



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 28 June 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**

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2022

Director: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Julie Clark

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17 May 2022.

REPORT

See attached minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Minutes 17 May 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; FLOOD RELIEF**

I, Councillor Robert Hayes, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 28 June 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

That the General Manager prepares a report for the July Ordinary meeting, addressing the following items:

- Council's ability to reduce or waive development and construction certificate fees and charges for any property rebuilds from flood damage;
- The financial impact on Council of any support program;
- The program that was offered to residents impacted by the 2019 Black Summer Bushfires and the financial impact on Council;
- Information on what neighbouring flood affected Councils are offering their residents to support their property rebuilds.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCES 11 MAY - 20 JUNE 2022****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's attendance report from 11 May – 20 June 2022.

REPORT**May**

- 11th Rous County Council Extraordinary meeting
- 11th Meeting with Regional NSW representative
- 15th One from the Heart Lismore Concert
- 16th Meeting with Lismore City, Rous Water and Richmond Valley Councils
- 17th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 18th Coraki Pre-school reopening celebration
- 19th Woodburn Recovery Advisory Meeting
- 20th Northern Rivers Joint Organisation meeting
- 21st Beef Week Opening Ball
- 23rd Teddy Bears picnic Casino Drill Hall
- 23rd Rappville Advisory Group Meeting
- 25th Cattle Led Steer Show and Auction
- 25th Meeting with Stephanie Cook
- 25th Cassino Art Gallery exhibition
- 26th Reconciliation week – Casino Neighbourhood Centre
- 26th Meeting with Momentum Collective
- 26th MLA/Casino Food Co-op Beef Week Dinner
- 27th Breakfast with the Butchers
- 27th Beef Week Industry Open Day the Casino Food Co-op
- 28th Beef Week Street Parade
- 28th Casino Orchid Society Presentations
- 29th Casino Show and Shine display
- 29th Minister Funding announcement for flood damaged water and sewerage infrastructure Lismore.
- 31st Parliamentary inquiry into major flooding across NSW 2022.

June

- 1st Advisory Group Meeting – Greenridge
- 1st Insurance Council of Australia discussion
- 2nd Advisory Group Meeting – Woodburn
- 3rd Announcement by Minister McLaren Jones at Woodburn
- 3rd Deputy Premier and Ministers Flood Rate Relief announcements.
- 4th Woodburn Community Trivia night
- 7th Meeting with Professor April Wright regarding flood studies.
- 7th Richmond Valley Councillor Information Session
- 10th Industry and Business Roundtable – SCU
- 15th Rous County council Ordinary meeting
- 15th FRNSW Coraki Station upgrade opening
- 16th Advisory Group Meeting – Broadwater
- 16th Advisory Group Meeting – Woodburn

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

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

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

REPORT

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

Rous County Council

Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sandra Humphrys have provided the following summaries of the main items of business for the Rous County Council Extraordinary Meeting held on 11 May 2022; and Rous County Council Ordinary Meeting on 15 June 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rous County Extraordinary Meeting held on 11 May 2022**
- 2. Rous County Ordinary Meeting held on 15 June 2022**

Extraordinary Council Meeting**11 May 2022***Summary of main items of business***1. Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP&R) (inc. the 2022/23 Budget and 'Revenue' policy)**

Council has endorsed its draft IP&R Framework for public exhibition. If public submissions are received during the exhibition period, a report will be referred to Council's 15 June 2022 meeting.

If no public submissions are made during the public exhibition period, the version of the draft IP&R (inc. the 2022/23 Budget and 'Revenue' policy) placed on public exhibition, will be deemed to be adopted by Council.

Submissions close 4.30pm 9 June 2022.

For a full copy of our IP&R documents, refer to our website <https://rous.nsw.gov.au/on-exhibition>

2. Quarterly Budget Review Statement year ending 31 March 2022

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

All budget items other than those identified in the report have performed within the parameters set by Council in adopting the 2021/22 Operational Plan.

A copy of our full meeting agenda is available on our website:
<https://www.rous.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-YJT-77-52-33>

Rous Council Meeting 15 June 2022

Summary of main items of business



1. Payment of superannuation for councillors

Council agreed on the payment of a superannuation contribution in accordance with section 254B of the *Local Government Act 1993*, effective 1 July 2022.

The superannuation guarantee rate applicable from 1 July 2022 is 10.5%. This rate will increase by half a percent each year until 1 July 2025 when it reaches 12%. The estimated cost is \$10,500 for the 2022/23 financial year and has been included in our draft Budget.

2. Retail water customer account assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$10,414.80.

3. Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct Procedures and Code of Meeting Practice

Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct and Code of Conduct Procedures, with the Code of Meeting Practice being placed on public exhibition, submissions closing 27 July 2022.

The revised Codes have been reviewed and drafted to meet legislative requirements, including the adoption of the mandatory provisions of the Model Codes, and supplementary provisions to meet specific organisational needs.

4. Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) – meeting update

Council noted a summary of the key messages from the 26 April 2022 ARIC meeting and approved the Internal Audit Plan 2022-25. The Plan sets out the areas recommended for audit based on a high-level assessment of the risks involved in Council's key strategic and operational activities planned for the 2022/2025 period.

5. Investments policy (reviewed)

The current Investments policy complies with all regulatory requirements and Council's investment objectives. No changes were proposed to the 2022 policy, and it was adopted without amendment.

6. Information reports

i). Investments – May 2022

- At the RBA's May 2022 meeting, it was decided to increase the cash rate to 0.35%. The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) has increased to 0.98%.
- Total funds invested as at 31 May 2022 = \$38,826,691.
- Return on funds invested for the month of May 2022 was 1.05%. This represents an increase of 35 basis point compared to the March 2022 result (0.70%) and is 7 basis points above Council's benchmark (the average 90-day BBSW rate of 0.98%).
- Interest earned for May 2022 = \$29,529.
- Current holdings in Ethical Financial Institutions equals \$14,000,000.

ii). Water consumption and usage – May 2022

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

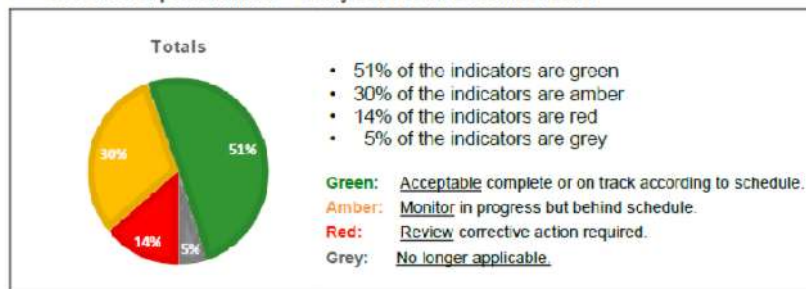
Council	May 2020 (kL)	May 2021 (kL)	May 2022 (kL)	% of Total Sales
Ballina Shire Council	271,394	297,070	284,140	39.09%
Byron Shire Council	168,707	187,394	171,100	23.54%
Lismore City Council	240,329	241,395	232,026	31.92%
Richmond Valley Council	42,270	44,392	39,627	5.45%
TOTAL MONTHLY CONSUMPTION BY CONSTITUENT COUNCILS	722,700	770,251	726,893	

- Rocky Creek Dam capacity as of 31 May 2022 was 100.9%
- Emigrant Creek Dam capacity as of 31 May 2022 was 103.4%

iii). Delivery program progress update 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021

This report provides information on Council's achievement of the performance targets in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Delivery program / Operational plan for Y5.

• Overview of performance – 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021



iv). Contract for the provision of electricity for Rous County Council operations

Rous is proposing to engage Regional Procurement and EnergyAction to undertake a publicly advertised, reverse auction to obtain prices for the supply of electricity for a 24 or 36 month period from 1 January 2023.

Based on previous legal advice, the reverse auction process is exempt from the tendering provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* and therefore the General Manager has the delegated authority to execute the contract for the provision of electricity for Rous operations.

7. **(Late report): Final draft Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (incorporating the 2022/23 Budget and 'Revenue' policy)**

Two public submissions lodged during the public exhibition period were received and noted. Council adopted the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (incorporating the 2022/23 Budget and 'Revenue' policy), as presented at Council's Extraordinary Meeting held 11 May 2022.

8. Notice of Motion: Browns Creek Pump Station on the Lismore Levee

The following Notice of Motion (submitted by Cr Rob) was adopted:

Council provide the following information to Lismore City Council in relation to the Browns Creek Pump Station on the Lismore Levee:

- 1. Additional works able to be undertaken to ensure that pumps are not damaged or blocked during operation.*
- 2. Options, including estimated costs, available to Lismore City Council to increase pump capacity, improve pump reliability during and after a flood when electricity supply is often unavailable, and improve pump availability for regular service, particularly following flood events.*
- 3. Recommendations to assist Lismore City Council to increase the capacity, reliability and resilience of the Browns Creek Pump Station.*
- 4. Opportunities to jointly seek immediate grant funding through State and Federal channels to increase the capacity, reliability and resilience of the Browns Creek Pump Station.*

9. Confidential reports

i). Annual performance review: General Manager

Council accepted the recommendation of the Chair and Councillors that assessed the General Manager's annual review on 11 May 2022 as 'More than Satisfactory' and agreed to the recommended change to the General Manager's total remuneration package (TRP) as specified in the report.

Council acknowledged the professionalism and excellent leadership of the General Manager during difficult times.

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

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

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

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

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

That items identified be determined without debate.

14 GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 FLOODS 2022 - RECOVERY UPDATE****Author: Vaughan Macdonald****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following the catastrophic Northern Rivers floods, Council continues to advocate for essential support and funding for flood affected communities in the Richmond Valley. This has included securing a commitment from the NSW Government to provide rating relief for flood affected residents for 2022-23 and to raise the tendering threshold to allow flood recovery projects to proceed more quickly. Council has also successfully advocated for temporary accommodation options for Woodburn and continues to work with the NSW Government to establish temporary housing in Coraki and Evans Head.

Other advocacy has included preparing a Flood Impact Report, which was circulated to NSW Ministers and key State agencies to highlight the extent of flood damage in the Richmond Valley and seek funding support for the recovery process. Council also commissioned an economic impact statement, to help support advocacy for business assistance, and has provided a comprehensive submission to the NSW Government Flood Inquiry. The submission, included 17 key recommendations for improving the way that NSW communities plan for, respond to and recover from natural disasters in the future.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the report;
2. Continues to advocate strongly to all levels of government for flood recovery support for the Richmond Valley;
3. Continues to raise community concerns with the NSW Flood Inquiry and any subsequent government inquiries or reviews;
4. Writes to CivicRisk Mutual to acknowledge its support in expediting insurance claims for repairs to community facilities and infrastructure.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council will continue to advocate for additional government funding to support the Richmond Valley's recovery process.

REPORT

It is now four months since catastrophic flooding devastated the Richmond Valley and surrounding local government areas. During this time, Council has continued to support the recovery process and to advocate strongly to the state and federal government for more assistance for flood affected communities. Key areas for advocacy have included:

Rating relief

Council wrote to the Premier in March, seeking rate relief for flood affected residents in the Richmond Valley and was pleased to recently receive confirmation from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Emergency Services, earlier this month, that this funding would be provided. The NSW Government will be funding up to \$40 million in rating relief for eligible residents in the Northern Rivers, with Service NSW responsible for administering the scheme. Council is currently awaiting further information on the program, including details of eligible ratepayers, but it will operate in a similar manner to rates assistance scheme following the 2019 bushfires. Service NSW will be contacting residents directly to advise them of their eligibility and a further report will be brought to Council when more information is available.

The NSW Government program is in addition to Council's decision to waive interest on overdue rates until December 2022, to recognise the impact on all ratepayers and Council continues to support affected residents under the hardship provisions of its rating policy.

Temporary housing

Council has also been advocating strongly for temporary housing for flood affected communities over the past four months. RVC is represented on the Northern Rivers Housing Recovery Taskforce and has been working directly with State agencies to deliver much needed accommodation. A key focus has been on seeking solutions that keep people connected with their community, rather than relocating them to other areas where they have no support networks. As a result of advocacy from Council and the community, Emergency Services Minister, Steph Cooke announced last week that at home caravans would be provided on Woodburn residents' properties, at no cost, to support flood recovery. This will allow residents to return to their own property and continue restoration works, while having secure accommodation on site. The NSW Government plans to use the Woodburn program as a pilot, to decide whether at-home caravan options will be offered to other flood affected communities like Broadwater.

Council is also continuing to advocate strongly for a temporary housing site to be established at Coraki, to keep displaced residents connected with their community during the recovery process. So far, a suitable site has been identified and Council is working directly with State Agencies on a proposal for a pod village. It is hoped that the NSW Government will make a commitment to this project in the near future, as lack of accommodation continues to be a significant issue for Coraki families affected by the floods. A site at Park Street Evans Head adjacent to Reflections has also been identified and establishment works commenced to support a caravan village on this site.

Changes to tendering

In March, Council resolved to write to the Premier, seeking support for an increase in the local government tendering threshold, to help expedite critical flood recovery projects. This change was piloted during the 2019-20 bushfire recovery period, with affected councils being able to directly negotiate contracts for works up to \$500,000, without going to tender. This helped to speed up the recovery work and ensure councils got value for money from construction contracts. Council was pleased to receive confirmation from the NSW Government earlier this month, that the tender threshold would again be increased to support flood recovery projects and plans to use these provisions to speed up critical road repairs.

Riverbank restoration

Securing support for essential restoration works on flood damaged riverbanks has also been a key focus of Council's advocacy campaign. The issue was highlighted in RVC's submission to the NSW Flood Inquiry and is also being supported by a series of videos, featuring local property owners, showing the impact of riverbank erosion on homes in the Mid-Richmond and Casino. The NSW Government has announced up to \$36 million for restoration of flood damaged levees in the 2022-23 budget, however there is still no clear funding commitment to address the extensive damage to local riverbanks.

NSW Flood Inquiry submission

Council resolved at its April meeting to make a submission to the NSW Flood Inquiry, highlighting the challenges experienced by residents, businesses and the farming community in the recovery process and raising concerns regarding the potential impact of the Pacific Motorway redevelopment on flooding in the Mid-Richmond.

Council's submission, presented to the Inquiry in May, included 17 recommendations to improve the way that NSW communities plan for, respond to and recover from natural disasters in the future. The submission pointed out that the Richmond Valley had endured eight natural disasters in just three years, and strong, decisive and coordinated leadership from all levels of government was needed to help communities deal with future disasters.

Key recommendations included:

- Improving flood warning systems
- Reviewing flood impacts of the Pacific Motorway and making the findings public
- Improving telecommunications services
- Improving co-ordination between State Agencies and cutting red tape for flood assistance programs
- developing a new consolidated model for emergency services that combines the key response agencies SES and RFS under one administration and considers the best fit and future structure and role of Resilience NSW.
- Clarifying responsibilities for the establishment and operation of Evacuation Centres
- Improving the government's response to temporary housing needs and expediting Back Home assistance grants
- Improving flood risk planning controls, based on the lessons learned from the 2022 flood
- Calling on the NSW Government to assume full responsibility for delivering and funding the voluntary house raising program
- Improving assistance to business and primary producers
- Expediting urgent community infrastructure repairs.

The submission also included a copy of Council's draft Recovery Plan, highlighting stories of local community experience during the floods, and a copy of the Economic Impact Statement for the Richmond Valley was also included. A copy of the submission is attached for information. Council's submission has received strong media attention and we continue to advocate for Inquiry representatives to visit the Richmond Valley, view the flood impacts first hand and speak to those directly affected. The Inquiry is now due to release its Report by the end of July 2022.

Funding opportunities

Council has also been focussing on all available opportunities for funding the recovery process and has received strong support from its insurer, CivicRisk Mutual, in providing early assessment and payment of flood insurance claims. CivicRisk Mutual representatives, including the CEO, Insurance Broker and Claims Manager visited the Richmond Valley in April to inspect the flood damage and view a presentation of the impacts of the disaster on our community. Council will receive more than \$5m in flood insurance payments to assist in the recovery process.

Other funding opportunities are also being pursued through Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements and specialist recovery grants. So far Council has received \$1m in recovery payments from the NSW Government, with commitments for a further \$2.3 million, and will also be receiving a portion of the \$142 million recently announced by the NSW Government for urgent repairs to water and sewerage infrastructure. Funding applications for recently announced recovery support schemes are currently being prepared.

CONCLUSION

Council continues to advocate strongly for essential support for flood affected communities in the Richmond Valley and to pursue all opportunities for financial assistance. So far, this advocacy has helped to secure government commitments for rating relief, temporary housing schemes and streamlined tendering processes to help expedite projects. Council has also raised community concerns in its submission to the NSW Flood Inquiry and continues to work with NSW Ministers and State Agencies to support the recovery process.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **NSW Flood Inquiry submission (under separate cover)**
2. **Media release: Temporary housing for Woodburn (under separate cover)**
3. **Media release: Rating relief for flood affected communities (under separate cover)**

14.2 REBUILDING THE RICHMOND VALLEY RECOVERY PLAN

Author: Jenna Hazelwood

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the catastrophic floods of February-March 2022, Council has implemented a revised IP&R program, delaying the preparation of its new Community Strategic Plan until 2023 and preparing a comprehensive Recovery Plan to guide its operations for 2022-23. The Plan sets out Council's vision to help restore the Richmond Valley and 'build back better' over the next three years, in partnership with the community, disaster support agencies and state and federal governments.

The Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan was endorsed for public exhibition at Council's May meeting and exhibited for the required 28-day period. No public submissions were received. Should Council resolve to adopt the Plan, it will replace the Delivery Program for the 2022-23 period. Following preparation of the new Community Strategic Plan, a revised Delivery Program will be presented to Council in June 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan and implements this Plan as its Delivery Program for 2022-23.
2. Notes that a further review of the Community Strategic Plan will be completed in 2022, and a new Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program presented to Council in June 2023.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS1: Leading and Advocating for our Community

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Recovery Plan will inform Council's budget allocations for 2022-23. The Plan will be funded through a combination of government grants, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, insurance payments and council rates, fees and charges.

REPORT

At its March Ordinary meeting, Council considered how best to respond to the enormous challenge of recovering and rebuilding after the Northern Rivers floods and acknowledged that the Richmond Valley's recovery process would take at least three years. At the time of the floods, Council was undertaking a review of its Community Strategic Plan, as per the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and preparing to develop a new 10-year vision for the community. When the floods arrived, this process was paused, as all attention focused on immediate rescue and recovery needs. Council decided to delay discussion on the long-term plan for a further 12 months, and concentrate on key community priorities, such as rebuilding homes and businesses, repairing community facilities and infrastructure and restoring damage to the environment.

The Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan sets out Council's vision to help restore the Richmond Valley over the next three years, in partnership with the community, disaster support

agencies and state and federal governments. It is a plan to not just rebuild, but to build back better and stronger for the future.

The plan is divided into three sections:

1. **Respond:** Focussing on Council's direct response to the flood, such as helping people to rebuild their homes, reconnecting communities and repairing damaged roads and infrastructure.
2. **Prevent/Prepare:** Focussing on actions that will help to reduce the impact of floods in the future and help communities to better prepare for natural disasters. This includes actions such as finalizing Council's flood studies and redesigning stormwater systems
3. **Sustain:** Focussing on Council's "business as usual" activities and continuing work on long-term strategies to help the Richmond Valley recover, such as providing more housing and implementing the Regional Jobs Precinct.

The Plan acknowledges that Council is still completing its flood damage assessment and that many unanswered questions remain in regard to the Recovery phase. It is expected that further new programs, policy changes and funding will be announced by State and Federal Governments in response to the NSW Flood Inquiry and other advocacy. These changes can be incorporated into the Plan, as appropriate.

A key part of the recovery process will be to establish and support Local Recovery Advisory Groups to work directly with Council on community priorities for flood affected areas. Advisory groups have been established for Woodburn, Broadwater, Coraki and rural communities. The Recovery Plan also includes a commitment to continue to fund and support Council's Resilience and Recovery Team to work directly with the community.

The Plan also sets a path to complete more than \$150 million in infrastructure repairs and resilience measures for community buildings, roads, bridges, water and sewerage systems. Council will be working closely with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation to support completion of these works over the next three years.

As per the requirements of the Local Government Act, Council will receive six-monthly reports on progress in implementing the plan.

CONSULTATION

The Recovery Plan was placed on public exhibition for 28 days, with the exhibition being promoted via social media, press releases and information on Council's website. No public submissions were received.

CONCLUSION

The Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan outlines Council's vision to help restore the Richmond Valley, over the next three years, in the wake of the catastrophic Northern Rivers floods. It will help to ensure that practical support is delivered to flood affected communities, that critical infrastructure is restored and that Council can continue to offer the essential services that the community needs over the next 12 months.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan (Delivery Program) (under separate cover)**

15 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES**15.1 DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022/2023 (INCLUDING DRAFT FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2022/2026), DRAFT REVENUE POLICY 2022/2023 AND DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/2032**

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Hayley Martin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its Ordinary Meeting held 17 May 2022, Council resolved to place the Draft Delivery Program, Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates), Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan on public exhibition.

This report provides information regarding public submissions received by Council during the exhibition period and details minor amendments that have been made to the Draft Financial Estimates.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council adopts the Draft Operational Plan 2022/2023 (including Financial Estimates 2022/2026), Revenue Policy 2022/2023 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2022/2032 the subject of this report.
2. In respect to the general land rates contained in the 2022/2023 Draft Revenue Policy, Council in accordance with Sections 535 and 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* makes the following General Rates for the 2022/2023 financial year:

Rating Category			Base Amount	% Yield from Base Amount	Rate in Dollar (Ad Valorem)
Residential			\$310.00	25.83%	\$0.00591
Rural Residential (sub-category)			\$310.00	29.11%	\$0.00402
Business			\$360.00	10.06%	\$0.01621
Farmland			\$360.00	18.54%	\$0.00437

3. In relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council makes and imposes the maximum charge for interest, as determined by the Minister for Local Government and in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as follows:
 - i. for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023; 6.0% per annum
4. In respect of annual charges and user charges for Waste Management, Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Management Service Charges, in accordance with Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes these charges as detailed in the 2022/2023 Draft Revenue Policy to apply to the 2022/2023 financial year.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS2: Great Support

CS2.12: Ensure compliance with Accounting Standards and Local Government Legislation

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in the report.

REPORT

The Draft Delivery Program, Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates), Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan were placed on public exhibition following the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 May 2022. The exhibition period closed 4:30pm Tuesday 14 June 2022.

Council's Long-Term Financial Plan 2022/2032 has been reviewed as part of the development of the Operational Plan 2022/2023 (including Financial Estimates 2022/2026).

During the public exhibition period, further information has been received, requiring changes to be made to the 2022/2023 budget. These changes are detailed below:

Operating Income – increase of \$6,431

- Updated supplementary land values and the number of assessments and services has resulted in a net increase in rates and annual charges of \$6,431.

Operating Expenditure – decrease of \$1,050

- Revised budgets for Councillor and Mayoral fees, saving \$1,050 in operating expenditure based on fees determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

Capital Grants and Contributions – increase of \$1,958,844

- Increase in capital grants with a number of projects being delayed in the current financial year due to the natural disaster, as approved in the March Quarterly Budget review.
 - Transport for NSW funded Wombat Crossings \$33,528
 - Naughtons Gap Road (Fixing Local Roads) \$120,000
 - Boating Now projects at Coraki & Woodburn \$105,316
 - Casino Showground Upgrade \$500,000
 - Casino Swimming Pool Upgrade \$1.2mil

Capital Expenditure – increase of \$5,008,345

The main changes are as a result of a review of the current year's capital works program at 31 March which resulted in a number of projects being identified as unable to be completed due to impacts of flooding, ongoing wet weather and changes in priorities. Major changes include:

- \$150,000 for Country Lane Rehab.
- \$103,108 for kerb and gutter projects in Evans Head.
- \$70,788 in urban reseals and \$43,488 in urban heavy patching.
- Rappville Road \$101,942 and Naughtons Gap Rd \$484,008.
- Wombat Crossings funded by Transport for NSW \$33,528.
- Casino Showground Upgrade \$1,291,121.
- Boating Now Projects in Coraki & Woodburn \$105,316
- Casino Swimming Pool Upgrade \$1.6mil.
- Reduction in Water Supplies capital works of \$88,000 following a review of the capital works program.
- Reduction in Sewerage Services capital works of \$542,820 following a review of the program.
- \$40,000 in stormwater works for Casino.
- \$525,000 in real estate development projects.

- \$1mil for Nammoona Cell 6 Project.

The changes resulted in no change to the unrestricted cash surplus of \$257,786. The revised budget projections are summarised below:

Budget Estimates	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Total Operating Revenue	67,975	70,127	72,104	74,085
Total Operating Expenditure	69,824	71,280	72,840	74,210
Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions	(1,849)	(1,153)	(736)	(125)
Add: Capital Grants and Contributions	23,196	2,409	2,415	3,871
Add: Non-Cash Expenses	18,233	18,649	19,074	19,510
Add: Non-Operating Funds Employed	4,497	3,740	7,250	13,301
Less: Capital Expenditure	50,612	24,120	22,194	23,014
Less: Loan Repayments	3,417	3,615	3,782	3,358
Estimated Funding Result – Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,952)	(4,091)	2,027	10,185
Restricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	(10,210)	(4,332)	1,838	9,794
Unrestricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	258	241	190	391

Draft Revenue Policy

The Statement of Rates and Charges has been updated with the latest supplementary land values along with movements in the number of assessments and services. Annual charges for waste, water, sewerage and stormwater increased by \$6,431.

CONSULTATION

Council advertised the Draft Delivery Program 2022/2025, Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates 2022/2026), Draft Revenue Policy 2022/2023 and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2022/2032 from 18 May 2022, with public submissions closing at 4:30pm Tuesday 14 June 2022.

Advertising included coverage on Council's Facebook page, website and community radio interviews. Copies of the draft documents were also made available at Council's administration offices in Casino and Evans Head.

Council only received one submission (attached), this submission was in relation to the proposed fee structure change for the "Agent Business Usage Fee Bull and Stud Sales" at the NRLX.

Council has invested significant funds into upgrading the NRLX over recent years and this has resulted in major improvements to the health and safety of workers and cattle and an increase in cattle sales. However, increasing operational expenses have affected the return that Council receives on its investment, and it has been necessary to review the fee structure at the NRLX to address this disparity. Although cattle sales and prices have increased, the proportion of revenue that Council receives from NRLX sales has not kept pace with this growth. The following graph shows the proportion of revenue distribution between Council, agents and vendors. Having regard to the comparatively small percentage of revenue that Council currently receives, it is recommended that the advertised fee structure for 2022-23 be maintained, to ensure the community continues to receive a return on its investment in the NRLX upgrade.



CONCLUSION

Following the public exhibition period 18 May to 14 June 2022, some amendments have been made to the Operational Plan Financial Estimates 2022/2023 as detailed in the report. Council did not receive any public submissions during the exhibition period.

It is recommended that Council adopts the draft plans and Revenue Policy as presented with this report.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Draft Operational Plan 2022/2023 (including Financial Estimates 2022/2026) (under separate cover)
2. Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2022/2032 (under separate cover)
3. Draft Revenue Policy 2022/2023 (under separate cover)
4. CAAI Submission (under separate cover)

15.2 RICHMOND VALLEY WORKFORCE PLAN

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Caroline Redwood

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting process, Council is required to prepare a Workforce Plan as part of its Resourcing Strategy. The Workforce Plan outlines how Council will continue to develop its workforce and ensure it has the necessary staff and skills to deliver its strategic goals.

Council's Workforce Plan has had a complete review, to support the Recovery Plan and consider the domestic and global workplace changes that have been prompted by the COVID pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Workforce Plan July 2022 – June 2025.

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 Workforce Plan identifies programs and initiatives that can be implemented to continue to improve Richmond Valley Council's position as an employer of choice within existing salary budgets.

REPORT

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting process, Council is required to prepare a Workforce Plan as part of its Resourcing Strategy. The Workforce Plan outlines how Council will continue to develop its workforce and ensure it has the necessary staff and skills to deliver its strategic goals.

Council's Workforce Plan has had a complete review, to support the Recovery Plan and consider the domestic and global workplace changes that have been prompted by the COVID pandemic.

The Workforce Plan looks at Council's current employment environment and considers what the future workforce environment may look like. The Plan focusses on actions that will help Council to remain an organisation that attracts high quality staff in a very competitive employment environment.

CONSULTATION

As the Workforce Plan is an internally focussed document there is no requirement under the IP&R guidelines for public consultation on this document. It has been developed in consultation with Council's Executive and Management teams.

CONCLUSION

Richmond Valley Council's Workforce Plan has been through a complete review and is attached for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Richmond Valley Council Workforce Plan (under separate cover)**

15.3 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MAY 2022**Director:** Ryan Gaiter**Responsible Officer:** Rylee Vidler**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 May 2022 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$21,853,146	\$34,000,000	\$4,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$14,677,450	\$77,280,986

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments for May 2022 was negative (1.12%) which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for May of 0.03%, 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 May 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 May 2022, Council has earned \$313,202 in interest and \$609,509 fair value losses for total interest and investment income of negative (\$296,307) This equates to a current loss of 34.86% against the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$850,000. 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 May 2022 total \$4,147.

The fair value losses are in medium and long term products and exiting these products in the current market conditions is not recommended. 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 raised the cash rate to 0.35% per annum at its May meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in May 2022 was negative (1.12%), an increase of 187 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 115 basis points below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.03% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net losses of \$129,408 during May 2022, bringing the total losses for the 2021/2022 financial year to 31 May 2022 to \$609,509.

The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a loss of \$100,847 and the Long Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a loss of \$28,561.

The markets throughout May were volatile with global growth concerns and risks of a US and global recession mounting, leading to a disappointing result in May. However, 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 increasing rates of return which is positive, however markets indicate this could slow with some economic uncertainty mounting, as mentioned above. Some banking institutions are still limiting the number 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 \$77,350,916 at 31 May 2022. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$8,335,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,005,260), Term Deposits (\$34,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$4,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$14,747,381) and other bank accounts (\$3,512,885).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$40,750,390 represented 52.68% of the total portfolio as at 31 May 2022.

Council made the following new investments during May 2022:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Australian Unity Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	6 months	2.25%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	6 months	2.35%
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	6 months	2.35%
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	1.65%
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	1.65%
Coastline Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	1.65%
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	6 months	2.50%
Southern Cross Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	1.80%

Auswide Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	3 months	1.85%
Total			\$12,000,000		

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

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,726
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,726
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,995
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,995
Coastline Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,973
Bank of Sydney	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,726
Coastline Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$1,973
Total			\$6,000,000	\$13,112

Council had \$14,747,381 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 May 2022. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31 May 22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) May-22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$11,841,535	(\$100,847)	(\$495,769)	\$836,506
Long Term Growth Fund	\$2,905,845	(\$28,561)	(\$113,739)	(\$94,155)
Total	\$14,747,381	(\$129,408)	(\$609,509)	\$742,351

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$77,350,916 at 31 May 2022 includes \$51,497,381 or 66.6% with no direct investment in the fossil fuel industry. All investments in May were in ESI products.

These percentages 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. While 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 May 2022 Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 31 May 2022 Council's cash and investments totalled \$77,350,916 with \$21,853,146 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was negative (1.12%) for the month of May 2022 and total investment revenue equals negative (34.86%) of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 May 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

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

15.4 TENDER THRESHOLD CHANGES

Director: Ryan Gaiter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the natural disaster occurring in February and March 2022, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 has been amended, with the tendering threshold being increased from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for flood related recovery works. Council will continue to follow its Procurement Policies to ensure value for money for our community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the information provided in the Tender Threshold Changes 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

Nil.

REPORT

The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* has been amended, with the tendering threshold of \$250,000 increased to \$500,000 for contracts entered into by councils for the purpose of responding to, or recovering from, a declared natural disaster within 12 months of the declaration of the natural disaster.

For the most recent flooding disaster, contracts must be entered into by March 2023 and are only for the purpose of recovery works from the declared natural disaster.

The increased value will assist Council in securing contractors during a difficult market, allowing contracts to be entered into in line with Council's existing procurement processes, obtaining quotations instead of the need to go to tender for any goods or services up to the value of \$500,000. Obtaining quotations is a much simpler and quicker way of procuring goods and services, this will allow Council to get on with delivering outcomes for the community.

CONSULTATION

Nil - not required.

CONCLUSION

The increased value of the tender threshold as provided in the attached OLG Circular will allow for councils to enter into contracts in a more reasonable timeframe within a very difficult market.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **22-17 Increase in tendering threshold for natural disaster response and recovery related contracts**



Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 22-17 / 10 June 2022 / A824946
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

Increase in tendering threshold for natural disaster response and recovery related contracts

What's new or changing

- The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* has been amended to prescribe a tendering threshold of \$500k for contracts entered into by councils for the purpose of responding to, or recovering from, a declared natural disaster within 12 months of the declaration of the natural disaster.

What this will mean for your council

- The amendment means that councils are not required to tender prior to entering into a contract with a value of less than \$500k where the contract:
 - is primarily for the purpose of response to or recovery from a "declared natural disaster", and
 - is entered into within 12 months after the date on which the natural disaster is declared.

Key points

- The phrase, "*declared natural disaster*", is defined in the Regulation to mean a natural disaster that has been declared in relation to the area of a council by either:
 - a Natural Disaster Declaration for the purposes of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements jointly administered by the Commonwealth and the States and Territories, or
 - a declaration under the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*, section 33.

Where to go for further information

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Melanie Hawyes
Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Local Government

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15.5 COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION

Director: Ryan Gaiter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each financial year, the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determines the minimum and maximum remuneration payable to Mayors and Councillors for carrying out their duties. The determination by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is pursuant to Sections 239 and 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council has received notification that the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined that the Mayoral and Councillor Fees are to increase approximately 2% for the 2022/2023 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Sets the Mayoral Allowance for the 2022/2023 financial year effective from 1 July 2022 at \$46,040.00 per annum or \$3,836.67 per month.
2. Sets the Councillor Fee for the 2022/2023 financial year effective from 1 July 2022 at \$21,100.00 per annum or \$1,758.33 per month.

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 draft budget already includes an amount for this expense, the budgeted figure was calculated estimating an increase of two percent in Mayor and Councillor remuneration. Two percent is the increase determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal, therefore no adjustment to the draft budget currently on exhibition will be required.

REPORT

In April each year the New South Wales Local Government Remuneration Tribunal releases its annual report and determination on the remuneration of Mayors and Councillors for the following financial year. The report (attached) sets out the factors considered by the Tribunal when making its determination. These include:

- Submissions and comments made by associations and individual councils;
- Key economic indicators;
- Council categorisation;
- Councillor workload;
- Training and development, and
- Attracting high quality candidates to nominate for election to Local Government.

The Tribunal has determined an increase of approximately 2% for next financial year, a comparison of the current fees and the determined fees is shown in the table below. There has been no change to the categorisation of councils this year and Richmond Valley Council remains in

the Regional Rural grouping. Council resolved to adopt the maximum fees category throughout the duration of the last term of Council. A majority of NSW Councils do the same.

Fee Type/Year	Minimum Fee	Maximum Fee
Councillor Fee 2021/2022	\$9,370	\$20,690
Councillor Fee 2022/2023	\$9,560	\$21,100
Mayoral Allowance 2021/2022	\$19,970	\$45,140
Mayoral Allowance 2022/2023	\$20,370	\$46,040

CONSULTATION

Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting held on 17 May 2022 to commence superannuation payments to the Mayor and Councillors equivalent to the superannuation guarantee payment which has been included in the Draft budget that was released for community consultation.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council resolves to continue adopting the maximum fee and increases the Mayoral and Councillor fees in line with the Tribunal recommendation for the 2022/2023 financial year.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **2022 Annual Determination - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (under separate cover)**

16 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY**16.1 PACIFIC HIGHWAY - LOCAL ROAD HANDOVER**

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Matt Kinkead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the upgrade of the Pacific Highway in Richmond Valley Council's Local Government Area, some local roads were required to be modified and/or upgraded to ensure safe future access to and around the new motorway. Council staff have been involved in assessing the standards to which these works have been completed prior to acceptance. Transport for NSW is seeking formal acceptance from Council for these road and drainage assets as part of the Local Road Handover process.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Accepts the following road and drainage works in the asset handover from Transport for NSW:
 - Antoniolli Road
 - Serendipity Road
 - Minyumai Road
 - Nardi Road
 - McLaren Road
 - Redgate Road
 - Whites Road
 - Trustums Hill Road
 - Watson Street
 - Broadwater Evans Head Road
 - Woodburn Broadwater Service Road
 - Swan Bay New Italy Road
 - Marozin Road
 - Roder Road
 - Wondawee Way
2. Excludes the following road and drainage works in the asset handover from Transport for NSW:
 - Woodburn Interchange Roundabouts x 2
 - Broadwater Interchange Roundabouts x 2
 - Woodburn Evans Head Road (overpass approach ramps)
3. Writes to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads and the Secretary of Transport for NSW advising them of Council's objection to taking on the maintenance responsibility for the interchange roundabouts and the reasons for this objection.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP2: Getting Around

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council will receive approximately 8km of additional local roads as part of the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) local road handover process. These local roads (or parts of roads) are newly constructed assets that will require pavement and roadside maintenance by Council into the future. Maintenance costs associated with these roads will have to be funded from existing Council budgets.

Council has been engaged by TfNSW to carry out construction works at numerous locations that were not able to be completed by Pacific Complete before the construction teams wound up at the end of 2021. The value of these private works is \$2,489,143.65.

Council also received \$812,082.50 as a contribution from TfNSW for dilapidation repairs to cover damages caused by construction traffic involved in the Pacific Highway upgrade on our local road network.

There have been no commitments for additional funds to support Council's acceptance of these assets and the ongoing maintenance funding required. It is accepted that Council is best placed to take on these assets and it is recommended that it should do so for the benefit of the community, and in the interests of continuing to build positive partnerships with the NSW Government.

REPORT

Following the completion of the Pacific Highway upgrade from Woolgoolga to Ballina, TfNSW has written to Council to formalise the agreement that the condition of the existing and newly constructed local roads for Sections 7, 8 and 9 (North of Devils Pulpit to Richmond River) has been accepted by Richmond Valley Council.

Pacific Complete (PC) has noted that the construction works are complete for the following newly constructed local roads, including the restoration of the existing local roads used for project haulage (any further outstanding works will need to be carried out by Council):

- Antonioli Road
- Serendipity Road
- Minyumai Road
- Nardi Road
- McLaren Road
- Redgate Road
- Whites Road
- Trustums Hill Road
- Watson Street
- Broadwater Evans Head Road
- Woodburn Evans Head Road
- Woodburn Broadwater Service Road (part of Langs Way)
- Swan Bay New Italy Road
- Woodburn Interchange Roundabouts x 2
- Broadwater Evans Head Road Roundabouts x 2

The following roads have been constructed to design standards and at the time of TfNSW writing to Council, both parties were working together to resolve outstanding safety concerns:

- Marozin Road
- Roder Road
- Wondawee Way

The safety concerns on these roads have since been addressed with agreed improvements.

On Woodburn Evans Head Road, Council staff first noticed slumping across the road on the eastern ramp of the motorway overpass around 10 March 2022. TfNSW plans to undertake temporary repairs at this location to improve traffic safety. An investigation into the root cause of the slumping is required so appropriate rectification works can be completed. Council officers have indicated to TfNSW that this road will not be accepted as part of the local road handover until a solution is agreed upon.

The concrete roundabouts at the Woodburn and Broadwater Interchanges are identified by TfNSW as being the responsibility of Council to maintain. This is based on TfNSW protocols outlined in its Maintenance Limits & Responsibility documents. Council staff have repeatedly raised an objection to this maintenance responsibility at the regular monthly meetings held between TfNSW, PC and Council. Council believes the roundabouts are a function of the motorway, not the local road they intersect with. The cost of maintaining these roundabouts is significant due to the traffic control measures that have to be implemented when working in a Motorway corridor.

CONSULTATION

TfNSW has been in regular contact with Council during the design and construction phases for the proposals for the local roads impacted by the motorway. Input was sought from Council in relation to the standards required for the new road and drainage assets proposed to be transferred to Council at the end of the project. Joint inspections of the final works were also undertaken by Council and TfNSW.

As part of the handover process, TfNSW has prepared a maintenance responsibility document. This comprises:

- Maintenance Limits Table Portion C (outlining the Care, Control and Maintenance Responsibility between TfNSW & Council)
- Maintenance Responsibility Limits drawing (coloured plans highlighting the footprint of responsibility for areas outside the motorway footprint – TfNSW, Council, National Parks or Adjoining property owners)
- Transport for NSW QA Specification M1 – General Maintenance Requirements technical specification.

Council was involved in reviewing the first two Maintenance documents with TfNSW. The Maintenance Responsibility Limits drawing is still in draft form until the final details from the Regional Road Transfer and NSW Road Classification Review are known. The maintenance responsibility for each road remains as is until then.

CONCLUSION

With the exclusion of the four (4) roundabouts at the Woodburn and Broadwater interchanges and the Woodburn Evans Head Road motorway overpass ramps, it is recommended that Council accepts the future maintenance responsibility of the road and drainage assets constructed within the local roads as identified in this report. It is also recommended that Council reiterates its opposition to accepting the maintenance responsibility for the interchange roundabouts with TfNSW and the Minister for Regional Transport if required. Our local State Member Chris Gulaptis MP will also be informed.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

17.1 PROPOSED ROAD NAMING

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Kim Anderson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Council has undertaken public exhibition of proposed road names in accordance with Section 162 of the *Roads Act 1993* and Part 2 of the *Roads Regulation 2018*.

Council received two submissions with alternate name suggestions for the proposed name Patch Lane. The alternative road names were rejected by the NSW Geographical Names Board due to duplication. No other suggestions were presented for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council formally adopts the following road names:

- (a) Paddon Street, Essex Street and York Lane within the locality of Broadwater,
- (b) Ginibi Drive, Minjehla Road and Yelgun Road within the locality of Swan Bay and,
- (c) Patch Lane within the locality of Swan Bay and Bungawalbin.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP2: Getting Around

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

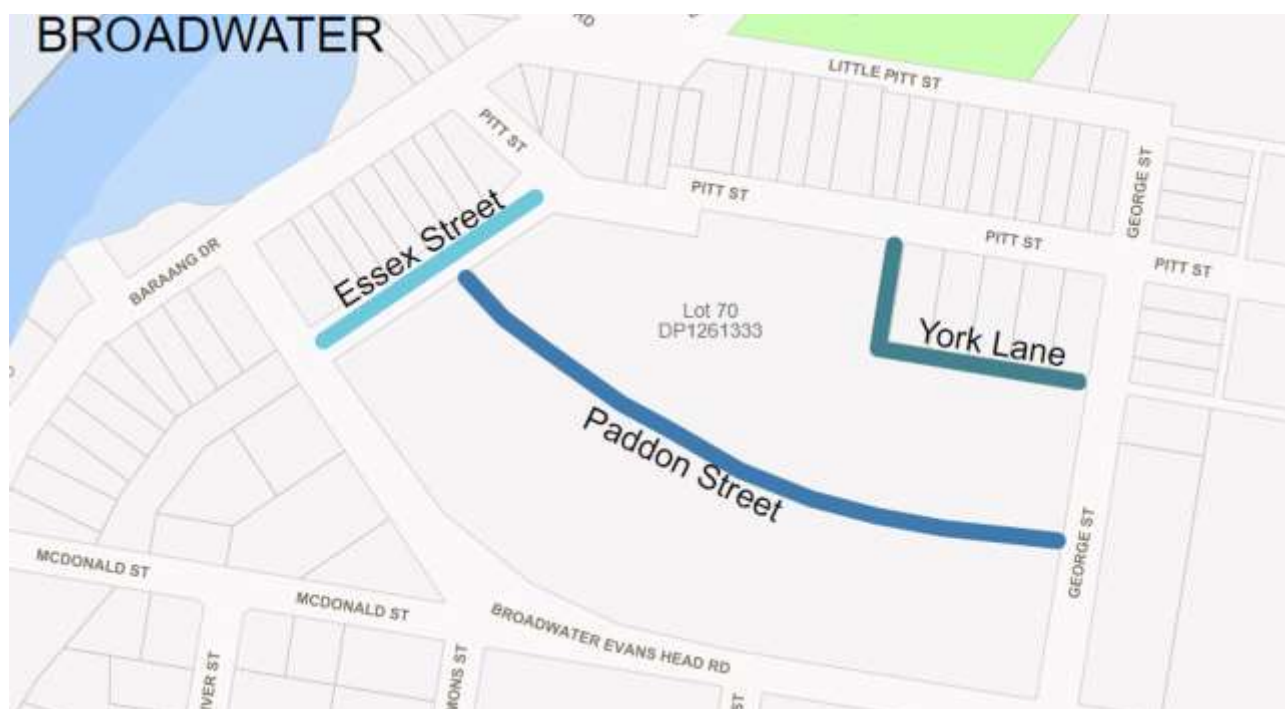
Council is the roads authority, under Section 7 of the *Roads Act 1993*, and is responsible for formally naming public roads in accordance with the Act and Regulation.

Council has undertaken public exhibition of proposed road names in accordance with Section 162 of the *Roads Act 1993* and Part 2 of the *Roads Regulation 2018*.

Paddon Street, Essex Street and York Lane BROADWATER

The subdivision at Broadwater has resulted in the creation of a new public road with access and addressing on the currently unnamed road. An unnamed laneway at the north east of the development site is proposed to be named for reference and identification.

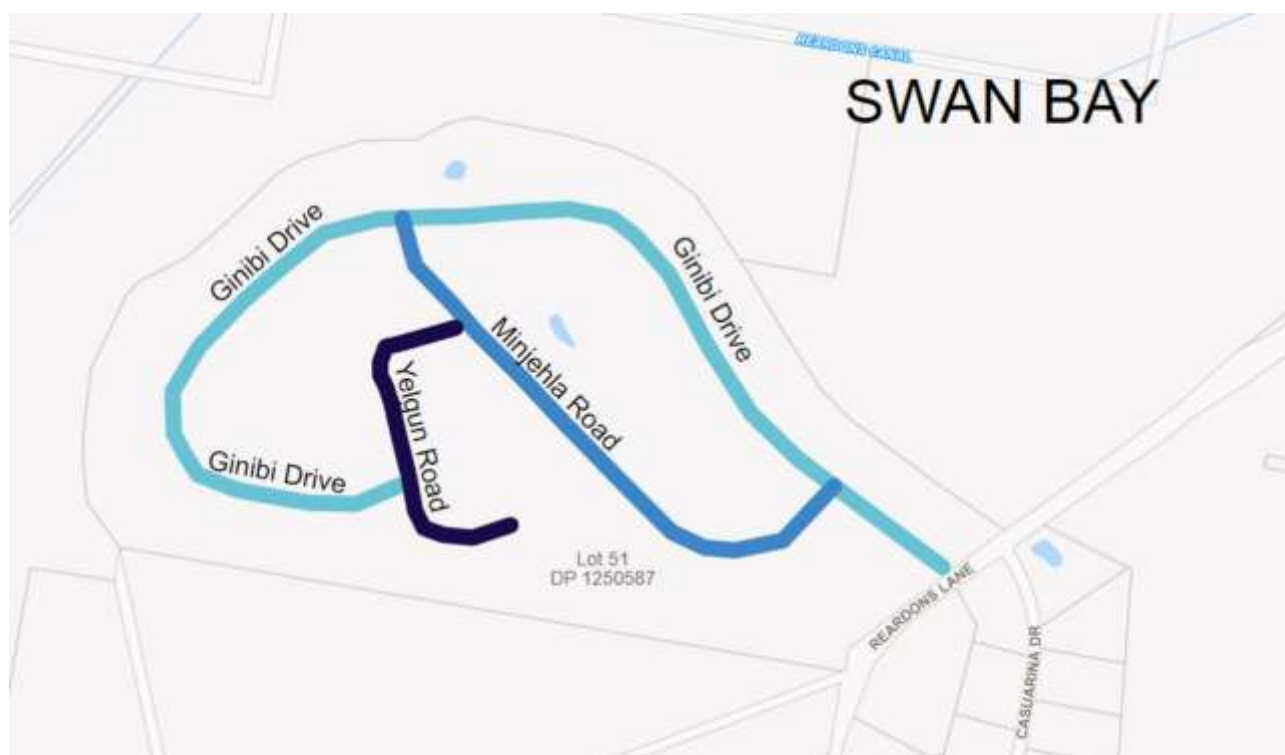
Consideration was presented for a proposed road name being Snowy Burns Road, named after world professional sculling champions related to the area however the name was refused from the NSW Geographical Names Board.



Map1: Showing location of proposed road Name 'Paddon Street', 'Essex Street' and 'York Lane'.

Ginibi Drive, Minjehla Road and Yelgun Road SWAN BAY

The subdivision off Reardons Lane Swan Bay involves the creation for three new public roads. The developer requested a preference to use Indigenous names using the local language. The Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation presented the proposed names Ginibi Road, Minjehla Road, and Yelgun Road. The names have the meaning of swan, happy-smiling and sun.



Map 2: Showing location of proposed road Name 'Ginibi Drive', 'Minjehla Road' and 'Yelgun Road'

Patch Lane SWAN BAY/BUNGAWALBIN

This name is proposed for the road commencing at Woodburn Coraki Road in a southerly direction turning in a westerly direction at Lot 99 DP755603 and finishing at end of the road. This road has been requested to be named due to single property development at the end of the road.

The suburb locality boundary is defined along the middle of this road. Properties to the west will be provided the suburb locality of Bungawalbin and properties to the east provided the suburb locality of Swan Bay. The name is derived from the original parish maps being the historical land owners in the area.



Map 3: Showing location of proposed road Name 'Patch Lane'.

CONSULTATION

Advertisement of the proposed road names was conducted in accordance with Clause 7 of the Roads Regulation 2018 including publishing on Council's website from 21 April 2022 to 12 May 2022. Council formally notified adjoining landholders of the proposed road names.

The Broadwater and Swan Bay subdivision did not receive any submissions during the public exhibition period.

Council received two submissions for the proposed Patch Lane to be named Trustums Lane, or Old Post Office Lane. Due to duplication issues the NSW Geographical Names Board refused the alternative suggestions. Upon feedback to the affected residents no additional suitable road names were presented for consideration.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council, as the Road Naming Authority, adopts the proposed road names outlined in this report.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.2 LEEVILLE HALL FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Andrew Leach

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Leeville Hall was inundated by flood water during the February 2022 flood and was severely damaged. The hall has been shifted off alignment and footings. Prior to the flood, the use of the hall had diminished with very limited demand and bookings. Works to restore the hall to an operational condition are estimated at between \$200,000 to \$250,000. Considering the low usage of the facility, and the expense of repairs and maintenance, Council may wish to consider decommissioning the hall.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Consults with relevant community stakeholders on the option of decommissioning the Leeville Hall, given
 - (a) the significant cost of restoration of the facility and
 - (b) the lack of demand/use for this building in this locality.
2. Receives a further report on the matter at the August 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP1: Fresh and Vibrant Community

PP1.8: Undertake the repair and maintenance of council buildings

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The cost of restoration of the Leeville Hall to its former condition is estimated at \$200,000 to \$250,000. The funds would need to be allocated from Council's Insurance Claim from the flood event.

REPORT

The Leeville Hall adjacent to Middle Creek on Mongogarrie Road was inundated by flood water during the February 2022 flood and was severely damaged. The images attached to this report demonstrate how badly damaged the structure is. The Hall has been shifted off alignment and its footings. The turbulence of the flood water has eroded the soil supporting the footings and exposed the eroded condition of the footings. The floor has bowed, and the internal wall, being Masonite cladding has been water damaged up to 1500mm high. Works to restore the hall to an operational level are estimated at between \$200,000 to \$250,000.

The Leeville Hall was constructed in 1914 and run by a Trust up until 1977 when the Trust of the Hall was transferred to Richmond River Council. Following discussions with members of the management/booking committee, officers determined that the use of the hall has declined over the years, with bookings rare and only three singular bookings registered within the last five years. A children's playgroup had operated out of the Hall in the past, but it was wound up over 10 years ago.

Given that Casino is within 15 minutes of this locality and provides numerous facilities to support community events and functions, Council may wish to consider asset rationalisation in this case given the Hall has very low use. The estimate to restore the hall is \$200,000 to \$250,000, compared to an estimated \$50,000 to either remove or demolish the existing structure. There may be an opportunity to tender the removal of the building at a reduced cost to Council. Any cost of restoration or removal would be accounted for within Council's Flood Insurance Claim

CONSULTATION

Council Officers have spoken with committee members to establish the usage and the history of the Hall, however further discussion will be undertaken to determine any feedback that may change the current position supporting the proposed decommissioning of the Hall.

CONCLUSION

Council may wish to consider options for the future of the Leeville Hall with local stakeholders taking into consideration the cost of restoration and maintaining the asset, and the current lack of use of the facility.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Leeville Hall Photos (under separate cover)**
2. **Leeville Hall Location Map (under separate cover)**

17.3 ASSET PLANNING POLICIES

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Kim Anderson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of Council's ongoing policy review process, three policies have been developed for Asset Planning. The review included the development of new policies relating to the administration tasks required by Council in accordance with an overarching legal framework and guidelines including the *Local Government Act 1993*, *Roads Act 1993* and *Crown Land Management Act 2016*. The policies outline Council's direction, limits, principles and guidance for decision making and providing clarity for the benefit of the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the following Asset Planning policies:

1. CPOL 11.12 Lease of Road Reserve
2. CPOL 11.14 Naming of Roads and Bridges
3. CPOL 11.15 Permanent Road Closures

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Making Council Great

CS2: Great Support

CS2.14: Maintain Strategic Asset Management focus, and provide inspection and technical information for the development of design and Capital works programs

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

The Lease of Road Reserves Policy provides the framework for determining leases on unused Council public roads.

The Naming of Roads and Bridges Policy supports property addressing requirements. Bridge naming provides clear identification of a specific locality in the event of an emergency and/or disaster which delivers benefit to the public responders and the general community.

The Permanent Road Closure Policy provides the framework that Council considers for determining permanent public road closures which is done for example, with land disposal to adjoining landholders or for transferring a road to be Council community/operational land.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopts the Asset Planning policies contained within this report to support information for both staff and the community.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. CPOL 11.12 Lease of Road Reserve (under separate cover)
2. CPOL 11.14 Naming of Roads and Bridges (under separate cover)
3. CPOL 11.15 Permanent Road Closures (under separate cover)

17.4 RICHMOND PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Kim Anderson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft Plan of Management for Richmond Park was developed to provide a clear direction for future management of the facility in accordance with the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) and the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act).

Crown Lands provided confirmation on 18 February 2022 that the draft Plan of Management satisfies the requirements under section 3.23(6) of the CLM Act and the plan can be publicly exhibited in accordance with section 38 of the LG Act.

The draft plan was placed on public exhibition and four submissions were received. After considering all submissions received Council may decide to amend the draft plan or to adopt it without amendment.

Minor amendments have been recommended that modify the publicly exhibited draft Plan of Management for clarity, alignment with legislative changes and alignment with other Council plans.

Council is required to obtain NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands Minister's consent to adopt the draft Plan of Management if any amendments are made after the public exhibition. This is a requirement on Council as Crown Lands is the owner of the land.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Amends the publicly exhibited Richmond Park Plan of Management, with the minor, non-substantial changes outlined in this report.
2. Endorses the amended draft Plan of Management and requests the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands Minister's consent to adopt the Plan of Management.
3. Adopts the amended draft Plan of Management upon Minister's consent in accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
4. Gives public notice of that adoption, and of the terms of the amended plan of management, as soon as practicable after the adoption.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Connecting People and Places

PP1: Fresh and Vibrant Community

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

The draft Plan of Management (PoM) for Richmond Park identifies the values, use, management practices and the broader public purpose for which the land has been reserved or dedicated. The Plan of Management applies the legislative framework under the principles of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act), identifying the land as if it were "Community" land and providing an appropriate directed category that meets community needs.

Richmond Park includes the Casino Golf Course, Greyhound Slipping Track, Casino Mini Rail & Museum, Jabiru Geneebeinga Wetlands and Richmond Park Wildlife Refuge. Richmond Park is owned by Crown Lands and managed by Richmond Valley Council. Council is appointed Crown Land Manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act). The CLM Act authorises local councils appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land to manage that land as if it was public land under the LG Act.

The management plan for Jabiru Geneebeinga Wetlands forms part of the Plan of Management (Appendix 6) as an operational plan to guide works and activities for Council and stakeholders to maintain and improve the environmental, ecological, hydrological, recreational and educational values of the site.

Crown Lands provided confirmation on 18 February 2022 that the draft Plan of Management satisfies the requirements under section 3.23(6) of the CLM Act and that Council can now progress to the public exhibition stage in accordance with section 38 of the LG Act. This is a requirement on Council as Crown Lands is the owner of the land.

The draft Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition from 13 April to 25 May 2022 and four submissions were received.

A very extensive submission was received from Birdlife Northern NSW in which much of the information provided in the submission can assist the ongoing review of the Management Plan and assist in the future development of a Master Plan for the site.

Minor and non-substantial changes have been recommended for the draft Richmond Park Plan of Management including:

- The *Richmond Valley Councils Local Environmental Plan 2012* (LEP12), E2 - Environmental Conservation zoning code was amended to C2 – Environmental Conservation. The Richmond Park land zoning is not altered (i.e. remaining Environmental Conservation), however references to the E2 has been adjusted to C2 in alignment with the changes in the LEP12.
- Additional clarity was expanded within the sections of 'Land comprising the habitat of endangered species or threatened' and 'Land containing significant natural features' page 15.
- Refreshment kiosks were removed from the permissible use within the Natural Area – Wetland, area and moved to the General Community Use area. The intent to further protect the wetland area and the environmental values in which this type of activity is best supported in the General Community Use, page 25.
- Clarity that the future master plan to be incorporated over the whole area of the Wildlife Refuge, Figure A1-6 page 34.
- Reference to Richmond Valley Council's Destination Management Plan 2021-2025 which supersedes the Tourist Development Plan, page 46.

If the draft Plan of Management is amended following public exhibition, Council is required to obtain the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands Minister's consent for adoption of the plan.

CONSULTATION

The draft Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition in accordance with Section 38 LG Act for 28 days and was open for public submissions for a total of 42 days, closing 25 May 2022.

Four submissions were received including a very extensive submission from Birdlife Northern NSW in which much of the information provided can assist the ongoing review of the Management Plan and assist in the future development of a Master Plan for the site.

Non-substantial amendments have been recommended to the draft Plan of Management post public exhibition. Council is required to obtain Minister's consent to adopt the Plan of Management if any amendments are made to the draft plan.

Council was not required to hold a public hearing for this draft plan of management in accordance with Section 3.23(7)(c) of the CLM Act and Section 40A of the LG Act.

CONCLUSION

Council has undertaken the public exhibition requirements for the draft Richmond Park Plan of Management in accordance with the LG Act and the CLM Act. Council received four submissions during the public exhibition. Minor amendments being not substantial in nature have been recommended to modify the publicly exhibited draft Plan of Management for clarity, alignment with legislative changes and alignment with other Councils plans.

The amended draft plan has been presented for Council's consideration for endorsement requesting NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands Minister's consent to enable formal adoption.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Draft Richmond Park Plan of Management (including amendments post public exhibition) (under separate cover)**
2. **Attachment 6 - Draft Management Plan Jabiru Geneebeinga Wetlands (under separate cover)**

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

19.1 COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2021/2022 ROUND TWO UPDATE

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Hayley Hancock

RECOMMENDATION

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

REPORT

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

Council has allocated \$75,000 in the 2021/2022 budget for the Community Financial Assistance Program. The policy provides for two approximately equal funding rounds, allowing for \$40,596.15 to be allocated in this second round. This round of funding was advertised in April 2022 and Council received 12 applications.

All applications received have been reviewed by Council's Grant team in accordance with the policy. Of the 12 applications, 11 of the applications were deemed eligible and 11 projects have been fully funded in this round.

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

Councillors had an opportunity to review the proposals and provide feedback at a workshop on 7 June 2022, with the General Manager approving the allocation of funds under delegation.

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

Organisation	Requested allocation	Proposed use	Amount allocated
Casino Art Group Inc.	\$2,050.00	Clean external building facia and repaint adding sign writing to identify the building as the "Cassino Gallery".	\$2,050.00
Casino Community Gardens (Momentum Collective)	\$4,000.00	Upgrade the current garden beds, purchase new garden beds and raise for better accessibility.	\$4,000.00
Casino Magpies Cricket Club Inc.	\$3,250.00	Purchase a turf cylinder mower.	\$3,250.00
Casino Community Men's Shed Inc.	\$1,694.00	Purchase a portable single phase manually operated resistance spot welder.	\$1,694.00
Coraki CWA Preschool	\$5,000.00	Re-establish the preschool outdoor space, toys and resources.	\$5,000.00
Evans Head District Cricket Club	\$3,000.00	Purchase soil to repair turf wicket.	\$3,000.00
Northern NSW Helicopter Rescue Service Limited	\$3,000.00	Contribution towards the costs to resume operations following the 2022 Floods.	\$3,000.00
Pacific Coast Railway Society Inc trading as Casino Miniature Railway and Museum	\$3,754.56	Replace table and chairs at Old Casino Station for community and tourists. Items will be made from recycled materials.	\$3,754.56
Windara Communities Ltd	\$5,000.00	Purchase of equipment for NDIS workers, school children and staff to support the re-established nursery.	\$5,000.00
Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club	\$5,000.00	Woodburn Amateur Boxing Club lost every article of training equipment. This grant is to restock essential items.	\$5,000.00
Woodburn Wolves	\$5,000.00	Replace or repair items required to operate the canteen and replace flooded sporting gear.	\$5,000.00
		TOTAL	\$40,748.56

An additional \$152.41 has been allocated from the Grants Operational Budget to achieve the allocated funding amount.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.2 EVENT SUPPORT SCHEME ALLOCATION 2022/2023**Director:** Angela Jones**Responsible Officer:** Tiarn Stenner**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the allocations under the Event Support Scheme Application 2022/2023.

REPORT

Under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) Council may by resolution contribute financial assistance to individuals, groups and organisations seeking financial assistance. At the February 2022 Council meeting, Council resolved to delegate authority to the General Manager to approve allocation of funds in accordance with Council's Policy 9.04 Event Support.

Council has allocated \$44,007 in the 2022/2023 budget for the Event Support Scheme. This funding was advertised in February 2022 and Council received eight applications.

All applications received have been reviewed in accordance with the policy. Six applications were deemed appropriate for support. Evaluations included a recommendation from the Events Officer as to the appropriate cash and in-kind contribution to be provided.

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

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

Organisation	Requested allocation	Event description	Amount allocated
Casino Show Society Inc	\$5000 cash \$3072 in-kind	A three-day agricultural event containing entertainment, demonstrations, and competitions, showcasing the agriculture sector of the Richmond Valley and surrounding areas.	\$5000 cash \$3072 in-kind
Evans Head-Casino Surf Life Saving Club	\$10,800 cash \$715 in-kind	A four-day anniversary event to celebrate the Surf Club's achievements over the past 100 years.	\$5000 cash \$715 in-kind
Woodburn Event Team	\$5000 cash \$657 in-kind	A full day of inexpensive family-oriented activities and entertainment based in Woodburn Riverside Park	\$5000 cash \$657 in-kind
Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre	\$5000 cash \$757 in-kind	A Youth Festival in Evans Head in 2022 showcasing young people's talent in sport, music and other arts.	\$2500 cash \$757 in-kind
Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre	\$5000 cash \$757 in-kind	A Youth Festival in Evans Head in 2023 showcasing young people's talent in sport, music and other arts.	\$5000 cash \$757 in-kind
Australian Fishing Tournaments	\$5000 cash \$770 in-kind	A seven-day fishing competition held in Evans Head.	\$5000 cash \$770 in-kind

Organisation	Requested allocation	Event description	Amount allocated
Southview Orchard	\$4000 cash \$185 in-kind	A celebration of peach harvest with entertainment and long table lunches.	\$2000 cash \$185 in-kind
Evans Head Malibu Club	\$1500 cash \$900 in-kind	A seven-day surfing competition held in Evans Head.	\$1500 cash \$900 in-kind
		TOTAL	\$38,813

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

19.3 COST OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021**Director: Ryan Gaiter****Responsible Officer: Kate Alder-Conn****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the report, detailing the final costs of the Local Government Election held in December 2021.

REPORT

The Local Government Election originally scheduled to occur in September 2020, was delayed until September 2021, and then again until December 2021, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The cost of the election, conducted by the NSW Electoral Commission, was also impacted by the pandemic, with the requirement to run COVID-safe elections necessitating additional resources and cost.

Council has now received the invoice from the NSW Electoral Commission, confirming the final cost of the election.

The cost to Council was as follows:

(a) Total expenses	\$239,363.66
(b) Less Covid/Deferral Discount	\$ 63,342.83
(c) Final cost to Council	\$176,020.83

The State Government covered the additional costs for conducting COVID-safe elections. Therefore, a discount was applied for Covid/Deferral in the sum of \$63,342.83.

This deduction was applied to the following cost components: Event management, event staffing, information technology, logistics, postal voting and voter awareness.

The final cost, with the deduction taken into consideration, was within the budget allocation of \$185,000.

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

19.4 CASINO SHOWGROUND UPGRADE**Director: Ben Zeller****Responsible Officer: Lani Hancock****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the report on the Casino Showground upgrade.

REPORT

Council has received \$9,630,695.86 in funding to develop the Casino Showground Precinct, which is situated on the southern outskirts of Casino along the Summerland Way.

This project is jointly funded by both the NSW and Federal Governments. \$8,200,000 is from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF), \$1,010,695.86 from Phase Two of the NSW Showgrounds Stimulus Funding Program and \$420,000 from the Drought Communities Fund.

As per the original funding arrangements, construction is to be completed by 30 June 2023.

Council previously called for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the Detailed Design of the Casino Showground Precinct excluding the Day Stalls and both the Sand & Grass Tracks, which are being constructed as separate projects. There were twenty-nine proposals received. These submissions were evaluated with Council going to select tender for detailed design and six suitably qualified design consultants. Tenders were received from the select tender process however all were well above budgeted expectation and Council resolved in June 2021 to decline all submissions.

The option of issuing a design and construct tender for the Casino Showground Precinct was then pursued. Four responses were received with one conforming tender. The conforming tender was well outside budget expectation and did not address the full scope.

At Council's 21 September 2021 Ordinary Meeting, it was resolved that Council:

1. Declines all submissions received for Tender VP259162 – Detailed Design and Construct Casino Showground Precinct due to all submissions being either higher than the budget allocated for the works, not meeting project scope or were non-conforming.
2. Determines not to call fresh Tenders, as this is the second tender process for this project and the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions have impacted on the number of responses to this tender, the price submitted and the ability to deliver in a timely manner.
3. Applies Clause 178 (3e) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* to authorise the General Manager to enter into direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors (this may include contractors who did not tender), with a view to obtaining delivery of the priorities within the project scope and the available budget, and to finalise the terms of the contract or agreement, including affixing the seal of Council where necessary.
4. Notes that the outcomes of the negotiations will be reported to Council for information at a future meeting.

Direct negotiations were carried out with four contractors to present their revised scope, being AGS Commercial, Alder Constructions, Wiley and Co and Lloyd Group. Alder Constructions withdrew from negotiations whilst prices for Wiley and Lloyd were still well above budget.

Further negotiations were carried out with AGS Commercial as their submission included pricing of optional extras and upgrades to material and finishes.

Council has negotiated and executed a contract sum of \$5,825,036.24 (ex GST) with AGS Commercial and has entered into contractual arrangements for the Casino Showground Precinct Upgrades.

Key deliverables as part of this contract include:

- Electrical services upgrades
- Essential civil works
- Essential stormwater, water, sewer and plumbing
- Undercover equestrian arena
- Outdoor sand arena
- Turf warm up area
- Race stable complex
- Irrigation.

While the preliminary design phase is well underway, it is anticipated that the project may see some impacts with cost increases across the life of the project. This is as a direct result of the increased cost of materials such as steel, as well as availability of plant, equipment and sub-contractors following the February 2022 flood event. This will be monitored throughout the duration of the project.

As the full scope of works in the Masterplan are not able to be fully delivered at this time with the funding available, it is important that Council continues to seek additional funding opportunities to support the delivery of the remaining project elements. These elements include:

- Formalised carparks, internal roads and accesses
- Additional amenities
- Race day event space improvements
- Storage solutions
- Replacement of maintenance shed
- Equine exercise options.

Council's staff have been actively communicating with the funding bodies since March 2022 to pursue an extension of time for the project delivery. This follows the recent significant impacts of flooding to our region and the continual wet weather delays. The request for extension is yet to be finalised.

CONCLUSION

Council is committed to delivering the construction phase of the Casino Showground Precinct Upgrades as a signature event space and equestrian facility for the Richmond Valley and the entire North Coast region. The engagement of AGS Commercial to carry out this project directly aligns with initiatives of the BLERF agreement which is to boost economic and social recovery, increase community preparedness for future natural disasters and help to get residents back on their feet.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Casino Showground Upgrades - AGS Concept Plan (under separate cover)**

19.5 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MAY 2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Rylee Vidler

RECOMMENDATION

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

During the reporting period, there were two grants approved.

Council received funding for thirteen grants totalling \$4,496,522. Council was notified of one unsuccessful grant application and submitted one grant application during the period.

A summary of grants approved and received as well as the status of applications for the financial year to 31 May 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
Community Recovery Officer	Resilience NSW (State)	NSW 2022 Storm and Flood Recovery Package: Community Recovery Officers	\$ 420,000	\$ 420,000	\$ -	20 April 2022	5 May 2022
Comment: This grant will allow Council to employ a designated Community Recovery Officer for two years to manage the recovery process.							
Bringing Back Barker Street	Department of Planning and Environment (State)	Streets as Shared Spaces	\$ 354,708	\$ 354,708	\$ -	11 February 2022	20 May 2022
Comment: This grant will allow Council to develop a vacant block of Council owned land in the CBD into a community open space.							

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)	OLG22-44 Flood	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 2,000,000 3 May 2022	\$2,000,000
Comment: This payment is to enable the complex and immediate support for recovery and resilience required while the task of rebuild continues. A work plan will need to be developed to decide how to use this funding.								
February 2022 Flood	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (State)	OLG22-44 Flood	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 375,000 3 May 2022	\$ 375,000
Comment: This payment to is provide support for companion animals management following the floods, with a focus on improved outcomes, such as rehoming.								
Casino Industrial Precincts	Public Works Advisory (Federal and State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	\$9,969,000	\$9,969,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 71,463 4 May 2022	\$ 71,463
Comment: Progressive claim received for works performed on the Casino Industrial Precinct.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Rappville Sewer Augmentation	Public Works Advisory (Federal and State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 30,964 4 May 2022	\$ 30,964
Comment: Progressive claim received for works performed on the Rappville Sewer network.								
A Sporting Chance	National Recovery and Resilience Agency (Federal)	Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program	\$ 506,000	\$ 476,000	\$ 30,000	6 October 2021	\$ 142,800 10 May 2022	\$ 142,800
Comment: This application was submitted on behalf of the Rappville Sportsground Committee. Council will administer the grant funding and is not making a cash contribution. The Committee is funding the \$30,000 additional contribution								
Financial Assistance Grant 2021/2022	NSW Local Government Grants Commission (Federal)	Financial Assistance Grant	\$5,553,372	\$5,553,372	\$ -	N/A - annual allocation	\$ 711,219 17 May 2022	\$5,553,372
Comment: Final payment for 2021/22 funding allocation.								
EPA Bushfire-Generated Green Waste	Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (State)	Green Waste Clean-up and Processing Program	\$ 998,551	\$ 968,945	\$ 29,606	1 July 2021	\$ 290,684 19 May 2022	\$ 872,051
Comment: Mid-point progress payment for cleaning-up and processing bushfire generated green waste.								
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	\$ 363,172 20 May 2022	\$3,006,644
Comment: Total allocated funding for 2021/22 received.								
AGRN987 - NSW Severe Weather 09 November 2021 onwards Emergency Works	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 38,754	\$ 38,754	\$ -	28 March 2022	\$ 38,754 25 May 2022	\$ 38,754
Comment: Final claim submitted and received for emergency works completed as a result of AGRN987 November 2021 Floods.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
AGRN987 - NSW Severe Weather 09 November 2021 onwards Immediate Reconstruction Works	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 219,766	\$ 219,766	\$ -	28 March 2022	\$ 219,766 25 May 2022	\$ 219,766
Comment: Final claim submitted and received for immediate reconstruction works completed as a result of AGRN987 November 2021 Floods.								
Upgrade of Richmond Valley's Town Entry Signs: Traditional Custodian Acknowledgment	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ -	24 June 2021	\$ 44,000 25 May 2022	\$ 55,000
Comment: Progress payment received per funding agreement. This funding is to re-wrap existing town entry signs with new Aboriginal art, welcome and tourism branding.								
Bringing Back Barker Street	Department of Planning and Environment (State)	Streets as Shared Spaces Round 2	\$ 354,708	\$ 354,708	\$ -	11 February 2022	\$ 183,700 27 May 2022	\$ 183,700
Comment: Progress payment received per funding agreement. This funding will be used to create a small park in Barker Street across from the Tattersalls Hotel and stencilling the footpath from the Westpac Bank to the new park to trial a new look footpath.								
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	\$ 25,000 30 May 2022	\$ 25,000
Comment: This funding will be used to replace four community war memorial honour rolls destroyed during the 2019 bushfires.								

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

[illegible]

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Flying Fox Habitat Restoration	Local Government NSW (State)	Flying Fox Habitat Restoration Grants Program 2020-2030	\$ 374,992	\$ 299,992	\$ 75,000	2 May 2022
Comment: If successful, this grant would allow Council to expand the alternative roosting area on the southern side of the Richmond River to encourage the flying-fox population to establish further away from residential and community areas.						

Comment: If successful, this grant would allow Council to expand the alternative roosting area on the southern side of the Richmond River to encourage the flying-fox population to establish further away from residential and community areas.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

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

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Georgia Campbell

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 May 2022 to 31 May 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 May to 31 May 2022 was 30, with a total value of \$3,521,489.56.

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

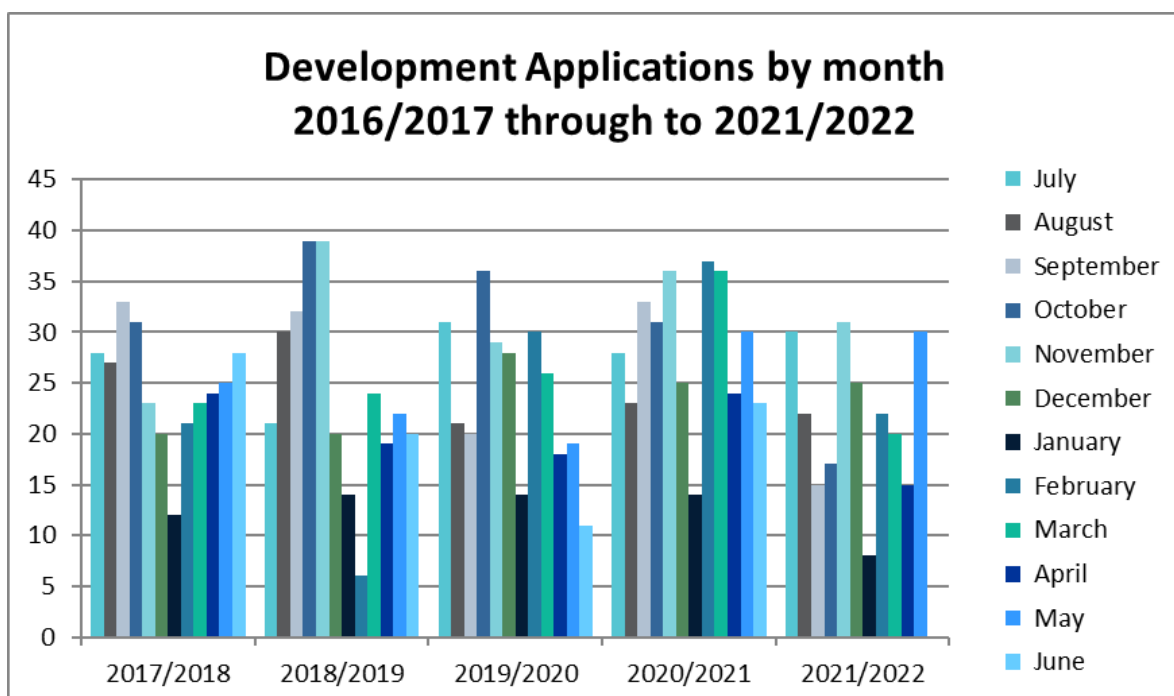


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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 May 2022.

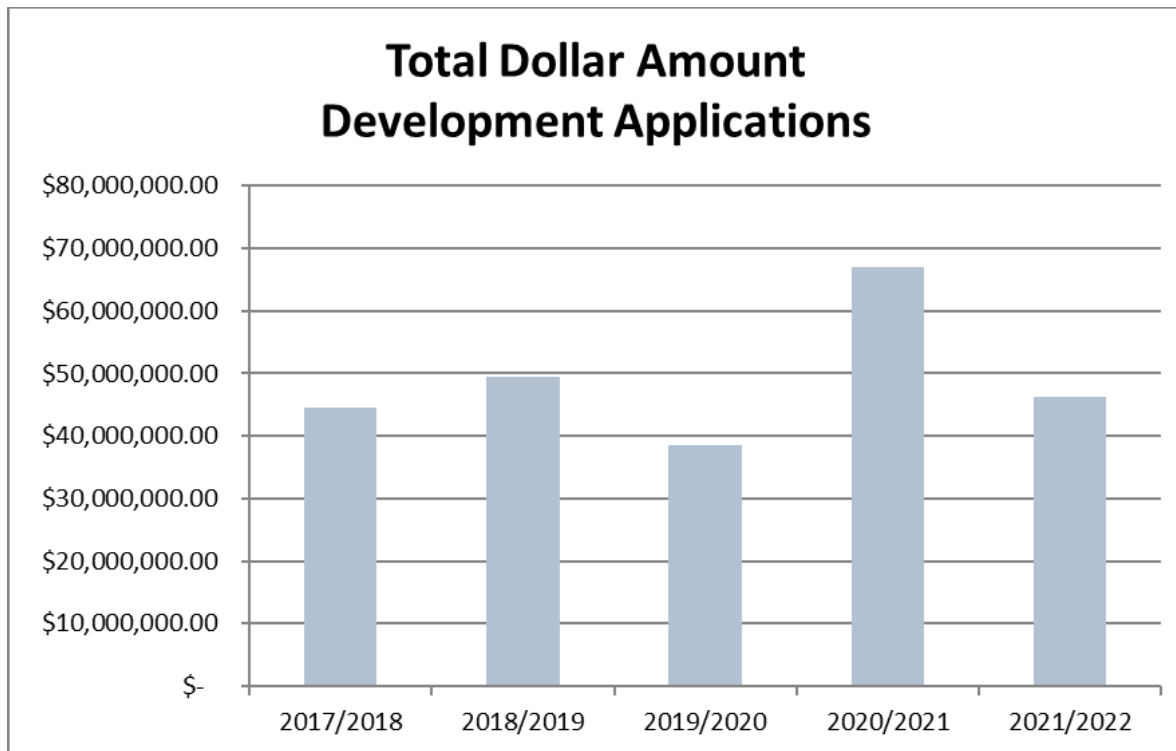


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

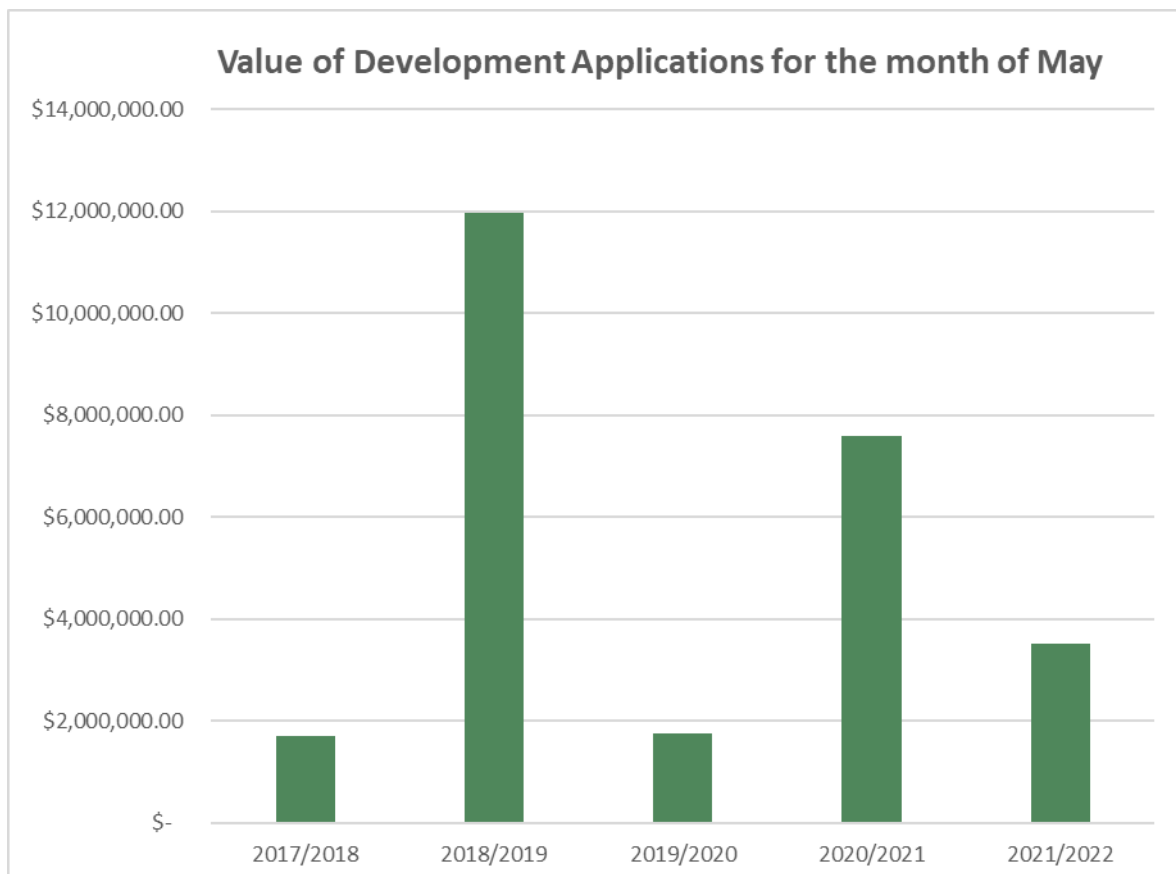


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of May 2022

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.

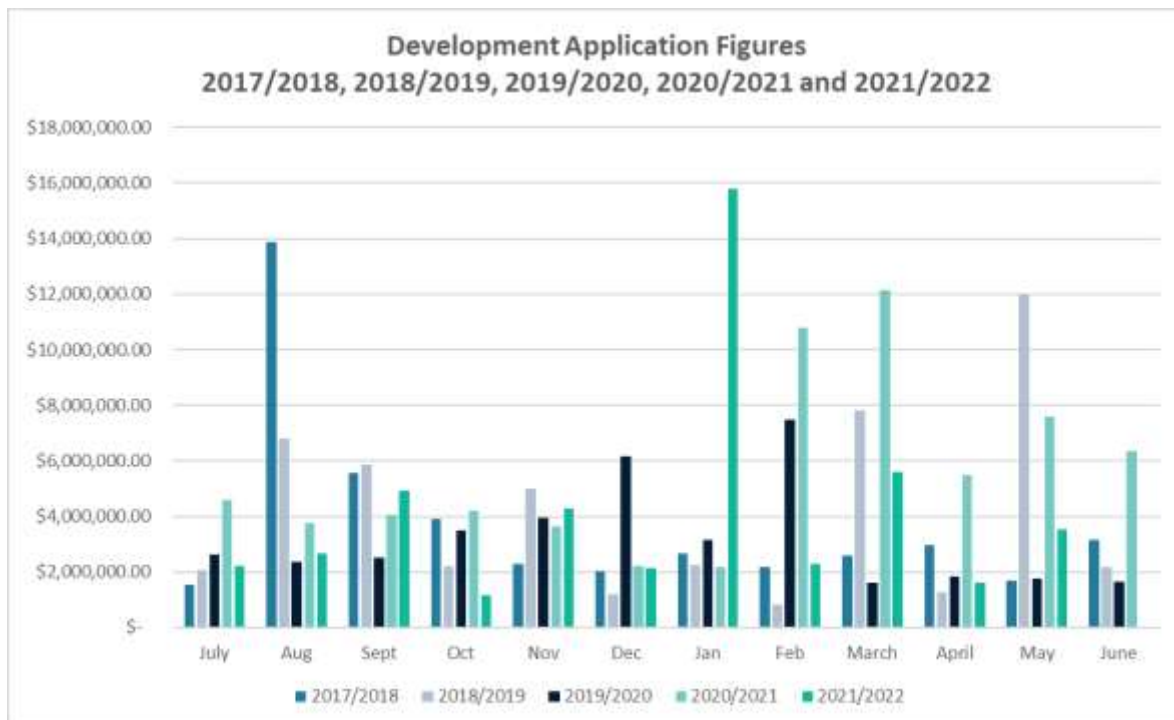


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

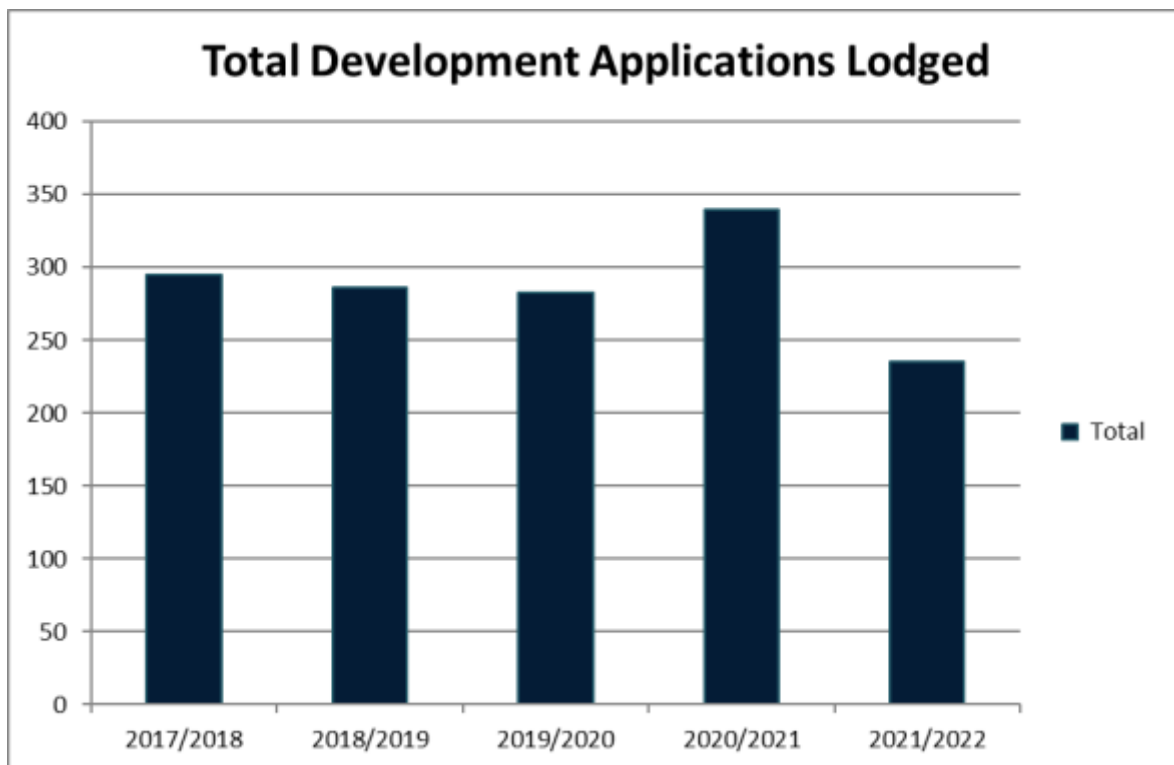


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the month of May 2022

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	26
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	2
Subdivision	1
Refused	-
Withdrawn	-
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	1
TOTAL	30
Average assessment days for applications determined in May 2022	58
No. of Integrated development applications determined in May 2022	2
No. of Designated development applications determined in May 2022	-
No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in May 2022.	64

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

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Growing our Economy

EC1: Driving Economic Growth

EC1.6: Improved customer satisfaction with the DA process

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Nil

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2022 to 31 May 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0015	Newton Denny Chapelle	LK Wilkinson & CR Wilkinson	1022 Naughtons Gap Road, Bentley	Torrens Title Subdivision to create 3 lots being Lot 1 (40ha) Lot 3 (43.5ha) Lot 4 (40ha)	16/07/2021	12/05/2022	\$0.00
DA2022/0127	The Shed Company	CR & GR King	26 Adam Street, Casino	6.5m x 4.5m gable roof carport to be constructed in front of dwelling	23/12/2021	4/05/2022	\$12,690.00
DA2022/0142	MP Hayes	MP Hayes	86 Hotham Street, Casino	Construction of 7m x 6m colorbond garage	25/01/2022	25/05/2022	\$12,600.00
DA2022/0144	RM Darmanin	JL & RM Darmanin	35 River Street, Woodburn	Plunge pool & associated fencing, decking and a new flyover roof	27/01/2022	30/05/2022	\$27,120.56
DA2022/0146	Vibe Architects	Kelly Hotels Properties Pty Limited	136-138 Barker Street, Casino	Alterations and additions to a Heritage listed building (Tattersalls Hotel) including internal and external alterations, external shed, demolition, landscaping, fencing and associated works.	28/01/2022	19/05/2022	\$462,000.00
DA2017/0054.04	Manage-Design-Engineer Pty Ltd	Serenitas Communities Holdings Pty Ltd	74 Currajong Street EVANS HEAD NSW 2473	Section 4.55 (1A) modification to accommodate minor internal site planning amendments including: • Portion of existing Stage 2 amended to become Stage 2a including road alignment and site layout. • Stage 2a comprising sites 14-29 and 59, Community Lawn No 1 and Basin 2	8/02/2022	19/05/2022	\$0.00
DA2022/0159	Chris Burley Constructions	GW & RC Burt	94 West Street, Casino	Carport	15/02/2022	6/05/2022	\$19,400.00
DA2022/0161	ND Schneider	Richmond Valley Council	Casino Water Treatment Plant 10690 Summerland Way CASINO NSW 2470	Creation of office space ancillary to existing water treatment operations	16/02/2022	12/05/2022	\$187,000.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2022 to 31 May 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0163	AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	MA Boyle	70 North Street, Casino	Shed	17/02/2022	11/05/2022	\$25,508.00
DA2022/0164	Evoke Pools	LFR & BC Hancock	37 Verulam View, Spring Grove	Fibreglass inground swimming pool and associated fencing	17/02/2022	18/05/2022	\$42,675.00
DA2022/0169	CL McQueen	CL & SJ McQueen	385 Naughtons Gap Road, North Casino	Construction of new dwelling to create a detached dual occupancy	21/02/2022	3/05/2022	\$149,608.00
DA2022/0171	Hayes Building Consultancy	DL Trustum	925 Woodburn Coraki Road, Swan Bay	Construction of a steel frame farm storage shed with a concrete floor. A variation has been requested to reduce the building line setback from the front boundary from 20m to 13m.	21/02/2022	12/05/2022	\$80,000.00
DA2022/0173	D Lawrence	JS O'Connor	80 Hotham Street, Casino	Demolition of existing free-standing garage, construction of new detached single storey dwelling to create a dual occupancy	23/02/2022	3/05/2022	\$335,000.00
DA2022/0175	CA Transton	AJ Gabb	35 Diary Street, Casino	Construction of an above ground swimming pool & associated fencing	24/02/2022	9/05/2022	\$4,750.00
DA2022/0182	R Dennis	S Campbell	227 Sextonville Road, Casino	Deck	9/03/2022	25/05/2022	\$50,000.00
DA2022/0183	ZD Cruickshank	ZD & CA Cruickshank	56 Verulam View, Spring Grove	Shed	9/03/2022	6/05/2022	\$87,100.00
DA2022/0184	B & T Garages & Sheds Pty Ltd	AF McKee	20-22 Richmond Street, Casino	Colorbond skillion shed	14/03/2022	11/05/2022	\$58,000.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2022 to 31 May 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2016/0085.02	Precinct Urban Planning	Inghams Enterprises Pty Ltd	9085 Summerland Way, Leeville	S4.55(1A) - Modification to approved Complex C buildings. The approved spiking sheds will be removed and the existing sheds will be extended. Overall, there will be a net reduction in floor area associated with Complex C	15/03/2022	19/05/2022	\$0.00
DA2022/0186	DL Kylstra	DL Kylstra	44 Eucalypt Drive, Swan Bay	Construction of concrete slab deck on the Southern side of the existing dwelling, with a skillion roof	16/03/2022	12/05/2022	\$34,650.00
DA2022/0192	GM Smith-Roberts	GM & SL Smith-Roberts	67 Flatley Place, North Casino	New dwelling, shed/carport & Swimming Pool	29/03/2022	24/05/2022	\$689,500.00
DA2022/0193	Evoke Pools	DJA Bladen & W Brand	7 Zinnia Court, Fairy Hill	Inground swimming pool and associated fencing	31/03/2022	16/05/2022	\$58,200.00
DA2022/0194	DL Transton	LM & DL Transton	38-40 Fergusson Street, Casino	Awning and skillion roof on existing shed	5/04/2022	16/05/2022	\$15,000.00
DA2022/0196	BA Harley	CB & EJ Lowe	90 Manifold Road, North Casino	Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling	8/04/2022	27/05/2022	\$890,000.00
DA2022/0197	WB Baxter	WB & JA Baxter	125 Knoetzechs Road, North Casino	Installation of an inground composite fibreglass swimming pool with associated pool fencing	13/04/2022	30/05/2022	\$52,250.00
DA2022/0198	Hayes Building Consultancy	MJ & TM Bodley	30 Wirraway Avenue, Evans Head	Add a low retaining wall along the southern boundary and a colour bond metal fence on top of the proposed wall	14/04/2022	24/05/2022	\$13,200.00
DA2022/0199	AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	JF & SAG Tonge	130 Stratheden Road, Stratheden	Open fronted farm shed	20/04/2022	19/05/2022	\$81,188.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2022 to 31 May 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0203	Barker Studio Pty Ltd	JK Stuart	38 Mangrove Street, Evans Head	New 42m ² covered utility area, unenclosed on 3 sides. It consists of a concrete slab on ground, a metal roof on timber frame and steel columns.	26/04/2022	27/05/2022	\$32,400.00
DA2022/0204	Trueline Patios & Extensions Northern Rivers	GMT & RM McInnes	54 Marigold Drive, Fairy Hill	Construction of patio roof	27/04/2022	30/05/2022	\$31,500.00
CDC2022/0018	Techton Building Services	RA & DJ French	36 Ironbark Place, Naughtons Gap	Swimming Pool	12/05/2022	12/05/2022	\$53,700.00
DA2022/0189	TE Marsden	JG & TE Marsden	66 Casuarina Drive, Swan Bay	AS BUILT - Covered pergola/patio	23/03/2022	19/05/2022	\$16,450.00

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.7 CORRESPONDENCE - IPART 2022-2023 RATE PEG

Director: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Julie Clark

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the correspondence forwarded to the Premier of NSW, the Hon Dominic Perrottet and response received from the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, regarding the IPART 2023-23 rate peg.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council resolved to write to the Premier of NSW the Hon Dominic Perrottet, expressing concern at IPART's decision to impose the lowest rate peg in 20 years on the local government sector for the 2023-23 financial year.

A copy of the letter provided, and response received follows.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Letter to Premier NSW**
- 2. Response letter Hon Wendy Tuckerman**



10 Graham Place Casino NSW 2470
Postal: Locked Bag 10 Casino NSW 2470

t: 02 6660 0300 f: 02 6660 1300

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

ABN 54 145 907 009

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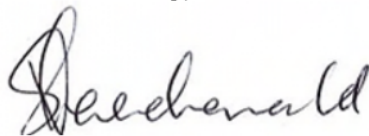
In light of the current circumstances facing many councils in NSW, we would request that the NSW Government:

- 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



The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP
Minister for Local Government

Our Ref: A817261

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

By email: council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Macdonald

Thank you for your letter to the Premier, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, dated 12 April 2022 in relation to the 2022-23 IPART rate peg. As the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities, the Premier has referred your correspondence to me for response.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the significant effort that councils and communities across NSW have undertaken in recent times in dealing with the challenges and adversity presented by drought, bushfires, floods and the global pandemic. In particular, I acknowledge the recent Northern NSW floods. The resilience and leadership displayed by councils such as Richmond Valley for their communities has been extraordinary. I appreciate the commitment of councils to serve their communities through such adversity.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the release of IPART's 2022-23 rate peg and its impact on council.

IPART, as an independent regulatory body, determines and sets the annual rate peg for NSW councils. Given the complex methodology, it is appropriate that the powers to determine the rate peg are held by an independent body.

It is my job to listen to the concerns of the sector and look at options to protect and improve the sustainability of councils across NSW. Having heard concerns of councils and others within the local government sector about the 2022-23 rate peg impact I took immediate steps to respond. As you have noted in your letter, an additional special variation (ASV) opportunity has been arranged for the 2022-23 financial year. This one-off opportunity will help support councils that had budgeted for a larger income increase than received when IPART announced its annual rate peg in December 2021.

I note in your letter that the extended timeframe for councils to apply for a special rate variation (SRV) and that the SRV process involves extensive time and cost. It is important to clarify that the ASV opportunity was a simpler more targeted application process that did not require councils to demonstrate community consultation or a requirement to provide complex or detailed supporting documentation. Circular 22-07 published on the OLG website sets out the specific ASV application criteria and I understand that 86 councils have taken advantage of the streamlined application approach and have applied to IPART for ASV applications.

I also acknowledge your feedback in relation to the rate peg methodology. In addition to putting in place the ASV arrangement for the 2022-23 financial year, I have asked IPART to undertake a review of its rate peg methodology including the Local Government Cost Index. The review will be carried

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out as soon as possible to provide certainty to councils and ensure that future rate peg decisions reflect the reality of the environment councils operate in.

In addition, the OLG will work with IPART to more broadly review and streamline the special variation application process to address local government sector concerns about costs, uncertainty and timeliness.

The 2022-23 ASV opportunity, coupled with IPART's rate peg methodology review and the planned streamlining of the special rate variation application process, demonstrates that the NSW Government is serious about ensuring that our councils are financially sustainable so they can continue to deliver the key services and infrastructure communities need.

Thank you for taking the time to bring these matters to the Government's attention and I trust the above information is of assistance. Should you require further assistance in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Gibbs, the OLG's Director of Policy and Sector Development on 02 4428 4174 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP
Minister for Local Government

CC: The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier

10 JUN 2022

19.8 CORRESPONDENCE - PREMIER OF NSW - VOLUNTARY HOUSE RAISING SCHEME

Director: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Julie Clark

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the correspondence forwarded to the Premier of NSW, the Hon Dominic Perrottet, following Cr Patrick Deegan's Notice of Motion regarding the Voluntary House Raising Scheme.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of the correspondence provided to the Premier of NSW, the Hon Dominic Perrottet follows. A response has not yet been received.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. NSW Premier Voluntary House Raising Scheme**



10 Graham Place Casino NSW 2470
Postal: Locked Bag 10 Casino NSW 2470

t: 02 6660 0300 f: 02 6660 1300

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

ABN 54 145 907 009

10 June 2022

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

Dear Premier Perrottet

Voluntary House Raising Scheme

At Council's Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 17 May 2022, Council resolved unanimously to support Cr Deegan's Notice of Motion – Voluntary House Raising Scheme, as below.

That Council:

1. *Acknowledges many residents in the Mid Richmond and across the Richmond Valley, are preparing to refit their homes and to take actions to protect their homes from future flood events such as raising their homes. Residents would prefer to raise their homes before refitting, as the process of raising the home has the potential to damage new internal works undertaken.*
2. *Notes on current timelines Council will complete its Floodplain Risk Management Plan by late 2023 and is not able to consider a Voluntary House Raising Scheme until this time.*
3. *Writes to the State Government seeking urgent support to complete the Floodplain Risk Management Plan to bring forward Council's Voluntary House Raising Scheme. Council also asks for the State Government to urgently implement its own Voluntary House Raising Scheme for the Northern Rivers Region.*

Following this year's catastrophic flood events, many residents are looking for certainty on future options when planning to restore or rebuild their homes. In the Richmond Valley, some 800 local homes have been badly damaged, with over 450 of them currently uninhabitable. There are more than 1000 local residents displaced. Council does not currently have an active Voluntary House Raising Scheme and is not in a position to consider one until the Floodplain Risk Management Plan is completed.

Completion of this work relies on input from the NSW Government to update 2022 flood levels, so that Council can recalibrate its existing flood model. Once this work is completed, further work will be required to update flood hazard mapping, undertake community consultation and develop a new Floodplain Risk Management Plan. Council estimates this work will cost some \$200,000 and take until late 2023 to complete. While assistance from the NSW Government could expedite this work, it should be noted that all other local councils in the Northern Rivers will need to complete the same process and it may be more expedient for the NSW Government to support development of a regional approach to floodplain risk management planning. We would seek your urgent support for such an approach.

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-2-

A regional model would allow the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation to take a more holistic view of flood risk mitigation and develop a regional response to community requests for voluntary house raising and property buy-back schemes. This would result in a more expedient and equitable outcome than relying on the limited resources of local councils to develop localised schemes.

In Richmond Valley's recent submission to the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry, Council highlighted the need for the NSW Government to assume full responsibility and funding for voluntary house raising schemes, in consultation with local councils. The current Flood Property Assessment Program provides an appropriate pathway for this approach.

Council also highlighted the need for the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to lead a further review of flood risk planning controls, based on the lessons learned from the 2022 flood, including improving the consistency of flood modelling and risk management planning, introducing regional options for risk management and improving the information provided to prospective home purchasers on property risks and constraints.

A copy of the submission is attached for your information.

Council would welcome further discussion with you on how best to expedite this important risk management work and secure a regional approach to flood risk management in the Northern Rivers.

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 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 Planning and Minister for Homes, Mr Anthony Roberts MP
Member for Clarence, Mr Chris Gulaptis, MP

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**RECOMMENDATION**

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

22.1 Transport and Disposal of Mixed Waste Contract

This matter relates to:-

- (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it
- (d)(ii) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) and (d)(ii) 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 and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL