

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 18 October 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****4 APOLOGIES****5 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 September 2022.

REPORT

Refer attached Minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Minutes Ordinary Meeting 20 September 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 - WASTE MANAGEMENT****Author: Cr Patrick Deegan**

I, Councillor Patrick Deegan, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 18 October 2022, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

- Notes that the NSW Environment Protection Authority held a community consultation process, via its website, from late February to late March this year, into the inclusion of the Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct as an allowable location for Thermal Waste to Energy.
- Acknowledges that this consultation coincided with catastrophic flooding in the Richmond Valley, meaning most local residents were unable to participate in or were even unaware that this consultation was taking place.
- Acknowledges that while there is currently no development application for a Waste to Energy facility in the Richmond Valley, Council has been actively pursuing investments in the Waste to Energy sector in the Richmond Valley since 2018 and in April this year Council called for expressions of interest for Alternate Waste Solutions on behalf of eight other North Coast Councils.
- Commits to undertaking community consultation to seek the community's views on the inclusion of the Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct as one of the four identified locations for Thermal Waste to Energy in NSW as part of the consultation process for the precinct's master plan.
- At the November Councillor Information Session, a workshop be held to discuss the format and process for this consultation.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 13 SEPTEMBER - 12 OCTOBER 2022****Author: Robert Mustow****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 13 September – 12 October 2022.

REPORT**September**

- 14th Coraki Uniting Church CRT Gathering
- 14th Your Mental Health First Aid Course – Casino SES
- 16th CWA Morning Tea
- 17th Woodburn Riverside Festival
- 18th Woodburn Evans Head Orchid & Foliage Society Inc Spring Show
- 19th Performing Arts Festival
- 20th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary Meeting
- 21st Rous County Council Workshop
- 22nd Queen Elizabeth Mourning Ceremony
- 23rd Casino High School Year 12 Graduation Assembly
- 24th Raising the Flags Ceremony (Celebrating 100 years on the Beach)
- 24th Evans Head Casino Surf Life Saving Club 100-year Event

October

- 3rd Evans Head Malibu Club Inc event
- 4th Richmond Valley Council Information Session
- 6th Commissioning of Reverend Sally Miller - St Marks Church Casino
- 8th Casino Cobras Senior Soccer Presentation
- 11th Casino Rescue Squad Inc Annual General Meeting

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

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

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

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

That items identified be determined without debate.

14 GENERAL MANAGER

14.1 NORTH COAST ALTERNATIVE WASTE TREATMENT EOI PROCESS

Author: Vaughan Macdonald

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councils on the North Coast have been exploring opportunities for alternative waste treatment for the past five years. Local and regional landfills are approaching capacity and councils face increasing environmental challenges and rising costs in managing these facilities.

In 2020 a group of 12 North Coast councils, supported by the Department of Regional NSW, worked together to conduct a stocktake of regional waste types and quantities and prepare the North Coast Region Waste Investment Report. This report highlighted the need to develop alternative waste treatment infrastructure to divert residual waste from landfill.

Following on from the Report, nine of the councils agreed to undertake an Expression of Interest process, as a market-sounding exercise. While the process did not commit any of the councils to a particular course, it aimed to provide a better understanding of the range of technologies available and whether there would be market interest in establishing alternative waste treatment facilities on the North Coast. The EOI attracted strong interest and has confirmed that, should the councils wish to pursue any of the options, there are viable alternatives to continued reliance on landfill.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the Alternative Waste Treatment Expressions of Interest process and the broad range of responses received;
2. Continues to work with North Coast councils to explore future options for waste management and reduce reliance on landfill to improve economic and environmental outcomes for our community and the region.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Prevent & Prepare - Objective 7: Build resilience in a changing climate

7E Explore alternative waste management options

7E1 Work with North Coast councils on regional waste solutions

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The expression of interest process was a market-sounding exercise on behalf of North Coast Councils and does not commit any of the participants to future investment or commercial arrangements. The North Coast Region Waste Investment Report was jointly funded through council contributions and support from the NSW Government. Remaining funds from this project were used to fund the EOI process.

REPORT

North Coast councils have been exploring opportunities for alternative waste treatment for the past five years. Local and regional landfills are approaching capacity, with increasing challenges in managing leachate and carbon emissions, as well as rising costs to maintain and operate the facilities. Currently, some 40 percent of North Coast councils' waste is sent to landfill, despite all councils having recycling and composting services in place for some time. A significant amount of this waste is transported to Queensland.

To help improve waste management options, Richmond Valley Council worked with 12 North Coast councils and the Department of Regional NSW to prepare the North Coast Region Waste Investment Report in 2020. The Waste Investment Report included a stocktake of waste types and quantities in each council area and highlighted the need to develop alternative waste treatment infrastructure to divert residual waste from landfill.

In response to this report, eight other councils in the North Coast group agreed to undertake an expressions of interest process. The EOI was a market-sounding exercise to gain a better understanding of the range of technologies that may be available for alternative waste treatment and recyclable waste streams and determine whether there was market interest in establishing these facilities on the North Coast. Richmond Valley Council led the EOI process on behalf of the North Coast councils, with submissions closing in June 2022.

The EOI attracted 16 submissions, covering options for residual waste, recycle and food organic/green organic streams. A wide range of options and technologies was addressed, including various forms of thermal treatment, energy from waste, in-vessel composting, anaerobic digestion and material recovery facilities. Proponents ranged from local technology developers and investors to Australian recycling leaders and international waste management businesses. Leading waste management consultancy MRA assisted with the EOI process and assessment.

The EOI process has provided a better understanding of current market interest in offering an alternative waste solution for the North Coast and an insight on whether these options might be viable. It does not commit any of the participating councils to any particular course. If North Coast councils are interested in pursuing any of the proposals, further discussions can take place.

Benefits to participating councils could include:

- Long term certainty on a residual waste disposal option and disposal pricing,
- Pricing costs competitive with landfill,
- Avoid paying the \$82.50/tonne NSW Waste Levy, as it does not apply to residual waste treated in an Energy from Waste facility,
- Reduced carbon footprint relative to landfill,
- Reducing the need to develop landfill capacity, thus reducing development, resourcing and environmental management costs.

Should the North Coast councils wish to pursue any of the options, further analysis would be required, and it would be some time before the group was at a decision point on which option/s, if any, it would support. Regardless of the final outcome of the EOI process, all councils on the North Coast will continue to share a commitment to reducing the residual waste their communities generate and finding a better solution to landfill. Programs for recycling, processing food and organic waste and ongoing community education will always play a central role in regional waste management.

CONSULTATION

The EOI process has provided North Coast councils with an insight into the range of technologies currently available for alternative waste treatment. Should any of the councils receive a development application for an AWT facility, community consultation would be undertaken for this proposal, in accordance with NSW Planning requirements. There are currently no development proposals for alternative waste treatment facilities in the Richmond Valley. However, Council will be undertaking consultation on the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct Masterplan by early 2023. The RJP has been identified by the NSW Government as one of four possible sites in NSW where an energy from waste facility could be established.

However, it should be highlighted that the RJP Masterplan and the outcomes of that work are not reliant on an EfW facility being constructed in the Richmond Valley.

Further information on Council's investigations into solutions for managing the Richmond Valley community's waste is available on Council's website at [Managing Richmond Valley Waste - Richmond Valley Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.rvcc.nsw.gov.au/Managing-Richmond-Valley-Waste-Richmond-Valley-Council-nsw.gov.au)

CONCLUSION

The EOI process has helped North Coast Councils to better understand the options and market appetite for establishing alternative waste treatment facilities in the region. Should the councils wish to pursue any of these options in future, further discussions can take place within the group and development approvals and community consultation requirements for any projects will continue to apply.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

15.1 CHILD SAFE SCHEME

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Kate Alder-Conn

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has obligations under State legislation to ensure child safety and wellbeing. Additional mandatory requirements have recently been introduced through the NSW Child Safe Scheme. These requirements apply to Councillors, staff and volunteers within the organisation. The first step in Council's implementation of the scheme is to adopt a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy. A draft policy has been prepared for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes its responsibilities under the NSW Child Safe Scheme
2. Adopts the draft Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Sustain - Objective 10: Lead and advocate for our community

10D Lead with integrity

10D1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

The NSW Child Safe Scheme incorporates the existing child protection compliance requirements outlined below but goes further by requiring organisations to implement the Child Safe Standards. There are ten standards whose purpose is to ensure that child safe organisations:

- adopt a continuous improvement mindset, where organisational culture is reformed to value children and put their needs first,
- focus on child safety – preventing the abuse and harm of children through a range of approaches including risk management, and
- support children's wellbeing and healthy development, including by empowering children to be involved and by providing age appropriate, culturally safe and inclusive places and ways for children's voices to be heard.

The Child Safe Scheme can be depicted as follows:



Existing child protection compliance requirements

Scheme	Legislation	Responsibility
Reportable conduct	<i>Children's Guardian Act 2019</i>	Employers must notify the Office of Children's Guardian of an allegation of reportable conduct and investigate all allegations against employees, including contractors.
Working with Children Check	<i>Working with Children Act 2012</i>	Requirement to verify WWCC for relevant workers and remove from child-related work any employees who are not eligible to work with children.
Mandatory Reporting	<i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998</i>	Legal responsibility to make a report if a belief is held that a child is at risk of significant harm.
Police	<i>Crimes Act 1900 s316A</i>	All adults in NSW are required to report information to police if they know, believe or reasonably ought to know that a child abuse offence has been committed against another person.
Failure to protect	<i>Crimes Act 1900</i>	Employees must protect children from abuse at the hands of another employee, where they have the power to reduce or remove the risk.
Duty of care	<i>Civil Liability Act 2002</i>	Child-related organisations have a duty of care to prevent child abuse perpetrated by individuals associated with the organisation, including contractors, volunteers and Councillors.

Minimum required documentation

Under the *Children's Guardian Act 2019*, the following documentation is required under section 8d:

1. Child Safety Policy;
2. Statement of the organisation's commitment to child safety;
3. Code of Conduct applying to staff, contractors and volunteers;
4. Complaint Management Policy and Procedure;
5. Human Resources Policy (recruitment, screening and training); and
6. Risk Management Plan.

The attached draft Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy incorporates points 1, 2 and 3 noted above. The policy, once adopted, will be reviewed regularly to ensure Council is meeting its obligations as required. With regard to points 4, 5 and 6 noted above, a review will be carried out of relevant policies and plans in order to ensure they adequately capture child protection requirements.

CONSULTATION

Consultation on the draft Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy has been carried out with Council business units that have the most contact with children and young people, identified as Regional Libraries, Sports Stadium, Events and People & Culture. Once adopted, a plan for communicating the policy to staff and volunteers will be formulated.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopts the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy as the first step in implementing the NSW Child Safe Scheme within Richmond Valley Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Child Safe Standards (under separate cover)**
2. **Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (under separate cover)**

15.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - SEPTEMBER 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 30 September 2022 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$18,326,518	\$38,000,000	\$4,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$14,327,757	\$77,404,665

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 30 September 2022 was negative (2.05%) which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for September of 0.15%, 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 September 2022.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Sustain - Objective 11: Manage community resources and provide great service

11A Manage resources responsibly

11A1 Undertake long-term financial and asset management planning

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As at 30 September 2022, Council has earned \$252,808 in interest and \$1,337 in fair value losses for total interest and investment income of \$251,471. This equates to 27.73% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$906,782. Council currently receives a net return of 2.45% on its Macquarie CMA Account after Council's financial advisors receive their commission of 0.05%. Commissions for the 2022/2023 financial year to 30 September 2022 total \$1,146.

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 2.35% per annum at its September meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in September 2022 was negative (2.05%), a decrease in 249 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 220 basis points below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.15% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net losses of \$318,029 during the month of September.

The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a loss of \$227,011 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a loss of \$91,019.

The markets throughout September remained volatile with global growth concerns and risks of a US and global recession continuing. This was evident in the equity markets performance with many continuing to fall sharply in September as they did in August. These results are reflective of the types of ups and downs that occur with long term investments, which are 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) during which time it is expected that there will be ups and downs in fair value gains. However, it should be noted that, despite the variation in returns, there has been no impact on the principal sum originally invested by Council.

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 \$77,404,665 at 30 September 2022. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$7,635,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,018,493), Term Deposits (\$38,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$4,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$14,327,757) and other bank accounts (\$673,025).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$44,750,390 represented 57.81% of the total portfolio as at 30 September 2022.

Council made the following new investments during September 2022:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Southern Cross Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	3 months	3.25%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	6 months	3.70%
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	3.00%
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	6 months	3.70%
Gateway Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	3.40%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	6 months	3.80%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	3.43%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	3.43%

AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	6 months	4.00%
Southern Cross Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	3.50%
Total			\$12,000,000		

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

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$8,000
Southern Cross Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$9,370
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$4,215
Coastline Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$9,863
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$5,301
ME Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$3,740
Coastline Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$12,082
Southern Cross Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$6,411
Australian Unity Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$8,022
Westpac Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$4,936
Transport Mutual Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$7,479
Total			\$15,000,000	\$79,420

Council had \$14,327,757 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 30 September 2022. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 30 September 22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 30 September 22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$11,546,233	(\$227,011)	\$1,887	\$541,204
Long Term Growth Fund	\$2,781,524	(\$91,019)	(\$3,224)	(\$218,476)
Total	\$14,327,757	(\$318,029)	(\$1,337)	\$322,728

The performance of the NSW Treasury Corporation investments for September is disappointing, however it follows the strong gains during July of \$450,334. This shows how much these investments can move on a month to month basis when the investment market is subject to volatility. Council sought further advice from its investment advisors following the poor result in June. The advice received is that these products are long term investments and need to be treated as such, the benefits will only be realised at the end of the investment.

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$77,404,665 at 30 September 2022 includes \$47,077,757 or 60.8% with no direct investment in the fossil fuel industry.

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 September 2022 Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 30 September 2022 Council's cash and investments totalled \$77,404,665 with \$18,326,518 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was negative (2.05%) for the month of September 2022 and total investment revenue equals 27.73% of budgeted revenue for the year to 30 September 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

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

15.3 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/2022**Director: Ryan Gaiter****Responsible Officer: Hayley Martin****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council's draft financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 have been prepared and subjected to external audit by the Audit Office of New South Wales. A copy of the draft financial statements and draft auditor's report have been provided separately to Councillors for information.

Council's external auditor, the Audit Office of New South Wales has advised that its representative firm, Thomas, Noble and Russell will be attending the Ordinary Meeting of Council 15 November 2022 and will provide a presentation on the 2021/2022 financial statements and the final audit report.

Council achieved a surplus from continuing operations of \$19.987 million for the 2021/2022 financial year, compared to a surplus of \$10.086 million in the previous year. Council recorded a loss before capital grants and contributions of \$5.595 million for 2021/2022, compared to a loss of \$2.407 million for the 2020/2021 financial year. The decrease in this result for 2021/2022 is reflective of additional expenditure incurred due to Council's response to the flood disaster and waste clean-up, noting that this expenditure is claimable under Natural Disaster Funding which will be received in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Total revenue increased to \$101.857 million, from \$71.633 million in 2020/2021. The main factor contributing to this was an increase in grants and contributions of \$28.169 million as a result of the flood disaster, as well as significant infrastructure grants.

Council received \$25.582 million in capital grants and contributions during 2021/2022, an increase of \$13.089 million from the previous year. The main increases were in natural disaster funding as well as funding for Casino Showground and Casino Swimming Pool upgrade.

Total operating expenditure was \$81.870 million, an increase from \$61.547 million in the previous year. The main changes included an increase in materials and services of \$17.051 million and net loss from the disposal of assets of \$1.369 million.

Council's total cash, cash equivalents and investments increased by \$16.876 million to \$78,652 million as at 30 June 2022.

Council has achieved improvements in four out of nine of its key performance measures, with all but four of the ratios meeting or exceeding the industry benchmark. A notable improvement was in Council's building and infrastructure renewal ratio from 86.64% to 125.26%. Other improvements included Council's operating performance ratio, improving from -4.10% to -2.80% (benchmark >0.00%), and asset maintenance ratio, improving from 129.63% to 162.32% (benchmark > 100%). Results of the other key performance measures are detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and special schedules for the year ended 30 June 2022.
2. Certifies the following in respect of the general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022:
 - (a) Council's general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:
 - (i) The *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and the regulations made thereunder, and
 - (ii) The Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and
 - (iii) The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
 - (b) The general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements present fairly Council's financial position and operating result for the year ended 30 June 2022 and:
 - (i) The reports are in accordance with Council's accounting and other records;
 - (ii) The signatories to this statement being the Mayor, a Councillor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer are not aware of anything that would make the financial statements false or misleading in any way;
3. Fixes Tuesday 15 November 2022 as the date for the meeting to present the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 to the public, invites submissions in writing and provides appropriate public notice of this meeting.
4. Adopts the restricted assets (reserves) schedule as detailed in this report.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Sustain - Objective 11: Manage community resources and provide great service

11A Manage resources responsibly

11A1 Undertake long-term financial and asset management planning

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

REPORT

Council's operating result from continuing operations for 2021/2022 was a surplus of \$19.987 million, compared to a surplus of \$10.086 million in 2020/2021. Excluding capital grants and contributions, there was a loss of \$5.595 million in 2021/2022, compared to a loss of \$2.407 million in the previous year. Council's total cash, cash equivalents and investments increased by \$16.876 million to \$78.652 million as at 30 June 2022 and the majority of Council's key performance indicators remain above the industry benchmark.

There was a decrease in the operating result before capital grants and contributions, from a loss of \$2.407 million in 2020/2021 to a loss of \$5.595 million in 2021/2022. This is reflective of another challenging 12-month period of ongoing recovery from major natural disasters and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council received \$25.582 million in capital grants and contributions during 2021/2022, which was an increase of \$13.089 million from the previous year and mainly

related to disaster recovery funding along with major projects of Casino Swimming Pool upgrade and Casino Showground.

Net losses from the disposal of assets totalled \$2.340 million, an increase from \$0.971 million in the previous year.

The summarised financial results for the year ended 30 June 2022 are as follows:

Income Statement	Actual 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
Total Income from Continuing Operations	101,857	71,633
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	81,870	61,547
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	19,987	10,086
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(5,595)	(2,407)

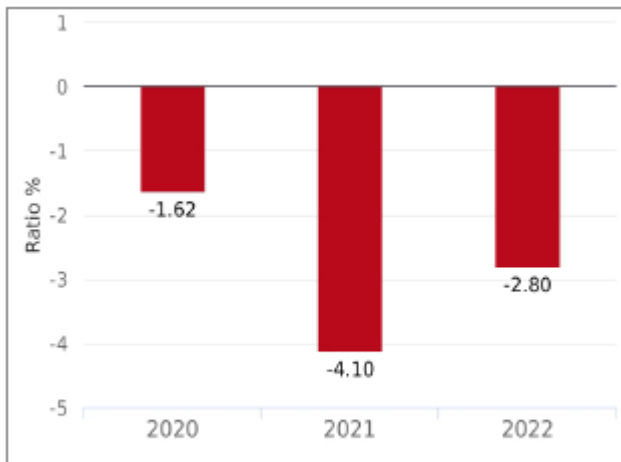
Statement of Financial Position	Actual 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
Total Current Assets	89,643	72,437
Total Non-Current Assets	842,277	804,879
Total Assets	931,920	877,316
Total Current Liabilities	26,170	20,594
Total Non-Current Liabilities	24,598	23,230
Total Liabilities	50,768	43,824
Net Assets	881,152	833,492
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	389,640	369,653
Revaluation Reserves	491,512	463,839
Total Equity	881,152	833,492

Statement of Cash Flows	Actual 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities - receipts	99,977	72,903
Cash Flows from Operating Activities - payments	(57,347)	(41,369)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities	42,630	31,534
Cash Flows from Investing Activities - receipts	9,389	14,735
Cash Flows from Investing Activities - payments	(30,611)	(23,456)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities	(21,222)	(8,721)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities - receipts	4,740	0
Cash Flows from Financing Activities - payments	(3,245)	(2,830)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Financing Activities	(1,495)	(2,830)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	22,903	19,983
Cash and Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	26,669	6,686
Cash and Cash Equivalents - end of year	49,572	26,669

Statement of Cash Flows	Actual 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
Plus: Investments on Hand - end of year	29,080	35,107
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	78,652	61,776

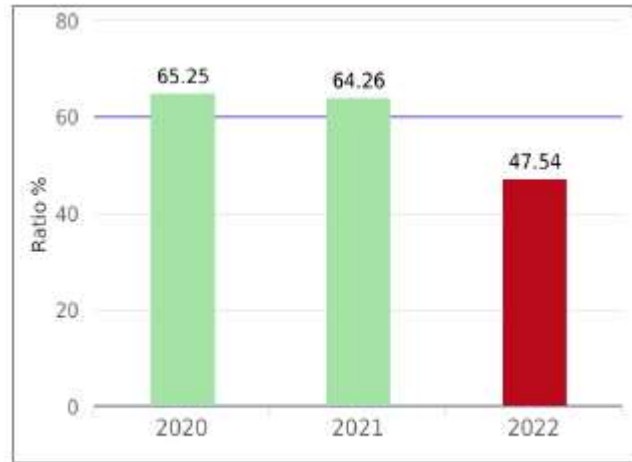
Council’s key performance measures remain strong, with the majority of these being above the industry benchmark. These are summarised below:

Operating performance ratio



Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Own source operating revenue ratio

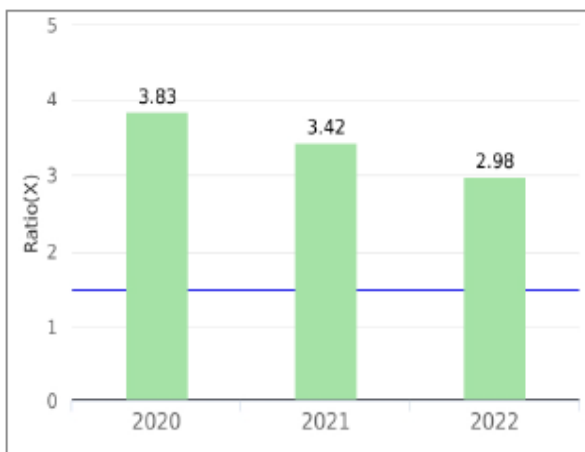


Benchmark: — > 60.00%

Council’s operating performance ratio has improved to -2.80% on a consolidated basis, from -4.10% in 2021/2022. Council’s operating income increased considerably from \$59.140 million in 2020/2021 to \$76.275 million in 2021/2022. The main increase was \$15.080 million in operating grants and contributions received as a result of the major flooding natural disaster. The industry benchmark for this ratio is > 0.00%. Whilst these results are positive, there is still a significant gap to close to ensure Council continues to move towards a break even result in the medium-term and this should remain as a key focus moving forward.

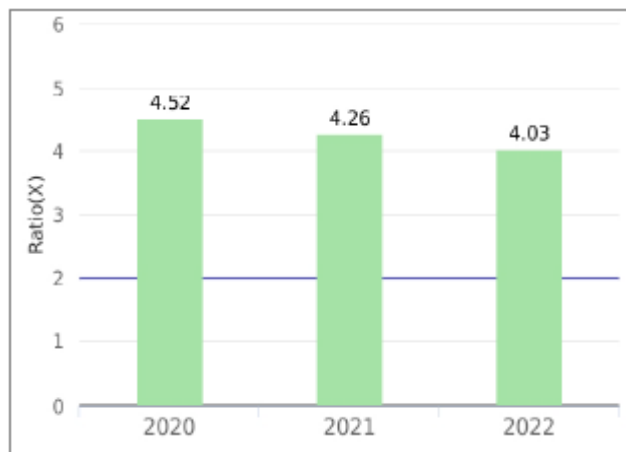
Council’s own source operating revenue ratio has decreased to 47.54%, compared to 64.26% in 2020/2021. This is largely as a result of Council receiving insurance and natural disaster funding as a result of the major flood event in February 2022. Council’s special rate variation has contributed to having less reliance on external funding such as operating grants and contributions. The industry benchmark is > 60.00%.

Unrestricted current ratio



Benchmark: — > 1.50x

Debt service cover ratio

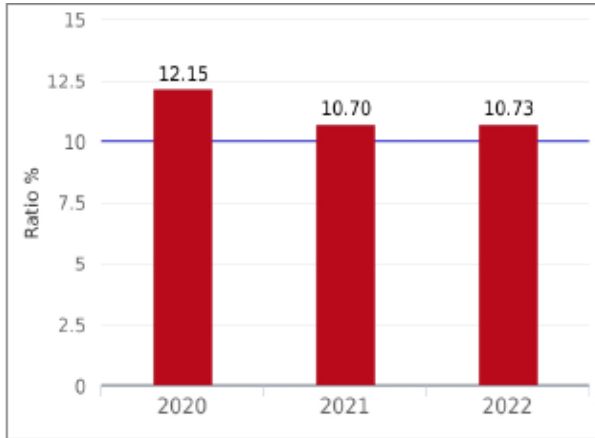


Benchmark: — > 2.00x

Council’s unrestricted current ratio has decreased slightly to 2.98, from 3.42 in 2020/2021, meaning Council now has \$2.98 in unrestricted current assets for every \$1 of current liabilities. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 1.50x.

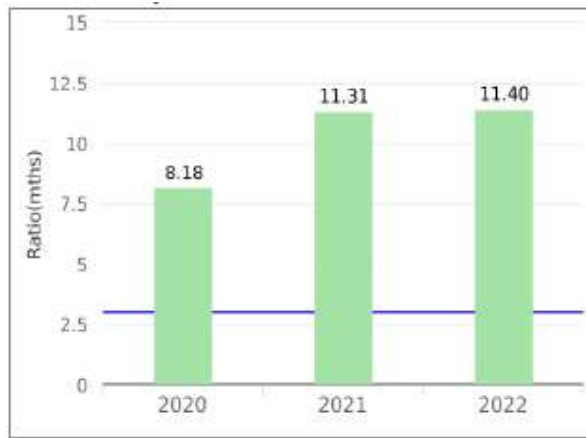
The debt service cover ratio has decreased slightly to 4.03, from 4.26 in 2020/2021. This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 2.00x.

Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



Benchmark: — < 10.00%

Cash expense cover ratio

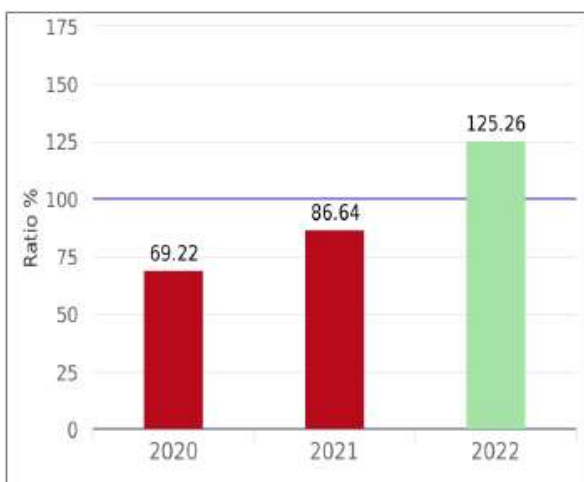


Benchmark: — > 3.00mths

Council’s rates and annual charges outstanding percentage has remained consistent with the previous year at 10.73% on a consolidated basis. While this ratio does not meet the industry benchmark of < 10.00%, it is impacted by the fact that Council levies its water and sewerage annual charges in arrears. The general fund ratio is a more representative measure of outstanding rates and annual charges, which has improved slightly to 4.80%, from 5.01% in 2020/2021. Given the number of challenges the Richmond Valley has faced in the last 12 months, this is a positive result and demonstrates that Council continues to actively monitor and pursue outstanding balances through its debt recovery practices. In addition, the general fund ratio is well below the benchmark of < 10.00%.

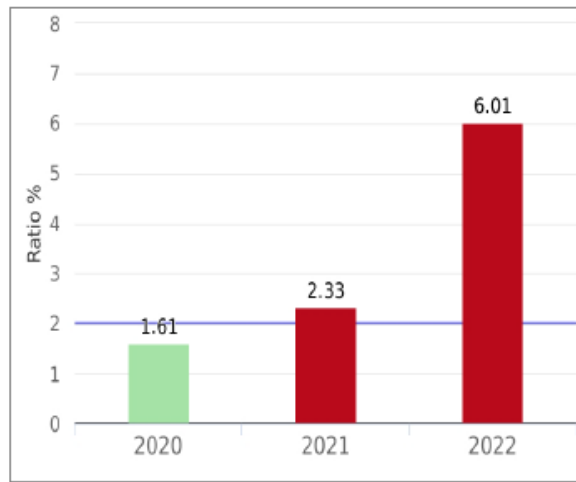
The cash expense cover ratio has remained relatively consistent to the previous year at 11.40 months, from 11.31 months in 2020/2021. This ratio indicates the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow and is well above the benchmark of > 3 months.

Building and infrastructure renewals



Benchmark: — >= 100.00%

Infrastructure backlog ratio

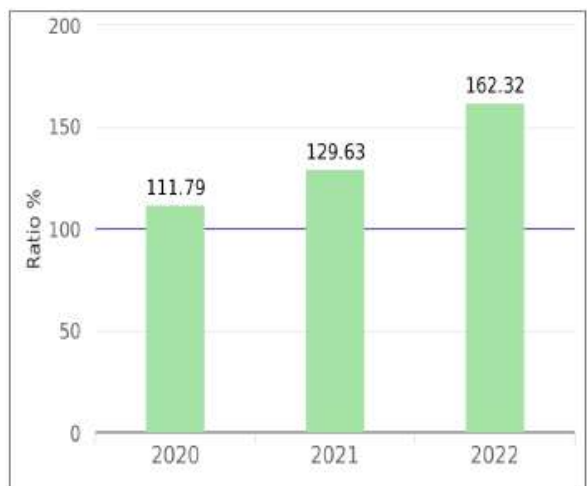


Benchmark: — < 2.00%

Council's buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio has improved to 125.26%. The special rate variation has assisted with moving this ratio towards the benchmark. The fact that a number of Council's signature projects this year were renewal of older assets rather than building new assets has helped improve this ratio. The industry benchmark is $\geq 100.00\%$.

Council's infrastructure backlog ratio has increased to 6.01%, from 2.33% in 2021/2022. This is mainly due to the damage caused to Council's infrastructure from the major flood events of 2022. Council is currently working with Transport for NSW and NSW Public Works through its natural disaster funding to restore these assets to pre-flood condition. The industry benchmark is $< 2.00\%$.

Asset maintenance ratio



Benchmark: — $> 100.00\%$

Council's asset maintenance ratio has improved to 162.32%, from 129.63% in 2020/2021. This is above the benchmark of $> 100.00\%$, which indicates that Council is investing sufficient funds to stop its infrastructure backlog growing.

As at 30 June 2022, Council had \$78.652 million in cash, cash equivalents and investments, an increase of \$16.876 million from the previous year ended 30 June 2021. The schedule of restricted assets (reserves) held by Council as at 30 June 2022 is as follows:

Restricted Asset	30 June 2022 \$'000	30 June 2021 \$'000
External Restrictions		
Bonds and Deposits	818	481
Developer Contributions - General Fund	3,516	3,572
Developer Contributions - Water Fund	2,413	2,153
Developer Contributions - Sewerage Fund	4,795	4,237
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	11,169	6,119
Specific Purpose Unexpended Loans – General Fund	2,372	0
Water Supplies	5,096	5,399
Sewerage Services	8,268	7,974
Domestic Waste Management	6,298	5,465
Stormwater Management	860	665
Other	2,982	877
Total External Restrictions	48,587	36,942
Internal Restrictions		

Restricted Asset	30 June 2022 \$'000	30 June 2021 \$'000
Employee Leave Entitlements	1,407	1,385
Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library	200	147
Other Waste Management	5,420	4,132
Insurance Reserve	2,181	602
Plant Replacement	3,692	3,899
Real Estate and Infrastructure	3,132	4,178
Petersons Quarry	2,235	2,390
Woodview Quarry	1,771	1,911
Quarry Rehabilitation	355	252
Road Rehabilitation Reserve	1,872	1,608
Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange	322	2
Rural Road Safety Program	98	92
Unexpended Special Rates Variations	1,111	645
Financial Assistance Grant Advance Payment	4,374	2,708
TfNSW State Roads Maintenance Contract	6	6
Public Cemeteries Perpetual Maintenance Reserve	156	166
Carry Over Works	1,118	379
Northern Rivers Rail Trail Maintenance	311	0
Total Internal Restrictions	29,761	24,502
Total Restrictions	78,348	61,444
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	78,652	61,776
Unrestricted Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	304	332

CONSULTATION

Council will advertise the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 to the public and invite submissions in writing, with submissions closing at 4:00pm, Tuesday 22 November 2022. Any submissions will be reported to the December 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

Council must also make available copies of the financial statements for inspection by the public from the date public notice is given until the day after the meeting where the financial statements were presented.

CONCLUSION

To formalise the financial reporting process, there are legislative steps that Council is required to follow. In accordance with Section 413 2(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the following statements are required to be included in the resolution of this report to enable Council to adopt the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022:

- (a) Council's general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:
 - (i) The *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and the regulations made thereunder, and
 - (ii) The Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and
 - (iii) The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

- (b) The general purpose financial statements and special purpose financial statements present fairly Council's financial position and operating result for the year ended 30 June 2022 and:
- (i) The reports are in accordance with Council's accounting and other records,
 - (ii) The signatories to this statement being the Mayor, a Councillor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer are not aware of anything that would make the financial statements false or misleading in any way

In accordance with Section 418 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council must fix a date for a meeting to be held where the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 are presented to the public. Council must also give public notice of this date and invite submissions in writing from the public which must be received within seven days of the financial statements being presented to the public. Council must also make available copies of the financial statements for inspection by the public from the date public notice is given until the day after the meeting where the financial statements were presented.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

16 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY**16.1 CASINO WATER SECURITY STUDY****Director:** Angela Jones**Responsible Officer:** David Timms**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Richmond Valley Council has been investigating future water supply options for Casino over the past 10 years and has recently completed a Water Supply Scoping Study to consider future water security and the potential impacts of climate change. The study concluded that, over a 30-year horizon, Casino could experience water supply shortfalls in dry periods. It recommended a number of options to improve water security, which will require further investigation to determine feasibility and cost-benefit. It is now proposed that Council proceeds to a more detailed analysis of the options.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the completion of the Casino Water Supply Scoping Study and the support received from Phase 1 of the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program to undertake this work
2. Commits to further investigation of the water security options identified in the Scoping Study through a detailed options analysis
3. Writes to the administrators of the Safe and Secure Water Program, reaffirming Council's commitment to this project and seeking funding support under Phase 2 of the program
4. Notes that community consultation will be undertaken on the Casino Water Supply Project following completion of the options analysis.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Prevent & Prepare - Objective 6: Improve the disaster resilience of public assets

6C Build resilience into our water supply and sewerage networks

6C1 Secure long-term water supply for Casino & the Mid-Richmond

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council has allocated \$200,000 in the 2022-23 budget towards further water supply investigations. The NSW Government has also previously offered funding support under the Safe and Secure Water Program to help resolve water supply risks in Casino. Up to 50% co-funding is available, subject to approval.

REPORT

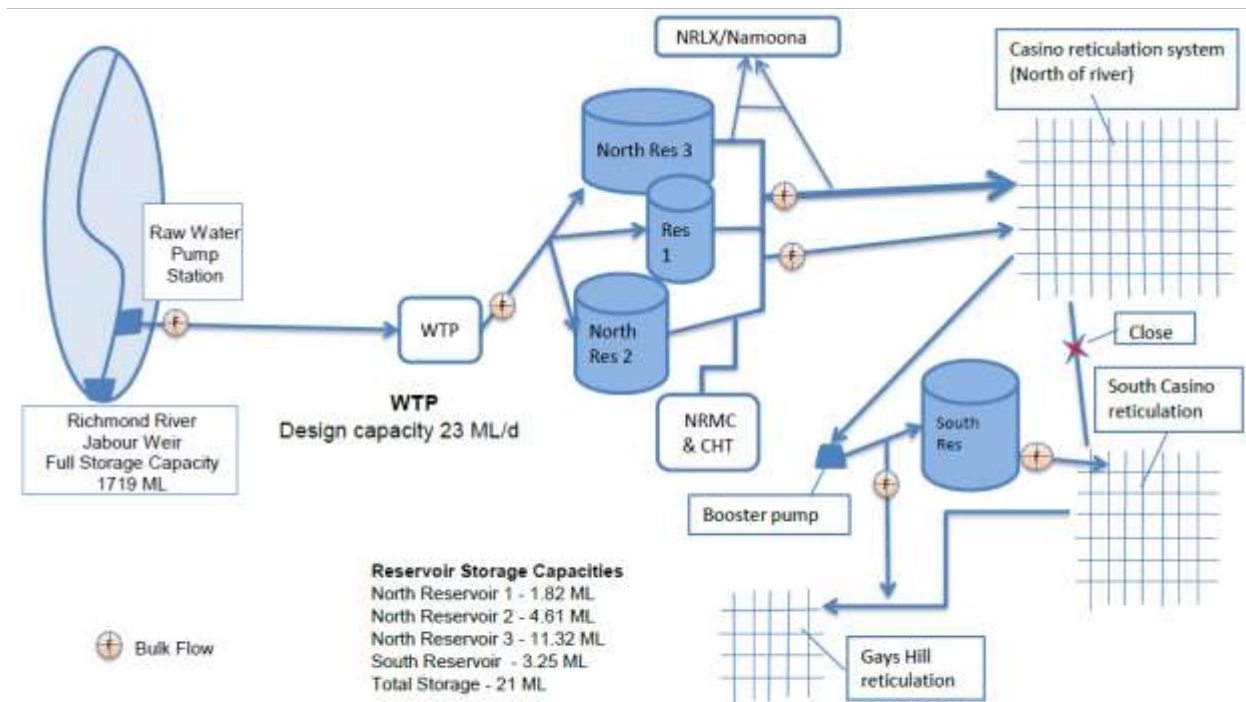
Council has been investigating future water supply options for Casino over the past 10 years and a number of studies have been undertaken to inform this work. These studies have indicated that the town may face future water security issues in dry times and Council sought to explore these issues through a detailed Water Supply Scoping Study. The Study was funded under Phase 1 of the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program and conducted in partnership with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). It concluded that, over a 30-year horizon, there would be an estimated shortfall of 514 ML/year, in dry times for Casino's water supply and further measures would be required to improve water security.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that Council proceeds to the next stage of the investigation by undertaking a detailed analysis of the water security options identified in the study.

Casino’s water supply system

Casino’s water supply currently serves a population of 10,000, including some 3,600 homes, as well as commercial and industrial customers. The diagram below shows the main components of the water supply system. Council has a licence to extract up to 3,427 ML (million litres) per year, but currently only extracts about 2,200 ML to meet community needs. On average, the town uses 6 ML each day (with consumption rising as high as 12ML on rare occasions). The Casino Water Treatment Plant is designed to process up to 23 ML/d.

The largest water consumer in the system is the Casino Food Co-op, with an average yearly usage of 955 ML/year, or 47% of total water demand, compared to 31% for residential customers. The remaining 22% is used by other commercial customers and council (watering parks and gardens) or taken up by water losses from the system.



Is there enough water for Casino’s future growth?

Water security modelling is a complex science and there are a number of methodologies for determining whether there will be sufficient water to meet the community’s needs over the next 30 years.

Councils throughout NSW have traditionally used the method prescribed by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). This method looks at historical rainfall records to determine the driest years on record. It then considers future population growth and the anticipated water consumption of the community in average and high demand years. The method then applies what is known as the 5/10/10 rule, which aims to ensure that, during drought times, customers will not have to endure severe water restrictions for extended periods. As part of the methodology, the study also considered the possible impacts of climate change on the available water supply. For the purpose of the model, a 1°C increase was assumed. This reduced the secure yield by 23%.

Having considered all these issues, the study concluded that, over the 30-year horizon, there would be an estimated shortfall of 514 ML/year, in dry times, for Casino’s water supply.

Improving water security

The study looked at three main ways to improve water security:

1. Use less water (reduce demand)

2. Find an additional water source
3. Increase water storage capacity.

Reducing demand

The study concluded that Casino's residential customers were already performing quite well in terms of water saving. While there was some opportunity to improve performance through water saving appliances, rainwater tanks or other programs, this would not be sufficient to cover the projected shortfall.

It also looked at opportunities for leakage reduction within the system, noting that all water supply systems experience water loss to varying degrees. Water can be lost through water theft, inaccurate water meters, flushing water lines to clean them, mains breaks or leaking pipes. The study estimated that the total water loss from the Casino system was 10% and just over half of that amount was avoidable losses. It estimated that the maximum amount Council could expect to save if it dealt with all the avoidable water losses was 140 ML/year. However, the cost of these works could be significant, and Council would need to weigh that investment against the potential benefits.

Opportunities to substitute recycled water for some consumption, such as watering parks, was also considered. However, it was noted that the current standard of treatment from Casino's aging sewage treatment plant may not meet the health guidelines for recycled water. The study estimated it would cost at least \$4m to upgrade the effluent reuse system and build the pipework to irrigate four parks in Casino. This could provide an additional 33ML of water. Council has plans to replace the Casino Sewage Treatment Plant within the next five years, to improve sewage treatment processes and cater for expected growth in housing and industry. Opportunities to provide higher quality effluent reuse will be considered in the planning and design phases for the new plant.

The water scoping study also considered opportunities to reduce water consumption for major commercial users such as the Casino Food Co-op. It noted that the Co-op presented particular challenges - as traditionally its water consumption increased during drought times, as farmers reduced stock and meat production increased - and recommended further investigation of options to reduce water usage at the facility.

Finding an additional water source

The study looked at three options:

- Utilising water from Toonumbar Dam – this option was also flagged in the Draft Regional Water Strategy. While there are challenges with transferring the water, and Council would have to pay for the water entitlement, the study found the option warranted further investigation.
- Connecting to the Rous network – this option has been explored in the past. While it is possible to connect to the Rous Water system, this relies on the county council having sufficient water to supply Casino. There would also be substantial costs involved in building the pipeline, paying the county council's headworks connection fee (estimated \$11m) and then paying for the water consumed. Rous has previously indicated that it does not have sufficient water to supply Casino at this time.
- Utilising groundwater – the study confirmed the results of previous investigations. While there is some groundwater available near Casino, there are issues with salinity and only a limited supply of water could be obtained. Although this might provide a small emergency supply, Council would have to weigh up the benefit obtained with the cost of accessing, transporting and treating the water.

Increasing water storage capacity

Three options were considered:

- Accessing the dead pool storage in Jabour Weir – the study believed that this could meet the shortfall, but further investigation was needed to determine if the dead storage area was as large as expected, and then to design an engineering solution to access it.
- Raising Jabour Weir – this has previously been considered and the study found further investigation was warranted. However, raising the weir could trigger a review of environmental flow requirements under Council's water licence. This could mean that some of the extra water gained would have to be released back to the river to ensure it remained healthy.
- Building an off-river storage – the study estimated that an off-river storage of up to 430ML may be required to meet the shortfall. However, this would depend on whether additional environmental flow requirements were imposed. Two potential locations were identified, but further investigation was required to develop this option.

Next steps

In order to progress the water security project and determine Council's preferred option, further detailed analysis will be required into the storage scenarios. The NSW Government has previously indicated it is willing to part fund this analysis (50%) under Phase 2 of the Safe and Secure Water Program. Some work towards the analysis has already commenced through the technical studies completed for the Regional Job Precinct and the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative. The NRRI will be undertaking the bathymetric studies required to explore the Jabour Weir dead storage option at no cost to Council.

Subject to meeting the Safe and Secure program requirements, a funding deed for the options analysis could be signed by the end of the month, with Council having the information it needs to choose its preferred option by mid-2023.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation on the Casino Water Supply Project will be undertaken following completion of the options analysis.

CONCLUSION

The Casino Water Security Study has provided Council with a clearer picture of the challenges it faces in managing the town's water supply over the next 30 years. While there is an anticipated shortfall of water in drought years, there are options to offset this by improving storage and continuing to reduce the amount of water that is used. It is recommended that Council now progresses to the next phase of the project by undertaking a detailed analysis of the options identified in the study.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Casino Water Supply Scoping Study (under separate cover)**

17 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

19.1 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Sharon Banning

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 July – 30 September 2022.

Council is committed to providing a high level of customer service to the community. The Customer Service Charter and Standards were adopted by Council at the 25 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting and reviewed at the 19 April 2022 Ordinary Meeting. As a result, quarterly reporting on Council's performance against the Customer Service standards is prepared and tabled for Council. This report also contains details on the resolution of customer requests made through the Contact Centre. Analysis is undertaken to determine what strategies or areas of improvement may be required.

The Customer Experience Team is preparing to transition to OneRoad, a NSW State Government initiative, which will replace a multitude of road condition reporting platforms used by LGAs across NSW. OneRoad will ensure a consistent reporting format and messaging of scheduled and unplanned road incidents to the public via the Live Traffic app. The Customer Experience Team worked with the OneRoad developers, providing feedback of the current My Road Info platform and relayed feedback of customer's experience of traffic apps, during the major weather events. The team's input assisted with simplifying navigation, interpretative icons and messaging of road conditions for display upon customer's mobile devices. OneRoad is scheduled to go-live on 19 October 2022.

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

A total of 9824 calls were received during the reporting period which is a 14.41% decrease from the same period the previous year, and a 2.6% increase on the previous quarter's volumes. The Contact Centre has exceeded all service targets for the report period, including 84.4% of calls answered within 20 seconds, average time each caller spends in the queue is 18.0 seconds and the percentage rate for calls abandoned is less than .5%.

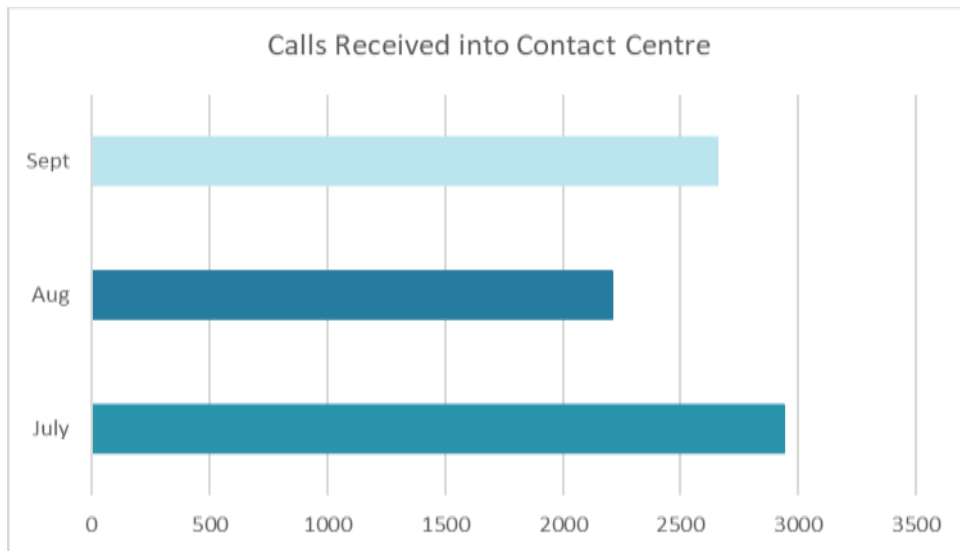


Figure 1. Number of calls received during the reporting period

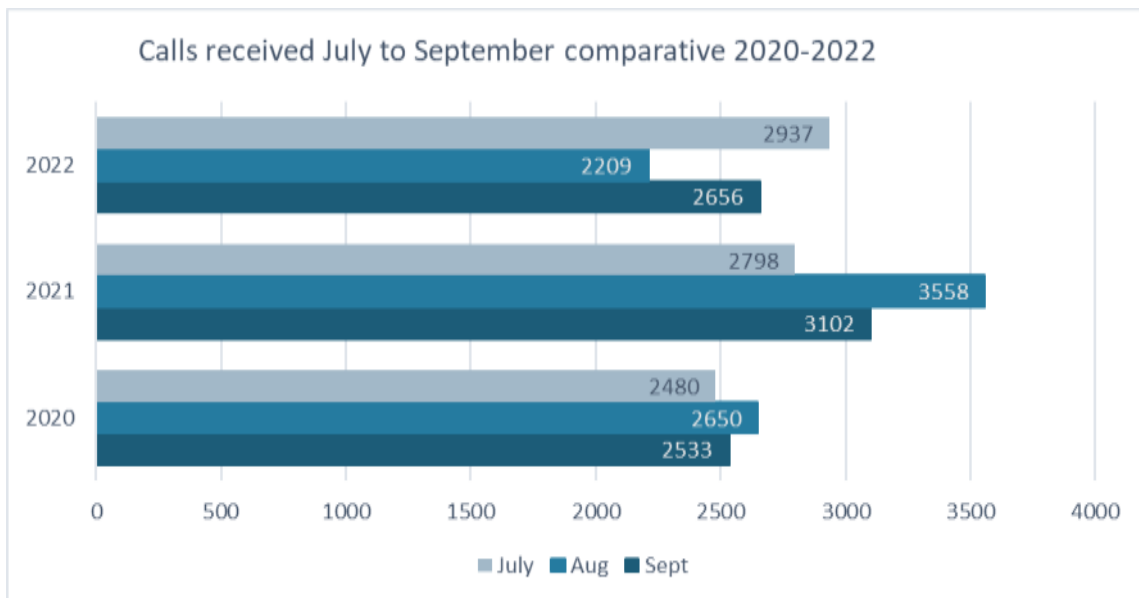


Figure 2: Calls received through the call centre, comparison year on year

Receipt and Administration Statistics

A total of 3063 receipts were processed for the reporting period which is a increase of 40.1% for the same period of the previous year of 2185 receipts. The month of August did see an increase in number of receipts processed, which can be attributed to the rates instalment period. The team reported an increase in return customer visits to the administration centres, following up their NSW Government flood relief payments.

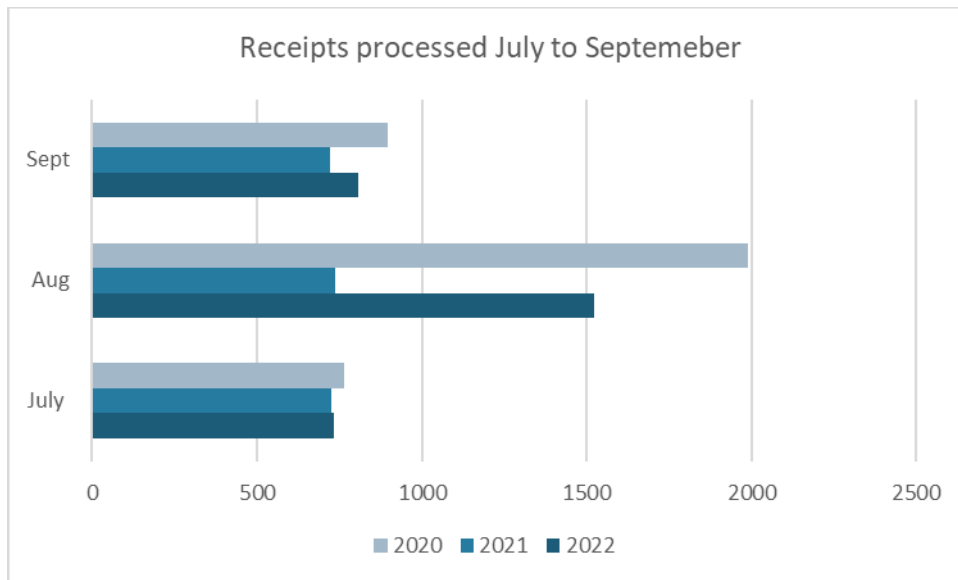


Figure 3: Total number of receipts

Certificates and Customer requests

98.9% of Section 735A, 10.7, 603 certificates were completed within set timeframes in accordance with Council’s service standards. Of the 378 certificate applications received, 54.7% were 10.7 certificates, a 10% increase in buyer enquiry from the previous quarter, which could indicate a return to normal buyer enquiry post floods.

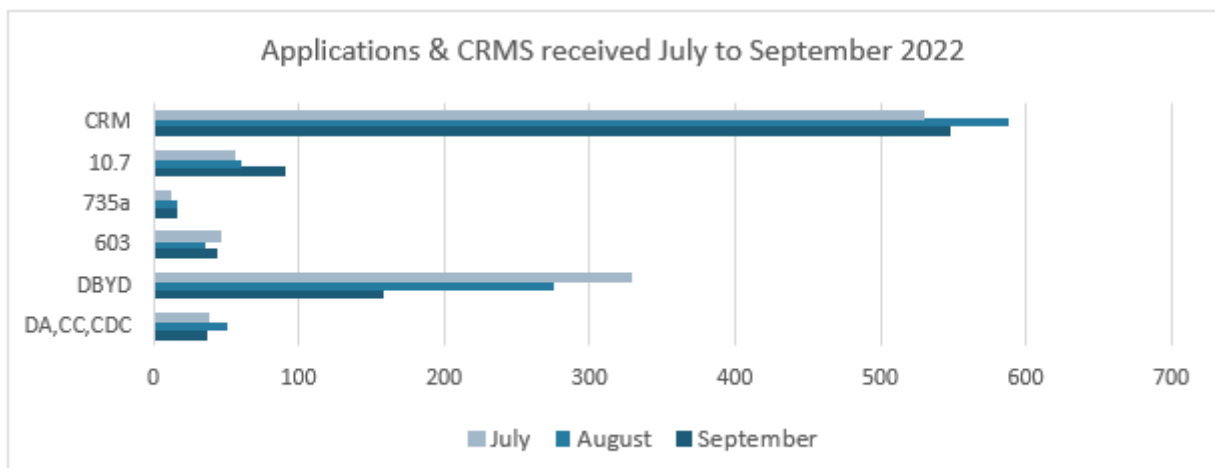


Figure 4. Administration statistics

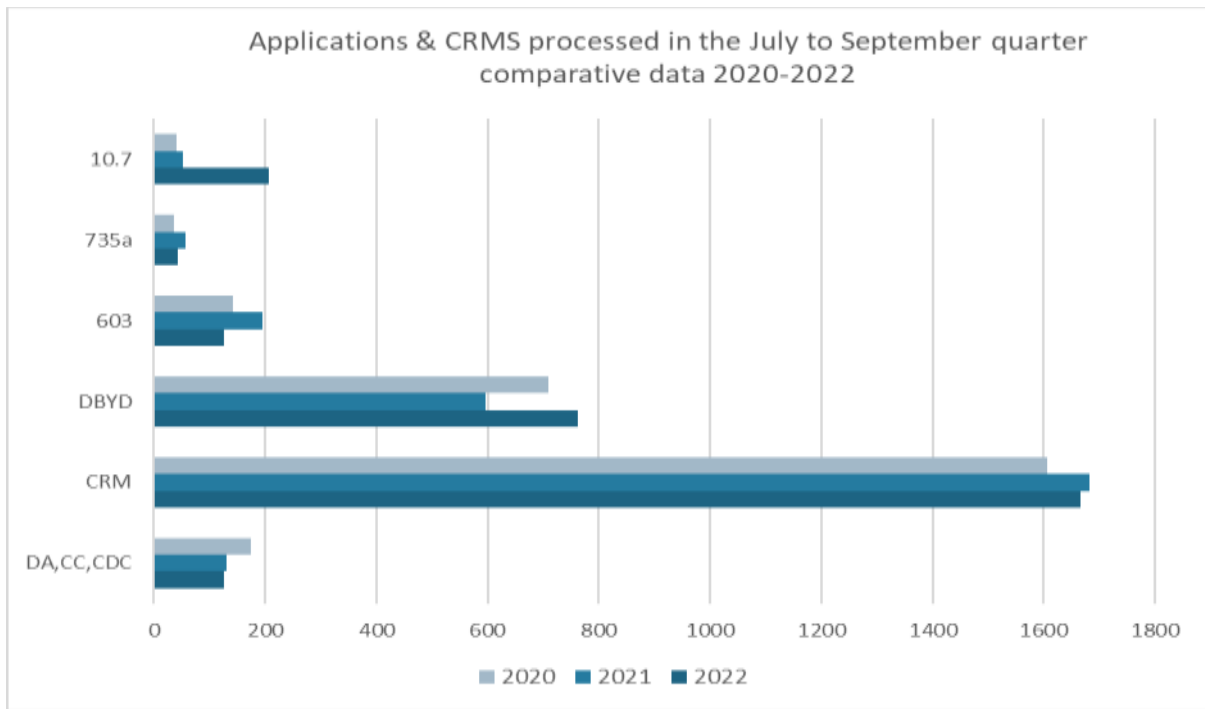


Figure 5. Applications and requests comparison

Customer Request Management System - Key Statistics

During the reporting period, a total of 1644 new requests were logged, a decrease of 32.3% compared to the previous quarter and a 2.3% decrease on the same reporting period of the previous year. The noticeable decrease in requests for immediate assistance from the previous quarter, reflects our communities beginning to rebuild and recover post floods and the formalisation of external support agencies to assist with the challenges faced by our affected communities.

Of the total requests received during the reporting period, 20.7% related to water/sewer and 26.2% directed to roads and drainage for assistance. The roads and drainage teams continue to work hard to restore the LGAs road network back to its former high standard.

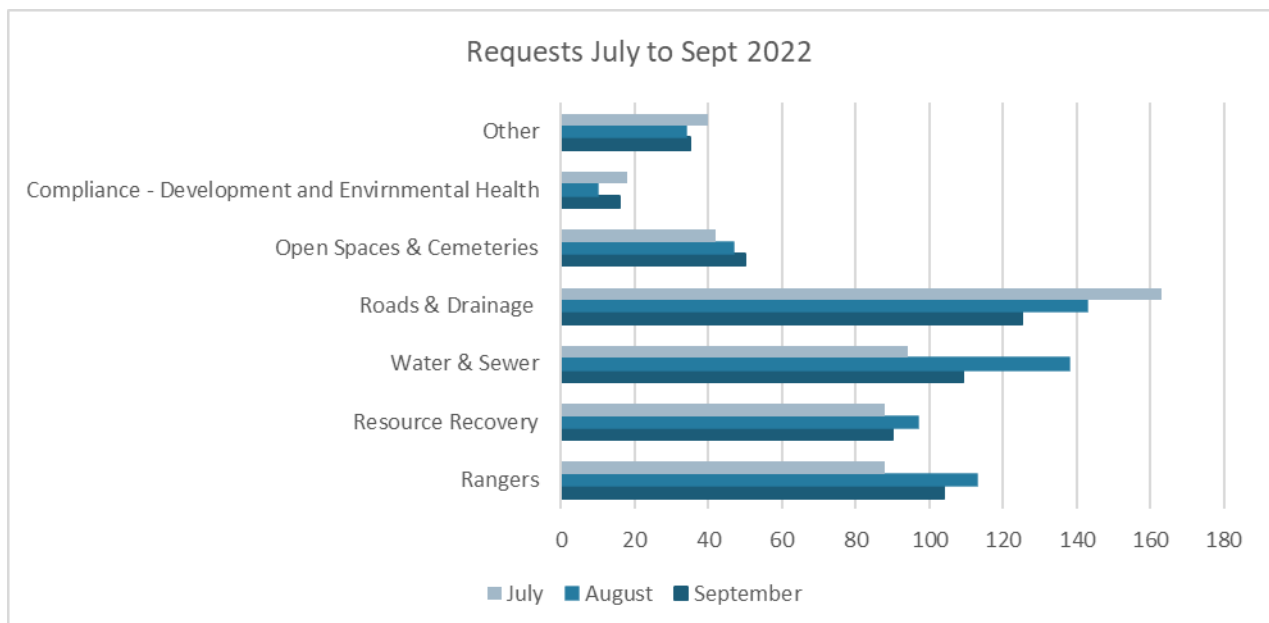


Figure 6: Number of requests

Development Concierge – Key Statistics

Enquiries to the Development Concierge are still high in relation to rebuilding and house raising since the February floods. During the reporting period, the Concierge has assisted in various enquiries with rebuilding and house raising being the most popular, along with the general enquiries including sheds, pools and subdivision enquiries.

Navigating the e-Planning portal remains a challenge for some customers, preparing and submitting applications will be discussed at the RVC Developer Forum later in October.

Topics for discussion at the Developer Forum:

- Flood recovery and rebuilding, Orders and Completion Certificates
- NSW e-Planning Portal – application lodgments and training opportunity
- Principal Certifier Agreements, Notice of Commencement & Trade Certificates.

e-Planning Portal – Key Statistics

The e-Planning Portal has settled into a rhythm, with First Responders confidently triaging and pre-assessing the majority of DA's in the first instance. Complex applications being forwarded to the Planning Team for an initial review and requests for additional information identified prior to lodgement.

Richmond Valley's average pre-assessment time remains extremely competitive, being the most efficient of all neighbouring LGAs. First Responders strive to complete a preliminary assessment within twenty-four hours of receipt of an application.

The First Responders field all planning portal lodgement enquiries, with the majority of applicants able to navigate the portal after an initial walk through over the phone. There is a portion of customers who prefer more individual assistance throughout the entire submission process. The implementation of an e-Planning portal assistance charge, has been readily taken up by customers, happy to pay a fee for service. They receive dedicated one on one support from a First Responders to assist with creating a portal account, loading applications and supporting documents into the NSW planning portal, with the process taking up to an hour per application. Customers are confident their application is lodged correctly and will progress for assessment in a timely manner.

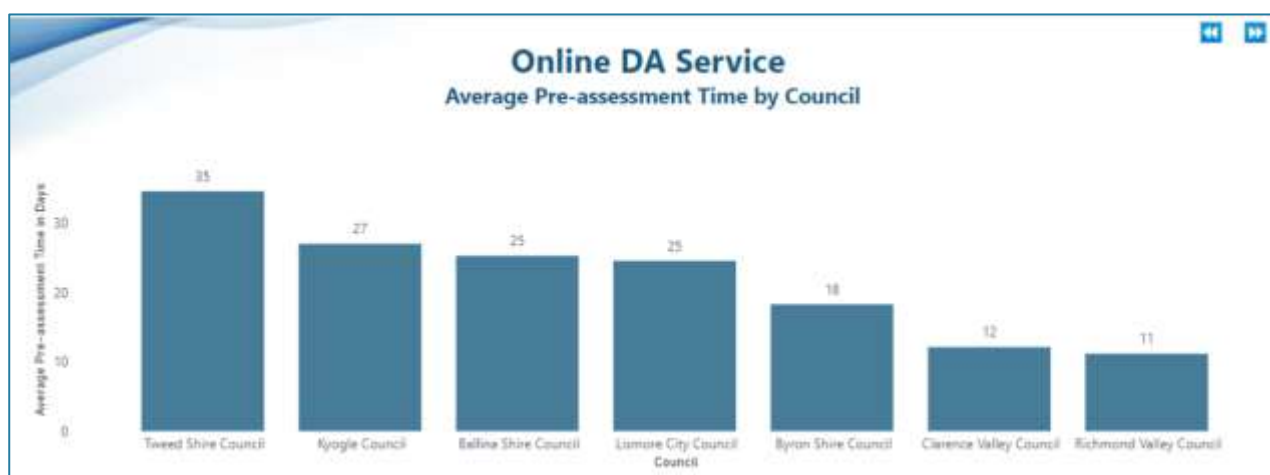


Figure 7: Average pre-assessment time by Council

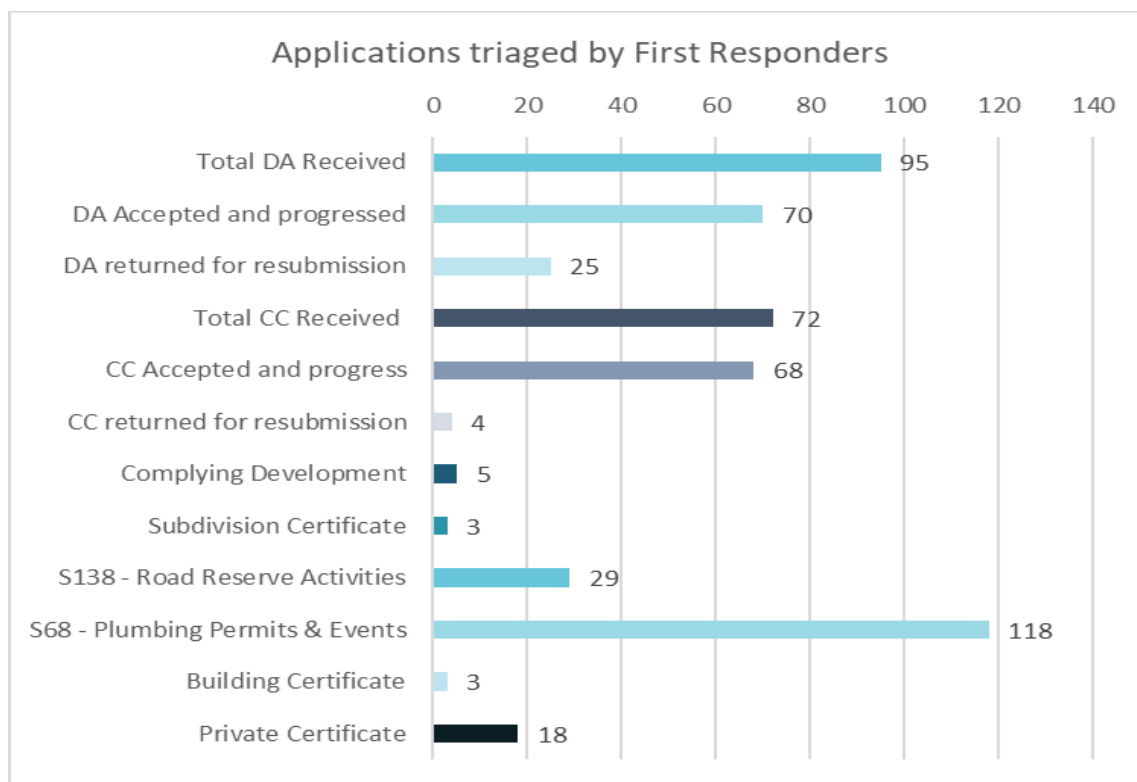


Figure 8: Applications received via the NSW Planning Portal

Opportunities for Improvement

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

- Continue to work closely with customers lodging applications via the e-planning portal to ensure submission to lodgement timeframes are maintained to our standard.
- Continue to provide training and upskilling of our newer inexperienced staff to increase their ability to achieve first contact resolution of 80%
- Continue to provide training to staff in the upgraded customer request module (CRM). Seek feedback from key users and review upgrade functionality and implement changes to ensure continuous improvement of corporate systems.

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Rylee Vidler

RECOMMENDATION

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

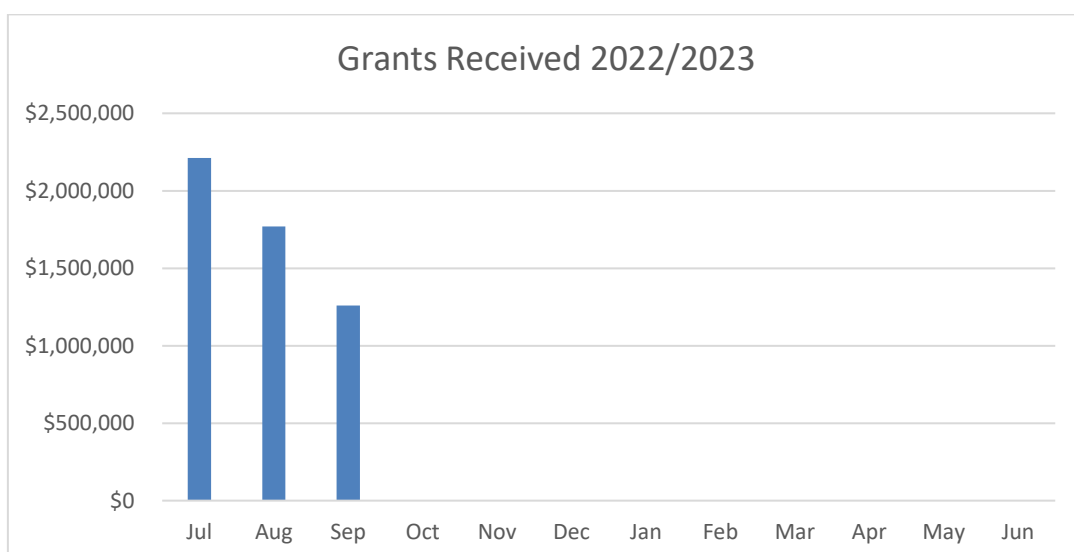
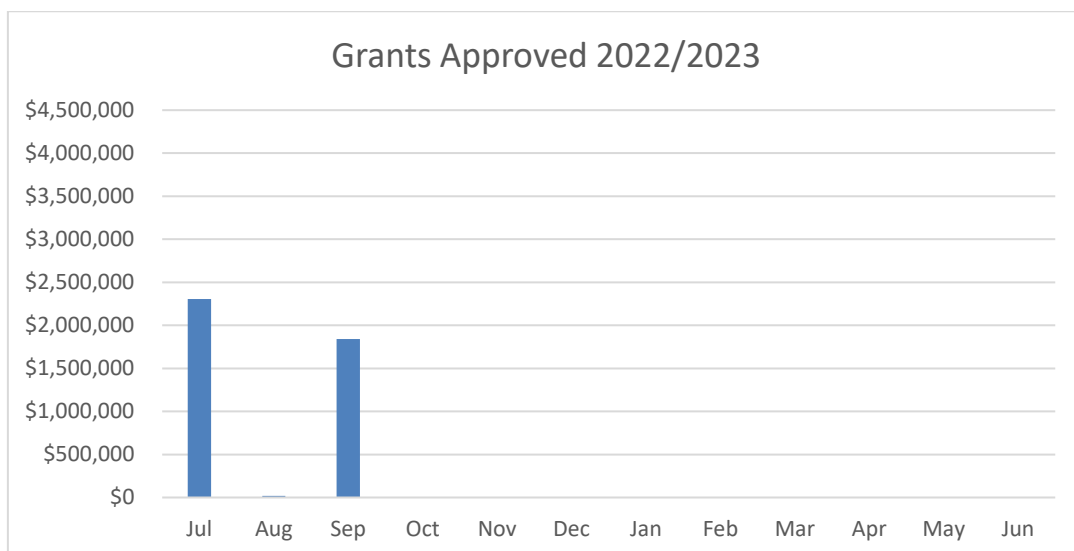
REPORT

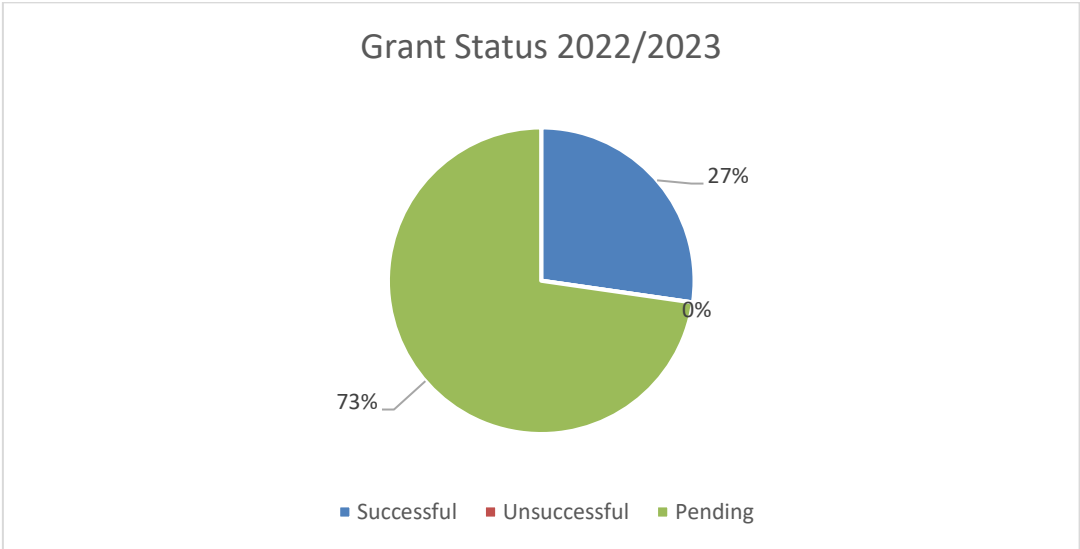
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of September 2022.

During the reporting period, there were four grants approved.

Council received funding for four grants totalling \$1,259,211. Council submitted five applications and was not notified of any unsuccessful applications during the period.

A summary of grants approved and received as well as the status of applications for the current financial year to 30 September 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
South Casino Sewage Transfer System	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (State)	Regional Housing Fund	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -	23 June 2022	7 September 2022
Comment: This funding will allow planning and construction of the South Casino Sewage Transfer Station.							
Connecting and Healing Richmond Valley Communities	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Reconnecting Regional NSW - Community Events Program	\$ 301,708	\$ 301,708	\$ -	24 June 2022	16 September 2022
Comment: This funding will allow Council to deliver six events across the Richmond Valley.							
Broadwater Evans Head Road Shared Pathway	Transport for NSW (State)	Get NSW Active Program	\$ 172,000	\$ 172,000	\$ -	28 February 2022	26 September 2022
Comment: This funding will allow the survey and detailed design of a shared pathway along Broadwater Evans Head Road.							
Woodburn Evans Head Road Shared Pathway	Transport for NSW (State)	Get NSW Active Program	\$ 168,960	\$ 168,960	\$ -	28 February 2022	26 September 2022
Comment: This funding will allow the survey and detailed design of a shared pathway from Woodburn to Wallum Drive, connecting existing pathways.							

Grants that have been received

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Flying Fox Habitat Restoration Grants Program	Local Government NSW (State)	Flying Fox Habitat Restoration Grants Program	\$ 374,992	\$ 299,992	\$ 75,000	2 May 2022	\$ 109,422 14 September 2022	\$ 109,422
Comment: Funding received for milestone 1 of the grant, to allow the commencement of the project.								
Connecting and Healing Richmond Valley Communities	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Reconnecting Regional NSW - Community Events Program	\$ 301,708	\$ 301,708	\$ -	24 June 2022	\$ 241,366 23 September 2022	\$ 241,366
Comment: Funding received for 80% of grant allocation.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Regional Roads Block Grant 2022/2023	Transport for NSW (State)	Regional Roads Block Grant	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,050,000	\$ -	N/A - Annual Allocation	\$ 525,000 29 September 2022	\$ 525,000
Comment: Funding received for 50% of allocation. The remaining 50% will be received in January 2023.								
MR145 Woodburn-Coraki Road Major Upgrade	Transport for NSW (Federal)	N/A - Election Promise	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 383,423 29 September 2022	\$ 383,423
Comment: Progress payment for works completed on Woodburn to Coraki Road.								

Grant Applications Submitted

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Queen Elizabeth Park Recreational Upgrade	NSW Office of Sport (State)	Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund	\$ 1,659,749	\$ 1,659,749	\$ -	2 September 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to upgrade Queen Elizabeth Park including new fencing, bollards, topsoiling football fields and lighting.						
Carwong Road, Rappville - Sealing an unsealed road	Transport for NSW (State)	Fixing Local Roads Round 4	\$ 700,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	8 September 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to seal 1km of unsealed road, including the installation of appropriate drainage structures.						
Coraki Ellangowan Road - rehabilitation and maintenance	Transport for NSW (State)	Fixing Local Roads Round 4	\$ 2,100,001	\$ 1,449,001	\$ 651,000	8 September 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to perform shoulder reforming, heavy patching, resurfacing, crack and culvert repairs and improve roadside drainage on 2.7km of Coraki Ellangowan Road						

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Fixing our Sporting Grounds	Office of Sport (State)	Sports Priority Needs Program	\$ 1,579,506	\$ 1,579,506	\$ -	23 September 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to perform restoration and resilience works on Woodburn Oval, Colley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, Stan Payne Oval, Windsor Park and Casino Croquet Club.						
Upgrading Albert Park Tourist Stopover Casino and Shark Bay Evans Head	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Stronger Country Communities	\$ 1,213,000	\$ 1,213,000	\$ -	23 September 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to upgrade the landscaping, parking area, shelters, BBQs and picnic furniture at Albert Park Casino and, install new turf, retaining walls, concrete stairs and picnic furniture at Shark Bay Evans Head.						

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Andy Edwards

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 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 September 2022 to 30 September 2022 was 18, with a total value of \$3,076,992.10, less a refused application being the Iron Gates Subdivision.

Last month DA2015/0096 for 240 Iron Gates Drive, Evans Head – Iron Gates Subdivision, was refused on 7 September 2022 by the Northern Regional Planning Panel. We have received notice of an appeal by Gold Coral Pty Ltd to the Land and Environmental Court of NSW, seeking to overturn the refusal.

Three of the applications determined in the month of September were flood affected properties and one being a bushfire affected property. The application (DA2022/0086) for the bushfire affected property was lodged on 26 October 2021 but its determination was delayed due to a complex access issue over a Crown Road Reserve.

There were three applications withdrawn as the requests for additional information did not meet Council standards or were unsuccessful.

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

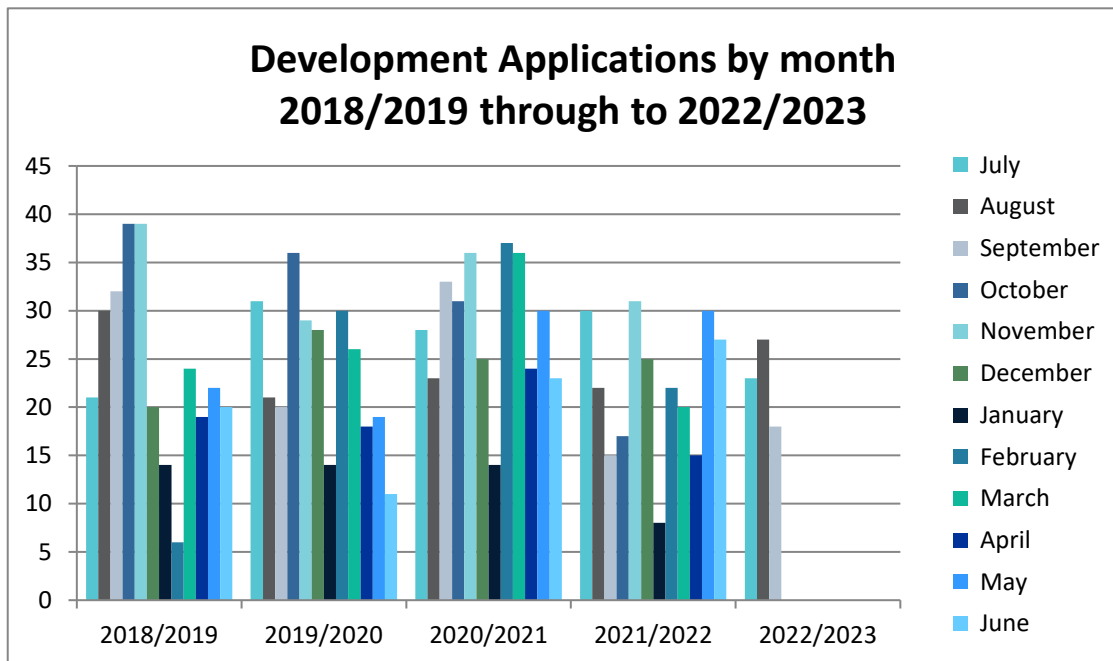


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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 September 2022.

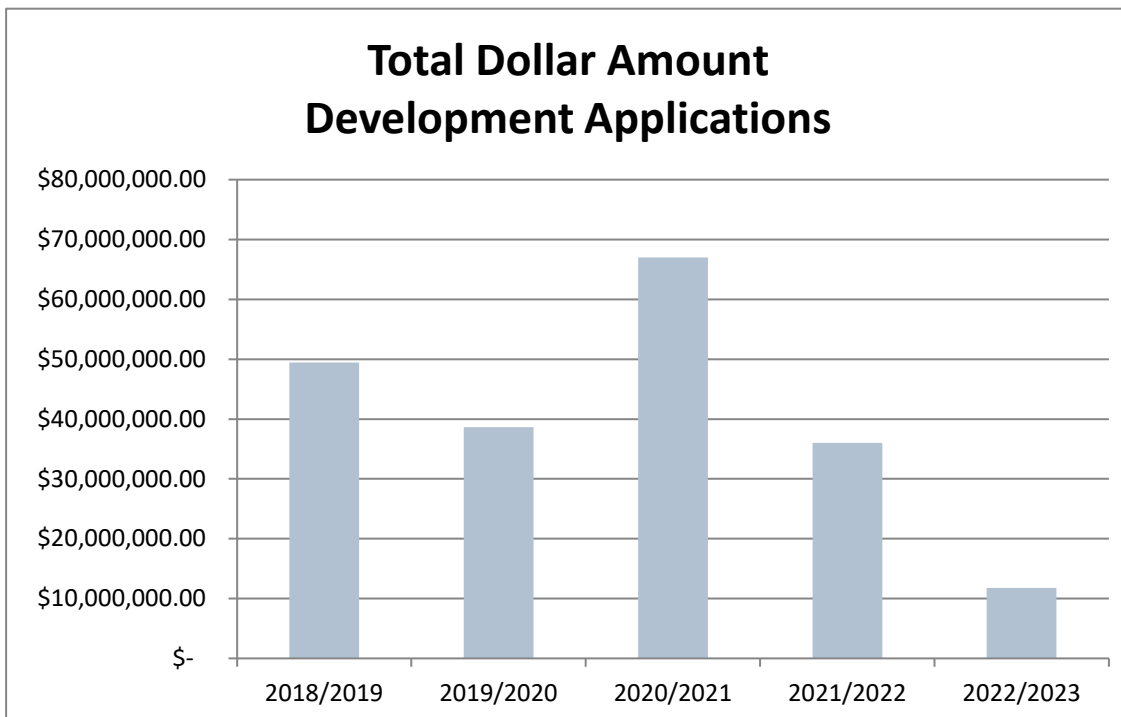


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

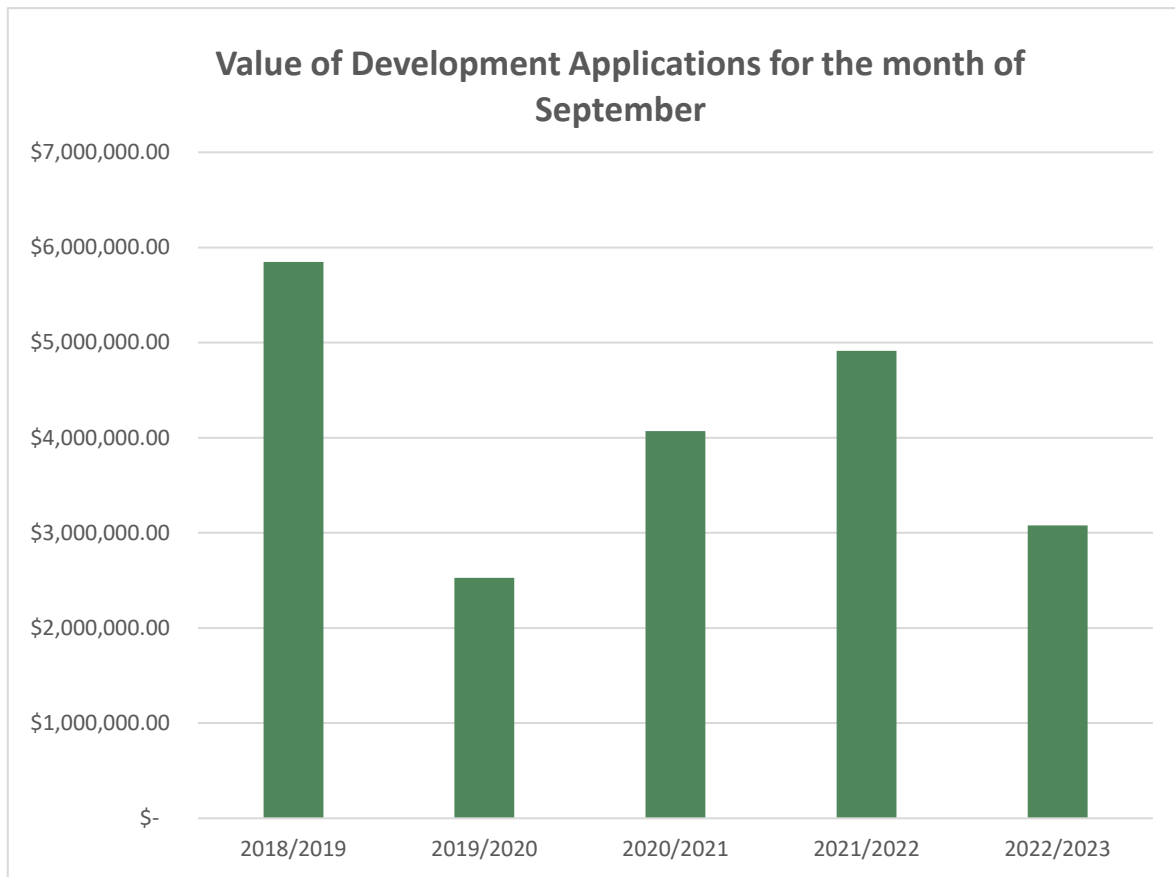


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of September 2022

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.

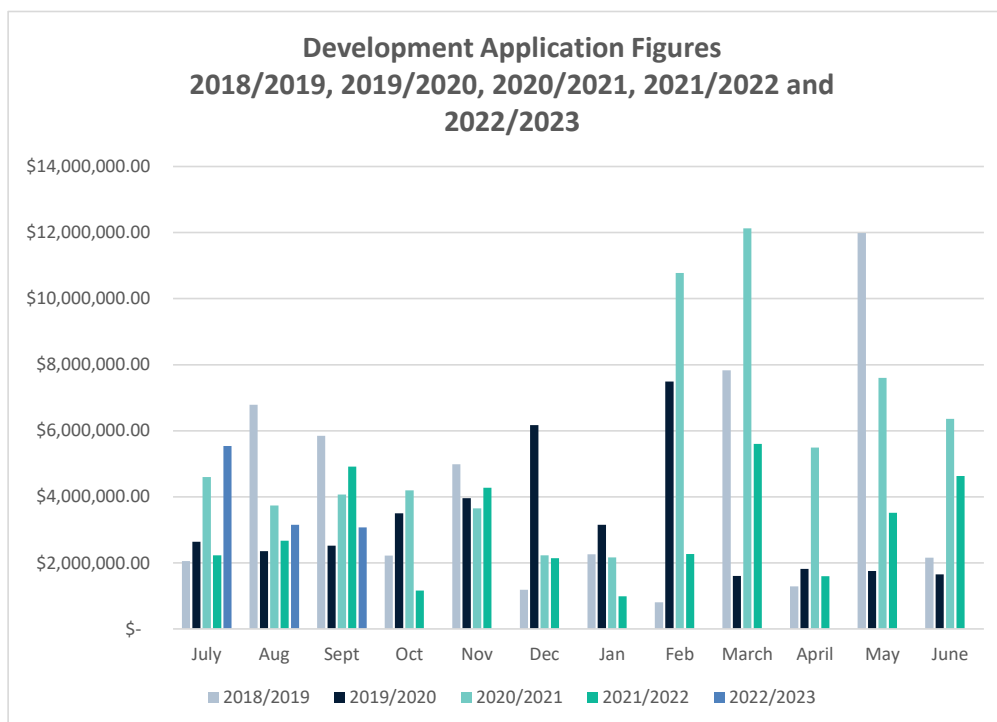


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

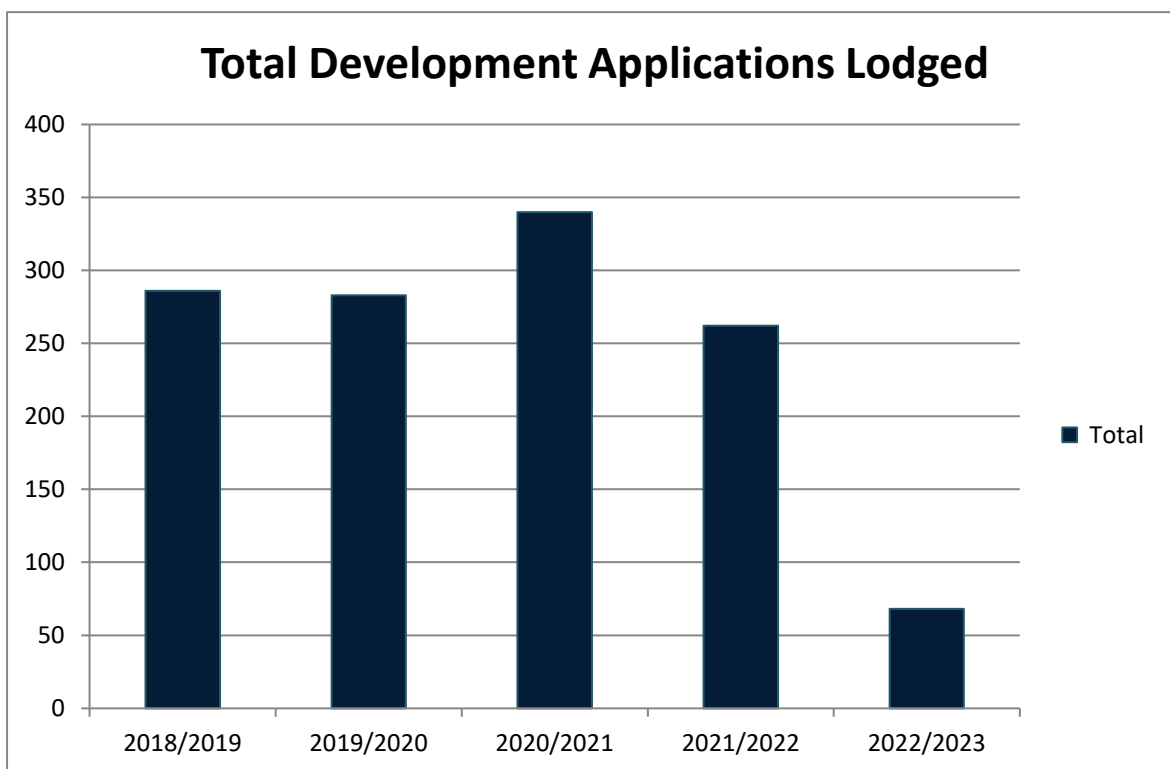


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the month of September 2022

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	14
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	0
Subdivision	0
Refused	1
Rejected	0
Withdrawn	3
Complying Development (Council Approved)	3
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINED	18
Average assessment days for applications determined in September 2022	41
<i>*NOTE: The total assessment days is pushed out to 112 to include the Iron Gates Subdivision refusal, however this number is an outlier so has not been included in the data analysed.</i>	
No. of Integrated development applications determined in September 2022	2
No. of Designated development applications determined in September 2022	0
No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in September 2022.	128

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0255	AJ Patrick	AJ & SW Patrick	7 Martin Street, Coraki	As Built - Above ground pool and associated fencing	29/06/2022	5/09/2022	\$4,900.00
DA2023/0011	Senica Consultancy Group	GK Graham & MM Allen	55 Canning Drive, Casino	Construction of a dwelling house with an attached garage and ancillary site works.	15/07/2022	19/09/2022	\$468,587.00
DA2023/0013	A G Sawvas Pty Ltd	CG & AE Townsend	2/53 Beech Street, Evans Head	Installation of an inground fibreglass swimming pool and associated pool fencing in accordance with the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and A.S 1926.1	18/07/2022	7/09/2022	\$39,762.00
DA2023/0017	Professional Planning Group	E & CJ Dujmovic	84 Currajong Street, Evans Head	Construction of two (2) single storey dwellings with attached tandem garages to create a detached dual occupancy development and associated works	20/07/2022	8/09/2022	\$710,045.00
DA2023/0024	VP Breen	DH & VP Breen	8 Cassino Drive, Casino	Alterations & additions to an existing industrial outbuilding to use it as a hardware and building supplies premises and associated works	1/08/2022	27/09/2022	\$129,600.00
DA2023/0028	LV Johnstone	LV & DR Johnstone	1916 Myall Creek Road, West Bungawalbin	Clearing land (less than 1HA), construction of single dwelling, shed with patio and landscaping	3/08/2022	7/09/2022	\$356,000.00
DA2023/0030	Evoke Pools	Confidential	1845 Ellangowan Road, Ellangowan	Inground fibreglass swimming pool with associated fencing	8/08/2022	7/09/2022	\$57,675.00
DA2023/0033	Newton Denny Chapelle	Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd	32 Dyraaba Street, Casino	Installation of bottom load gantry at existing fuel storage depot	12/08/2022	21/09/2022	\$198,630.00
DA2023/0034	Ballina Pool Shop	EA & SB McEwan	3 Wallum Drive, Doonbah	Inground concrete swimming pool with associated fencing	15/08/2022	13/09/2022	\$60,600.00
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DA2023/0042	Sarwood Timbers Pty Ltd	TM Norwell & KC Scurr	600 Swan Bay Road, East Coraki	Colorbond shed on concrete slab	18/08/2022	20/09/2022	\$59,400.00

Summary of Bushfire Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0086	AGS Commercial Pty Ltd	SL Blissett	1910 Busbys Flat Road, Wyan	*** BUSHFIRE AFFECTED *** New Single Dwelling	26/10/2021	28/09/2022	\$297,793.10

Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0241	KM Armfield	GA & KM Armfield	1330 Woodburn Coraki Road, Coraki	***Flood Affected*** Stage 1 - raise dwelling Stage 2 - new bathroom	14/06/2022	2/09/2022	\$100,000.00
DA2023/0020	LT O'Driscoll	CM Petty & LT O'Driscoll	19 Baraang Drive, Broadwater	***FLOOD AFFECTED*** Raise existing dwelling with alterations and additions including bedroom and deck extensions	25/07/2022	7/09/2022	\$117,000.00
DA2023/0032	ALB Gall	AN & ALB Gall	865 Woodburn Coraki Road, Swan Bay	***FLOOD AFFECTED*** - Raise existing dwelling with alterations and additions	9/08/2022	13/09/2022	\$349,000.00

Summary of CDC Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2023/0003	Certifiers2U	J & BP Formaggin	54 Jersey Drive, North Casino	Inground swimming pool and associated fencing	22/08/2022	5/09/2022	\$40,000.00
CDC2023/0004	Certifiers2U	KM & BJ Higgins	43 Jersey Drive, North Casino	Inground swimming pool and associated fencing	22/08/2022	1/09/2022	\$39,000.00
CDC2023/0005	Certifiers2U	GC Jackson	56 Jersey Drive, North Casino	Inground swimming pool and associated fencing	22/08/2022	1/09/2022	\$49,000.00

Item 19.3

**Summary of Development Applications Refused under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022**

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2015/0096	GoldCoral Pty Ltd	GoldCoral Pty Ltd	240 Iron Gates Drive, Evans Head	<p>Concept Integrated Development Application for a residential subdivision- Stage 1 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subdivision of land to create 147 lots (including 135 residential lots (Lots 1 to 135), 4 public reserves (Lots 139 to 142), 1 sewer pump station lot (Lot 144), 1 drainage reserve lot (Lot 143), 3 Super Lots (Lots 145 to 147), 1 residue lot (Lot 138) & 2 rainforest lots (Lots 136 & 137)) • Embellishment of the proposed public reserves adjacent to the Evans River • Upgrading of Iron Gates Drive, including vegetation clearing work • Subdivision works for Stages 1 and 2 (including, but not limited to clearing and earthworks, roadworks and drainage, sewer and water supply, and electricity & communications (including all service connections to Stage 1 & 2 lots)) <p>Stage 2 – Subject to a further Development Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subdivision of the Super Lots (Lots 145 to 147) to create 40 residential lots (Lots 148 to 187)(no subdivision work is required for Stage 2 as all subdivision infrastructure will be provided within Stage 1). 	27/10/2014	7/09/2022	\$12,013,533.00

Summary of Development Applications Withdrawn under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
for the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0179	GP Meineke	PW Shearman	79 Johnston Street, Casino	Demolition of existing outbuilding, construction of a new single storey dwelling and carport to create a detached dual occupancy development and associated works	3/03/2022	28/09/2022	\$194,607.00
DA2022/0223	JB Gillan	JB & Y Gillan	4 Wirraway Avenue, Evans Head	Internal and external alterations and additions including a new deck, carport, and swimming pool to an existing attached dual occupancy development to reconfigure it as a single dwelling, construction of a secondary dwelling at rear and associated works	23/05/2022	27/09/2022	\$650,441.00
DA2023/0049	The Shed Company	LG Ensby	3 Kalinda Place, Casino	Carport for caravan storage with attached shed	30/08/2022	21/09/2022	\$18,880.00

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

Item 19.3

19.4 CORRESPONDENCE - DRAFT NORTH COAST REGIONAL PLAN AND NSW FLOOD INQUIRY

Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the correspondence regarding:

1. Draft North Coast Regional Plan – letter to Member for Clarence and the Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes; and
2. NSW Independent Flood Inquiry – letter to the NSW Premier.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

As a result of resolutions passed at the September 2022 Ordinary Meeting, Council issued the following correspondence.

1. With regard to the Draft North Coast Regional Plan, Council wrote to the Member for Clarence, Mr Christopher Gulaptis and the Minister for Planning and Homes, The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, seeking the Richmond Valley's inclusion in Stage One of the North Coast Urban Development Program, in response to Casino's emerging role as a regional employment centre.
2. With regard to the NSW Independent Flood Inquiry, Council wrote to the NSW Premier, The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP seeking urgent implementation of the initiatives to be delivered by the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

Copies of correspondence noted above are attached.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Letter to Minister for Planning & Homes, The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP**
2. **Letter to NSW Premier, The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP**



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

13 October 2022

The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Planning & Minister for Homes
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

North Coast Urban Development Program

Richmond Valley Council resolved, at its 20 September 2022 meeting, to write to you expressing its deep concern at the proposed exclusion of the Richmond Valley local government area from the initial phase of the North Coast Urban Development Program.

The Draft North Coast Regional Plan 2041 provides for four of the six Northern Rivers councils to be included in phase one of this important program to deliver a 10-year housing pipeline across the North Coast. This housing is critical for the Northern Rivers, as our region was already experiencing a severe housing shortage before the impacts of the 2022 floods. The floods have rendered some 5000 homes across the region uninhabitable and displaced more than 10,000 local people.

In this environment, our Council is at odds to understand why Richmond Valley has been excluded from the UDP, when it has ample flood-safe land available for development, and the NSW Government is actively seeking to boost industrial and housing growth through the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct initiative.

Council has raised this anomaly in its submission to the draft Regional Plan (attached for your information) and we would seek your support to ensure the Richmond Valley's role as an emerging strategic centre is appropriately acknowledged by inclusion in the program. RVC is one of five councils on the North Coast identified by the NSW Regional Housing Fund as having a significant role to play in providing new housing supply.

Our main population centre of Casino is well placed to support regional resilience and growth and Council is disappointed that the Regional Plan continues to disregard the town's strategic importance. The 2022 floods have clearly demonstrated the perils of consolidating regional services into a central city, such as Lismore, which is at high risk of major flood events. If we are to build long-term resilience in the Northern Rivers then strategic centres such as Casino and Ballina must be strengthened to off-set risk and expedite recovery.

Love where we live and work



It should be noted that both Casino and Ballina were able to reactivate their key commercial districts within days of the flood, whereas Lismore continues to face this challenge some seven months after the event.

To support the Richmond Valley's emerging role, Council has been working in partnership with Regional NSW to prepare a comprehensive growth management strategy for the LGA and finalize the Regional Jobs Precinct Masterplan and Casino Place Plan. These plans will provide for more than 600 new jobs in our region and support population growth rates in excess of 1% per annum.

The Richmond Valley stands ready to play its part as an emerging strategic centre in the Northern Rivers and we would seek your support to ensure our LGA is included in the Urban Development Program as a priority. This will help to ensure that the NSW Government's vision for industrial and housing growth through the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct can be effectively delivered.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager



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

13 October 2022

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

By email only: dominic.perrottet@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Implementation of NSW Flood Inquiry recommendations

Richmond Valley Council considered the recommendations of the NSW Flood Inquiry at its September 2022 meeting and resolved to write to you, on behalf of our community, seeking your support to expedite these recommendations as a matter of urgency.

As you would know from your visit to the Mid-Richmond communities in March, the Richmond Valley local government area was severely impacted in the floods, with more than 450 homes rendered uninhabitable and \$150 million in damage to essential infrastructure. Our Council and our community have been working tirelessly to rebuild our region and recover from this catastrophic event, but we need your support to deliver a whole-of-government response to the Flood Inquiry recommendations.

Council is particularly concerned that the matters entrusted to the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation should be progressed as a matter of urgency. It is now seven months since the flood event and members of our community still have no clear commitments on future flood-safe housing.

Proposals for land-swaps, buy-back schemes, new land releases, house raising and resilient building are yet to be realized and local families remain locked in uncertainty, in makeshift, temporary accommodation, unable to progress with their recovery plans.

Council appreciated your visits to Coraki and Woodburn at the height of the flood emergency and we would like to reiterate our Mayor Cr Robert Mustow's invitation to you to visit Casino for a full briefing on our flood recovery program and the continued challenges our community faces in the wake of this disaster.

Love where we live and work



We look forward to your continued support in ensuring that the NSW Flood Inquiry recommendations are implemented expeditiously through the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager

Yours sincerely,



Robert Mustow
Mayor

19.5 OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS OF TENDER VP308256 - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT AMENITIES BUILDING AT CASINO SHOWGROUND

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Lani Hancock

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report on the outcome of negotiations on Tender VP308256 – Design and Construct Amenities Building at Casino Showground.

REPORT

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 19 July 2022, it was resolved:

"That Council:

- 1. Declines the submissions received for Tender VP308256 – Design and Construct Amenities Block at Casino Showgrounds due to the prices submitted being higher than the budget allocated for the works.*
- 2. Applies Clause 178 (3e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to authorise the General Manager to enter into direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors with a view to obtaining works that provide council with the best outcome both from a financial and delivery perspective, and to finalise the terms of the contract or agreement and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.*
- 3. Notes that the outcomes of the negotiations will be reported to Council for information at a future meeting."*

Council has received \$275,531.36 (exclusive of GST) from the NSW Government's Showgrounds Stimulus Program for the construction of a new amenities block at the Casino Showground and Racecourse Facility.

This funding is part of the \$9.2 million of funding received from the State and Federal Governments, made up of \$8.2 million Bushfire Local Economic Stimulus Funding Program and \$1 million from the NSW Showground Stimulus Funding Program – Phase Two.

The new amenities block is expected to service a range of events including race days, agricultural shows, cattle youth camps, market days, weddings and various other event opportunities. The addition of the new amenities block will greatly support future resilience during declared emergencies / natural disasters where the Casino Showground is utilised as an evacuation point for residents and livestock for Casino and surrounding areas. It is considered a high priority of the Showgrounds upgrade project.

Tenders were called for on 27 May 2022 and closed on 25 June 2022, and two submissions were received. Of the two submissions, one was non-conforming and the second was above Council's available budget. At the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 July 2022, Council applied Clause 178 (3e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, to negotiate directly with the market.

Direct negotiations were carried out with local building company Steve Ryan Builder Pty Ltd as its original submission to the tender was closest to Council's available budget.

Steve Ryan Builder Pty Ltd. as part of the negotiation has resubmitted a price of \$341,018 excluding GST and this price is \$65,487 over Council's allowable budget. Since the Tender submission period, fluctuations in the market have seen inflation in the costs and availability of materials. The tender process has tested the market and it is the opinion of the project team, that this is a reasonable price in the circumstances.

Under the same Stimulus Program, Council also received funding for electrical upgrades (\$465,590 excluding GST) and Yard Extensions (\$177,693 excluding GST). The amount allocated for the electrical upgrade is more than required for that work. Contact has been made with the Showground Stimulus Fund Program team regarding funding and the fluctuating market prices. The Program Team has advised that:

- Program funds have been exhausted and no surplus funds or contingencies are available to fund any other works or budget shortfalls, with many other Crown Land Managers in the same position as Council.
- The Program will support a request for an adjustment of funds allocated to Council that could be split across the three projects. They have agreed in principle to a reallocation of \$65,487 from the electrical upgrades to the amenities project.

Council staff will be preparing a submission to the Program to officially re-allocate funds within the Program allocation to enable the delivery of this project.

Steve Ryan Builder Pty Ltd has indicated a 16 week build program inclusive of weather and supply delays. Works are anticipated to commence in November 2022.

CONCLUSION

Council is committed to delivering this project for the community to complement a great event space at the Casino Showground and Racecourse facility. The engagement of a local contractor to carry out this project directly aligns with initiatives of the Showground Stimulus Program guidelines which is to boost economic and social recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.6 OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS OF TENDER VP277869 - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT WILLOX BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Michael Pontefract

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report on the Outcome of Negotiations of Tender VP277869 – Design and Construct Willox Bridge Replacement.

REPORT

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 15 February 2022, it was resolved:

"That Council:

- 1. Declines the only submission received for Tender VP277869 – Design and Construct Willox Bridge Replacement due to it being non-conforming and higher than the budget allocated for the works.*
- 2. Applies Clause 178 (3e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to authorise the General Manager to enter into direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors with a view to obtaining works that provide council with the best outcome both from a financial and delivery perspective, and to finalise the terms of the contract or agreement and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.*
- 3. Notes that the outcomes of the negotiations will be reported to Council for information at a future meeting."*

The Willox Bridge replacement is part of the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) - Fixing Country Bridges Program.

Casino Coraki Road is a B-double approved Regional Road, that provides an important transport link between the Pacific Motorway and Casino. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on this section of the road is around 1200 vehicles per day, including approximately 200 heavy vehicles some of which are 25m B Doubles where gross weight exceeds 62 tonnes. Maintaining traffic movement during the construction process by means of a side-track will be critical to the successful delivery of this project.

The existing bridge has structural damage and requires replacement with a concrete structure compliant to AS 5100.

The new bridge is to be maintained on its current alignment; however, it needs to be raised between 580mm and 690mm to improve reopening time periods where this road has been closed following flood events.

TfNSW had agreed to contribute funding of \$482,988 (exclusive of GST) towards the project and Council had budgeted an additional \$332,600, totalling \$815,588 to replace the damaged bridge with a resilient concrete structure.

Council originally called for tenders seeking appropriately qualified and experienced contractors to design and construct the replacement of Willox Bridge over a tributary to the Richmond River on Regional Road MR145 otherwise known as Casino Coraki Road, Tatham, approximately 14 km east of Casino.

Tenders were called for on 29 November 2021 and closed on 17 January 2022 under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and the requirements of the Richmond Valley Council Purchasing Policy.

In the original Tender, a single, non-complying tender was received where the price was almost \$600,000 over the budget allocated for this project.



It was recommended at Council's Ordinary Meeting in February 2022 that Council decline the tender and authorise the General Manager to enter direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors with a view to obtaining works that provide Council with the best outcome both from a financial and delivery perspective.

Since that meeting, Council staff have made representations to TfNSW seeking a financial contribution increase to a level that would enable the bridge to be replaced without Council having to utilise funds in current reserves. Council has also been negotiating with bridge construction companies that Council have previously used to successfully deliver bridge projects of this scope.

The outcome of the representations to TfNSW has seen the original Deed increased by \$567,163 to \$1,050,151 providing an overall budget of \$1,382,751 (exclusive of GST) to deliver this project.

Direct negotiations have been undertaken with Ozwide Bridge Rail and Civil Pty Ltd for a price to design and construct the following - including the provision of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and any applicable approvals required by Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries Division):

- Construction of a side-track to cater for all vehicle types, including appropriate traffic management
- Demolition and disposal of the existing bridge
- Construction of a new concrete bridge structure
- Reconstruction of the road to meet the new deck height for 90m either side of the bridge, and
- The installation of road safety barriers to current MASH standards.

The quotation received from Ozwide Bridge Rail and Civil Pty Ltd was \$1,201,351 excluding GST and is approximately \$210,000 less than the declined Tender reported to Council in February. This amount provides Council with approximately \$180,000 for project management and contingencies for unforeseen issues and latent conditions.

Council will be providing the use of a T44 rated single lane temporary bridge for use on the side track and will also undertake pulverising of the existing road pavement with our road stabilising unit.

Unfortunately, due to Ozwide Bridge Rail and Civil's current works program building other bridges within the Fixing Country Bridges program, it is unlikely that Willox Bridge will commence construction this financial year. TfNSW are aware of this and the date for delivery of this program has been extended to June 2024.

CONCLUSION

Due to the successful variation to the Fixing Country Bridges Program Funding Deed with TfNSW and obtaining a quote that provides Council with the best outcome both from a financial and delivery perspective, Council will be preparing an Instrument of Agreement with Ozwide Bridge Rail and Civil Pty Ltd for \$1,201,351 excluding GST to Design and Construct Willox Bridge.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**20.1 RESPONSE TO QUESTION: CR ROBERT HAYES - CASINO'S FUTURE WATER SECURITY**

Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Robert Hayes:

Question

Can a report come back to Council detailing the effect that the Northern Cooperative Meat Company (NMC) (now known as Casino Food Co-Op) has on the long-term water security of the town water supply in Casino?

Can the report:

- Outline the contractual arrangements that are in place between Council and the NMC and how ratepayers are financially impacted by this agreement;
- Include a desktop study as to the result, if the NMC was not drawing water from Casino's water supply; and
- Discuss any other options that are available to the NMC for its future water supply.

Response**1. Contractual arrangements and financial impacts**

In July 2012 Richmond Valley Council executed an agreement to supply water at a discounted rate to the Northern Cooperative Meat Company (NMC), now the Casino Food Co-op. The terms of the agreement are commercial in confidence, but it essentially commits Council to supply discounted water, as long as the Co-op agrees to purchase a minimum amount each year and does not to develop its own water supply.

The financial impact of this arrangement is different for every ratepayer. As Council's water fund needs to break even, and set aside reserve funds for future capital works, each year's water charges are calculated on this basis. If one ratepayer has a set price lower than the rest, the charge to the other ratepayers would need to be higher to cover the difference.

The Casino Food Co-op currently pays \$1.06 for each kilolitre of water it uses. Other manufacturing businesses pay \$2.88 per kl and residential customers pay between \$2.88 and \$4.38 per kl, depending on how much water they use.

2. Outcomes if the NMC was not drawing water from Casino's supply

The 2022 Casino Water Supply Scoping Study has confirmed that the Richmond River is currently the only viable water source available to Casino, and therefore the only viable source for the Co-op. If the Co-op ceased to draw water from the town supply, it would still need to extract some 900 ML from the river each year to support its operations, so water security for the township would not improve.

In terms of financial impacts, the costs to produce water are largely fixed costs, therefore do not decrease with reduced consumption. Council would still need to provide a pumping station to draw water from the river, a water treatment plant, reservoirs and water mains – and ultimately pay to replace this infrastructure – regardless of whether the Co-op was connected to the system. The Co-op currently pays a Water Access Charge (in addition its consumption charges) to contribute to the long-term cost of replacing this infrastructure.

Water treatment and chemical costs for the Casino Water Treatment plant last financial year were \$509,004. If these costs were halved (the Co-op currently consumes some 47% of total water supplied) Council would see a reduction in costs of just over \$250,000. If the Co-op stopped purchasing its water through Council, based on last year, RVC would lose approximately \$730,000 in income. Subtracting the production savings of \$250,000, Council would have a negative impact on Water Fund of approximately \$480,000 per annum. There would also be additional loss of the Access Charges currently paid by the Co-op if it was wholly independent of Council's water supply network. These charges amount to \$25,800 per year.

3. Future water supply options for NCMC

If the Co-op wished to operate independently of Council's water supply, it would need to secure an alternative water source and build its own water treatment plant, storage and reticulation system for the site. This option would come at considerable cost and require licensing and approvals to extract water from the Richmond River and build and operate a water treatment plant.

To have a wholly independent water supply:

- The Co-op would need to obtain a Water Access Licence to extract water from the Richmond River (assuming it could first acquire sufficient water allocation under the Water Sharing Plan).
- It would then need to obtain approval to construct inlet works to pump the water out of the river. The Co-op would be regulated by the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) to ensure it was complying with its Water Access Licence.
- Having obtained a licence, the Co-op would then have to obtain approval to construct and operate a water treatment plant. This would be addressed under the Water Industries Competition Act, which is administered by IPART. The estimated cost of construction works is \$15-20m.
- Having constructed and commissioned the treatment plant, the Co-op would then need to develop and implement a Drinking Water Quality Management System (which is regulated by NSW Health) and employ suitably qualified technicians to operate the plant in accordance with these requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

That the response to the question regarding Casino's future water security, raised by Cr Robert Hayes be received and noted.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**RECOMMENDATION**

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

22.1 Proposed Purchase of Industrial Land Development

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (c) 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL