

Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
16 August 2022**

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**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST 2022 AT 6PM**

Please note: these minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council Meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.

PRESENT: Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Sam Cornish, Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Patrick Deegan, Cr Debra McGillan

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Angela Jones (Director Community Service Delivery), Ryan Gaiter (Director Organisational Services), Ben Zeller (Director Projects & Business Development), Jenna Hazelwood (Leader Strategy), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor), Kate Alder-Conn (Governance Coordinator), Lewis Martin (IT Support Officer)

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor provided 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

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

3 PUBLIC ACCESS

Ms Liz Stops addressed Council in relation to Item 19.1 Delivery Program Progress Report 1 January 2022 – 30 June 2022, with regard to Action EC1.1.2 "New technology opportunities in waste fully explored for RVC specific outcomes in either an LGA or regional context."

Ms Stops raised issues and concerns with alternative waste technologies. A number of specific questions were raised, with a summary of Council's response attached at **Appendix A**.

The Mayor thanked Ms Stops for her attendance and address to the meeting.

Ms Jill Lyons addressed Council in relation to Item 16.1 Employment Zone Reforms – Post Exhibition Report on DPE's Phase 2 Implementation and Proposed Amendments to the Richmond Valley LEP.

Ms Lyons asked a series of questions regarding future industries for the Regional Jobs Precinct. A copy of the questions, together with Council's response, is attached at **Appendix B**.

The Mayor thanked Ms Lyons for her attendance and address to the meeting.

A full recording of the addresses to the meeting is available at:

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/council-meetings/council-meeting-videos/>

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 19 JULY 2022

RESOLUTION 160822/1

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 July 2022.

CARRIED

7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Cr Deegan raised the following questions regarding Item 15.1 Code of Meeting Practice from the July Ordinary Meeting.

- What criteria will the General Manager use to determine a request to speak during Public Access on a matter for information under the new code of meeting practice?
- Are members of the public who can't attend the meeting in person (for example - someone who lives in Broadwater and doesn't have transport, able to participate in Public Access via audio visual technology?)
- Is Public Access limited to residents and ratepayers of the Richmond Valley?

The General Manager provided the following information:

Under Section 355 of the *Local Government Act* (the Act), Council's General Manager has a role in ensuring that Council meetings proceed in an orderly manner. The Code of Meeting Practice makes it clear that public access at meetings is at the discretion of the Mayor and/or General Manager, so consultation between the Mayor and GM is a key part of the process.

The public access session provides members of the public with a further opportunity to speak on items before Council makes its decision at the meeting. This is not the only avenue for community input. The community can always have their say on key issues by speaking directly with their elected representatives, making a submission during community consultation, or simply writing to Council seeking information.

In assessing applications to speak, the General Manager considers the following:

- Whether the applicant has met the requirements of the Code of Meeting Practice to lodge their application by 4.30pm on the day before the meeting and nominate the agenda item on which they wish to make an address. Generally late requests are not accepted, unless there are special circumstances.
- The number of speakers who have applied to speak. The Code limits the number of speakers to six – so priority is given to those who wish to address Council on matters that will be determined that evening.

- If there are still unallocated time slots, consideration is given to speakers who want to address matters for information – where no decision is to be made.
- This will include consideration as to whether the matter is of public interest and provides new or additional information to that already contained within the report.

It should be noted that in both this term of Council, and the previous term, speakers who asked to address Council at the public access session, and lodged their application within the timeframe required, have never been refused access.

The introduction of mandatory live streaming for Council meetings, has added additional considerations for the conduct of meetings. Council publishes the recordings on its website and has a duty of care to ensure that its livestreaming service does not contain images or video materials that are defamatory, inappropriate or offensive to the general public. This is why the requirement to view presentations, such as PowerPoint slideshows, or videos that will accompany a public access address, has been included in the Code of Meeting Practice.

The Code of Meeting Practice also includes the option for Councillors to attend meetings via video link, with the approval of the Council. While there is no specific provision for members of the public to address Council via video link, there is nothing to prevent a resident from making such an application to Council.

The Code also does not specifically exclude residents from outside of the Richmond Valley from making a presentation to the Council. However, given the limited number of speaking places at each session, priority will always be given to residents of Richmond Valley communities, whom the elected Councillors represent.

Cr Hayes raised the following question regarding Item 14.1 Flood Relief – Development and Construction Fees from the July Ordinary Meeting.

As resolved at the July 2022 Ordinary Meeting, a report is to be presented to Council outlining funding options in line with those provided for 2019 bushfire assistance. When will this report be brought back for consideration?

The General Manager advised that this report is scheduled to be presented to the September 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 12 JULY - 10 AUGUST 2022****RESOLUTION 160822/2**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 12 July – 10 August 2022.

CARRIED

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES REPORT - NATIONAL SALEYARDS EXPO JULY 2022****RESOLUTION 160822/3**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

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

CARRIED

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE****RESOLUTION 160822/4**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That items 15.1 and 17.3 identified be determined without debate.

CARRIED

14 GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 REDETERMINATION OF ORGANISATION STRUCTURE AND CONFIRMATION OF SENIOR STAFF****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under section 333 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), councils must review their organisational structure within 12 months of the December 2021 local government election. Council last undertook a comprehensive review of its organisational structure in February 2021, to prepare for the next stage of growth, strengthen its leadership and ensure that RVC continued to operate as one progressive and community-focused team.

The new structure has proved very effective in delivering council's strategic objectives, improving efficiency and enabling the organisation to respond quickly and effectively to a series of natural disasters, culminating in the 2022 floods. It is proposed to maintain this structure for the 2022-24 Council term, with some minor operational adjustments.

RESOLUTION 160822/5

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council:

1. Adopts the organisational structure, as presented in this report;
2. Notes that the structure is the same as that adopted on 16 February 2021 by the previous Council, with some operational adjustments to respond to changing circumstances, and that no adjustments are required to the adopted 2022/2023 budget as a result of these changes;
3. Designates two positions as 'senior staff', being the General Manager and Director Community Service Delivery.

CARRIED

15 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES**15.1 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under Section 252 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Councils must adopt a new policy on the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to the Mayor and Councillors within 12 months of the local government election held in December 2021.

A review of the current Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy, adopted in November 2016, has been carried out.

RESOLUTION 160822/6

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days, with a further report to be presented to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

CARRIED**15.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - JULY 2022****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 July 2022 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$17,522,259	\$37,000,000	\$4,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$14,779,429	\$76,052,077

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 31 July 2022 was 7.18% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for July of 0.12%, which is Council's benchmark.

RESOLUTION 160822/7

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing the performance of its cash and investments for the month of July 2022.

CARRIED

16 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

16.1 EMPLOYMENT ZONE REFORMS - POST EXHIBITION REPORT ON DPE'S PHASE 2 IMPLEMENTATION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RICHMOND VALLEY LEP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





The Employment Zone Reforms has been a 2-year program by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) aimed at supporting long-term economic recovery by jobs creation and encouraging increased productivity in the planning system.

The initial implementation phase of the reforms amended the Standard Instrument LEP (SILEP) and by default to all LEPs based upon the SILEP including the *Richmond Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012 (RVLEP12)*. These amendments included:

- rebadging existing Environmental “E” zones as Conservation “C” zones
- creation of 8 new employment and support zones
- creation of 3 new land use definitions/terms, and
- reviewing 14 existing land use definitions/terms.

This phase was completed on 1 December 2021.

The second phase involves translating existing Business “B” and Industrial “IN” zones into the new employment and support zones plus creation of Land Use Tables for the new zones. In the case of the RVLEP12 the following translation has been proposed:

Existing Zone		New Zone
B1 Neighbourhood Centre & B2 Local Centre		E1 Local Centre
B3 Commercial Core		E2 Commercial Centre
IN1 General Industrial		E4 General Industrial
IN1 General Industrial (Evans Head Fishermen’s Coop)		W4 Working Waterfront
IN1 General Industrial (within RJP areas at Casino)		Deferred Matter - to be implemented as part of the RJP Master Plan

This report seeks the support of Council to the proposed Phase 2 implementations, subject to several changes, which were publicly exhibited by DPE from 31 May 2022 to 12 July 2022.

RESOLUTION 160822/8

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council adopts amendments to the *Richmond Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012* as exhibited as part of the Department of Planning and Environment's implementation of the Employment Zone Reforms, subject to the following recommended amendments:

- (a) removal of *Storage premises* from being listed in Item 4 Prohibited for Zone E2 Commercial Centre (thus making this land use permissible with development consent);
- (b) add *Airstrips* and *Helipads* to be listed in Item 4 Prohibited for Zone E4 General Industrial (thus maintaining the existing prohibition for these land use types in this zone);
- (c) amend the Land Zone Map by applying Zone E2 Commercial Centre to 57 Simpsons Parade Casino, being Lot B DP384604.

CARRIED

17 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**17.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECOVERY GRANTS NOMINATION OF PROJECTS****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Local Government Recovery Grants program is funded by the NSW Government and administered by the Office of Local Government to support highly impacted disaster declared councils in disaster recovery and resilience initiatives.

In recognition of the significant impact to the Northern Rivers from storm and flood events throughout early 2022, the Local Government Recovery Grants program provides additional funding to support local councils in a broad range of recovery and resilience activities that best meet their community's needs. The program will encourage community and local economic recovery in the short, medium and long-term. Richmond Valley Council has been allocated \$2.375 million for this program (\$375,000 for pound operations, \$2 million discretionary). After consultation with Councillors and community groups, and reviewing Council's Recovery Plans, a project allocation follows in the report. Council is required to notify the Office of Local Government of its nominated projects/activities by August 30, 2022.

RESOLUTION 160822/9

Moved: Cr Patrick Deegan

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Approves the allocation of the \$2 million provided under the Local Government Recovery Grants Program toward the projects and initiatives as outlined in this report;
2. Authorises the General Manager to notify the Office of Local Government of its nominated program of works by the required date.

CARRIED

17.2 STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND - ROUND FIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council has been afforded the opportunity to nominate potential community projects under Stronger Country Communities Fund Round Five. \$1,213,428 has been allocated for Council to apply for in this phase with a further \$495,386 available for eligible community organisations to apply for. This report sets out the options that Council has considered to align with this funding criteria and a recommendation has been made to fund works to create a focal point at the Albert Park Tourist Stopover, Casino. Selection of additional projects is required to exhaust the funding allocation.

RESOLUTION 160822/10

Moved: Cr Robert Hayes

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council:

1. Supports the Albert Park Tourist Stopover in Casino as the priority project for the funding available under the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round Five;
2. Notes that the General Manager will review other options in line with our Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan and Asset Management Plans for the balance of the funds and bring a report to the September Council meeting prior to submission of the application;
3. Promotes the opportunity for community groups to work with Council to prepare applications for the \$495,386 that is available for community organisations.

CARRIED

17.3 REGIONAL ROAD TRANSFER AND ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2021 a report was presented to Council regarding the NSW Government's review of the State Road network, with their intention to return 15,000 kms of council owned or managed roads to the State to help local councils better maintain and manage their road networks.

The process allowed the suggested transfer of Transport for NSW (TfNSW) roads, as well as the reclassification of Council local roads. In response to the submission, Council was asked to provide detailed feedback on its two priority roads, being MR145 (Casino Woodburn Road) and the Broadwater Evans Head Road.

Council has now received formal notification, from the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads confirming the Broadwater Evans Head Road as a Regional Road. Council agrees and acknowledges the Regional Road classification, however needs to respond to the implications of elements listed in the classification as documented within the formal notification from TfNSW.

RESOLUTION 160822/11

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council responds in writing to Transport for NSW regarding the Road reclassification of Broadwater Evans Head Road to a Regional Road confirming;

1. Council agrees to the reclassification under the following conditions;
 - (a) That Council's Block Maintenance funding from TfNSW be increased to reflect the increase in the Regional Road Network under Council maintenance;
 - (b) Reiterating that Council will not take responsibility for the interchange roundabouts in the North section of the classified road.

CARRIED

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RESOLUTION 160822/12**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

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

CARRIED

19.1 DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT 1 JANUARY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2022**RESOLUTION 160822/13**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council receives and notes the Progress Report on the Delivery Program for the period 1 January – 30 June 2022.

CARRIED

19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - JULY 2022**RESOLUTION 160822/14**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

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

CARRIED

19.3 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE STATISTICS AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**RESOLUTION 160822/15**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council receives and notes the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Statistics as of 30 June 2022.

CARRIED

19.4 RICHMOND-UPPER CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022**RESOLUTION 160822/16**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library 2021/2022 Annual Report, highlighting the important services provided across the Richmond Valley and Kyogle local government areas;
2. Writes to Kyogle Council, acknowledging its support for the regional library service and providing a copy of the approved Annual Report.

CARRIED

The Mayor asked the General Manager to pass on Council's praise to library staff for another successful year.

19.5 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2022 TO 31 JULY 2022**RESOLUTION 160822/17**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 July 2022.

CARRIED

19.6 ROCK FISHING SAFETY UPDATE**RESOLUTION 160822/18**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council receives and notes the information contained within the Rock Fishing Safety Update report, noting that reporting to Council will continue, on an annual basis.

CARRIED

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

20.1 CR ROBERT HAYES, QUESTION ON NOTICE - RATE ASSISTANCE

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

Question

The NSW Government's announcement to provide rate assistance for those residents impacted by flooding has come as a welcome relief for those doing it tough.

Does this relief expire when a property is sold on?

In a commercial lease situation, the tenant is usually responsible for all outgoings, including land rates. Does the rate relief remain with the property owner if the current lease expires or is terminated?

Response

If the rate relief has been received before the property is sold, the conveyancers will make appropriate adjustments in the settlement process. If there is no rate relief at the time of sale, then it would be the responsibility of the new owner to seek advice from Service NSW as to eligibility for rate relief.

In a commercial lease situation, this would be a business decision for the owner of the property. If rate relief is granted by Service NSW, then it is applied to the property. Council deals only with the property owner, whereas commercial leases are between ratepayer and tenant. There are a variety of situations, so landowners are encouraged to discuss their circumstances with Service NSW as it is responsible for the program.

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

21.1 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

RECOMMENDATION

Cr Patrick Deegan asked the following question in writing.

Noting references to the Regional Jobs Precinct and the Expression of Interest (EOI) for regional waste solutions during tonight's meeting, I note that on 8 July this year, new state legislation came into effect: Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Thermal Energy from Waste) Regulation 2022.

This legislation bans new Energy to Waste (EtW) facilities in NSW, apart from four locations, including the Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct (RJP), or in locations where it replaces a less environmentally sound fuel.

Understanding that the above EOI might or might not result in a proposal for EtW, can a report come to the September Ordinary Meeting addressing the following points:

- *The NSW Government's Chief Scientist and Engineer's Report on Energy from Waste (updated with additional advice), dated November 2020, quotes a paper that recommends the avoidance of proximity to food production. As the RJP is identified in the above legislation as one of the possible locations for EtW, do the businesses of Casino and the Richmond Valley and local agricultural industries meet the definition of food production, and how does this possible location fit with the abovementioned recommendation?*

- *The NSW Environment Protection Authority Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan, dated September 2021, indicates EfW should be located away from high density residential areas due to risks from pollution. If EfW is unsuitable for high density residential areas due to pollution, what are the risks, if any, for areas with lower populations?*
- *Richmond Valley Council's current practice is to landfill 51% of its waste. What are the environmental impacts of this practice and how does it compare to alternative options?*

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

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 Internal Audit and Risk Committee Positions - Expression of Interest

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) 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 personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

22.2 Write-Off Of Monies Under Delegation - Flood Impacted Water Accounts

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (b) 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 discussion in relation to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.

The General Manager reported that no written representations had been received in respect of the items listed for consideration in Closed Council.

The Chair called for verbal representations from the gallery.

There were no representations from the gallery.

The Chair advised that under section 10A *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public are to be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be discussed is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10(2) as outlined above.

RESOLUTION 160822/19

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That:

1. Council resolves to enter Closed Council to consider the business identified in Item 22.1 and 22.2, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10(2) as outlined above.
3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

CARRIED

Council closed its meeting at 7.34pm.

The Open Council meeting resumed at 7.44pm.

The resolutions of Closed Council were read by Council's Director Organisational Services.

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL

Item 22.1 Internal Audit and Risk Committee Positions - Expression of Interest

1. That Council proceeds with offering the top three shortlisted applicants a position on the Internal Audit and Risk Committee.
2. That Council obtains confirmation as to whether all Councillors other than the Mayor can be appointed on an open rotating basis, to be the non-voting Council member of the committee.

Item 22.2 Write-Off Of Monies Under Delegation - Flood Impacted Water Accounts

That Council receives and notes the information regarding the write-off of water charges totalling \$28,834.78 for 33 properties experiencing severe flood damage in the 2022 flood event.

The Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 September 2022.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

APPENDIX A

Re: Item 19.1 Delivery Program Progress Report 1 January 2022 – 30 June 2022, with regard to Action EC1.1.2 “New technology opportunities in waste fully explored for RVC specific outcomes in either an LGA or regional context.”

- *With regard to the item noted above, could Council elaborate on what that the ‘full exploration of technology opportunities’ entailed?*

Response:

The General Manager advised that a more detailed response would be provided at a later date, directly to Ms Stops, and that the matter would be considered at the September 2022 Council meeting.

- *Are the Regional Waste Expressions of Interest publicly available?*

Response:

The General Manager advised that the Expressions of Interest are still under evaluation, and are commercial in confidence. No decisions have been made and Councillors are yet to be briefed on the matter.

Richmond Valley Council is working with other councils in the region to lead an Expression of Interest process to explore alternative waste solutions. Council is interested in seeking a better long-term option than simply sending waste to landfill.

Currently, Richmond Valley kerbside waste collections still have 51% of waste going to landfill, which is costly for ratepayers as well as having environmentally poor outcomes.

- *Has Council made any verbal or written agreements regarding strategies to deal with waste?*

Response:

Council has agreements in place for the disposal of its three waste streams. Landfill waste goes to a facility in Queensland, green waste goes to another Queensland facility and recycling goes to a facility at Chinderah. It is an expensive process to transport waste, therefore Council is looking at all opportunities to reduce the cost.

Council has a Richmond Valley Waste Management Strategy that was endorsed by Councillors in 2020, after community consultation. This strategy acts as a guiding document for Council.

Council has no agreements in place for Energy from Waste. Any agreement of this nature would be required to go through the development application process, which would involve extensive community consultation.

APPENDIX B

Re: Item 16.1 Employment Zone Reforms – Post Exhibition Report on DPE’s Phase 2 Implementation and Proposed Amendments to the Richmond Valley LEP.

- *What types of industries is Council speaking with or hoping to attract to the Regional Jobs Precinct at Casino?*

Response:

The Regional Jobs Precinct will seek to build on our existing and emerging agricultural industries, by attracting food processing and value-add businesses. This could include activities such as processing soybeans into plant-based proteins or producing nutraceuticals from locally produced inputs such as tea tree or honey.

We will also be looking to attract the technical services that support agriculture and food processing, as well as logistics suppliers – such as intermodal facilities or cold storage.

Renewable energy operations and other circular economy industries will also be considered. Council will be working closely with Regional NSW to identify and attract the best industries for job creation and value-add to local production.

- *Has Council had any interest from any industries in particular?*

Response:

The Regional Jobs Precinct already hosts a number of well-established and successful businesses and Council is working with the NSW Government to attract more.

We have recently called for Expressions of Interest for 9 lots of council-owned land in Precinct 1 of the RJP. There was strong interest in these lots and Council is currently prioritising proposals, based on their economic benefit to the community and their ability to create jobs. We want to secure investment that will provide long-term benefits to the Richmond Valley by creating the local employment we need.

Discussions with these proponents are still at the commercial in confidence stage.

- *When does Council hope to have the RJP Master Plan completed and ready for public consultation?*

Response:

The current timeframe to have the draft RJP Master Plan and supporting documents on public exhibition is October 2022.

- *How large is each site at the Precinct and if an industry needed more land could they use two or more sites to accommodate their industry?*

Response:

There are numerous properties located within the RJP as it is across several areas of Casino.

The lot sizes range from 1,000m² to many hectares. Council’s Reynolds Road industrial estate includes 5 lots of around 5,000m², and then lots of 8,000m², 1.7ha, 2ha and 5ha. If an industry required a larger area, it would be possible to purchase two or more sites. However, the proposal would still need to undertake the relevant development approval process.