centre is being set up for the Mid-Richmond. The recovery centres will operate six days a week and provide essential information and services such as: Financial assistance; support for businesses; insurance and legal support; accommodation advice; charitable services; mental health and wellbeing services, and replacing lost ID

Advocating for our community

The Northern Rivers flood event has received national attention, with on-site visits by the Prime Minister, NSW Premier, Deputy Premier and the Commissioner of Resilience NSW. The Mayor and General Manager have escorted these visits to Coraki, Woodburn and Broadwater, with the opportunity to highlight urgent community needs and seek further commitments of funding support. Council continues to advocate for assistance for our community from all levels of government and to work directly with NSW Agencies to obtain front line support.

CONCLUSION

The Richmond Valley has experienced unprecedented flooding over the past two weeks, with all communities within the local government area being affected. Early estimates of the damage to community infrastructure and assets exceed \$150 million and it is expected that the recovery process will take three years. Council will be working closely with all levels of government and

emergency services over the coming weeks to ensure that essential services and accommodation are provided for our community. Further status reports will be presented to Council as the recovery process continues.

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

14.2 RICHMOND VALLEY FLOOD RECOVERY PLANNING

Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The February-March flood event saw unprecedented flood levels and damage to homes, businesses and public infrastructure in the Richmond Valley. As the flood waters recede, the full extent of the challenge of recovery is becoming clearer. We have not just lost homes and businesses– we have lost the key elements of whole communities.

Although it is still difficult to assess the full extent of loss and damage, Council believes the repair and replacement costs for roads, bridges, water & sewerage and other key infrastructure and assets will exceed \$150 million and that the recovery process will take at least three years. This report proposes a way forward to plan for an extended recovery period and provide early support to our community. Further proposals for community assistance will be presented to future Council meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the early estimate of \$150 million to repair and replace community infrastructure damaged by the 2022 flood
2. Notes the extended recovery period that will be required for the Richmond Valley to rebuild its communities and revitalise the economy after this unprecedented event.
3. Writes to the NSW Premier seeking support to:
 - a) Implement a revised Integrated Planning and Reporting schedule, as outlined in this report
 - b) Provide additional rating relief to flood affected communities, on a similar basis to the bushfire relief arrangements introduced in 2020
 - c) Provide a temporary increase of the tendering threshold to \$500,000 for councils undertaking flood-related repair works.
4. As an early measure, introduces rating relief as per Option One in this report, with further options for Community Support to be considered at the April Ordinary Meeting of Council.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP1: Fresh and Vibrant Community

PP1.9: Planning, preparedness, response and recovery to Emergency Services

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Estimated costings for rate relief options are included in the report

REPORT

The Richmond Valley is now in the third week of its disaster response to the Northern Rivers flood event and attention is now shifting towards the long-term recovery process. With some 3000 homes and businesses affected by flooding to varying degrees, major damage to infrastructure and assets and significant disruption to social support networks and regional services, this disaster represents one of the greatest challenges the Richmond Valley has ever faced. It will take at least

three years (the current council term) to recover and rebuild communities and revitalise the regional economy.

To achieve this, Council will need a robust recovery plan, with clear objectives, strategies and actions to restore and replace infrastructure, address rehousing challenges and help local businesses to get back on their feet.

State and Federal Governments have promised additional funding, but this alone will not be sufficient. In a region already challenged through COVID with severe housing shortages, lack of trades and contract workers and limited supplies of essential building materials, regulatory concessions, direct, practical help and 'boots on the ground' will also be required to support the recovery journey.

Options for IP&R

Council was already facing reduced consultation time to review its Community Strategic Plan (CSP) due to the extended 2016-21 council term and continued COVID lockdowns. Our proposed Big Conversation consultation sessions have now been severely impacted by the flood disaster. At present, the community's attention is focused on dealing with the immediate impacts of the flood. It will take some time before we are ready for a conversation about the long-term impacts, and the new vision for the Richmond Valley.

The following approach to IP&R is proposed for 2022-23:

- Delay the review of the Community Strategic Plan for 12 months
- Prepare a comprehensive Richmond Valley Recovery Plan to guide the next 12 months of Council's operations. (The Recovery Plan to be exhibited for public comment as per the CSP requirements)
- Link the Recovery Plan to the Delivery program and Operational Plan, to ensure that rebuilding, repair and recovery outcomes are delivered and appropriately resourced.
- Restart Our Big Conversation from August 2022, with a view to developing and adopting a new Community Strategic Plan by 30 June 2023.

As s.402 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to complete the CSP review within 12 months of the local government election, adopting this approach would require consultation with the Minister for Local Government. However, given the potential benefits for the community and the strong support from the Premier for our recovery process, Council could reasonably expect support for the revised approach.

Options for community assistance

At present, the Richmond Valley is still in the Response phase of the flood disaster and the extent of community support that will be required is not yet clear. The Federal Government has announced a series of support packages for flood affected communities and more help is expected in the coming weeks. However, Council may wish to make a first response with some early rating relief and waiving of fees to help those directly impacted by the floods. A more comprehensive proposal for community assistance will be presented to the April Ordinary Meeting.

Rating relief

The *Local Government Act 1993* does not provide for wholesale discounting of rates, but there are options to provide waiving of interest on overdue rates in various circumstances.

In response to the 2019 bushfires, the NSW Government introduced a rate relief scheme where councils were reimbursed by the State for bushfire victims' rates. To be eligible for this scheme, ratepayers had to be a home, farm or business owner in a bushfire declared disaster area and have had their property deemed damaged beyond repair by the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and/or Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU). The NSW government has not yet announced any rating relief schemes for flood victims, however Council may wish to make representations to the Premier to do so.

In 2020-21, the Office of Local Government declared an interest-free period for rates across NSW to assist those impacted by the COVID pandemic. To date, there has been no such declaration for flood victims. However, Council could choose to offer rates relief under the existing provisions of the Act in one of the following ways:

Option 1

Waive interest for all overdue rates (rates, water/sewer) for the rest of the financial year (expected financial impact \$23,000). This recognises that most residents were affected in some way by the flooding event, either directly through inundation of their homes, or in other ways, such as loss of internet and phone services, isolation from flooded roads, or being unable to access Council's customer service centres to pay their rates.

Option 2

Waive interest for all overdue rates for the rest of the calendar year (expected financial impact \$57,500). This is based on the same concept as Option 1 but extends the interest-free period to the end of the year.

Option 3

Offer targeted support to those ratepayers directly impacted by flood, with no interest on overdue rates for up to two years. This would require those affected to apply under Council's Financial Hardship provisions. (estimated financial impact over 2 years at 50% take-up rate: \$69,000).

Building records

Following the 2019 bushfires, Council opted to waive the fee for access to building records, such as floorplans etc, to assist home owners with managing insurance claims and preparing to repair/rebuild their properties. It is proposed to offer the same concession for those impacted by the 2022 floods.

Raising the tender threshold

During the bushfire recovery period, the NSW Government helped bushfire affected councils to get important repair works underway by providing a temporary increase of the tendering threshold to \$500,000. This helped communities to secure essential contracts and recover more quickly. Given the large amount of road and bridge repairs and water and sewerage construction works that will be required as a result of the flood damage, Council may wish to seek a similar concession from the NSW Government for this event.

CONCLUSION

The Richmond Valley has experienced unprecedented flooding and it is expected that the recovery process will take at least three years. To support this process, Council will prepare a comprehensive recovery plan and continue to work with all levels of government to secure support and funding for our community. As an early measure, rating relief is proposed for those affected by the floods. Council will consider a further package of support at its April Ordinary Meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES**15.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2022****Director:** Ryan Gaiter**Responsible Officer:** Dean Fordham**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 2021 cl.212, Australian Accounting Standard (AASB 9) and Council's Investment Policy.

The value of Council's cash and investments at 28 February 2022 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$17,225,029	\$29,000,000	\$4,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$15,280,000	\$68,255,420

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments for February 2022 was negative (4.91%) which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for February of 0.01%, 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 February 2022.

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 28 February 2022, Council has earned \$162,880 in interest and \$76,889 in fair value losses for total interest and investment income of \$85,992. This equates to 10.12% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$850,000 at the end of February 2022. 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 28 February 2022 total \$3,051.

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 February meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in February 2022 was negative (4.91%), a decrease of 193 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 492 basis points below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.01% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net losses of \$322,589 during February 2022, bringing the total losses for the 2021/2022 financial year to 28 February 2022 to \$76,889.

The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a loss of \$227,703 and the Long Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a loss of \$94,886.

In February, volatility in financial markets was overlaid by an increase in uncertainty with the outbreak of a wider war in the Ukraine. Whilst the February 2022 result was extremely disappointing, 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 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 return, however these are starting to show signs of increasing. Some banking institutions are still limiting the amount of deposits they will accept and others are not accepting any deposits at present.

Council's Cash and Investments Portfolio

Council held cash and investments of \$68,255,420 at 28 February 2022. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$4,155,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,003,069), Term Deposits (\$29,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$4,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$15,280,000) and other bank accounts (\$3,066,961).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$35,750,390 represented 52.38% of the total portfolio as at 28 February 2022.

Council made the following new investments during February 2022:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	0.80%
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	0.70%
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	0.70%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	0.80%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	0.80%
ME Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	6 months	0.60%
Total			\$7,000,000		

Council had the following investment maturities during the month of February 2022:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,479
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$7,500
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,726
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$5,236
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$1,745

AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$1,726
Auswide Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,479
Total			\$7,000,000	\$20,892

Council had \$15,280,000 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 28 February 2022. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 28 Feb 22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Feb-22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$12,283,323	(\$227,703)	(\$53,981)	\$1,505,997
Long Term Growth Fund	\$2,996,677	(\$94,886)	(\$22,908)	\$91,563
Total	\$15,280,000	(\$322,589)	(\$76,889)	\$1,597,560

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$68,255,420 at 28 February 2022 includes \$44,030,000 or 64.5% 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 February 2022, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 28 February 2022 Council's cash and investments totalled \$68,255,420 with \$17,225,029 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was negative (4.91%) for the month of February 2022 and total investment revenue equals 10.12% of budgeted revenue for the year to 28 February 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Investment Pack Report - February 2022 (under separate cover)

16 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

Nil

17 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

19.1 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURNS - MAYOR & COUNCILLORS

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Kate Alder-Conn

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the disclosure of interest returns completed by the Mayor and Councillors, tabled for the information of Council.

REPORT

Under the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, adopted by Council on 15 September 2020, returns of interest must be submitted by councillors and designated persons within three months of being elected or becoming a designated person. In addition, returns must be submitted annually (within three months of the commencement of the financial year).

A further requirement is that at any time when a councillor or designated person becomes aware of any new interest that needs to be disclosed, such disclosure must be made within three months of becoming aware of the interest. With such return to be tabled at the first council meeting following lodgement.

Following the local government election held on 4 December 2021, all Councillors were required to complete a disclosure of interest return, with the returns now tabled for the information of Council. The General Manager has received disclosure returns from:

- Cr Robert Mustow
- Cr Stephen Morrissey
- Cr Robert Hayes
- Cr Sandra Humphrys
- Cr Sam Cornish
- Cr Debra McGillan, and
- Cr Patrick Deegan.

The returns will be made available upon request and by appointment, to any member of the public at Council's Casino Administration Office. The returns will be published on Council's website in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (and its associated Regulation). The returns will be published as soon as practicable following the March 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

This report provides information to Council regarding the submission of returns of interest by designated persons and fulfils Council's obligations under Section 440AAB of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Dean Fordham

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of February 2022.

REPORT

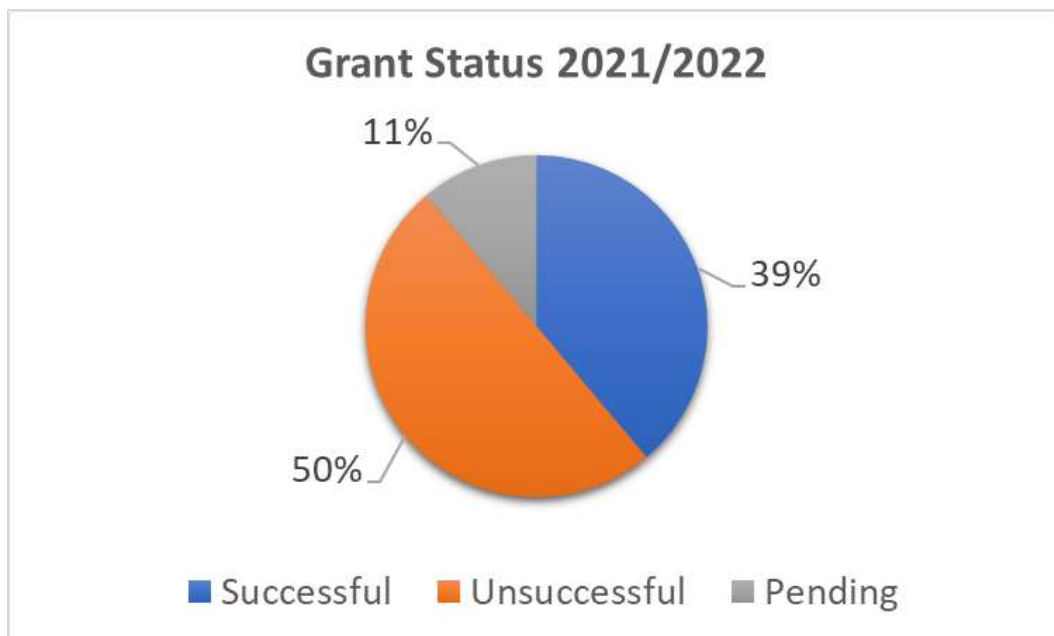
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of February 2022.

During the reporting period, one grant was approved for a project value of \$506,000, with \$476,000 grant funded.

Council received funding for thirteen grants totalling \$2,507,252. Council was notified of one unsuccessful grant application and did not submit any grant applications during the period.

A summary of grants approved and received as well as the status of applications for the financial year to 28 February 2022 is shown below:





ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Grants Report**

Grants that have been approved

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Approved
A Sporting Chance	National Recovery & Resilience Agency (Federal)	Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program	\$ 506,000	\$ 476,000	\$ 30,000	6 October 2021	17 February 2022
Comment: This application was submitted on behalf of the Rappville Sportsground Committee. Council will administer the grant funding and is not making a cash contribution. The Committee is funding the \$30,000 additional contribution.							

Grants that have been received

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Casino Industries Activation Project	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Federal)	Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream – Round 4	\$ 3,081,375	\$ 1,540,688	\$ 1,540,687	19 December 2019	\$ 327,925 3 February 2022	\$ 783,514
Comments: N/A								
Richmond Valley Try A Trade (Connecting Women to Trades Grant)	Department of Education NSW (State)	Trade Pathways Program Connecting Women to Trades Grant Round 2021/22	\$ 12,750	\$ 12,750	\$ -	7 December 2021	\$ 10,200 15 February 2022	\$ 10,200
Comments: N/A								
Financial Assistance Grant 2021/2022	NSW Local Government Grants Commission (Federal)	Financial Assistance Grant	\$ 5,553,335	\$ 5,553,335	\$ -	N/A – Annual Allocation	\$ 711,219 16 February 2022	\$ 4,842,153
Comments: N/A								
Upgrade Toilet Amenities at Coraki Youth Hall	Department of Premier and Cabinet (State)	Community Building Partnership	\$ 48,182	\$ 22,727	\$ 25,455	14 May 2021	\$ 22,727 16 February 2022	\$ 22,727
Comments: N/A								
Meet Me at Rileys: Shared Outdoor Community Space	Department of Premier and Cabinet (State)	Community Building Partnership	\$ 25,942	\$ 12,727	\$ 13,215	14 May 2021	\$ 12,727 16 February 2022	\$ 12,727
Comments: N/A								
NSW Bushfires 31 August 2019 onwards AGRN871 – Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 2,178,000	\$ 2,178,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 177,730 24 February 2022	\$ 315,036
Comments: Funding received for Bora Codrington Bridge and Camira Creek Bridge								
NSW Storms and Floods 15 January 2021 onwards AGRN898 – Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 1,761,000	\$ 1,761,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 4,350 24 February 2022	\$ 10,505
Comments: Funding received for Gores Road.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
NSW Storms and Floods 10 December 2020 Onwards AGRN960 – EPAR Packaged Works 1-15	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 5,800,000	\$ 5,800,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 250,378 24 February 2022	\$ 1,427,164
Comments: N/A								
School Zone Infrastructure Program	Transport for NSW (State)	School Zone Infrastructure Program	\$ 211,664	\$ 211,664	\$ -	13 July 2021	\$ 84,437 24 February 2022	\$ 84,437
Comments: N/A								
NSW Storms and Floods March 2021 AGRN960 – Emergency and Immediate Reconstruction Works	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 1,046,846	\$ 1,046,846	\$ -	N/A	\$ 71,293 24 February 2022 \$ 711,132 25 February 2022	\$ 1,032,312
Comments: Local Roads progress claims 2,3 and 4								
NSW Storms and Floods March 2021 Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works (Sealed Roads)	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 465,100	\$ 465,100	\$ -	N/A	\$ 14,754 24 February 2022	\$ 14,754
Comments: Claim for Bailey Street, Rappville								
NSW Storms and Floods March 2021 Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works Naughtons Gap Road	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 4,335,445	\$ 4,335,445	\$ -	N/A	\$ 30,550 24 February 2022	\$ 30,550
Comments: N/A								
NSW Storms and Floods March 2021 Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works Jackyubbin Bridge	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 17,830 24 February 2022	\$ 17,830
Comments: N/A								

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Advised Unsuccessful
Indoor Community Aquatic and Recovery Facility	National Recovery and Resilience Agency (Federal)	Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program	\$ 4,700,000	\$ 4,700,000	\$ -	5 October 2021	14 February 2022
Comments: N/A							

19.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS - FEBRUARY 2022

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Andy Edwards

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 February 2022 to 28 February 2022.

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 February to 28 February 2022, was 22, with a total value of \$2,271,891.88.

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

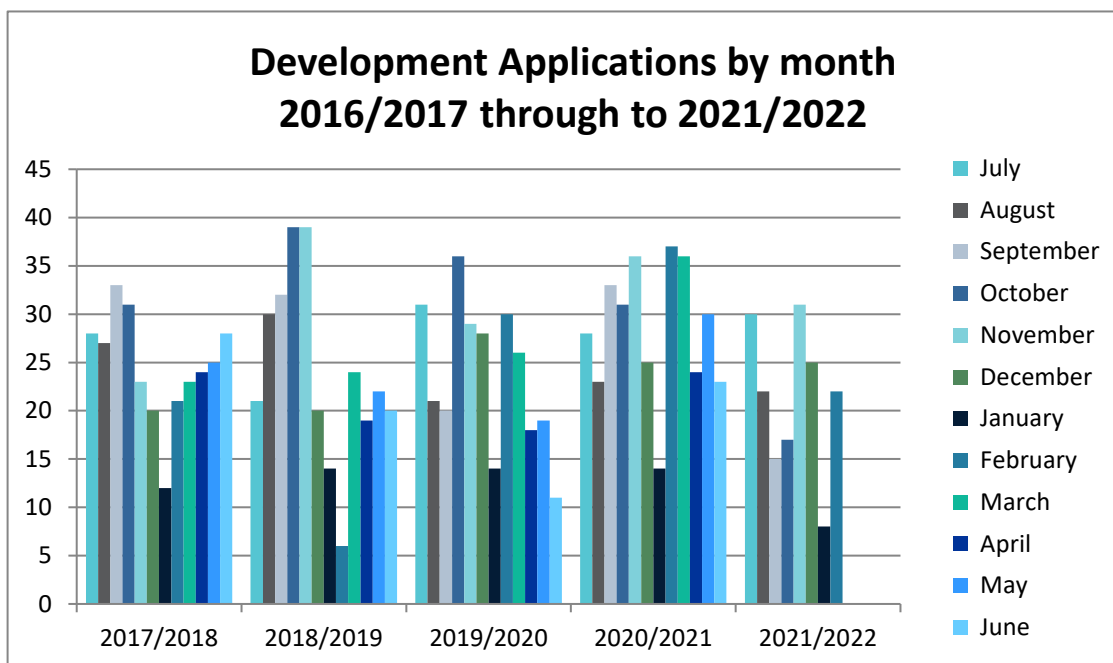


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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 February 2022.

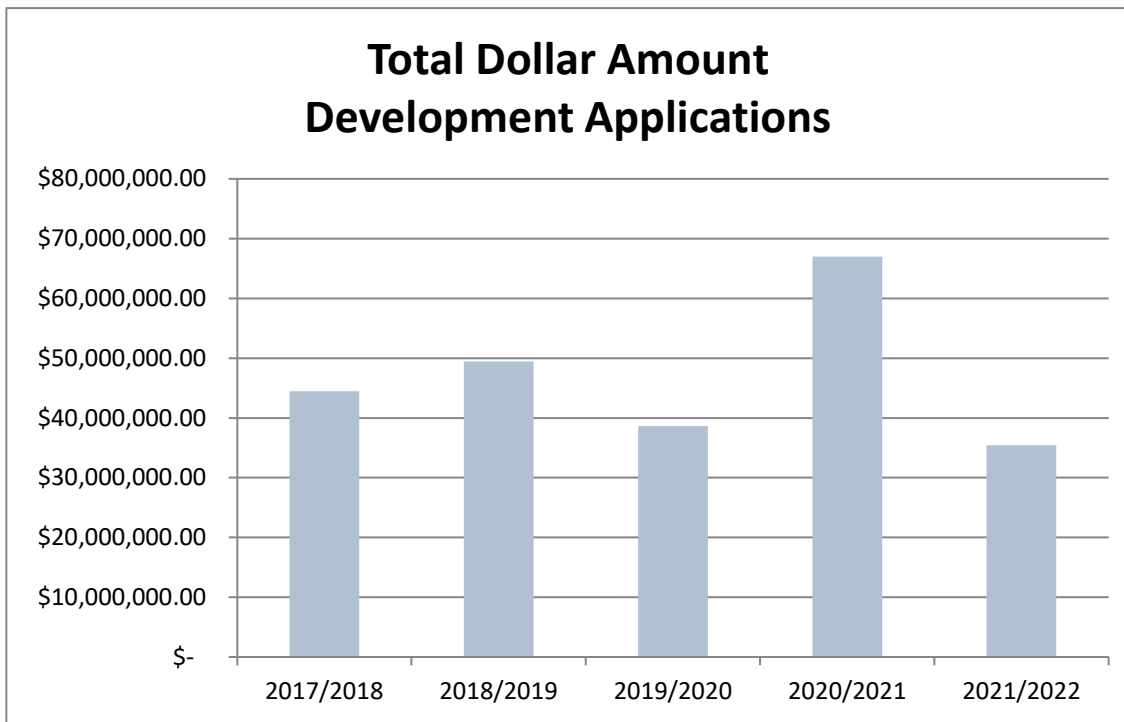


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

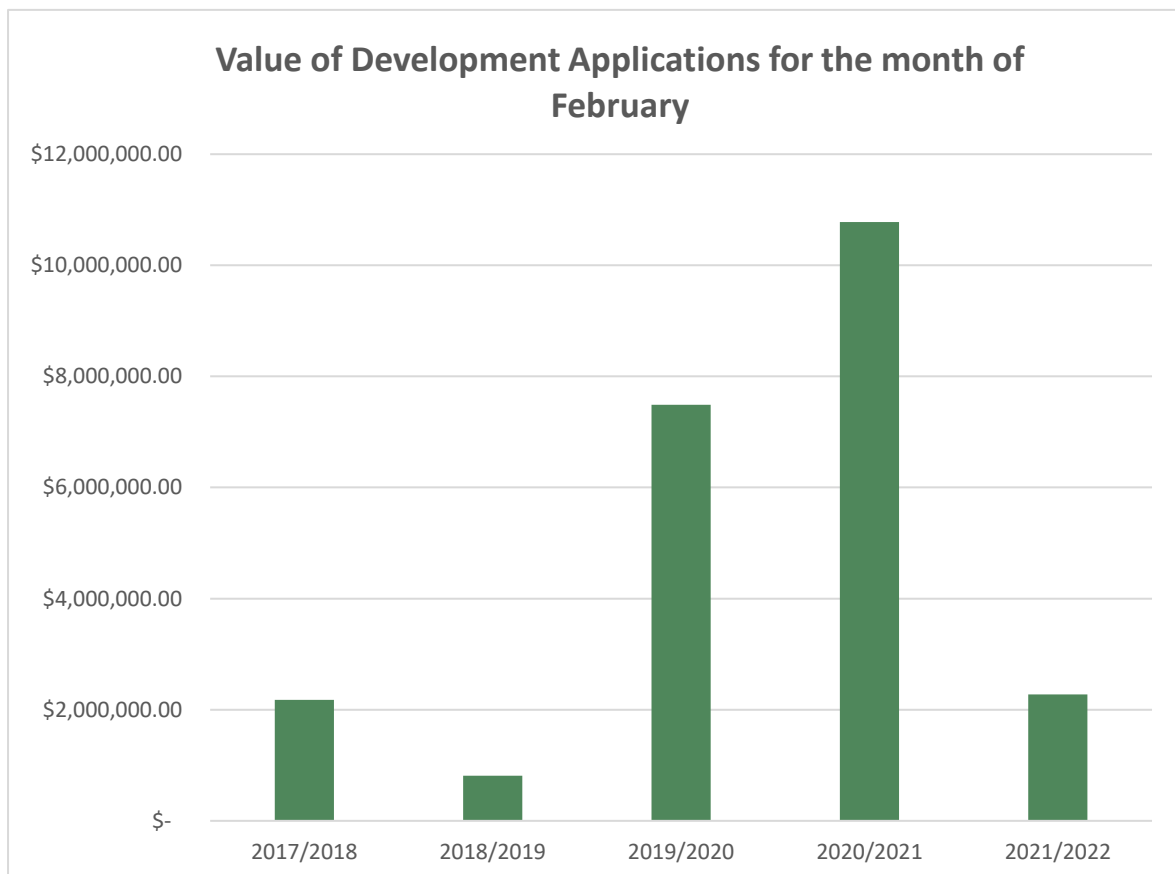


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of February 2022

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.

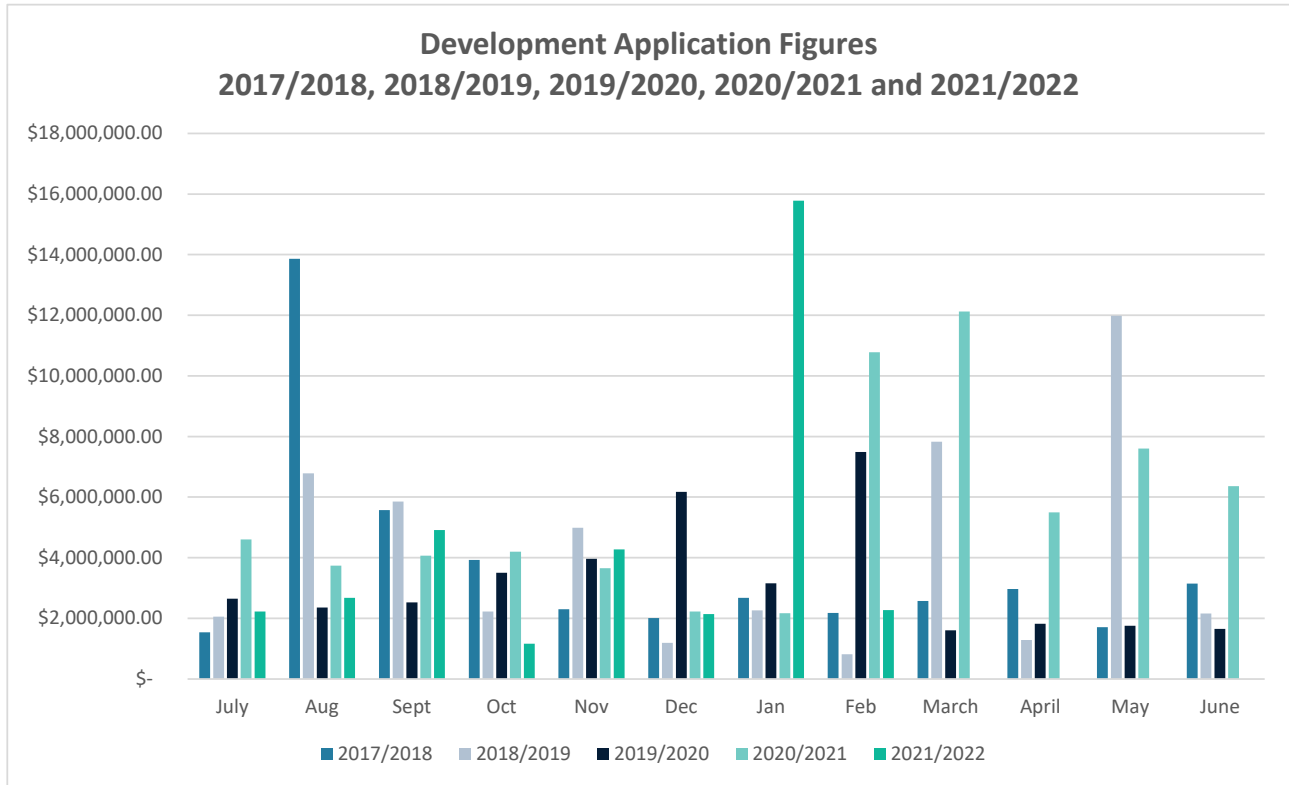


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

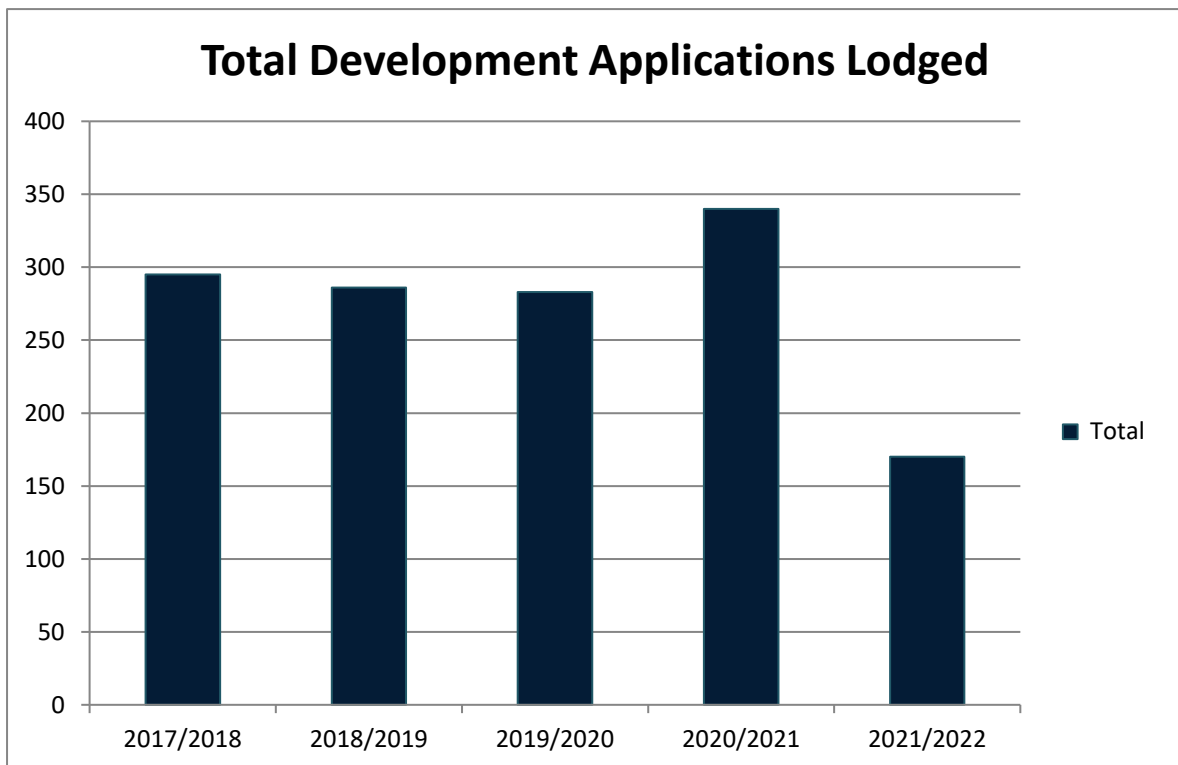


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the month of February 2022

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	20
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	1
Subdivision	
Refused	
Withdrawn	
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	1
TOTAL	22
Average assessment days for applications determined in February 2022	58
No. of Integrated development applications determined in February 2022	2
No. of Designated development applications determined in February 2022	0
No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in February 2022	97

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 February 2022 to 28 February 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2021/0273	Newton Denny Chapelle	Coraki Pharmacy Building Pty Ltd	55 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Coraki	Internal alterations and additions to create two (2) health consulting rooms to operate from part of the site and associated works	23/04/2021	22/02/2022	\$25,000.00
DA2021/0289	Ardill Payne & Partners	IT McCotter	750 Bungawalbin Whiporie Road, Bungawalbin	Primitive camping ground providing fourteen (14) camping sites and associated works	18/05/2021	8/02/2022	\$57,500.00
DA2021/0147.02	Northern Co-Operative Meat Co Ltd	Northern Co-Operative Meat Co Ltd	10615 Summerland Way, Casino	S4.55(2) Modification Application to the approved Retail Ready Facility seeking construction and installation of ancillary gas plant and associated infrastructure and further variation of the height of building development standard	12/10/2021	15/02/2022	\$0.00
DA2022/0096	CJ Pethers	CJ Pethers	26 Angus Place, North Casino	Shed	4/11/2021	3/02/2022	\$50,770.00
DA2022/0106	Profile Pools and Landscaping	SL & BL Sullivan	57 Banksia Street, Evans Head	Installation of an in ground fibreglass swimming pool and associated fencing	17/11/2021	23/02/2022	\$37,988.00
DA2022/0110	NJ Hartley	NJ & KM Hartley	620 Manifold Road, Bentley	Construction of a single storey dwelling	1/12/2021	7/02/2022	\$592,000.00
DA2022/0111	Trueline Patios & Extensions Northern Rivers	RW Johns	36 Pennefather Close, Yorklea	Construction of an enclosed carport	2/12/2021	4/02/2022	\$44,000.00
DA2022/0112	Kleyn Creations Pty Ltd	SJ & BA Mudiman	121 Ocean Drive, Evans Head	Alterations & additions - proposed ground floor garage conversion to living area and additional car parking space added	2/12/2021	8/02/2022	\$14,800.00
DA2022/0113	Evoke Pools	MJ & R Opryszko	6 Collins Road, Fairy Hill	Swimming pool & associated fencing	7/12/2021	1/02/2022	\$42,095.00
DA2022/0118	JE Stevens	GJ & JE Stevens	14 Thomas Crescent, Coraki	Alterations & additions - bedroom & bathroom extension to match existing residence	14/12/2021	15/02/2022	\$53,000.00
DA2022/0120	The Shed Company	DJA Bladen & W Brand	7 Zinnia Court, Fairy Hill	6.8m x 9m colour bond shed with variation to western side setback of 1.5m	15/12/2021	4/02/2022	\$19,680.00
DA2022/0121	B De Nardi	DG Binney	705 Stratheden Road, Stratheden	Construction of a double storey dwelling with attached garage	16/12/2021	23/02/2022	\$575,690.67
DA2022/0124	AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	Ronsam Management Pty Ltd	1 Tullarook Grove, Spring Grove	Shed	21/12/2021	9/02/2022	\$39,860.00
DA2022/0125	The Shed Company	SM & J R Rose	Stones Road, Naughtons Gap	Shed	23/12/2021	14/02/2022	\$19,865.00

**Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
for the period 1 February 2022 to 28 February 2022**

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0126	TMMM Constructions Pty Ltd/as GJ Gardner Homes Grafton	RN Gooley & JM Waters	17 Musgraves Road, North Casino	Dwelling	23/12/2021	11/02/2022	\$451,376.00
DA2022/0128	DJ Ainsworth	DJ & C Ainsworth	218 Baraang Drive, Broadwater	Addition of two rooms including ensuite and deck	23/12/2021	18/02/2022	\$121,997.21
DA2022/0130	SA Hicks	SA & SA Hicks	27 Forest Street, Coraki	Carport	6/01/2022	18/02/2022	\$10,000.00
DA2022/0131	LC Bailey	LC & DM Bailey	10 Robinson Avenue, Casino	Above ground swimming pool & associated fencing	6/01/2022	18/02/2022	\$12,000.00
DA2022/0134	Lohman Building Solutions	MA Cresswell	96A Johnston Street, Casino	Construction of patio covering between carport and rear shed, comprising of concrete floor, timber posts and beams with solar span roofing, demolition of existing 3m x 3m hobby shed and rear carport as shown on plans	14/01/2022	25/02/2022	\$37,400.00
DA2022/0135	SJ Brown	SJ Brown & PG Best	355 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Doonbah	Above ground swimming pool and associated fencing	14/01/2022	11/02/2022	\$7,070.00
CDC2022/0015	Newton Denny Chapelle	Roca Investments Pty Ltd	95 Barker Street, Casino	Internal alterations and additions to existing office premises	19/01/2022	27/01/2022	\$10,000.00
DA2022/0145	Evoke Pools	MB Frith & KA Fuller	20 Camillot Close, Spring Grove	Inground fibreglass swimming pool with associated pool fencing	28/01/2022	23/02/2022	\$49,800.00

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**RECOMMENDATION**

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

22.1 Tender - Supply and Delivery of Stationery T522122OROC

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL