



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 19 April 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 - FLOOD ASSISTANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Acknowledges the tremendous support received by the Richmond Valley community from volunteers, community organisations, emergency services agencies and the Australian Defence Force during the 2022 flood events,
2. Writes to local councils who provided staff secondments and shared resources during the flood to thank them for their support.

REPORT

The past six weeks have seen some of the most challenging times the Richmond Valley has experienced. Two devastating floods have left hundreds displaced. Homes have been destroyed, communities stretched to their limits and families have lost their livelihoods. Yet this catastrophe has also brought out the very best of human kindness, courage and compassion to help those in need in our community.

Thousands of volunteers have played their part in keeping people safe and helping them to recover and rebuild their lives. Their support has been overwhelming and deeply appreciated.

Earlier this month, we had the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the Australian Defence Force personnel who were based in the Richmond Valley for their tireless efforts in supporting the flood response and clean-up operations. The march to Stan Payne Oval in Evans Head and the Casino street parade were both wonderful ways for our community to say thank you, and it was great to see so many locals cheering our soldiers on.

Working alongside these troops was another army – a tireless band of volunteers, emergency service workers and community organisations who gave so freely of their time to help those in need. I want to publicly acknowledge their efforts and thank them sincerely for their support.

I also want to acknowledge our colleagues in the local government sector who came forward to support our Council with offers of specialist staff and resources during the emergency. These extra helping hands were invaluable in getting our essential services back on line.

We now begin the long process of recovery for the Richmond Valley and we know the road ahead will not be easy. It will take at least three years to restore damaged roads and infrastructure, rebuild homes and businesses and reconnect our communities.

Council has prepared impact statements, so that State and Federal Governments are aware of the scale of the catastrophe and the physical resources our community needs to recover, such as temporary housing, funding programs and technical expertise. But the resources we need to reconnect and rebuild will also come from within – with neighbours helping neighbours, community organisations, sports clubs and volunteers continuing to work together to support the Richmond Valley's recovery. Council and the wider community will be there every step of the way to support those impacted by the disaster in the months and years to come.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2022

RECOMMENDATION

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

REPORT

See attached minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Minutes 15 March 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**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION; CR ROBERT HAYES - CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE AMENDMENT**

I, Councillor Robert Hayes, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 19 April 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

The procedure for the conduct of the Public Access Sessions in Item 8 of the Code of Meeting Practice be amended from:

- 8) Applications for public access made by individuals, on behalf of an organisation, may be asked to provide proof that they have the organisation's authority to address Council on the organisation's behalf.

to:

- 8) Applications for public access made by individuals, on behalf of an organisation, prior to commencing their address to council are to provide proof that they have the organisation's authority to address Council on the organisation's behalf, Inclusive of the following information;

- A description of their organisation
- A list of the executives and their roles
- Number of current financial members
- How often the committee meets and where
- Who is able to attend these meetings and become a member.

Staff comment:

The Draft Code of Meeting Practice is currently being reviewed as required under the Local Government Act. The intention is to bring the Draft Code to the May meeting of Council. Any suggested or recommended changes can be included in the Draft Code which is then subject to community consultation.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION; CR ROBERT HAYES - RECENT FLOOD IMPACTS IN THE LOWER RIVER AREAS

I, Councillor Robert Hayes, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 19 April 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

Following on from my current question on notice at the Ordinary meeting of Council in March 2022 after the first major flooding of our council area and now that the second flood has also created devastation across this area, I would further like to recommend that Council makes a submission to any Inquiry, inclusive of representation of long-time local residents, agricultural groups and business organisations.

Also, a full review of the flooding impacts in the vicinity of the Motorway be included and design changes made, in conjunction with flood Mitigation measures to relieve the lower river of these impacts in the future.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

10.3 NOTICE OF MOTION; CR PATRICK DEEGAN - IMPACT OF THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY ON MID-RICHMOND COMMUNITIES

I, Councillor Patrick Deegan, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 19 April 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the flood events of February and March were unprecedented in the recorded history of the Richmond Valley.
2. Acknowledges the concerns of Mid-Richmond residents that the Pacific Highway had a significant impact during the recent floods. Many residents are of the view that the highway caused flood levels to be higher as the water was prevented from spreading over a wider area. Many residents are of the view that the highway caused water to remain on and in their properties for a longer period of time as the water was unable to drain away as it did before the Highway was built.
3. Acknowledges that many Mid-Richmond residents have stated that they raised concerns regarding the impact the highway would have on flooding during the consultation phase for the highway and that these same residents are of the view that these concerns were not taken into account prior to design and construction.
4. That Council writes to the appropriate government agency requesting a full investigation into the impact the upgraded Pacific Highway had on the recent flood events.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

10.4 NOTICE OF MOTION; CR PATRICK DEEGAN - RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION

I, Councillor Patrick Deegan, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 19 April 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the flood events of February and March were unprecedented in the recorded history of the Richmond Valley.
2. Acknowledges that Council, residents, businesses and farming communities are traumatised by the need to deal with multiple state and federal agencies and complicated red tape in order to access financial assistance to help recover from the catastrophic flood events.
3. Acknowledges that the size and scale of this disaster is beyond the capacity of a single government department, council, charity or community organisation, to oversee and coordinate the entire response that is required to rebuild communities in the Richmond Valley and neighbouring communities.
4. Notes that history has demonstrated, in Darwin in 1974, Victoria in 2009, and Christchurch in 2011, for example, that the most beneficial outcomes for the affected communities were achieved by the timely establishment and funding of a dedicated centralised authority such as a Recovery and Reconstruction Commission.
5. Calls on the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to commit to providing multimillion-dollar funding packages, similar to that recently provided for QLD, to enable the recovery and reconstruction effort in the Richmond Valley and neighbouring communities.
6. Calls on the NSW Government to urgently establish a Northern Rivers Recovery and Reconstruction Commission, with one central chain of command inclusive of all levels of government, stakeholders and community to oversee the implementation of funded recovery and reconstruction programs.
7. Notes that any such reconstruction commission should have a strong focus on local knowledge and community input.
8. Notes that such a commission must have clear outcomes and commitments, with wide ranging powers to take charge of the recovery and reconstruction process, and must have the authority to fast track decisions on issues such as voluntary house buybacks, acquisition of lands for relocation of residents, flood mitigation planning approvals, infrastructure repairs and road reconstruction.
9. Notes that the terms of reference of such a commission must include a community led response to recovery and reconstruction and that the set-up budget of the Commission be adequate to ensure such community consultation.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

10.5 NOTICE OF MOTION; CR PATRICK DEEGAN - RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL STAFF THANKS

I, Councillor Patrick Deegan, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 19 April 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the flood events of February and March were unprecedented in the recorded history of the Richmond Valley.
2. Applauds the extraordinary response of the community in responding to the emergency in saving lives and property.
3. Acknowledges that a number of Council staff were directly impacted by the flooding. Staff stepped up to support the community, putting in extraordinary hours and many working seven days a week. Many also undertook roles well outside of their normal duties.
4. Recognises the work all council staff have put in to support our community. Council recognises the challenges staff faced in delivering services and engaging with the community with such widespread destruction and intermittent or non-existent communication. Council recognises the personal impact that this disaster has also had on many staff. Council sincerely thanks all staff for their work right across the organisation.
5. Requests that this message of thanks be communicated to all staff by the General Manager.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCES 11 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2022**

Director: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Robert Mustow

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report from 11 March – 11 April, 2022.

REPORT**March 2022**

- 12th Australian Defence Force Meeting Casino Showground
- 15th Meeting with Hon Jason Clare MP – Shadow Minister, at Coraki
- 15th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 17th Casino Racing Club ADF BBQ Casino Showground
- 19th Discussion with The Hon Sam Faraway MLC
- 21st Housing Forum with Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
- 22nd Meeting with Major General David Thomae at Broadwater
- 26th 100th birthday celebration with resident
- 26th Flood event Rappville
- 26th Woodburn Community catchup
- 27th Touch Football – ADF and Community event
- 28th Northern Rivers Briefing - operational briefing on the predicted weather and preparations in the Northern Rivers region.
- 29th Governor-General telephone discussion, flood update
- 29th Seniors' Week Celebration Casino
- 31st Department of Planning and Environment meeting with Councils - Housing Recovery

April 2022

- 2nd Australian Defence Force Parade Casino
- 4th Meeting with Major General David Thomae
- 5th Meeting with NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet at Woodburn
- 5th Richmond Valley Council, Councillor Information Session
- 6th Meeting with Hon Murray Watt - Shadow Minister at Coraki
- 8th Anzac Day ceremony Casino Public School
- 9th Casino & District Historical Society 56th AGM
- 10th Coraki Bowling Club event including CNN documentary
- 10th Community Gathering – Primex

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

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 FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council continues to advocate to Federal and NSW Governments for significant and ongoing support for the Richmond Valley, following a second major flood event this month. To support our advocacy and help quantify the scale and impact of the flood events, Council has prepared two documents: The Richmond Valley Flood 2022 Response and the Richmond Valley Flooding Economic Impacts Statement (attached). These documents have been provided to Federal and State Government representatives and provide an overview of the impacts of the floods and the actions already taken by Council to support our community. They further identify the practical support that will be required from government to enable a swift recovery from the unprecedented and devastating flood event.

Council continues to participate in a number of NSW Government initiated committees and forums to coordinate the recovery effort across the Northern Rivers region. A key example is our recent inclusion on the Housing Recovery Taskforce which is working to provide temporary housing solutions for the thousands of displaced people across the Northern Rivers. Once short-term solutions have been achieved it will shift its focus to medium-long term solutions to the undersupply of housing in the Northern Rivers.

This report provides a status update on a range of issues that Council is dealing with to support our community's recovery. It also responds to the February Mayoral Minute seeking an outline of our road maintenance programs and priorities for the 2022-24 council term – this will be included in our Recovery Plan which will be workshopped with Council and placed on Public Exhibition following the May Council meeting.

Information on the NSW Government Flood Inquiry is also included, with the community encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to make submissions to highlight what they believe needs to be done to mitigate and better manage the impacts of future flood events.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the information provided in this report.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The attached reports identify the damage from the 2022 flood events and provides estimates of the significant financial challenges Council faces to restore its asset base to pre-flood standards. It is estimated that the damage bill will be at least \$150 million.

REPORT

Council has prepared the Richmond Valley Flood 2022 Response and the Richmond Valley Flooding Economic Impacts Statement documents to guide its recovery planning efforts and to provide information to highlight to Federal and NSW Governments the devastating impacts of the two recent floods on the Richmond Valley community. Given the scale of this natural disaster it is expected that full recovery from the damage will be at least a three- year process.

Council is using the information in these documents to prepare a Recovery Plan which will be our Delivery Program for the next twelve months. With the damage bill likely to be at least \$150 million, Council will need to refocus and reprioritise its activities - business as usual is not an option. The Draft Plan will be considered by Council at its May meeting and community consultation will follow.

NSW Government Inquiry

The NSW Government has appointed Professor Mary O'Kane AC and Michael Fuller APM to lead the Inquiry.

It will report on:

- the causes of and factors contributing to the frequency, intensity, timing and location of floods
- preparation and planning by agencies and the community for floods in NSW
- responses to floods, particularly measures to protect life, property and the environment
- the transition from incident response to recovery
- recovery, including housing, clean-up, financial support, community engagement and longer-term community rebuilding.

The Inquiry will consider and, if warranted, make recommendations on a range of matters, including:

- the safety of emergency services and community first responders
- current and future land use planning and management and building standards in flood prone locations across NSW
- appropriate action to adapt to future flood risks to communities and their surrounds
- coordination and collaboration between all levels of government.

All members of our community are encouraged to tell their story of the flood events by making submissions to this Inquiry. Council will be preparing a submission to the Inquiry which is due by 20 May 2022. Information will be sought from the soon to be established Community Advisory Groups and from discussions with a range of residents, primary producers, businesses and industry stakeholders impacted by the floods. Council has also sought to meet with the Inquiry representatives to highlight the impacts of the floods and the lessons to be learned from what has occurred.

Road network impacts

It is estimated that the damage to our road network is at least \$115 million, including the landslides at Naughtons Gap Road and on Bentley Road. The February Mayoral Minute which sought an assessment of our road network and a report on our programs and priorities for the 2022-24 will be addressed when the current full assessment of the damage to our road network is completed and included in our Recovery Plan. Our focus is to ensure that the Natural Disaster Recovery Funding program is fully utilised to restore all our assets to pre-flood standards.

Given the scale of the damage it is expected that completion of all works across our road network will take up to three years. During this period, Council will aim to ensure all residents have suitable access to their properties where they rely on Council maintained public roads. Council is not in a position to fund and/or maintain private roads or Crown Roads. Where Natural Disaster Funding is made available to restore these roads, where possible Council will support completion of these works, but priority will be given to Council's public road assets.

Water/Sewer network impacts

The Floods saw our water supply networks put under significant strain and our sewerage networks were significantly damaged. Early estimates indicate the cost to repair, replace and improve future flood resilience of our water and sewer infrastructure will be up to \$50 million. Council is pursuing

funding under the program that was announced by the NSW Government to assist Councils to fix their assets.

We are also investigating the best way to levy water charges given the damage to water supply lines at households and damaged/lost meters during the flood which led to significant water loss from our reservoirs. The water bills that have just been issued were for a previous period and work will be done to determine equitable charging for the next quarter's invoices.

Recovery advocacy

Council continues to be involved in the recovery efforts and is advocating for better outcomes for our community in the following areas:

- temporary short-term housing solutions
- medium-long term housing solutions
- Use of Crown Land to support housing solutions
- Temporary occupation of flood affected properties
- Supply chain issues and contractor availability
- Business funding support programs
- Rate relief programs
- Waste clean-up programs
- Property assessment and demolition programs
- Disaster relief payments and the extension of these to the Richmond Valley
- Insurance claims for Council infrastructure and fleet damage
- Voluntary House Raising Schemes and land swap or buy back schemes

Community Advisory Groups

Council is establishing a Resilience and Recovery team which will lead Council's support for community recovery. To inform this work we are establishing Flood Recovery community advisory groups for Coraki, Woodburn and Broadwater. A similar process was implemented following the 2019 Bushfires to support the Rappville community to recover and was successful. A representative group of local residents and businesses in each area will be invited to participate in the Group. Terms of Reference have been prepared and Councillors are welcome to attend the group meetings as observers.

CONSULTATION

Council staff have actively contributed to and participated in the flood recovery response effort and will continue to work with our local community groups and support the Federal and NSW Government agencies' efforts to support community recovery.

CONCLUSION

Council continues to support community recovery and will continue to provide regular updates to Councillors and the community.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Richmond Valley Flood 2022 Response (under separate cover)**
2. **Flooding Economic Impact Statement (under separate cover)**

15 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES**15.1 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CONTROL PLAN**

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Kate Alder-Conn

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has developed a Fraud and Corruption Control Plan, in order to raise awareness of fraud and corruption risks within the organisation. The plan aims to outline keys risks and communicate Council's expectations, together with satisfying a recommendation made during an insurer initiated due diligence review.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Fraud and Corruption Control Plan.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

Council joined CivicRisk Mutual in July 2020, following its successful appointment as Council's insurance provider through a tender process.

Part of the service provided by CivicRisk upon Council joining the mutual, was a Due Diligence Review carried out by consultant firm, InConsult.

InConsult made a number of recommendations to assist Council in improving its risk management profile. One of these recommendations was the development and implementation of a Fraud Control Improvement Plan. Whilst Council's exposure to fraud was deemed to be at a low/medium level, the plan was recommended to improve awareness within the organisation, and to formalise Council's position with regard to fraud and corruption.

The attached Fraud Control Plan has been developed in consultation with Council's governance, finance and procurement teams. The plan supports Council's Fraud Prevention Policy and sets out the arrangements for the overall management of the risks and any instances of fraud and corruption.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- provide an overview of the governance arrangements within Council relating to fraud and corruption;
- outline key risks to the organisation;
- raise awareness and positively influence culture;
- communicate Council's expectations of management, employees, consultants, contractors and service providers; and

- to document prevention, detection and response initiatives.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been carried out with Council's governance, finance and procurement teams in the development of the plan.

CONCLUSION

Once adopted, the plan will be made available on Council's website, together with being provided internally for the reference of staff. A staff training plan will be developed following adoption of the plan.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Fraud and Corruption Control Plan (under separate cover)**

15.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MARCH 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 31 March 2022 is shown below:

| Bank Accounts | Term Deposits | Floating Rate Notes | Fixed Rate Bonds | TCorp IM Funds | Total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| \$19,002,276 | \$29,000,000 | \$4,750,390 | \$2,000,000 | \$15,095,079 | \$69,847,746 |

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments for March 2022 was negative (2.39%) which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for March of 0.00%, which is Council's benchmark.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing the performance of its cash and investments for the month of March 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 31 March 2022, Council has earned \$254,605 in interest and \$261,810 in fair value losses for total interest and investment income of negative (\$7,205). This equates to negative (0.85%) of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$850,000 at the end of March 2022. Council currently receives a net return of 0.55% 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 March 2022 total \$3,786

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

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

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

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in March 2022 was negative (2.39%), an increase of 252 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 239 basis points below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.00% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net losses of \$184,921 during March 2022, bringing the total losses for the 2021/2022 financial year to 31 March 2022 to \$108,032.

The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a loss of \$172,372 and the Long Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a loss of \$12,549.

In March, the continued war in Ukraine and the volatility in financial markets led to a disappointing result, however it is an improvement from February's result. 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 \$69,847,746 at 31 March 2022. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$8,075,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,004,329), Term Deposits (\$29,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$4,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$15,095,079) and other bank accounts (\$922,948).

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 51.18% of the total portfolio as at 31 March 2022.

Council made the following new investments during March 2022:

| Banking Institution | Investment Type | Environmentally Sustainable Investment | Amount Invested | Investment Term | Interest Rate |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Coastline Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 0.80% |
| Bank of Sydney | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 0.70% |
| Coastline Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 0.80% |
| Auswide Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 6 months | 0.60% |
| ME Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 6 months | 0.60% |
| Judo Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 0.80% |
| Judo Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 6 months | 0.85% |
| Judo Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 0.80% |
| ME Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 6 months | 0.75% |
| Coastline Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | 3 months | 0.90% |
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 0.90% |
| Westpac Bank | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | 6 months | 0.99% |
| Total | | | \$13,000,000 | | |

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

| Banking Institution | Investment Type | Environmentally Sustainable Investment | Amount Invested | Interest Earned |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| Auswide Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$35,000 |
| AMP Ltd | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | \$7,500 |
| Judo Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$5,178 |
| Judo Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$5,236 |
| Bank of Sydney | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$2,712 |
| Coastline Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$1,997 |
| Coastline Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$1,997 |
| BNK Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$2,119 |
| AMP Ltd | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | \$2,119 |
| BNK Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | \$7,438 |
| AMP Ltd | Term Deposit | N | \$2,000,000 | \$6,411 |
| Total | | | \$13,000,000 | \$77,708 |

Council had \$15,095,079 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 March 2022. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

| Investment Holding | Fair Value 31 Mar 22 | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Mar-22 | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Medium Term Growth Fund | \$12,110,951 | (\$172,372) | (\$226,353) | \$1,105,922 |
| Long Term Growth Fund | \$2,984,128 | (\$12,549) | (\$35,457) | (\$15,872) |
| Total | \$15,095,079 | (\$184,921) | (\$261,810) | \$1,090,050 |

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$69,847,746 at 31 March 2022 includes \$46,845,079 or 67.1% 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 March 2022, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 31 March 2022 Council's cash and investments totalled \$69,847,746 with \$19,002,276 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was negative (2.39%) for the month of March 2022 and total investment revenue equals negative (0.85%) of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 March 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. RVC Investment Pack - March 2022 (under separate cover)

15.3 SECTION 7.11, 7.12 AND SECTION 64 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE 2020/2021 AND 2021/2022 TO 31 MARCH 2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Dean Fordham

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council recovers contributions, raises levies and enters into planning agreements on development works that are subject to a development consent issued by Council. This report provides an update on developer contributions income and expenditure for the previous 2020/2021 financial year and the current 2021/2022 financial year to 31 March 2022.

Council collected a total of \$1,166,460 in developer contributions in the last financial year 2020/2021 and expended \$901,469. Unexpended developer contributions held in cash reserves totalled \$9,961,697 as at 30 June 2021.

During the current financial year 2021/2022 to 31 March 2022, Council has collected a total of \$943,022 in developer contributions and expended \$622,153.

Details of the different types of contributions are provided in the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the update on Section 7.11, Section 7.12 and Section 64 developer contributions for the 2020/2021 financial year and 2021/2022 financial year to 31 March 2022.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Growing our Economy

EC1: Driving Economic Growth

EC1.8: Provide sustainable Urban Development Opportunities

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

These funds are managed within Council's reserves.

REPORT

Developer contributions are charged by councils when new development occurs. These contributions enable local councils or other consent authorities to provide public amenities and services required as a consequence of increased demand caused by development. They are used to provide infrastructure such as open space, parks, community facilities, local roads and footpaths and water and sewerage infrastructure. Developer contributions are essential in maintaining access to the facilities and services that support community wellbeing and quality of life.

Section 7.11 (formerly S94) and Section 7.12 (formerly S94A) Contributions

S7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* allow Council to collect monetary contributions from development to help meet the additional demand for roads and traffic, community, cultural, open space and recreational facilities generated by development associated with population growth and employment generation. Council's adopted contribution plans were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Council has a specialised s7.11 Heavy Haulage levy that is applied where the anticipated development will, or is likely to, generate additional heavy haulage vehicle movements e.g. quarries. As a consequence of anticipated development, there is likely to be an accelerated decline

in the life of the road network due to increased heavy haulage, a cost which would otherwise be borne by the wider community. The rate is typically based on the tonnages and the distance covered on local roads to reach the classified road network. The levy is spent on roads that are impacted by the development itself, typically any road back to a main road. Council's road engineers do an annual condition assessment of Council's road network and if roads that are covered by an s7.11 Heavy Haulage levy are considered to be in a state where funding is required to be spent, s7.11 contributions are used to fund the repairs.

Council's Section s7.12 levy is triggered by all development over \$100,000 at the percentage set by the legislation. There are legislated exemptions that developments triggering the levy are assessed against. The levy is collected across the entire Council area and is spent on the list of projects detailed in Council's adopted s7.12 Contributions Plan.

Section 64 Contributions

S64 contributions are levied under the *Local Government Act 1993* towards water and sewerage infrastructure and in accordance with Council's Developer Servicing Plan. Contributions are generally levied where the anticipated development will or is likely to increase the demand for water or sewerage supply services. Funds are generally held for future utilisation when additional capacity is required to accommodate the increased demand, for example, future upgrades of Council's water and sewerage treatment plants. These works are factored into Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and require significant levels of funding, which is why these reserve balances have built up over time to provide for these works.

Developer Contributions 2020/2021 Financial Year

The following table shows the total amounts received by Council in s7.11, s7.12 and s64 contributions in the 2020/2021 financial year.

| Reserve | Income 2020/2021 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| S7.11 Heavy Haulage | \$277,596 |
| S7.12 Development Contributions | \$391,296 |
| S64 Sewerage Contributions | \$340,633 |
| S64 Water Contributions | \$156,935 |
| Total | \$1,166,460 |

The following table shows expenditure of s7.11 and s7.12 contributions last financial year. There was no expenditure of s64 funds last financial year.

| Reserve | Expenditure 2020/2021 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| S7.11 Pooled Contributions* | \$73,334 |
| S7.11 Heavy Haulage | \$669,442 |
| S7.12 Development Contributions | \$158,693 |
| S64 Sewerage Contributions | \$0 |
| S64 Water Contributions | \$0 |
| Total | \$901,469 |

* Pooled contributions include the former s7.11 plans of Infrastructure, Community Services, Recreation and Civil Facilities and Road Network. In May 2020, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces issued a direction under s7.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to allow councils to pool monetary contributions imposed under s7.11 and s7.12 of the Act.

This allows funds to be pooled both within and between contribution plans, despite any restrictions in a contributions plan. This direction was made as part of the State Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to stimulate expenditure and assist with economic recovery and delivery of necessary local jobs and infrastructure for communities.

The major works that were funded from pooled s7.11 contributions included part funding of \$33,274 towards the Woodburn Pool shade structure, part funding of \$7,565 towards Coraki Caravan Park Amenities upgrade and part funding of \$30,000 towards the entrance upgrade at Crawford Square in Casino. Major works funded from s7.11 Heavy Haulage included various maintenance and renewal works on Regional Roads of \$669,442 and funding from s7.12 contributions included various footpath capital works of \$158,693.

As at 30 June 2021, Council held \$2,856,000 in s7.11 reserves, \$715,735 in s7.12 reserves and \$6,389,962 in s64 reserves, or \$9,961,697 in total. These balances were audited and included in Note G3 of the adopted 2020/2021 Financial Statements.

Developer Contributions 2021/2022 Financial Year to 31 March 2022

The following table shows the annual budget and actual amounts received in s7.11, s7.12 and s64 contributions in the 2021/2022 financial year to 31 March 2022.

| Reserve | Budgeted Income 2021/2022 | Actual Income 2021/2022 31-Mar-22 |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| S7.11 Quarry Road Contributions | \$17,389 | \$0 |
| S7.11 Heavy Haulage | \$198,816 | \$303,030 |
| S7.12 Development Contributions | \$150,000 | \$194,773 |
| S64 Sewerage Contributions | \$300,000 | \$280,000 |
| S64 Water Contributions | \$150,000 | \$165,219 |
| Total | \$816,205 | \$943,022 |

The following table shows expenditure of s7.11 and s7.12 contributions in the 2021/2022 financial year to 31 March 2022. There has been no expenditure of s64 funds so far this financial year.

| Reserve | Budgeted Expenditure 2021/2022 | Actual Expenditure 2021/2022 31-Mar-22 |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| S7.11 Pooled Contributions | \$117,260 | \$115,534 |
| S7.11 Quarry Road Contributions | \$11,427 | \$0 |
| S7.11 Heavy Haulage | \$474,989 | \$369,439 |
| S7.12 Development Contributions | \$229,614 | \$137,180 |
| S64 Sewerage Contributions | \$0 | \$0 |
| S64 Water Contributions | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$833,290 | \$622,153 |

The major works that have been funded from pooled s7.11 contributions includes part funding of \$90,000 towards foreshore lighting at Evans Head and \$25,534 towards the Casino Tennis Club roof replacement. Works funded from s7.11 Heavy Haulage contributions includes rehabilitation works on Spring Grove Road and works funded from s7.12 contributions includes part funding of \$45,860 on NBN footpath reinstatement works and \$91,320 on other footpath renewals.

As at 30 June 2022, it is projected that Council will hold \$2,497,729 in s7.11 reserves, \$636,121 in s7.12 reserves and \$6,839,962 in s64 reserves, or \$9,973,812 in total.

CONSULTATION

Nil

CONCLUSION

Council collected \$1,166,460 in developer contributions in the last financial year 2020/2021 and expended \$901,469. Council held unexpended developer contribution cash reserves of \$9,961,967 as at 30 June 2021.

Council has collected \$943,022 in developer contributions in the current 2021/2022 financial year to 31 March 2022 and expended \$622,153. It is projected that Council will hold unexpended developer contribution cash reserves of \$9,973,812 as at 30 June 2022.

Council will have the opportunity to determine the allocation of developer contribution funding during the draft budget process for the 2022/2023 financial year, whilst also taking into consideration commitments in Council's LTFP.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

16 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY**16.1 VOLUNTARY HOUSE RAISING SCHEME**

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Andy Edwards

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Richmond Valley has recently experienced unprecedented flooding, with significant damage to more than 400 homes. As the recovery process begins, Council has received a number of enquiries from owners seeking to take advantage of the Voluntary House Raising Scheme (VHRS), administered by the NSW Department of Planning & Environment.

The VHRS is a complex scheme, requiring local councils to opt-in to the process once they have completed various essential flood studies and planning. The scheme is limited to homes that are considered at very high risk of inundation because they are low to the ground and in flood prone areas. It generally involves co-contributions from the NSW Government, council and/or homeowner.

Council was about to finalise its new flood study when the catastrophic 2022 event occurred. It will now need to review the study to consider the levels recorded in this flood and complete new Floodplain Risk Management Plans for Casino and the Mid-Richmond before it would be eligible to take part in a Voluntary House Raising Scheme under the current arrangements. This process could take at least 12 months and will cost approximately \$200,000.

At the end of the process, it is expected that only a small number of homes would qualify for participation in a VHRS under the current guidelines. In the meantime, Council will consider other options to support flood affected homeowners. The recently announced Property Assessment and Demolition Scheme, funded by the NSW Government, provides additional opportunities for assistance.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Progresses the review of the Richmond Valley Flood Study and preparation of Floodplain Risk Assessment Plans
2. Considers options to participate in the Voluntary House Raising Scheme upon completion of these plans
3. Works with the NSW Government to identify other opportunities to assist flood affected homeowners.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

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

REPORT

With the recent unprecedented flooding, particularly in the Mid-Richmond, Council has received a number of enquiries from homeowners seeking to take advantage of the Voluntary House Raising Scheme (VHRS). This scheme was developed after changes to flood planning requirements came into force in 1986. This included a new Floodplain Development Manual which required homes in flood prone areas to be built above the 1-in-100-year flood level, plus a “freeboard” for additional protection. All houses built in the Richmond Valley since that time have been required to meet this standard. However, many houses built before 1986 were much lower to the ground and susceptible to flooding even in minor events. To help improve safety for these homes, the NSW Government introduced a Voluntary House Raising Scheme (VHRS). The scheme, administered by the Department of Planning & Environment, has gone through many revisions since it was first introduced, but basically involves a partnership between the NSW Government and local councils to help homeowners raise their dwellings. Under the scheme, the NSW Government contributes 2/3rds of the cost and Council or the owner contributes the other third. To be eligible for the scheme, councils first must complete essential flood planning and then formally opt-in to the process.

Previous versions of the VHRS focused on flood levels below the 1-in-100 year event - or 1% AEP (annual exceedance probability) as it is now known. The scheme has recently been updated (February 2022) to be based around hazard vulnerability categories. There are six categories increasing in severity from H1 to H6 (see Figure 1). These categories recognise that in a 1% AEP flood not all buildings will be affected in the same way – the combination of flood depth and velocity of the water determines the level of risk. The higher the depth of water and faster the velocity the greater the risk to humans, livestock and infrastructure. Dwellings in categories H3 and H4 may qualify for voluntary house raising while houses in H5 and H6 potentially qualify for the voluntary house purchasing scheme.

The Voluntary House Purchasing Scheme, also administered by the NSW Government, runs in conjunction with the VHRS and the same pre-requisite studies are required before councils can opt in.

Under the earlier versions of the VHRS, very few homes in the Richmond Valley would have met the eligibility criteria. Initial review of the new model indicates that there could be more houses that meet the criteria, however the exact number is unknown. To determine how many houses could be eligible for VHRS, or a Voluntary Purchase Scheme, Council would first need to complete its current flood study (including review of the study based on the most recent flood levels) and then prepare new Floodplain Risk Management Plans. These plans would identify houses potentially at risk and consider the building and development standards that could apply in flood affected areas. However, under the current NSW Government guidelines, these standards would still be based around the 1% AEP flood levels. The Government would need to change these standards before Council could impose more stringent requirements for building, if it wished to do so.

To finalise the current flood study and complete the new Floodplain Risk Management Plans would take approximately 12 months and cost \$200,000. Until this work is completed, Council would not be eligible to opt in to the VHRS scheme, or any voluntary purchase arrangements.

In the meantime, the NSW Government has announced further assistance programs for flood-affected homeowners to support the rebuilding process. The Property Assessment and Demolition Program (PAD) announced this month, allows owners to opt-in for a free building assessment and provides support with free demolition of the home, should this be required. Council is working with the scheme administrators to ensure these works can take place quickly, without the requirement to lodge a Development Application. Further support for flood-affected owners is also being considered in conjunction with the scheme.

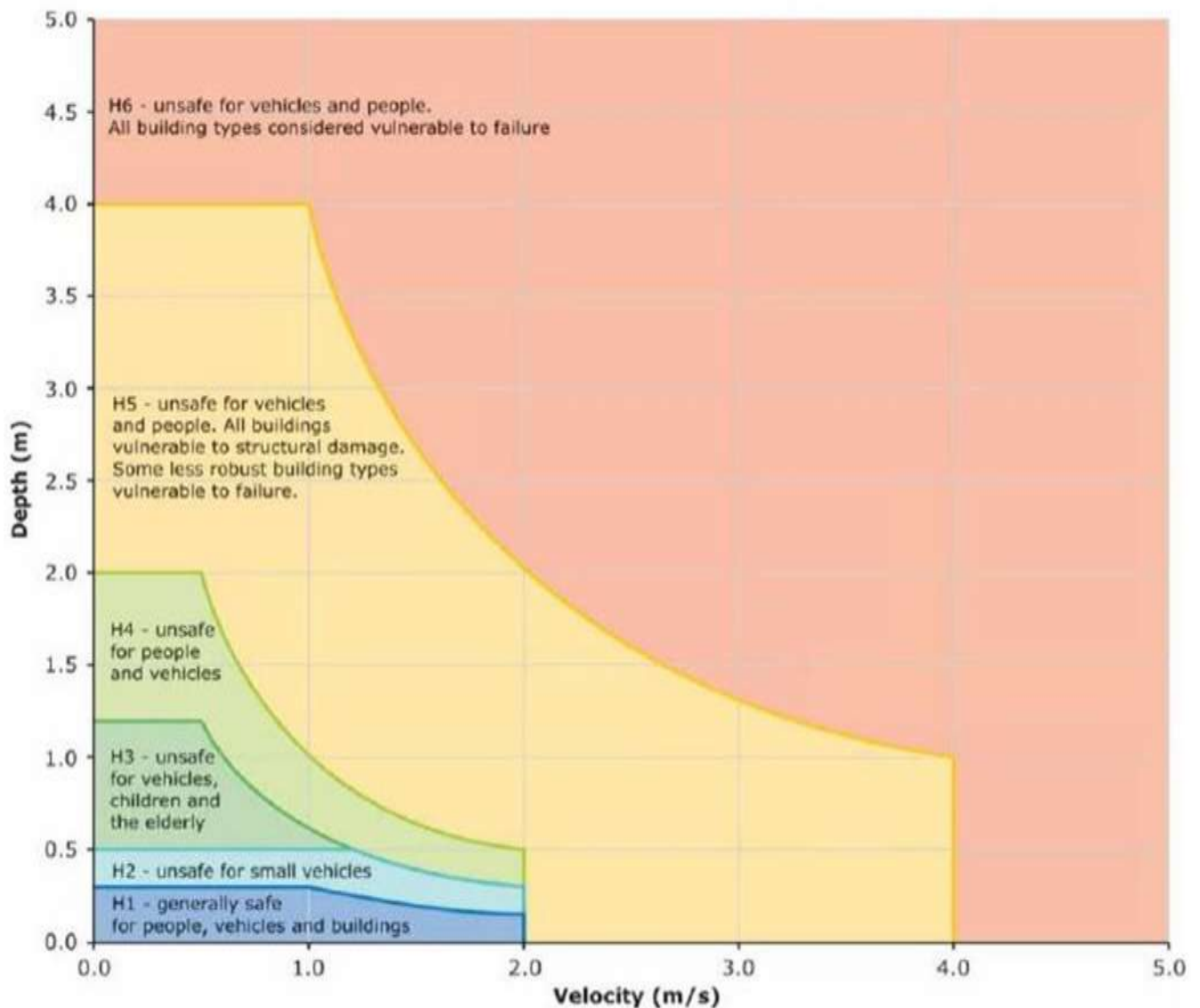


Figure 1: General Flood Hazard Vulnerability Curves

CONCLUSION

Council is currently completing a new flood study for the Richmond Valley, which will include consideration of the most recent flood levels and help to inform new Floodplain Risk Management Plans. Once these plans are completed and adopted, Council would be eligible to apply for inclusion in the Voluntary House Raising Scheme, should it wish to do so. In the meantime, Council is working with the administrators of the new Property Assessment and Demolition program to support homeowners in the rebuilding process.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Voluntary House Raising Scheme (under separate cover)

16.2 REVIEW OF CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER AND STANDARDS

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Sharon Banning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted the Customer Service Framework and Charter in July 2019. The Charter sets out Council's commitment to customer service in its operation and activities. In order to ensure the currency of the Charter, a review has been undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the updated and renamed Customer Service Charter and Standards, as detailed in this report.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS2: Great Support

CS2.1: Ensure the ongoing delivery of a quality customer service oriented organisation

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

Council adopted the Customer Service Framework and Charter in July 2019. The Charter sets out Council's commitment to customer service in its operation and activities.

A review has been undertaken of the Customer Service Framework and Charter to ensure the Charter is current and reflects the community's expectations and Council's agreed service delivery and commitment. The review revealed Council's Charter and service levels are comparable to neighbouring local councils and other similar sized rural councils.

Council's Customer Request Management system (CRM) is undergoing a significant upgrade, which has provided opportunity to analyse workflows and service levels of each request type. The effectiveness of revised targets will be continually monitored and reviewed post "Go Live".

To ensure the document consistently meets the needs of the community and organisation, the following changes have been incorporated into the revised document:

- A recommendation for the Charter and Standards to be adopted as a Council policy, to sit in the suite of policies and procedures within Pulse, providing improved accessibility and ensuring regular and timely review going forward.
- The formal policy is supported by a customer friendly web / printable publication in an easy-to-read format, outlining Council's commitment to serving the community and the expectations of customers when engaging with Council staff.
- Reinstating earlier opening hours for the Evans Head office and library to reflect the activities of the village's demographics. Hours: 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 12.00pm Saturdays.
- Updating references from Customer Service Team to Customer Experience Team to reflect the Contact Centre's title and to differentiate between the department and the delivery of customer service by all Council staff.

- Inclusion of Council's expectation of customers when dealing with staff. By its endorsement, Council demonstrates support to Council staff when dealing with challenging customers and acknowledges that customers play a part in facilitating a positive experience.
- Return calls response times be amended from "within 24 hours" to "close of business the following day".

CONSULTATION

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Customer Service Framework and Charter was adopted by Council in 2019 and it is timely to review its relevance to ensure it meets the needs of the community and is consistently applied by staff. The recommended changes to the Richmond Valley Council Customer Service Charter and Standards, outlined in this report, will help to ensure the community receives clear advice, and provide guidance and tools to assist the organisation in striving for customer service excellence.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Customer Service Charter & Standards (under separate cover)**
2. **Customer Service Charter - Publication (under separate cover)**

16.3 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO SYDNEY AND REGIONAL PLANNING PANELS

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Tony McAteer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 16 July 2019, Councillor Hayes was nominated as one of Council's representatives on the Northern Regional Planning Panel. The standard term for nominated members is 3years unless otherwise advised by Council.

Section 4.4 of the attached Sydney and Regional Planning Panel Operational Procedures states that two council members are appointed by each council. At least one council member must have expertise in one or more of the following areas: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering or tourism.

The planning panel advises that Council should nominate 2 alternate members for the panel in the instance their delegated permanent representatives are not available, and these details should also be supplied.

The three year term for Robert Hayes is coming to and end and it is time for Council to nominate two Council members and alternates. Members are eligible for re-appointment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council nominates two regional planning panel members and two alternates. Details of the nominated members are to be forwarded to the NSW Planning Panels Secretariat.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Growing our Economy

EC1: Driving Economic Growth

EC1.7: Provide flexible and innovative planning controls

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Regional Planning Panel (the Panel) would usually meet within Richmond Valley Council LGA no more than two to three times a year. Therefore, the budget implications to Council should be less than \$1,000 per annum.

REPORT

On 16 July 2019, Councillor Hayes was nominated as one of Council's representatives on the Northern Regional Planning Panel. The standard term for nominated members is 3years unless otherwise advised by Council, with members eligible for re-appointment.

Section 4.4 of the attached Sydney and Regional Planning Panel Operational Procedures it states that *two council members are appointed by each council. At least one council member must have expertise in one or more of the following areas: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering or tourism.*

The planning panel has advised that Council should nominate 2 alternate members for the panel in the instance their delegated permanent representatives are not available, and these details should also be supplied.

CONCLUSION

Councillor Hayes was nominated as Council representative, with Councillor Simpson as his alternate on 16 July 2019. As the standard term is three years, Council is now required to select new members to the Northern Regional Planning Panel and two alternate members.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Sydney and Regional Planning Panels Operational Procedures (under separate cover)**

17 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**17.1 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS (PHASE 3) PROJECT NOMINATIONS****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Richmond Valley Council has been afforded the opportunity to nominate potential infrastructure projects under Phase 3 of the Federal Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI Program). \$2,004,428 has been allocated to Council in this phase. This report sets out the options that Council has considered for this funding criteria and a recommendation has been made to fund additional works required to complete Stage 1 of the Casino Memorial Pool Upgrade, upgrades to the Evans Head and Coraki Pools and improvements at the Casino Colley Park precinct.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Allocate the available \$2,004,428 under the Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program toward Stage 1 of the Casino Memorial Pool Upgrade, Evans Head and Coraki Pools improvements, and improvements at the Casino Colley Park precinct in the amounts outlined in the report.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP3: Working Together

PP3.8: Maximise opportunities for community and Council to apply for grant opportunities

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Richmond Valley Council has been allocated \$2,004,428 under the Local Roads Community Infrastructure program Phase 3.

REPORT

Richmond Valley Council has been afforded the opportunity to nominate potential infrastructure projects under Phase 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI Program). \$2,004,428 has been allocated to Council in this phase.

Previous phases of this program have enabled Council to pursue projects such as the Drill Hall and Coronation Park upgrades as well as Razorback Lookout and some bridge renewals. The objective of the LRCI Program is to stimulate additional infrastructure construction activity in local communities across Australia to assist communities to manage the economic impacts of COVID-19. The nominated projects need to be classified as priority 'local road' or 'community infrastructure' projects, which gives Council considerable discretion around project selection.

The intended outcomes of the LRCI Program are to:

- provide stimulus to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities through funded projects following the impacts of COVID-19; and
- deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility, and visual amenity.

The program was announced in October 2021 with nominations due by June 2022 and projects completed by June 2023.

The recent term of Council was highlighted by several high-profile infrastructure 'new builds' such as the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, Woodburn Riverside Park, and the Casino Drill Hall.

With the significant investment in these projects also comes future maintenance commitments and depreciation implications. Council's challenge is to balance its investment in new assets (that are popular with the community) with its commitment to existing asset renewal.

In response to recent funding opportunities, Council had identified its priority infrastructure projects as:

- Stages 2,3 and 4 of the Casino Memorial Pool (\$9m)
- Woodburn CBD activation (\$2m)
- Woodburn, Evans Head, Broadwater pathway linkage (\$7m)
- Colley Park Football Clubhouse and changerooms (\$1m)
- MR145 Woodburn to Casino road (\$32m)

Additionally, Council's Assets Team has maintained a register of potential projects which could be applied to funding opportunities as they arise.

Councillors were recently presented with various project options that aligned with the programs criteria. As a result it is recommended that the \$2,004,428 be allocated as follows:

- \$540,125 Casino Memorial Pool
 - To cover latent site condition variations
- \$390,000 Evans Head and Coraki Pools
 - Evans Head - refurbishment and repairs to amenities, equipment, and shade structures
 - Coraki – shade structure
 - Coraki – additional budget for proposed splash pad
- \$1,074,303 Colley Park Precinct improvements
 - Soccer club change rooms / clubhouse (priority)
 - Netball club court repair (if funding allows)
 - Outdoor basketball court repair (if funding allows)

It should be noted that Council has recently invested in the Woodburn Pool facility and further works are now required at that facility due to flood damage which will be covered by funding from other sources.

CONSULTATION

Project registers have been maintained perpetually via community consultation, surveys, communication with local organisations and assessment of community needs by Council officers.

CONCLUSION

The Federal Government's Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program has provided Council with the opportunity to invest in much needed community infrastructure outside of normal operational budgets. The Pool projects in Casino, Evans Head and Coraki along with the Colley Park precinct are important community facilities that will benefit from such an investment.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.2 RAPPVILLE SEWERAGE SCHEME PROGRESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The design process for the Rappville Sewerage Scheme has reached a critical decision point regarding the 'connection principles.' Public Works Advisory are the mandated project managers for this \$3 million grant, and they continue to work closely with Council's Project Management Office to deliver this important project for the future of Rappville.

For the scheme to provide the best efficiency, value and environmental outcomes, it is recommended that all identified lots in the planning stage of the scheme, will be required to connect before the system is launched. The project budget allows for property connections to existing dwellings, and boundary kits to vacant lots within the Rappville village.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. Existing dwellings and vacant lots within Rappville, be required to connect at the time of major project works and prior to the scheme launch, to the Rappville Sewerage Scheme. The initial connections will be funded by the project budget and lot holders will then be committed to Council's annual sewerage charge;
2. Future developments in Rappville will be required to connect to the Rappville Sewerage Scheme at the cost of the developer consistent with other development in the Richmond Valley.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Looking after our Environment

EH1: Managing our Waste and Water

EH1.8 Provide compliant, continuous and cost-effective water supplies and sewerage services

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The estimated capital cost for the project is \$3,559,251. The annual sewerage charge for the 2022/23 financial year is proposed to be \$1,110.

REPORT

In the aftermath of the 2019 bushfires, Council developed a Recovery Plan to identify projects to support Rappville to be 'built back better'. A sewerage scheme for Rappville formed part of this Recovery Plan, and through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF), funding of \$3 million was secured to deliver this project.

At the Ordinary Meeting held on 17 August 2021, Council resolved to execute a grant funding agreement with Public Works Assurance and Regional NSW where a potential funding shortfall between the projected capital cost of the preferred treatment option was noted. This report also noted the results of a community survey, where 68% of respondents were in favour of a sewerage scheme for Rappville.

Public Works Advisory is the mandated project manager under this grant fund, and it commissioned an options report exploring potential solutions. The report determined that a pressure sewer system, with a centralised treatment plant (Oxidation Pond & Irrigation) was the optimal outcome for the Rappville Community. The estimated capital cost for the project is \$3,559,251. Council currently utilises pressure sewer systems in other parts of the local government area, including Broadwater.

The Project Management Office has been liaising with Public Works Advisory through the planning stages of the project and has now reached a critical decision point to inform the detailed design of the treatment system.

Public Works Advisory has asked Council to consider the 'connection principles' – that is, whether all lot holders in Rappville will be required to connect immediately to the sewerage system upon its completion, and therefore pay an annual sewerage charge (\$1,110 in 2022/23).

The project budget has allowance for 44 property connections (existing dwellings to get pump units installed) and boundary kits to 33 vacant lots. From a resident's perspective, potential benefits and costs of immediate connection include:

| Benefits | Costs |
|---|--|
| Appearance / Amenity | Annual sewer charges (\$1,110 in 2022/23) |
| Capital value and resale potential of dwellings | Residual value of onsite systems recently installed or still functioning |
| Heightens future development opportunity for Rappville | |
| No upkeep costs of onsite systems (annual charges + pump out est. \$830 per year) | |
| Council responsibility for infrastructure | |
| Most effective method of removing and treating wastewater Best environmental outcomes achieved | |
| Removes wastewater off site to a treatment facility | |
| Potential for project budget to cover decommissioning of onsite systems (est. \$45,000) Connection costs are covered now, but not if connection is desired at a later date | |

Image 1 shows the eventual ownership status (and maintenance obligation) of the various components at the house connection end of the proposed sewerage system. The yellow sections show the Council assets.

Image 2 shows the proposed residential, non-residential and vacant lot connections that the project costing was based on. Please note that several vacant lot connections are outside the dimensions of this image.

Other 'connection principles' to be considered in future stages of the project are:

- Upgrade of electrical switchboards
 - Connection costs for 44 existing and 33 vacant lots are allowed for in the project budget. Property connection will occur at the time of the major project works based on individual property audits and agreements. Based on the audits, some switchboard upgrades are likely required on existing dwellings with a project contingency of \$30,000 allowed to fund these upgrades.
- New developments
 - For future developments (as consistent with the Broadwater scheme):
 - Developers to meet connection and associated costs.
 - Developer to design and install networks and property works.
 - Developer to pay sewerage developer contribution.

- Onsite System Decommissioning
 - On connection to the new sewerage system, a potential incentive may be considered where the cost of decommissioning existing onsite systems will be funded out of the project budget.
 - An estimated cost per dwelling of \$1,500 and total of \$45,000 (30 systems) contingency has been allowed for in the project budget and would ensure old systems are dealt with in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.

Some general agreement around the connection principles will enable the Public Works Advisory team to continue with the detailed design. It is the best outcome for the project that existing lot holders connect to the scheme from the start. Future connections to the scheme post the construction period and commissioning would be at the full cost of the lot holder.

PROJECT MILESTONES

Options Study (selection of preferred system) – COMPLETED

Executed Funding Deed – COMPLETED

Community Consultation (survey) – COMPLETED

Community Consultation – ONGOING

Site Selection and acquisition – ONGOING

Design – COMMENCED

Construction Procurement – JULY 2022

Project Delivery – OCTOBER 2022 to MAY 2023

Commissioning – JUNE 2023

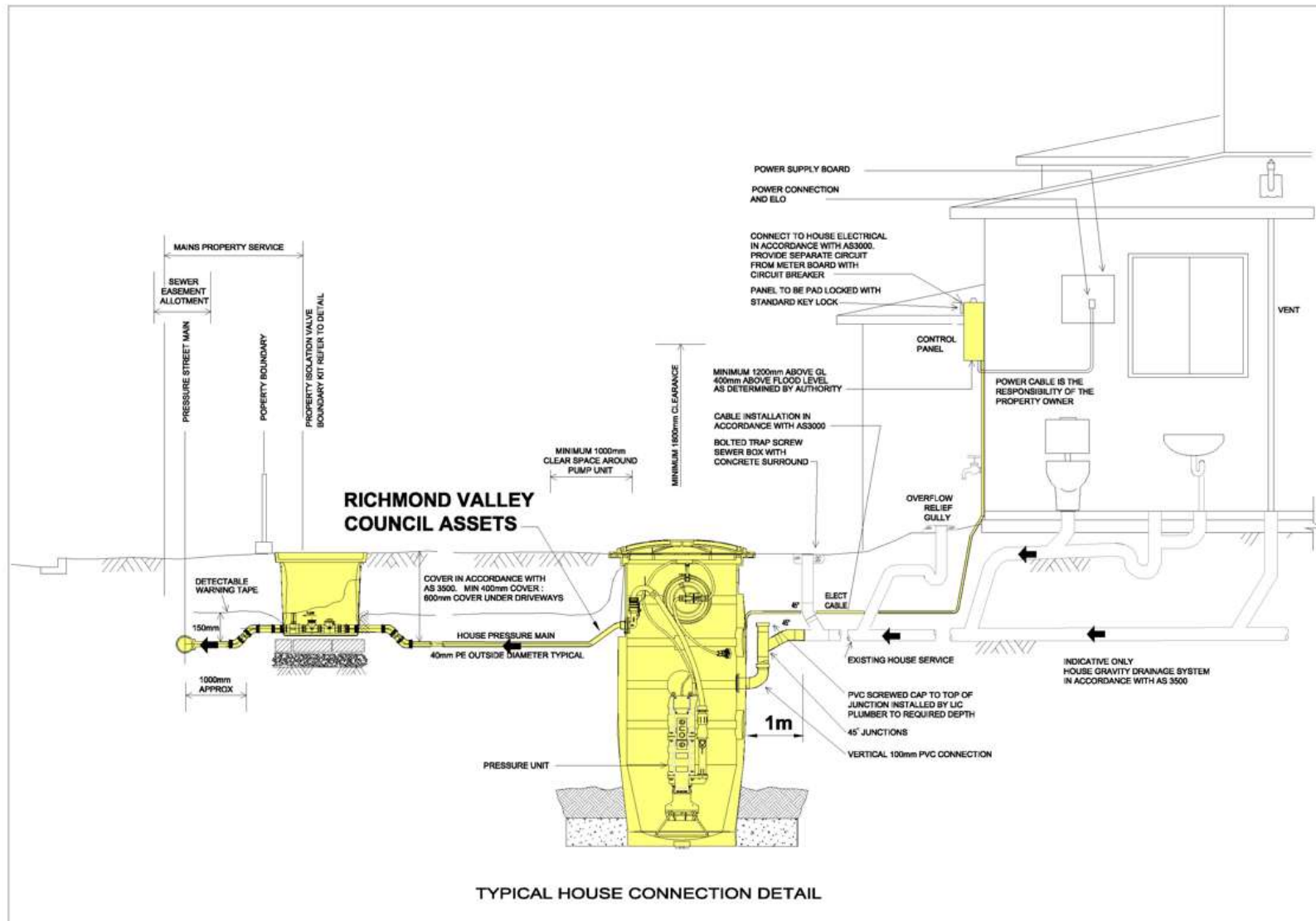
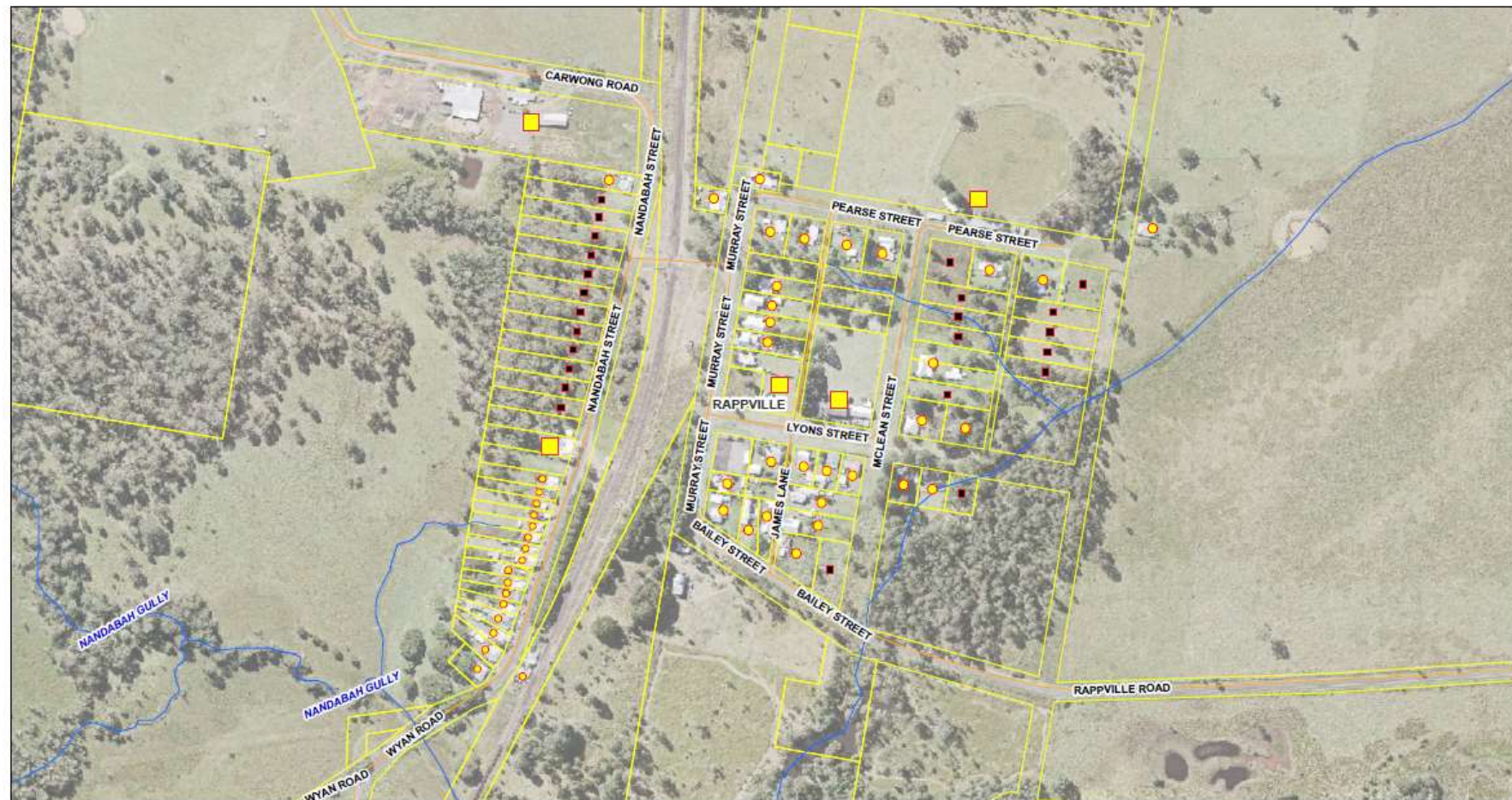


Image 1



4/13/2022, 2:16:24 PM

Towns
 Hydroline (DCDB)
 Roads
 Lots (DCDB)
 LGA Boundary

Legend

Non residential
 Residential
 Vacant

1:4,514

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi
 0 0.07 0.15 0.3 km

© Department of Customer Service 2020

PWA North Coast
 © Department of Customer Service 2020 | SECURED | NSW Department of Industry, Crown Land and Water |

Image 2

CONSULTATION

Consultation for this project has occurred consistently since October 2019. A series of workshops were held with the Rappville Advisory Group which culminated in a public survey of sewerage system options. 68% of respondents were in favour of a sewerage scheme being established in Rappville.

CONCLUSION

To ensure the best environmental and value outcomes for the Rappville Sewerage Scheme, all lot holders in Rappville will be required to connect to the scheme on its establishment. The scheme will have a positive effect on Rappville land values, provide much improved public health and environmental outcomes and provide incentive for future development in the area.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

19.1 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2022

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Sharon Banning

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 January – 31 March 2022.

REPORT

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

The Customer Service Charter is currently before Council for review.

The Customer Experience team are proud to be playing an active role in facilitating the Recovery Centres at Casino and Evans Head, working alongside Resilience NSW, State and Federal agencies, charities and ADF personnel to ensure flood affected community members receive immediate support and financial assistance during the emergency response phase. Customer Service staff have been recognised for their professionalism, community pride and compassion.

Customer Service Contact Centre Data - Key Statistics**Call Statistics**

A total of 10,908 calls were received during the reporting period which is a 34.2% increase from the same period the previous year, and a 38.9% increase on the previous quarter's volumes. The Contact Centre has exceeded all service targets for the report period, including 85.74% of calls answered within 20 seconds, average time each caller spends in the queue is 17.0 seconds and the percentage rate for calls abandoned is less than 1%.

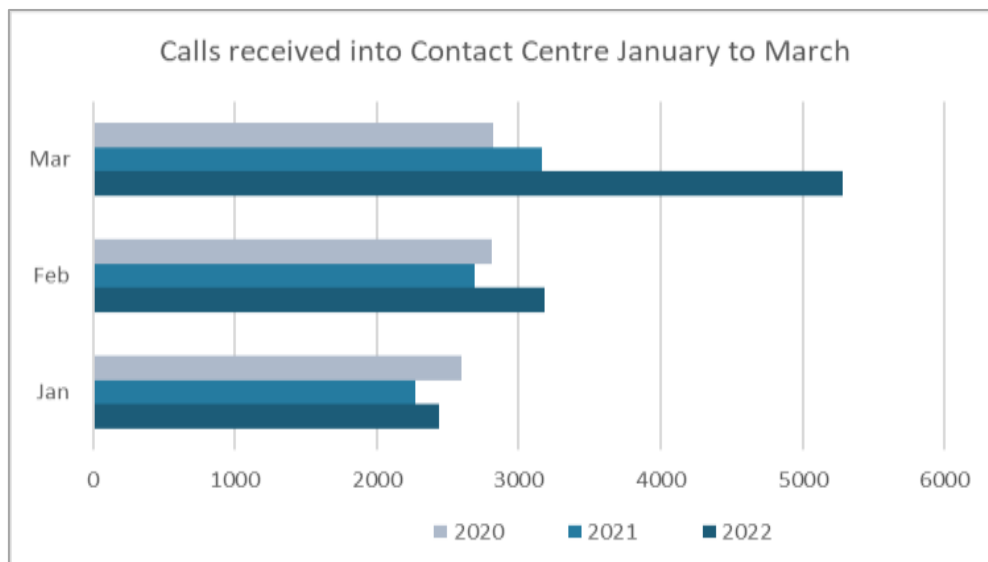


Figure 1: Calls received through the call centre, comparison year on year

Receipt and Administration Statistics

A total of 2,563 receipts were processed for the reporting period which is a decrease of 16.0% for the same period of the previous year of 3,071 receipts. The month of February did see an increase in number of receipts processed, which can be attributed to rates instalment period. Data indicates our customers are utilising alternate methods of payment, as demand for face to face receipting interactions decreases consistently year on year.

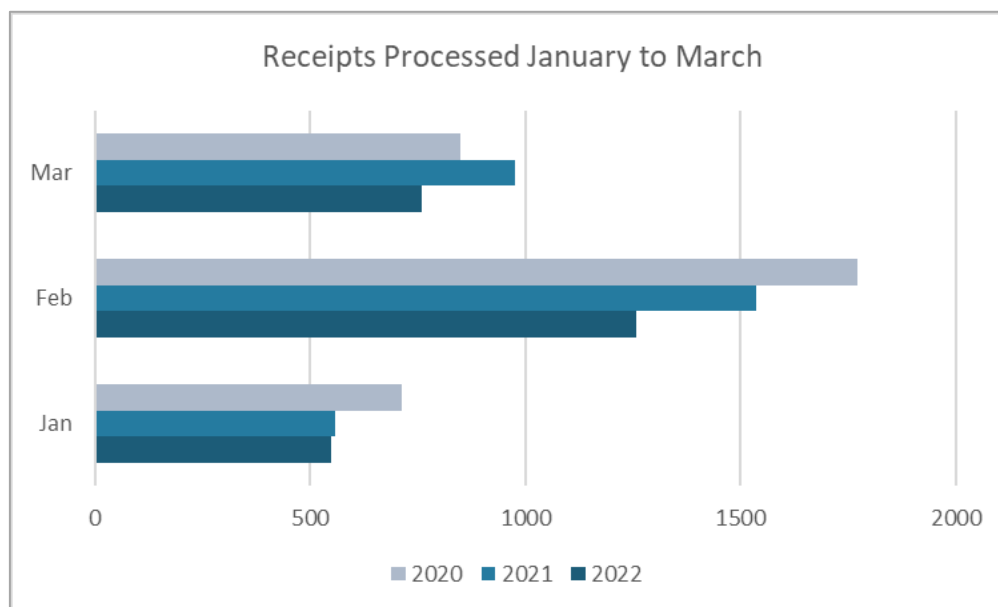


Figure 2: Total number of receipts

Certificates and Customer requests

96.9% of Section 735A, 10.7, 603 certificates were completed within set timeframes in accordance with Council's service standards. Of the 478 certificate applications received, 35.77% were 10.7 certificates, this indicates a 17% reduction in buyer enquiry from the previous quarter which can be directly attributed to the impact of recent natural disasters.



Figure 3. Administration statistics

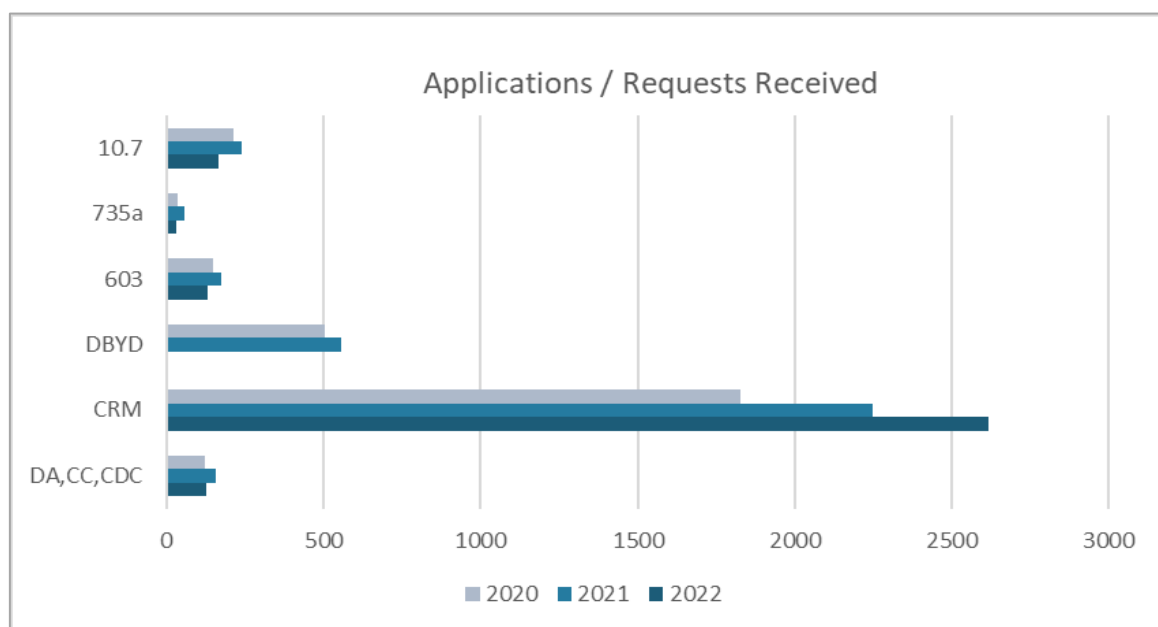


Figure 4. Applications comparison

Customer Request Management System - Key Statistics

During the reporting period, a total of 2,585 requests were logged, an increase of 125% compared to the previous quarter and a 14% increase on the same reporting period of the previous year.

Of the 2,585 requests received during the reporting period, 23% related to Waste and 26.7% directed to Roads and Drainage for assistance. The marked increase is once again attributed to the natural disaster events experienced in March.

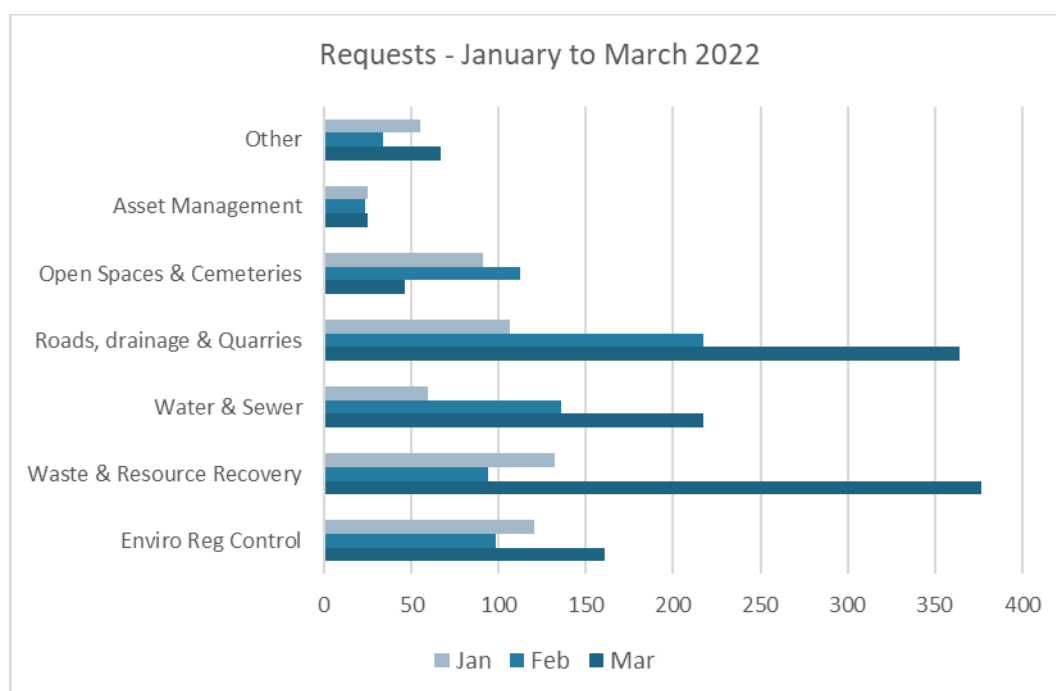


Figure 5: Number of requests

Development Concierge – Key Statistics

Enquiries to the Development Concierge remain constant despite recent weather events. Dual occupancy developments remain popular with residents, seeking to capitalise on their current asset and are of interest to those who have been forced out of the real estate market by increased demand and higher property values.

Enquiries to rebuilding post floods have begun and a suite of flood facts sheet has been developed to provide flood affected residents a guide to emergency repairs and works and emergency / temporary housing.

e-Planning Portal – Key Statistics

Applications received through the planning portal have remained constant during the reporting period, despite our LGA being heavily impacted by the recent floods. With 48 less applications being received compared to the previous quarter leading up to Christmas. The extreme weather events saw almost double the normal call volumes into contact centre requiring the e-planning team to assist with customer phone enquiries. Despite this break in pre-assessment processing, our self-imposed benchmark of 9-10 days was only pushed out to 12 days during this time. The e-planning team pride themselves on building strong customer relations and being willing to assist and educate applicants.

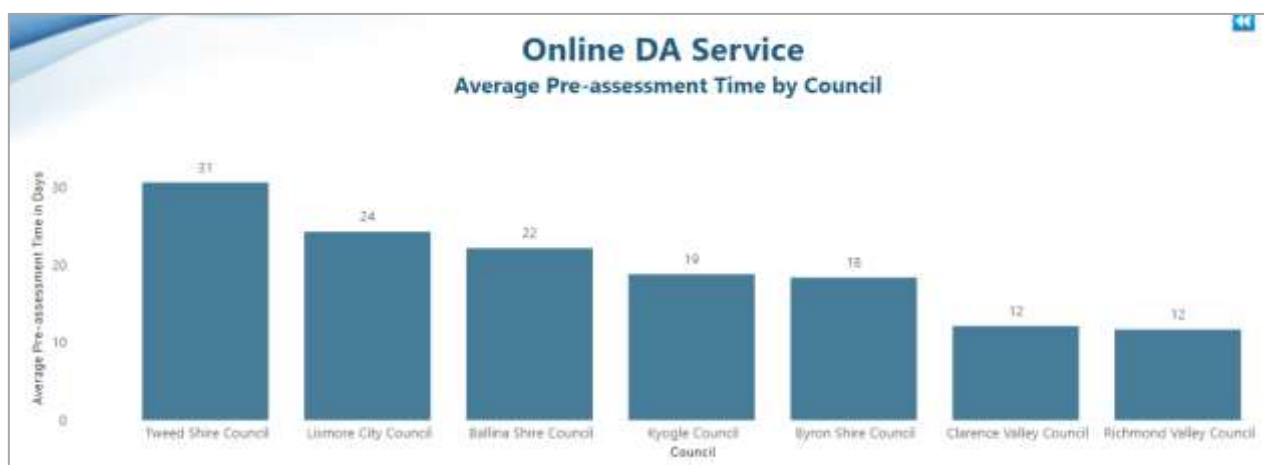


Figure 6: Average pre-assessment time by Council

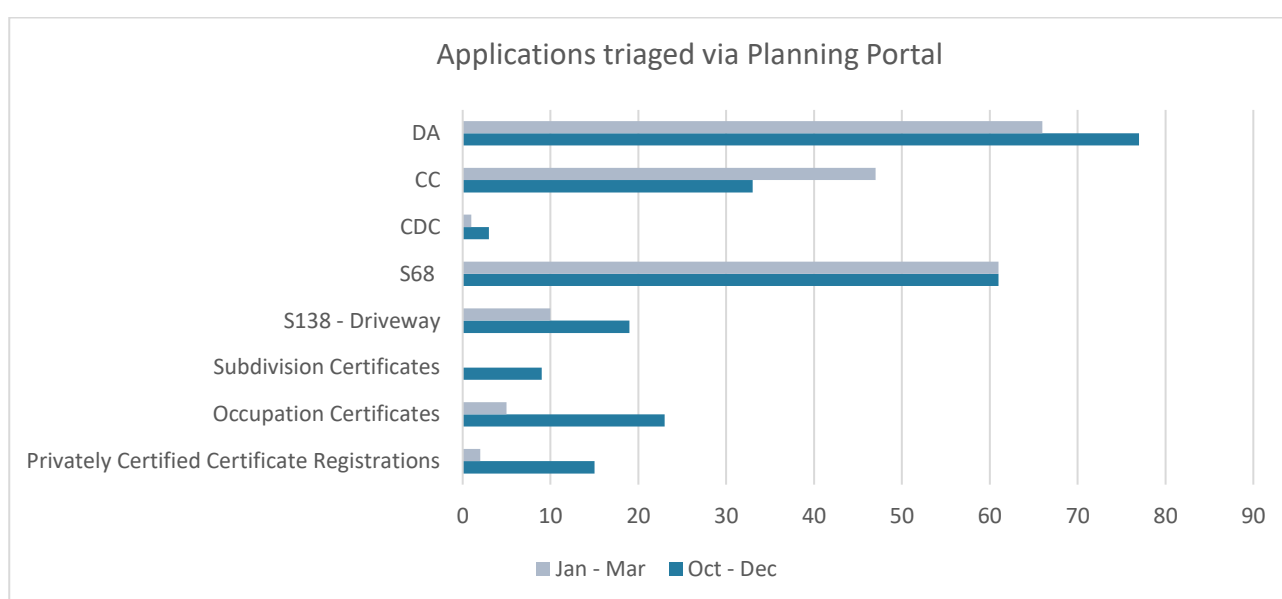


Figure 7: Applications received via the NSW Planning Portal

Opportunities for Improvement

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

- Continue to work closely with customers lodging applications via the e-planning portal to ensure submission to lodgement timeframes are maintained to our standard.
- Continue to provide training and upskilling of our newer inexperienced staff to increase their ability to achieve first contact resolution, particularly in relation to simple development assessment enquires.
- Continue to provide training to staff in the upgraded customer request module (CRM). Seek feedback from key users and review upgrade functionality and implement changes to ensure continuous improvement of corporate systems.

CONCLUSION

The information contained in this report demonstrates the significant volume of tasks and actions which are required to be completed by Council's frontline Customer Experience staff. The Customer Service standards are generally met and more often than not, exceeded.

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

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

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MARCH 2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Dean Fordham

RECOMMENDATION

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

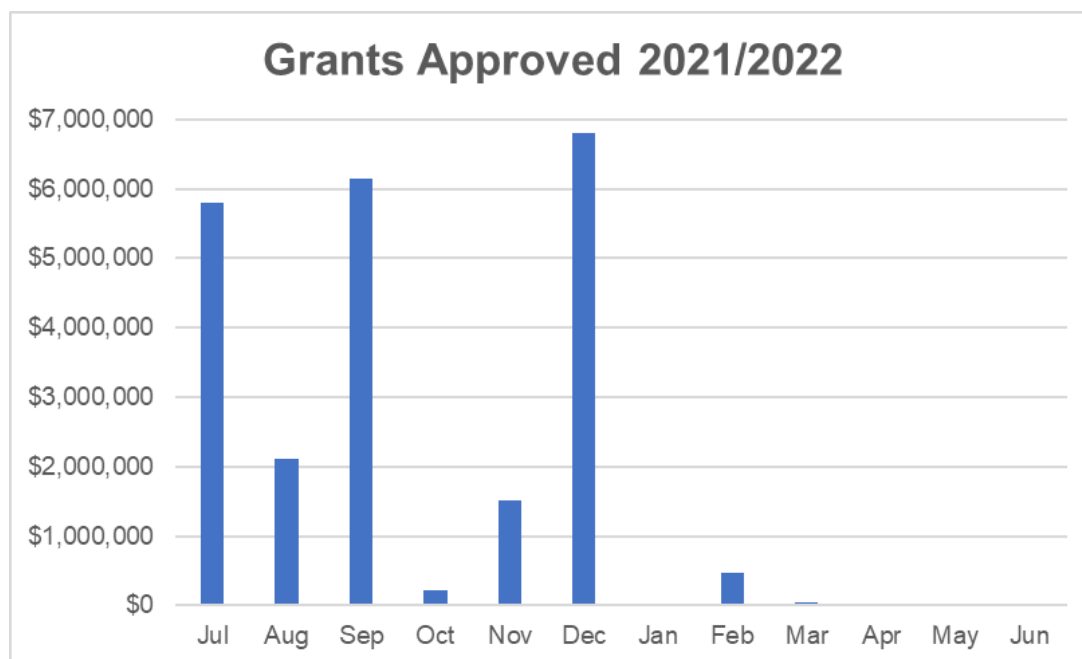
REPORT

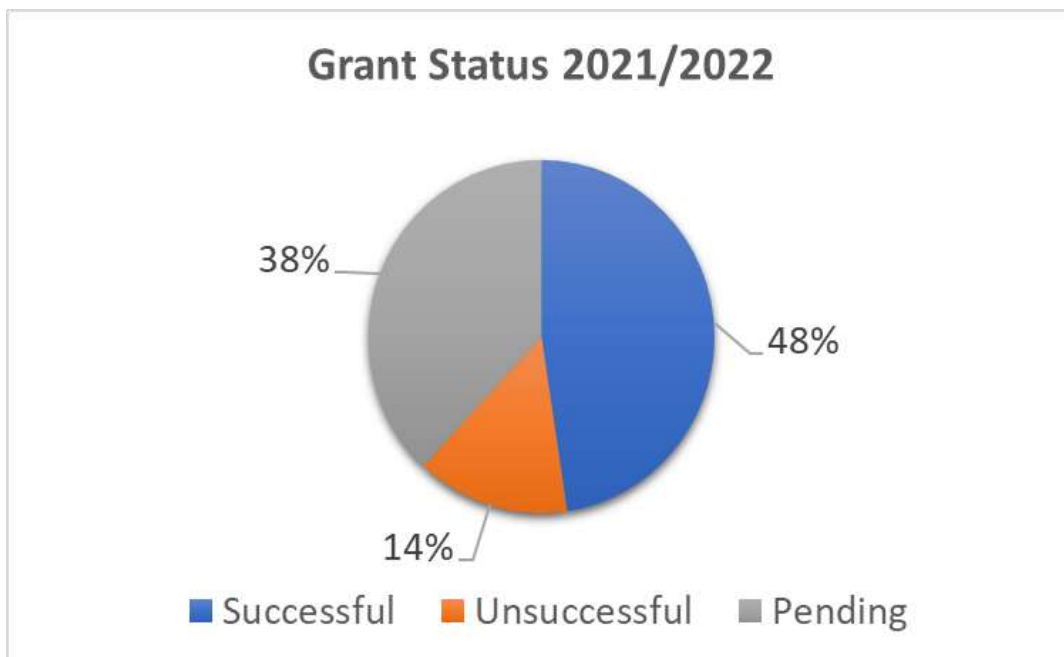
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of March 2022.

During the reporting period, three grants were approved for a total project value of \$65,200, with \$53,400 grant funded.

Council received funding for five grants totalling \$3,664,457. 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 31 March 2022 is shown below:





Grants that have been approved

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Date Approved |
|---|---|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Supporting Community Recovery by Honouring Rappville's Military History | Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (Other) | Strengthening Rural Communities Round 11 | \$ 36,800 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 11,800 | 23 November 2021 | 23 March 2022 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to replace four community war memorial honour rolls destroyed in the 2019 bushfires. | | | | | | | |
| Footpath Correction - River Street, Casino | Transport for NSW (State) | Safety and Minor Works | \$ 14,500 | \$ 14,500 | \$ - | 21 January 2022 | 25 February 2022 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to widen and correct existing defects in the footpath on River and Walker Street | | | | | | | |
| Footpath Extension - High Street, Casino | Transport for NSW (State) | Safety and Minor Works | \$ 13,900 | \$ 13,900 | \$ - | 21 January 2022 | 25 February 2022 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to extend the footpath on High Street, Casino to improve the safety of students walking to school. | | | | | | | |

Grants that have been received

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Date Received | Total Received |
|---|--|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| February 2022 Flood | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (State) | OLG22-33 Flood | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ - | N/A | \$ 1,000,000 7 March 2022 | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Comments: A works program will be developed to decide how to use this \$1 million. | | | | | | | | |
| Roads to Recovery 2019/20 to 2023/24 | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Federal) | Roads to Recovery Program | \$ 5,011,072 | \$ 5,011,072 | \$ - | N/A - annual allocation of \$1,002,214 | \$ 142,000 11 March 2022 | \$ 2,643,472 |
| Comments: N/A | | | | | | | | |
| NSW Severe Weather and Flooding 22 Feb 22 - AGRN1012 | Transport for NSW (State) | Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) | \$ 2,500,000 | \$ 2,500,000 | \$ - | N/A | \$ 2,500,000 18 March 2022 | \$ 250,000 |
| Comments: This is an advance payment to facilitate the emergency work required to clean up and make damaged roads safe and trafficable. | | | | | | | | |
| RVC School Zone Infrastructure Program | Transport for NSW (State) | School Zone Infrastructure Program | \$ 211,664 | \$ 211,664 | \$ - | 13 July 2022 | \$ 20,457 28 March 2022 | \$ 104,894 |
| Comments: N/A | | | | | | | | |
| Australia Day | National Australia Day Council (Federal) | Australia Day 2022 Community Grants | \$ 17,147 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 7,147 | 14 May 2021 | \$ 2,000 31 March 2022 | \$ 10,000 |
| Comments: N/A | | | | | | | | |

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Advised Unsuccessful |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Casino Overland Flood Study & Risk Management Study and Plan | NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) (State) | Floodplain Management Program 2021 | \$ 57,015 | \$ 38,010 | \$ 19,005 | 18 March 2021 | 25 February 2022 |
| Comments: N/A | | | | | | | |

19.3 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE STATISTICS AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**Director: Ben Zeller****Responsible Officer: Bradley Willis****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the financial year to date Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Statistics as of 31 March 2022.

REPORT

This report provides a financial year to date update on the key statistics and financial performance of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange on 31 March 2022.

KEY STATISTICS**To 31 March 2022 (Last Year (LY) to 31 March 2021)**

Throughput **82,222** (LY 76,439)

Gross sales revenue **\$146,491,319** (LY \$104,372,709)

Council revenue share **\$1,448,534 (0.99%)** (LY \$1,267,355 (1.21%))

Estimated Agents revenue share at 5% commission **\$7,324,566** (LY \$5,218,635)

Producers revenue share **\$137,718,219** (LY \$97,886,719)

NRLX Program deficit **\$415,874** (LY \$501,610)

NRLX INCOME AND EXPENDITURE to 31 March 2022

Despite solid throughput numbers and continued high sale prices, the NRLX has returned an operating deficit to 31 March of \$124,262 (LY \$251,450) against a pro-rata budget deficit of \$88,321. Depreciation increases following the recent investment of \$15 million to upgrade the facility is factored into this result which when added back shows a cash surplus result to 31 March of \$259,793 (LY \$102,834) against a pro-rata budget surplus of \$298,904.

Fees and rent revenue of \$1,297,231 are tracking above pro rata budget (\$1,235,963) and above the same period last year (\$1,125,741). Overall income of \$1,339,356 is tracking below pro rata budget (\$1,399,365) and below the same period last year (\$1,366,103) due mainly to the consistently wet weather that has affected the ability to process and sell the soft floor biosolid product which is budgeted to return \$180,000 by financial year end. If the biosolid sales are realised before the end of June, overall income will surpass projected budget and last year's overall income.

Operating expenses to 31 March of \$1,463,618 are below the pro rata budget of \$1,487,686 and the same period last year of \$1,617,554. Materials and contracts and other general expenses will have to be monitored carefully toward the close of the financial year to ensure the improved financial performance can be realised.

The NRLX Program result (operational and capital) to 31 March is a deficit of \$415,874 (LY 501,610) against a pro-rata budget deficit of \$267,893. Pro-rata reporting for a cyclical business should be considered with caution, but still gives an indication of its performance tracking versus budget. The main factors for this performance against budget:

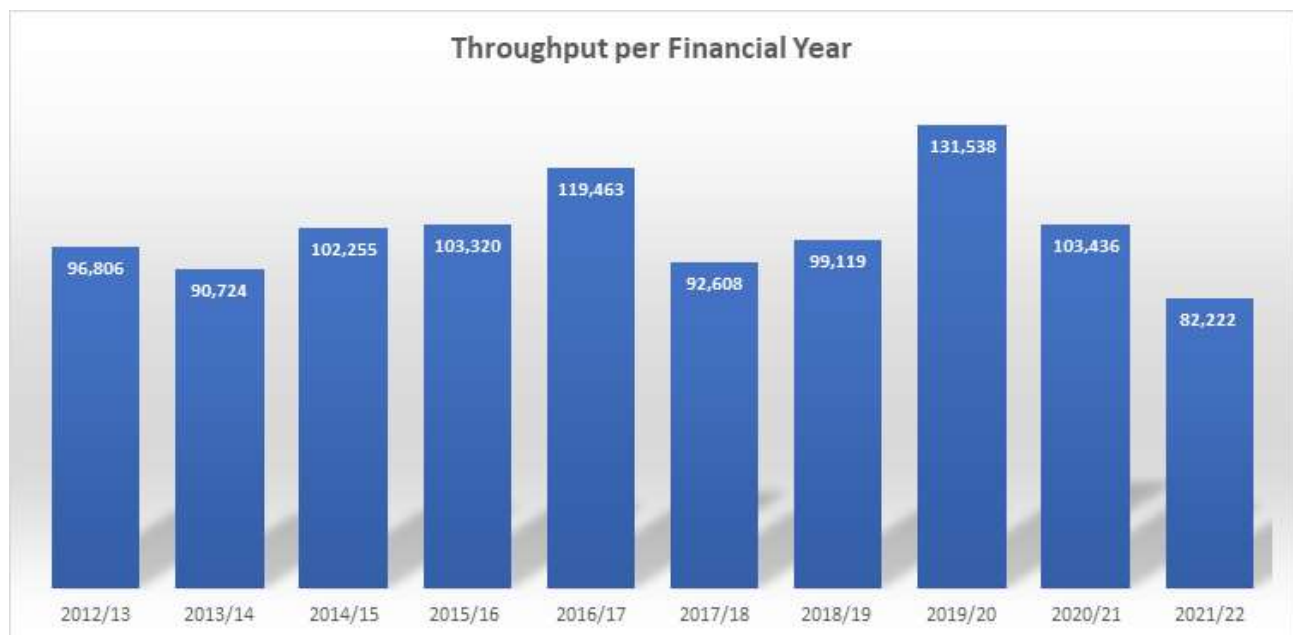
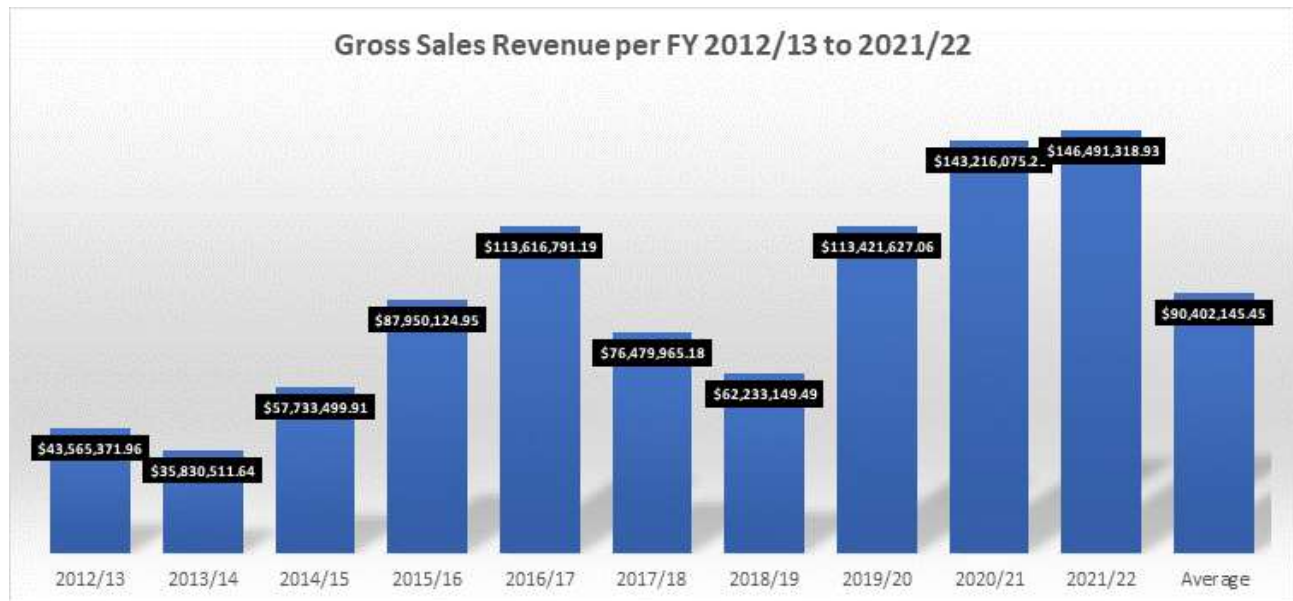
- The biosolids revenue shortfall

- The timing of receipt of our loan borrowings subsidy
- Borrowing costs have been paid in full already
- Budgeted capital improvements have been completed already

From an operating result perspective, significant depreciation and borrowing costs will continue to provide a challenge in the coming years to overcome, with increased revenues and management of other operational expenses being the key to pursuing a positive result.

| NRLX | This Year Actual | Pro Rata Budget | Full Year Budget | % Actual V Budget | Last Year Actual |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income and Expenditure | 31-Mar-22 | 31-Mar-22 | | | 31-Mar-21 |
| | (\$) | (\$) | (\$) | % | (\$) |
| <u>Operating Income</u> | | | | | |
| Fees & Rent | 1,297,231 | 1,235,963 | 1,647,951 | 79% | 1,125,741 |
| Biosolids Project | 23,190 | 135,000 | 180,000 | 13% | 215,752 |
| LIRS Subsidy | 18,935 | 28,402 | 37,869 | 50% | 24,610 |
| Total Operating Income | 1,339,356 | 1,399,365 | 1,865,820 | 72% | 1,366,103 |
| <u>Operating Expenses</u> | | | | | |
| Salaries and On costs | 420,527 | 499,467 | 665,956 | 63% | 466,220 |
| Materials and Contracts | 201,411 | 144,839 | 193,118 | 104% | 214,053 |
| Interest on Loans | 61,459 | 46,095 | 61,460 | 100% | 47,227 |
| Depreciation | 384,055 | 387,225 | 516,300 | 74% | 354,284 |
| Electricity Charges | 35,400 | 26,460 | 35,280 | 100% | 32,009 |
| Telephone Charges | 4,257 | 5,117 | 6,822 | 62% | 3,378 |
| Insurance Charges | 15,605 | 13,389 | 17,852 | 87% | 10,683 |
| Advertising Costs | 13,778 | 11,250 | 15,000 | 92% | 7,536 |
| Software Licences | 28,262 | 37,500 | 50,000 | 57% | 35,794 |
| Other General Expenses | 26,405 | 19,536 | 26,048 | 101% | 17,548 |
| Biosolids Project | 86,844 | 90,000 | 120,000 | 72% | 208,552 |
| Internal Charges | 185,616 | 206,809 | 275,745 | 67% | 220,271 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 1,463,618 | 1,487,686 | 1,983,581 | 74% | 1,617,554 |
| Operating Result - Surplus/(Deficit) | (124,262) | (88,321) | (117,761) | | (251,450) |
| Operating Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit) | 259,793 | 298,904 | 398,539 | | 102,834 |
| <u>Capital Income</u> | | | | | |
| Capital Grants | | | | | |
| Capital Works Levy | 151,302 | 153,450 | 204,600 | 74% | 141,614 |
| Total Capital Income | 151,302 | 153,450 | 204,600 | 74% | 141,614 |
| <u>Capital Expenditure</u> | | | | | |
| Plant Purchases | 70,807 | 53,700 | 71,600 | 99% | 56,270 |
| Shed | 8,683 | 6,750 | 9,000 | 96% | 8,926 |
| Loan Principal Repayments | 363,425 | 272,572 | 363,429 | 100% | 326,578 |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 442,914 | 333,022 | 444,029 | 100% | 391,774 |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Program Result - Surplus/(Deficit) | (415,874) | (267,893) | (357,190) | (501,610) |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|





OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

The gross revenue to date of \$146million is a facility record with three months of sales remaining in the year. The investment in the venue which can now facilitate this volume of activity has a significant positive effect on the Richmond Valley economy. Throughput is up on the same period last year and NRLX management is aiming for full year throughput of 110,000.

Recently, the National Livestock Reporting Service released the 2020/21 cattle results which saw the NRLX climb to third place in the state based on throughput behind only Dubbo and Wagga Wagga. 10% of NSW cattle sales last year were processed at the NRLX.



National Livestock Reporting Service

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

New South Wales

Cattle

| Town | Saleyard | State | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | % of State | % Change |
|--------------|---|------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| Dubbo | Dubbo Regional Livestock Market** | NSW | 155,770 | 115,836 | 11.2% | -25.6% |
| Wagga Wagga | Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre** | NSW | 190,150 | 113,401 | 10.9% | -40.4% |
| Casino | Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange** | NSW | 131,926 | 103,700 | 10.0% | -21.4% |
| Tamworth | Tamworth Regional Livestock Exchange** | NSW | 111,834 | 101,215 | 9.8% | -9.5% |
| Carcoar | Central Tablelands Livestock Exchange** | NSW | 144,904 | 63,885 | 6.2% | -55.9% |
| Gunnedah | Gunnedah Regional Saleyard** | NSW | 80,000 | 56,105 | 5.4% | -29.9% |
| Inverell | Inverell Regional Livestock Exchange** | NSW | 62,083 | 46,000 | 4.4% | -25.9% |
| Yass | South Eastern Livestock Exchange** | NSW | 65,469 | 36,323 | 3.5% | -44.5% |
| Maitland | Maitland Saleyards | NSW | 50,345 | 41,338 | 4.0% | -17.9% |
| Grafton | Grafton Regional Livestock Selling Centre | NSW | 50,962 | 34,490 | 3.3% | -32.3% |
| Moss Vale | Southern Regional Livestock Exchange** | NSW | 50,997 | 33,367 | 3.2% | -34.6% |
| Forbes | Central West Livestock Exchange** | NSW | 51,946 | 32,973 | 3.2% | -36.5% |
| Kempsey | Kempsey Regional Saleyards | NSW | 31,849 | 32,963 | 3.2% | 3.5% |
| Scone | Scone Regional Livestock Selling Centre** | NSW | 38,097 | 29,071 | 2.8% | -23.7% |
| Singleton | Singleton Regional Livestock Markets** | NSW | 39,325 | 27,390 | 2.6% | -30.3% |
| Dunedoo | Dunedoo Saleyards | NSW | 17,634 | 25,223 | 2.4% | 43.0% |
| Bega Valley | Bega Valley Saleyard / Pambula | NSW | 27,660 | 20,261 | 2.0% | -26.7% |
| Lismore | Lismore Saleyards | NSW | 26,299 | 22,355 | 2.2% | -15.0% |
| Mudgee | Midwestern Regional Council Saleyards | NSW | 26,806 | 18,802 | 1.8% | -29.9% |
| Armidale | New England Livestock Selling Facility** | NSW | 24,980 | 15,744 | 1.5% | -37.0% |
| Macksville | Macksville Saleyards | NSW | 15,191 | 12,640 | 1.2% | -16.8% |
| Finley | Finley Livestock Exchange | NSW | 16,099 | 11,209 | 1.1% | -30.4% |
| Deniliquin | Deniliquin Saleyards | NSW | 2,177 | 1,310 | 0.1% | -39.8% |
| Camden | Camden Saleyards | NSW | 14,987 | 9,748 | 0.9% | -35.0% |
| Glen Innes | Glen Innes Severn Regional Saleyards | NSW | 8,289 | 9,419 | 0.9% | 13.6% |
| Tenterfield | Tenterfield Livestock Selling Centre | NSW | 9,247 | 8,963 | 0.9% | -3.1% |
| Braidwood | Braidwood Saleyards | NSW | 7,542 | 6,217 | 0.6% | -17.6% |
| Narrabri | Narrabri Livestock Selling Centre | NSW | 9,866 | 4,280 | 0.4% | -56.6% |
| Gundagai | Gundagai Livestock Exchange | NSW | 1,377 | 2,867 | 0.3% | 108.2% |
| Total | | NSW | 1,463,811 | 1,037,095 | | -29.2% |

As always, March has been a very busy month for the NRLX, with eleven sales held including one Saturday and two Monday sales. 18,592 cattle were sold at the NRLX in March totalling \$35 million with one week alone seeing 9,438 cattle passing through the facility.

With the end of the busy period in sight, NRLX Management will turn attention to strategic matters including a review of fee structures, resourcing and consideration of the agents' licensing permits which expire in June 2023. A review of all operational processes will be undertaken particularly to ones where stakeholders are providing direct feedback. An example of this is the whole management of the cattle delivery process with NRLX management being encouraged to consider taking greater control in this area to improve oversight, worker safety and animal welfare outcomes post sale. This would aim to improve efficiency and minimise work health and safety risks and will be given due consideration in conjunction with all stakeholders.

19.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH TO 31 MARCH 2022

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Georgia Campbell

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 March 2022 to 31 March 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 March to 31 March 2022, was 20, with a total value of \$5,600,860.60.

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

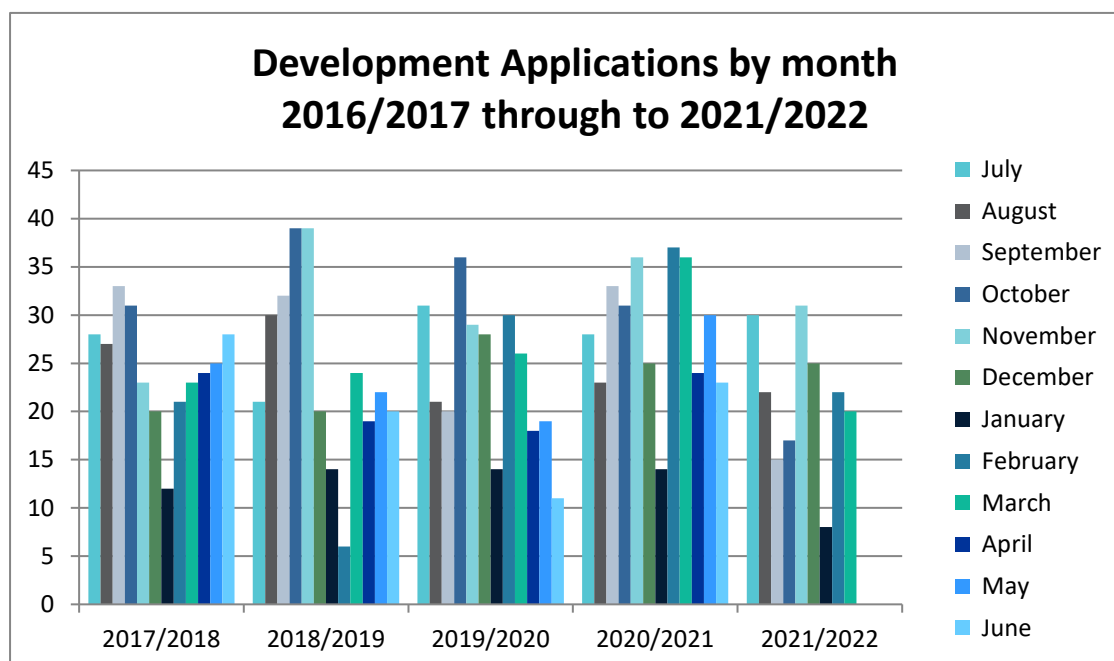


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

Figure 2 graph provides the annual value of Development Consents issued by Council over five financial years and Figure 3 provides a detailed review of the value for the reporting month of March 2022.

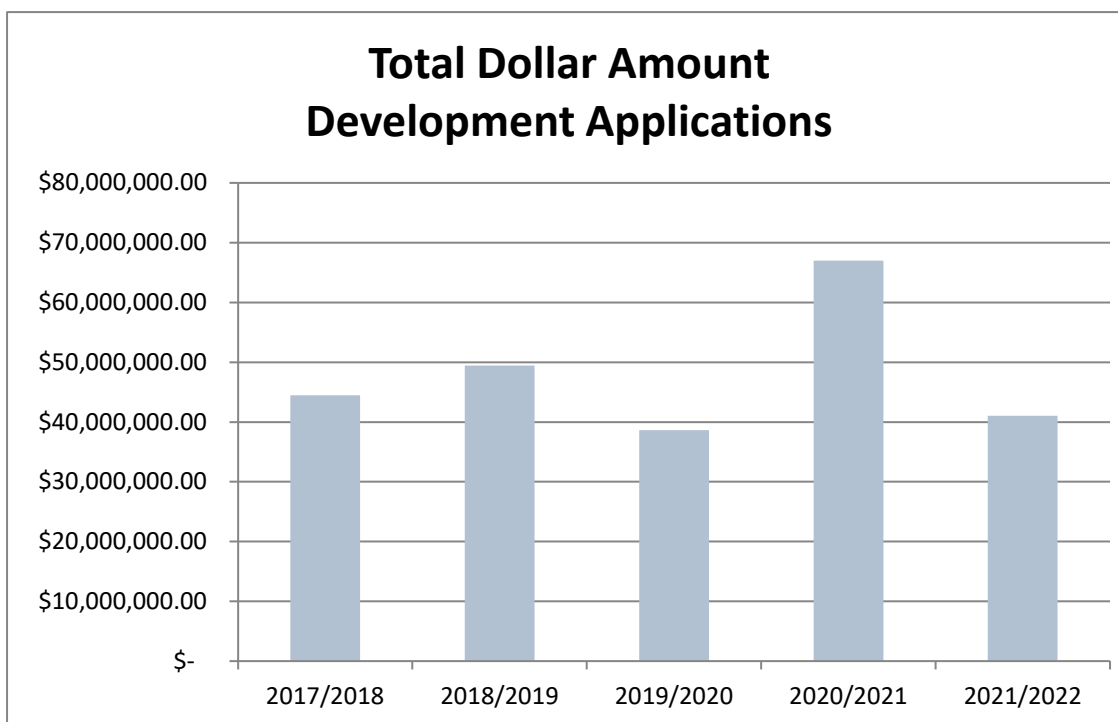


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

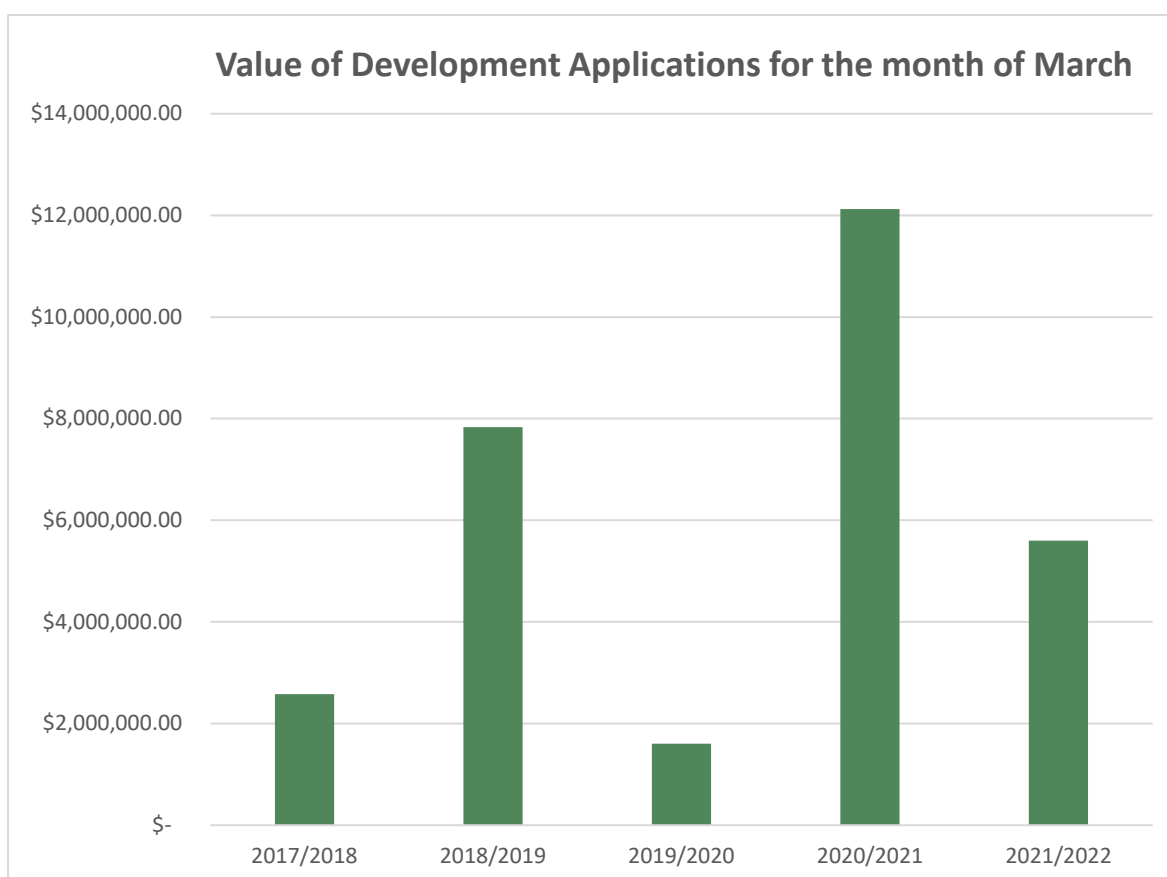


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of March 2022

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.

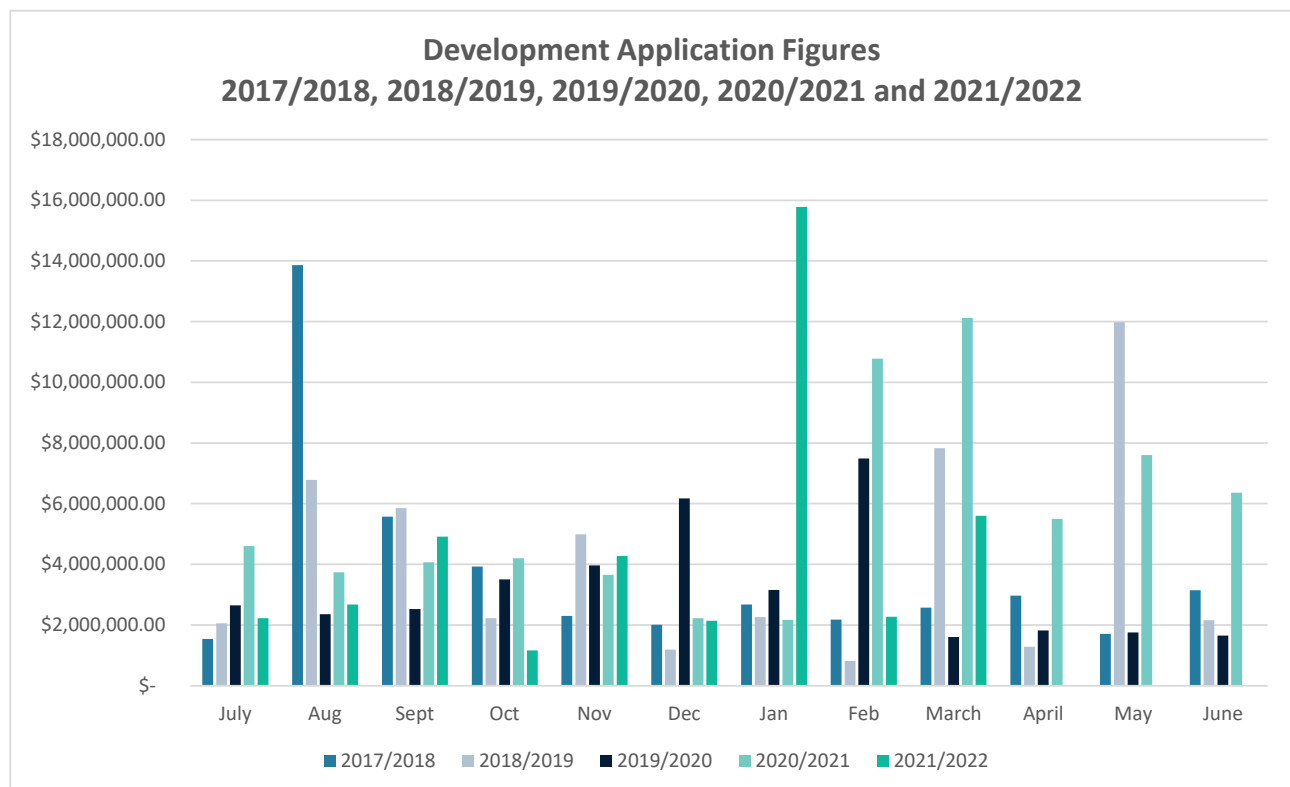


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

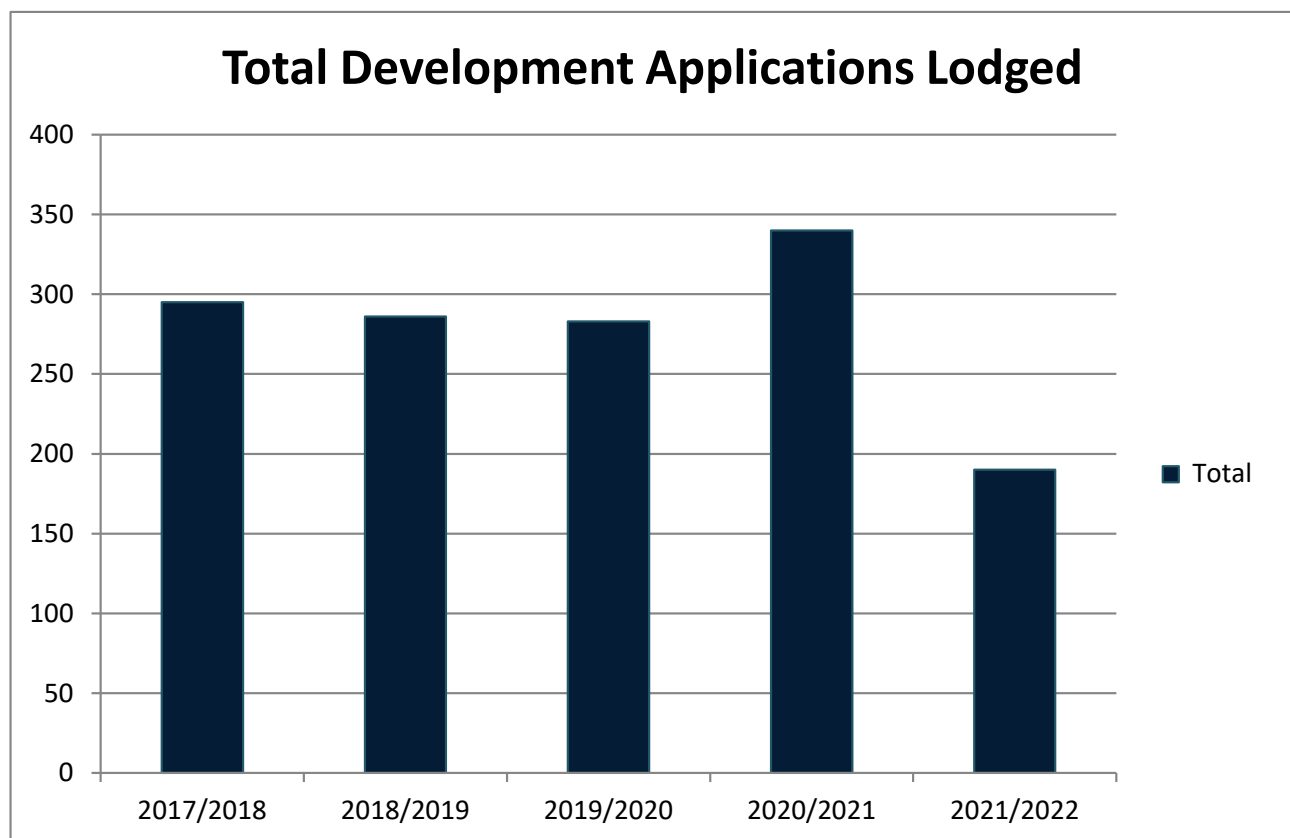


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the month of February 2022

| | |
|---|------------|
| General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55) | 16 |
| Section 4.55 amendments to original consent | 2 |
| Subdivision | 2 |
| Refused | |
| Withdrawn | |
| Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved) | |
| TOTAL | 20 |
| Average assessment days for applications determined in March 2022 | 41 |
| No. of Integrated development applications determined in March 2022 | 1 |
| No. of Designated development applications determined in March 2022 | 0 |
| No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in March 2022. This includes Flood Assessment Reports undertaken by Lake Macquarie City Council Building Inspectors | 159 |

Please note: A private contractor has been engaged to support Council's team 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 March 2022 to 31 March 2022 | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2022/0068 | SM Mazzocato | RM & SM Mazzocato | 1/8 Elm Street, Evans Head | Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two (2) new two story dwellings within an existing multi dwelling housing development and associated works | 6/10/2021 | 24/03/2022 | \$838,200.00 |
| DA2022/0104 | Hayes Building Consultancy | Barbarni Pty Ltd | 16 Flame Street, Evans Head | Demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary structures, Torrens Title subdivision into two (2) lots, construction of a concrete retaining wall and installation of associated services | 16/11/2021 | 10/03/2022 | \$25,000.00 |
| DA2022/0114 | AS Johns | LR Sheppard & AS Johns | 83 Johnston Street, Casino | Construction of two (2) single storey dwellings with double garages to create an attached dual occupancy development, associated works and Strata title subdivision | 8/12/2021 | 17/03/2022 | \$500,000.00 |
| DA2022/0132 | Chris Burley Constructions | RJ Winnell & NA Lyons | 40 Diary Street, Casino | Construction of patio - concrete slab with solar span roof | 13/01/2022 | 2/03/2022 | \$18,680.00 |
| DA2022/0139 | Crestwood Drafting Services | D & SJ Holzhauser | 372 Bennis Road, Shannon Brook | New 3 bedroom private residence | 20/01/2022 | 11/03/2022 | \$540,100.00 |
| DA2022/0141 | Profile Pools and Landscaping | JK Spencer & RC Nelson | 196 Walker Street, Casino | Installation of an inground fibreglass swimming pool and associated pool fencing | 24/01/2022 | 14/03/2022 | \$41,077.00 |
| DA2022/0148 | CL Reeves | CL & PR Reeves | 47 Centre Street, Casino | Demolition of single car garage and construction of new double car garage | 1/02/2022 | 18/03/2022 | \$15,000.00 |
| DA2022/0150 | W Clifton | JR Penman & JL Mason | 30 Angus Place, North Casino | Shed - 36.62m x 19.10m | 2/02/2022 | 25/03/2022 | \$120,000.00 |
| DA2022/0154 | Crestwood Drafting Services | D & SJ Holzhauser | 372 Bennis Road, Shannon Brook | New 4 bay shed constructed of brick and colourbond roof | 8/02/2022 | 15/03/2022 | \$86,900.00 |
| DA2021/0118.01 | Newton Denny Chapelle | Mr R Molyneux | 10 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Coraki | S4.55(2) Modification Application seeking completion of works to part installed cool room to use in association with the takeaway food and drink premise and extend approved hours of operation | 9/02/2022 | 15/03/2022 | \$0.00 |
| DA2022/0160 | The Shed Company | BD Mentiplay & TF Biggs | 1184 Spring Grove Road, Spring Grove | 12m x 12m colorbond shed | 15/02/2022 | 17/03/2022 | \$44,000.00 |
| DA2022/0162 | GJ Clausen | GJ & AC Clausen | 25 Riverview Street, Evans Head | Install steel beam (approx 9.2M long) and two steel support columns under a front section of an existing timber deck, to replace three timber support posts, to give greater access on the driveway. | 17/02/2022 | 14/03/2022 | \$22,957.60 |
| DA2022/0180 | Meticon Homes QLD Pty Ltd | GM & SL Smith-Roberts | 66 Canning Drive, Casino | Construction of two (2) single storey dwellings with single garages to create an attached dual occupancy development, retaining walls and associated works | 8/03/2022 | 29/03/2022 | \$501,749.00 |
| DA2022/0112.01 | Kleyn Creations Pty Ltd | SJ & BA Mudiman | 121 Ocean Drive, Evans Head | Section 4.55(1) - Modification to fix minor clerical errors - alterations & additions - proposed ground floor garage conversion to living area and additional car parking space added | 23/03/2022 | 23/03/2022 | \$0.00 |

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022 | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2022/0072 | BR Ridley | BR Ridley | 60 Canning Drive, Casino | Construction of two (2) single storey dwellings to create a detached dual occupancy development, retaining walls and associated works | 8/10/2021 | 3/03/2022 | \$509,023.00 |
| DA2022/0116 | GM Green | GM Green | 271 Brewers Road, Kippenduff | Construction of a private, single storey dwelling and related landscaping for residential purposes | 9/12/2021 | 10/03/2022 | \$384,727.00 |
| DA2022/0133 | J Wood | NJ & J Wood | 5 Figtree Drive, Casino | Removal of existing roof over pool area and construction of pool deck, new shed, retaining wall, along with alterations to existing dwelling | 14/01/2022 | 10/03/2022 | \$100,000.00 |
| DA2022/0137 | Newton Denny Chapelle | Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre Inc | High Street, Casino | Construction of a new ancillary community facility in association with the existing Pre-school and childcare centre (Jumbunna) | 20/01/2022 | 24/03/2022 | \$1,316,820.00 |
| DA2022/0167 | Meticon Homes QLD Pty Ltd | GM & SL Smith-Roberts | 68 Canning Drive, Casino | Construction of two (2) single storey dwellings with single garages to create an attached dual occupancy development, retaining walls and associated works | 17/02/2022 | 17/03/2022 | \$493,827.00 |
| DA2022/0170 | F Jeffs | F Jeffs | 33 Jersey Drive, North Casino | Installation of a fibreglass composite inground swimming pool & associated fencing | 21/02/2022 | 28/03/2022 | \$42,800.00 |

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

19.5 CORRESPONDENCE TO NSW PREMIER

Director: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Jenna Hazelwood

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the correspondence forwarded to the NSW Premier;

- Seeking support towards the Richmond Valley Flood Recovery, and
- Expressing concern at IPART's decision to impose the lowest rate peg in 20 years for the 2022-23 financial year.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

At Council's March Ordinary meeting the following resolution was observed;

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*

At Council's February Ordinary meeting the following resolution was observed;

That Council writes to the Premier of NSW, Deputy Premier of NSW, the Minister for Local Government, Member for Clarence and the Chair of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to:

1. *Seek an immediate increase in the 2022-23 rate peg to at least 2%, to assist communities in regional NSW*
2. *Request an urgent review of the Local Government Cost Index methodology, in consultation with NSW councils.*

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **NSW Premier - Richmond Valley Flood Recovery Planning**
2. **NSW Premier - Local Government Rate Peg**



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t: 02 6660 0300 f: 02 6660 1300

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ABN 54 145 907 009

30 March 2022

The Hon Dominic Perrottet
Premier of NSW
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier Perrottet

Richmond Valley Flood Recovery Planning

Thank you for visiting our region for a significant period of time following the 2022 flood disaster, to meet with our communities and listen to their stories. Your support is appreciated by our community and it's important for decision makers to view firsthand the damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure in the Richmond Valley.

As we discussed during your visits, the impacts of this flood are far-reaching and profound, and our community will take many years to recover. Although it is still difficult to assess the full extent of loss and damage, Council believes the repair and replacement costs for roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure will exceed \$150 million. The cost to local homes and businesses and the impact on the health and wellbeing of our community will be far greater than that.

Our Council appreciates the assistance that we have received so far from the NSW Government and we want to continue to work in partnership with you as we plan the long-term response to this unprecedented event. Council is developing a three-year recovery plan for the Richmond Valley, and it is in relation to this plan that I write, on behalf of Council, seeking your support.

Long-term community planning

At its 15 March 2022 meeting, Council considered how best to address its requirement under s.402 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to review our community's long-term plan and endorse a revised version within six months of the 2021 election. The Richmond Valley's Community Strategic Plan was last reviewed in 2017 and our community has experienced significant changes since that time, including the impacts of devastating bushfires, five major flood events, the Covid pandemic and, most recently, the record flood of March 2022.

These events have reshaped the Richmond Valley and will redefine our future. But our community is not yet ready to consider these long-term impacts and options. As you saw on your visits to the Valley, the immediate concerns of safety, shelter and financial security are the main focus for many community members in the wake of this disaster. Council understands these needs and has a plan to respond directly to flood recovery over the next 12 months and to continue to support this recovery for the following two years. That is why we are seeking your endorsement to delay the review of our Community Strategic Plan until 2023, until such time as the 12-month recovery plan has been implemented and our

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community is in a better position to identify its long-term priorities. Council will consult further with the Office of Local Government on this matter.

Rating relief

Council also endorsed an initial package of rating relief at its March meeting, to support those immediately impacted by the floods. However, we also resolved to write to you seeking further support from the NSW Government in this regard. Following the devastating 2019 bushfires, Service NSW administered a scheme whereby residents could receive a rates rebate from the NSW Government. This was of great assistance in supporting the recovery of our community and we would seek your help in re-introducing this scheme, or similar arrangements, to assist our local flood victims. This would ensure that those directly impacted by the floods receive financial support, while Council continues to receive the rating income it relies upon to undertake the massive task of rebuilding the Richmond Valley.

Tendering concessions

As Council begins to undertake the major construction works required to rebuild our roads, bridges and water and sewerage networks, we would also seek support from the NSW Government to assist in streamlining the local government tendering process. Under the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to call tenders for works over the value of \$250,000. Following the 2019-20 bushfires, the NSW Government provided a temporary increase of the tendering threshold to \$500,000 for councils undertaking recovery works. This was of great assistance to our Council at the time and we would seek your support in introducing a similar concession for those undertaking flood-related repair works in the wake of this latest disaster.

Having experienced eight natural disasters in the past three years, our Council understands how important these immediate assistance measures can be in helping communities to get back on their feet and providing stimulus to the regional economy. We are also preparing a Flood Impact and Response Report along with an Economic Impact Assessment which we intend to have available for you by next week.

Thank you again for your continued support for our community. Please feel free to contact Council's General Manager, Vaughan Macdonald on mobile 0415 155 257 should you or your team require further information on these matters.

Yours sincerely



Robert Mustow
Mayor



Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

Cc.

Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police, Mr Paul Toole MP

Minister for Local Government, Ms Wendy Tuckerman MP

Minister for Emergency Services, Ms Steph Cooke MP

Member for Clarence, Mr Chris Gulaptis, MP



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ABN 54 145 907 009

12 April 2022

The Hon Dominic Perrottet
Premier of NSW
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier Perrottet

Local Government rate peg 2022-23

In February, Richmond Valley Council resolved that I should write to you expressing Council's deep concern at IPART's decision to impose the lowest rate peg in 20 years on the local government sector for the 2022-23 financial year.

Since that resolution, the Richmond Valley and surrounding Northern Rivers councils have suffered two catastrophic flood events and our communities now face crippling expenses and many long years of recovery. At a time when Northern Rivers councils need all the help they can get to rebuild and restore their communities, imposing unreasonable rating restrictions, such as the 0.7% increase mandated by IPART, will only serve to make the situation worse. Councils need reliable income streams to plan a steady course of recovery.

Although our Council is not directly impacted by the current rate peg restriction, because we have a pre-approved Special Rate Variation for the 2022-23 year, we face difficult times in the following year if these unrealistic limitations continue. At a time when Council's construction costs have increased by 30%, and fuel costs by more than 30%, we are at odds to understand how IPART calculated such a low rate peg figure. There is clearly a fundamental flaw in the Local Government Cost Index methodology that IPART uses to calculate the rate peg and there is an urgent need to review this process.

The Office of Local Government's response to IPART's decision has been to extend the time available to local councils to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) for 2022-23. This process involves extensive time and cost for councils, including community consultation. Richmond Valley Council finds it difficult to accept that local government should carry the cost of these requirements to obtain a fair and realistic increase that should have been granted as a matter of course.

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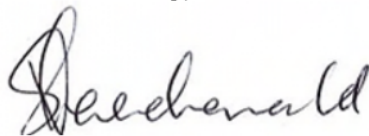
In light of the current circumstances facing many councils in NSW, we would request that the NSW Government:

- Immediately increases the 2022-23 rate peg to at least 2%
- Undertakes a thorough review of IPART's methodology for calculating the rate peg, including the Local Government Cost Index, in consultation with the local government sector.

While none of the Northern Rivers councils that have been significantly impacted by the recent floods would seek to unreasonably impose additional costs on their community at this time, we need to achieve a realistic balance in sharing the cost of recovery. Local councils will carry the burden of recovery for at least the next three years. We cannot achieve this when our main source of income is pegged below the current inflation rate.

Thank you for your continued support for our community in these difficult times. I'm sure that your recent visits to the Northern Rivers to view first hand the sheer magnitude of the damage has helped you to appreciate the long and difficult recovery challenge we face. It is critical at this time that councils continue to receive reliable income streams that reflect their true operational costs.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

Cc:

Ms Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government

Mr Chris Gulaptis MP, Member for Clarence

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**20.1 CR ROBERT HAYES, QUESTION ON NOTICE - FLOOD REVIEW**

Director: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Robert Hayes at the March Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Question

Can the General Manager advocate for any future review or inquiry into the recent floods to include representation of people on the ground of our Richmond Valley, including agricultural, business and community organisations?

Response

The Flood Recovery Update report in this Business Paper provides commentary on Council's intentions in regard to the recently announced NSW Government Flood Inquiry.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Authorises the General Manager to prepare and make a submission to the NSW Government Flood Inquiry on Council's behalf.
2. Encourages residents to make submissions directly to the Inquiry
3. Seeks a meeting with the Inquiry members for the Mayor and General Manager to discuss Council's observations and concerns with the response and recovery efforts following the 2022 Flood events.

ATTACHMENT(S)

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 Proposed Residential and Industrial Property Acquisition

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

22.2 Loan Borrowing Program 2021/2022

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

22.3 Tender - Supply and Delivery of Water Meters T552122RTC

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