

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 15 November 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 18 OCTOBER 2022**

Author: Vaughan Macdonald

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 October 2022.

REPORT

Refer attached Minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Minutes Ordinary Meeting 18 October 2022 (under separate cover)**

6.2 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES 19 OCTOBER 2022

Author: Ryan Gaiter

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Minutes of the Internal Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Internal Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 19 October 2022 (under separate cover)**

7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(Councillors to specify details of item and nature of interest)

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 13 OCTOBER - 7 NOVEMBER 2022****Author: Robert Mustow****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 13 October – 7 November 2022.

REPORT**October**

- 14th Meeting with Archbishop of Canterbury, Lismore
- 14th White Cane Day walk
- 15th Casino Show
- 16th Southview Orchard Peach festival
- 16th Casino Car Show
- 18th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 19th Rous County Council Ordinary meeting
- 20th Richmond Valley Staff gathering
- 21st Meeting with constituent
- 21st Coraki Pod Village Opening
- 23rd SES Flood update briefing
- 24th CSIRO Consultation Woodburn
- 24th CSIRO Consultation Casino
- 25th CSIRO Consultation Coraki
- 26th Casino Lions Club 70th Anniversary dinner
- 27th Resilient Homes Program Briefing
- 27th Casino West Primary School Art Show
- 28th Mid-Richmond Historical Society meeting

November

- 1st Meeting with National Emergency Management Authority
- 1st Melbourne Cup function Casino RSM
- 2nd Richmond Valley Council, Councillor Information Session
- 5th Coraki Art Prize

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT NOVEMBER 2022 - ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL****Author: Robert Mustow****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report – Rous County Council, for November 2022.

REPORT

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

Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sandra Humphrys have provided the following summary of the main items of business for the Rous County Council Ordinary Meeting held on 19 October 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rous County Ordinary Meeting held on 19 October 2022**

Rous Council Meeting 19 October 2022

Summary of main items of business



1. Chair's Minute

Council extended its deepest sympathies to His Majesty King Charles III, The Royal Family, and all those across the world mourning the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

2. Council meeting schedule 2023

Council determined its meeting schedule for 2023 with meetings to be held on the third Wednesday commencing 10.00am at the Rous County Council Administration Office on:

- 15 February
- 19 April
- 21 June
- 16 August
- 18 October
- 13 December

3. Review of organisation structure

Section 333 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council review its organisation structure within 12 months of any ordinary election. Council endorsed the structure as presented.

4. Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 30 September 2022

Council noted the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2022 and authorised the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

5. Declassification of Business Activity from Financial Statements

Council has three business activities being Water, Land Development and Commercial Properties. The current process of reporting on the existing business activities is manual by nature, time consuming to prepare, confusing to the users of the financial statements, and when assessed overall adds no benefit. Each of the activities proposed to be declassified are reported to Council through the formal Quarterly Budget Review process.

Council agreed to declassifying the business activities of Land development and Commercial properties effective from 1 July 2022. Following declassification, only Water activities will be reported in the Special Purpose Financial Statements.

6. Retail water customer account assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$13,594.48.

7. Annual Financial Reports and Audit Report year ending 30 June 2022

Public notice for the presentation of the draft 2021/22 Financial Reports was approved for issue effective 21 October 2022 inviting both inspection and submissions. The financial statements can be viewed on our website.

Council expressed its appreciation to staff for their effort in achieving an unqualified report.

8. Deferral of developer contributions: *The Buttery Limited*

The Buttery Limited made application to Council for a water service connection to supply the existing residential rehabilitation centre located at 346 Lismore Road, Bangalow.

The assessed developer contributions payable are \$76,454.56 (2022/23) (8.26 equivalent tenements) based on the *Water Directorate Equivalent Tenement Guidelines* for 27 short term accommodation bedrooms and 421m² of office space.

Council approved deferral of the developer contributions.

9. Adoption of Rous Regional Demand Management Plan (RDMP) 2023-2026

The RDMP was considered at Council's August 2022 meeting and placed on public exhibition for the period 22 August to 12 September 2022, resulting in 33 submissions being received.

Having considered the public submissions, Council adopted the '*Rous Regional Demand Management Plan (2023-2026)*' and '*Regional Demand Management Plan Review and Update - Background Information and Recommended Plan Components*' without alteration.

10. Establishing an engagement space at Molesworth Street premises

The *Rous Cultural Environmental and Information Centre* (RCEIC) that was established in the Lismore Visitor Information Centre in 2021 was designed to provide a focal point for Rous engagement across all service delivery areas including with First Nations peoples.

The loss of the centre through the devastating floods of February and March 2022 has impacted on the planned rollout of community education/engagement activities and there is now work to be undertaken to reconsider or reframe these engagement strategies.

Council approved the use of the shopfront area on Level 2 of the Molesworth Street building (previously sublet to NRMA) for recreating some of the engagement opportunities that the RCEIC provided. It will be an easily accessible and welcoming space that is suitable for stakeholder engagement including access by the broader community to information and resources.

11. Information reports

i). Investments – September 2022

- At the RBA's 7 September 2022 meeting, it was decided to increase the cash rate by 50 basis points to 2.35%.
- As at 30 September 2022 the Cheque Account had a balance of \$605,710 and other funds invested in by Council had a balance \$38,668,722. The total portfolio balance as at 30 September 2022 was \$39,274,432.
- The weighted average return on funds invested was 1.99%. This represents an increase of 51 basis point compared to the July 2022 result (1.48%) and is 110 basis points below Council's benchmark (the average 90-day BBSW rate of 3.09%)
- Total interest revenue of \$60,401.54.
- Interest earned compared to the original budget is \$131,097 above the pro-rata budget.
- Current holdings in Ethical Financial Institutions equals \$11,998,904 or 31.03% of the total portfolio.

ii). Demand Management status report and scorecard 2021/22

The report provides a summary of progress against actions and key performance indicators for the concluding year (2021/2022) of the Regional Demand Management Plan (RDMP) 2019-2022. It covers significant achievements, challenges and learnings over this four-year term, and outcomes that informed the new Regional Demand Management Plan 2023-2026.

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

12.2 DELEGATES' REPORT NOVEMBER 2022 - LG NSW CONFERENCE

Author: Patrick Deegan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report – LG NSW Conference, for November 2022.

REPORT

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

Cr Patrick Deegan represented Richmond Valley Council at the 2022 Local Government Annual Conference held from Sunday 23 October to Tuesday 25 October 2022 at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley.

Advising it was a positive experience with councils from across NSW, working together to jointly advocate to Government. It was reported that currently 100% of councils in NSW are members of Local Government NSW, with approximately 900 delegates in attendance.

A variety of workshops were held on a range of topics including creating welcoming, vibrant safe and inclusive communities; creating smart places; biosecurity risks and resilient local government.

Professor Mary O'Kane and Mick Fuller gave a presentation on the NSW Flood Inquiry that generated a lot of discussion on the way forward for Local Government and planning. There was a lot of discussion on building on flood plains and the need to move away from this practice.

On the final day of the conference there was a presentation on the Future of Local Government followed by a question and answer with the Minister for Local Government Wendy Tuckerman, Shadow Minister for Local Government Greg Warren, Minister for Roads Sam Faraway, Shadow Minister for Roads John Graham and Shooters and Fishers MLC Robert Borsak.

There were over 150 motions presented to the conference and the majority were supported.

One of the main themes of the conference was emergency response, disaster management and flood plain management. This linked to a discussion around the Emergency Services Levy and the impact on Councils, particularly regional councils.

There were calls for a review of the Federal Government's Financial Assistance Grants with a view to increase the level of funding to Councils and a review of how the funds are distributed. This would take financial pressure off Councils and ultimately rate payers.

Rous County Council submitted well received motions in relation to flood mitigation.

Other themes of the conference included housing and homelessness; infrastructure, roads and transport; the environment; and waste.

Lake Macquarie Council provided support to the Richmond Valley following the floods of February and March. At their invitation there was an opportunity to meet with their Mayor Kay Fraser, General Manager Morven Cameron, Councillors, and staff. This provided a great opportunity to hear about their Council and to thank them for the support they provided our community.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

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

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

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

That items identified be determined without debate.

14 GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE****Author: Vaughan Macdonald****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has been working hard to support the Richmond Valley's recovery from the catastrophic flood events of February-March this year and has successfully advocated for community funding and assistance. The recent announcement of the \$800m Resilient Homes Program, jointly funded by the Federal and NSW Governments, was a welcome relief for many local families who have been unable to progress their rebuilding and recovery plans. Council will continue to support the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation in delivering this program.

In the eight months since the flood there has been significant progress in establishing temporary housing sites for more than 300 local residents, securing \$2m in government-funded rating relief and successfully applying for disaster assistance to support community recovery and infrastructure repairs.

However, there is still much to be done to restore and reconnect local communities and revitalise the regional economy. The Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan will help to guide further progress over the next three years and Council will continue to advocate strongly for additional community assistance.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the significant progress in flood recovery works and successful advocacy for the community;
2. Continues to work with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation to support the roll-out of the Resilient Homes Program and the urgent implementation of the Resilient Lands program to deliver local flood-safe housing;
3. Continues to advocate to Resilience NSW for additional temporary housing options for the Northern Rivers to support flood affected residents.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Recover - Objective 4: Restore essential infrastructure

4C Restore and maintain community facilities and assets

4C1 Restore damaged assets, including sporting facilities, parks, recreation areas, cemeteries, footpaths and cycleways

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

So far Council has received more than \$20 million in grants, insurance payments and disaster recovery funding. Funding requests in excess of \$100m are pending.

REPORT

Council has made significant progress in supporting the Richmond Valley's recovery from the catastrophic flood events of February-March this year, with the \$800m Resilient Homes program, announced last month, achieving another milestone for the community.

Over the past eight months, Council has been advocating strongly for temporary housing facilities, house-raising and buy-back schemes and additional funds to repair damaged roads, infrastructure and community facilities.

These efforts are being rewarded with significant funding commitments for the Richmond Valley community. Highlights of the recovery process so far include:

- Temporary housing facilities at Coraki and Evans Head, providing homes for up to 310 people.
- Successful implementation of the Caravan at Home pilot program in the Mid-Richmond with 153 vans provided.
- \$2m in government-funded rating relief for Richmond Valley residents
- \$7.7m in emergency roadworks completed, with 24 construction crews currently working on repairs.
- \$5m in insurance payments, with restoration of key community buildings and sporting facilities well underway. This includes substantial progress on repairs to the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium.
- \$7.4m in government funding secured to support recovery and flood repairs for community facilities throughout the Richmond Valley.
- 80,000 tonnes of flood waste removed from the Richmond Valley.

Resilient Homes Program

The \$800m Resilient Homes Program, announced last month as a joint initiative between the Federal and NSW Governments, will provide direct assistance to local flood affected families with options for housing buy-back, house raising and retrofitting of resilient materials.

Council resolved in May to write to the NSW Government to advocate for a voluntary house raising scheme for the Northern Rivers and it is pleasing to see that RVC's advocacy has been successful. The scheme provides a way forward for home-owners to either relocate or confidently progress with their renovation programs. The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) will be administering the scheme and is currently conducting community consultation, with sessions scheduled for Coraki on 29 November and Woodburn and Broadwater on 6 December. The scheme offers the following support:

- Buy-back option at pre-flood value for eligible home-owners
- Up to \$100,000 for raising liveable areas of a home
- Up to \$50,000 for retrofit and repair works to incorporate flood resilient materials in liveable areas.

The NRRC will be responsible for deciding eligibility, based on a risk assessment framework, with higher risk properties being offered the buy-back option. Residents in affected properties must register for the Flood Property Assessment Program, which will be used to determine the level of support and options available for each property.

Temporary Housing options

Within four days of the March flood event Council had contacted Resilience NSW with a list of suitable sites and servicing strategies for temporary housing facilities in the Mid-Richmond. With some 450 homes rendered uninhabitable by the flood, this pro-active approach was essential to keep people safe and begin the recovery process for our community. Council has continued to work closely with the NSW Government to support the establishment of these sites, culminating in the opening of Stage One of the Coraki pod village in October, with the remaining stage due to open this month. The site will provide 56 pods, housing up to 240 people. Work is also nearing completion on the Evans Head caravan facility, providing 34 vans for up to 70 people, with the first residents expected to move in this month.

Council also led the way and secured NSW Government support for the trial of the Caravan at Home program for the Mid-Richmond, with 153 vans now delivered to local homes, mainly in Woodburn. This program has allowed families to return to their properties and reconnect with neighbours, schools and other support networks, while continuing to work on restoring their homes. The trial proved so successful that the program has now been extended to other Northern Rivers communities. Council continues to work with the NSW Government to identify further options for temporary housing for our community. While the sites established so far are providing much-

needed relief, further assistance is required. It should also be noted that the ongoing lack of temporary housing solutions for the Lismore community is exacerbating housing stress on neighbouring LGAs.

Long-term housing options

Options for longer-term housing solutions are also being considered through the NRRC Resilient Lands program. Council responded to the Corporation's call for expressions of interest, nominating suitable flood-safe lands that could be activated for future housing within the Richmond Valley. These sites are included in the Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy, which is the subject of a further report to Council this month. The Growth Management Strategy, and supporting Casino Place Plan, set a path for sustainable population growth within the Richmond Valley over the next 20 years, providing a range of housing choices for the community. The study also identifies suitable lands for commercial and industrial expansion in Casino and the Mid-Richmond communities. This will prepare the way for the more detailed Regional Jobs Precinct Masterplan to be released early next year.

Restoring roads, bridges and drainage networks

Council has also made significant progress on restoring essential infrastructure which suffered major flood damage in the March-September events. Some 75% of Council's 1175 km road network has been affected. Additionally, all four of Council's sewage treatment plants experienced significant flood impacts and most of the Mid-Richmond sewerage network has required major repair. Council's first priority has been to complete emergency works – restoring water and sewerage services to homes and providing sufficient road repairs to allow people to access their properties. Thousands of pothole repairs have also been completed to help improve road conditions while we wait for saturated road pavements to dry out, allowing more permanent repairs. Council's early estimate of road damage was \$100m, but as further investigation continues, it is expected that this figure will be exceeded. There are currently 24 construction crews undertaking road and drainage restoration works throughout the network, while staff prepare further disaster assistance claims for major road repairs. This includes seeking support to resolve the landslips at Bentley and Naughtons Gap.

Pursuing Government funding

Council also continues to pursue all avenues for flood assistance grants and programs and has so far secured more than \$7.4million to support community recovery. This has included funding to restore community sports facilities and assist community groups, repair essential infrastructure, support community recovery events and restore critical habitat affected by the flood. Council has a further \$4m in flood assistance grant applications pending, as well as a commitment of funding under the recently announced pothole repair program. Funding requests in excess of \$100m for infrastructure repairs are also pending with the Reconstruction Corporation. It is expected that further funding opportunities may become available following the latest disaster declaration from the September flooding event.

CONSULTATION

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation is currently undertaking community consultation on the Resilient Homes Program options and Council is supporting the consultation program.

CONCLUSION

The Richmond Valley community has made significant progress in flood recovery over the past eight months, with substantial funding support received and two temporary housing sites established. Council has been advocating strongly for further assistance and continues to progress with the extensive repair program for its roads, drainage and sewerage networks. The recovery process is expected to take at least three years.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

14.2 WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY UPDATE

Author: Vaughan Macdonald

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has been progressing its search for better waste management solutions over the past five years, with regular updates on progress being provided. A number of key milestones have now been reached to help clarify timeframes, options and costs.

These milestones include:

- A final decision on IPART's proposed changes to waste regulation;
- A better understanding of what may be available to the Richmond Valley in terms of technologies and proponents for alternative waste treatment, through the recent EOI process;
- Significant movement towards establishing an Energy from Waste facility in Parkes, one of the other nominated precincts in the NSW Government's Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan.

IPART's recent decision to step away from active regulation of waste charges provides some welcome "breathing space" for NSW councils in planning their future waste management strategies. Council's policy position on waste management has always been an "all options are on the table" approach and the IPART decision allows more time to investigate and negotiate the best possible solution for the community because the risk of a 'waste peg' has been removed for the foreseeable future.

Richmond Valley is also in a stronger position than other North Coast councils, as there is capacity at the Nammoona landfill site, and the option to continue to transport residual waste to Queensland remains available, at least in the short term. Although this may not be the most cost-effective or environmentally desirable solution, it allows Council to maintain the level of service the community expects while it searches for better alternatives.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes that IPART has decided to NOT use its powers to 'peg' Councils' waste management charges following its review of waste regulation;
2. Notes Council's responses to the Draft Thermal Energy Regulation consultation processes, both individually and with Parkes and Lithgow Councils;
3. Pauses its active investigation into an Energy from Waste facility for the Richmond Valley while the Parkes Special Activation Precinct EfW proposal proceeds and monitors progress, community reactions and outcomes;
4. Continues to consider other options in the Alternative Waste Treatment Solutions Expression of Interest responses and keep North Coast Councils updated on any progress and opportunities for collaboration.
5. Consults the community on the Draft Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct Master Plan when it is finalised in 2023 and as part of that process provides the opportunity for the community to express opinions on Energy from Waste facilities as a solution to Council's residual waste management challenges.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

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

11D Deliver quality services for the community

11D1 Deliver efficient & affordable waste management services

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council's Waste and Resource Recovery operations are continuing in line with Council's adopted budget for 2022/23.

Clr Hayes asked the following question at the August meeting of Council:

When Council receives and evaluates expressions of interest for regional waste solutions, can information be included in a future business paper based around the financial impacts that any solution would have on the ratepayers and industries, who will utilise any changes to the way that we will dispose of our waste into the future.

Council is not in a position to provide a financial analysis of all the options, as it was an Expression of Interest process which didn't require detailed financial responses for each of the proposals put forward. As Council progresses any discussions on waste management solutions an assessment of the financial, environmental and social impacts will be considered against our current Waste and Resource Recovery annual program revenues and expenses, and advice will be provided to Council.

REPORT**DISCUSSION****Regulation of Waste Management Charges – IPART review**

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, IPART has powers to regulate the price that councils charge for their domestic waste collection services each year. The "waste peg" has never been applied to date, but over the past two years, IPART has been considering whether it should use these powers to control what it saw as "escalating costs" for domestic waste management. The local government sector strongly opposed this move and RVC wrote a comprehensive submission (Attachment 1) explaining how most of the "escalating costs" were beyond councils' control – and largely due to increases in the NSW Waste Levy. Councils argued that if a waste peg was imposed they would have to cut services.

After two years of deliberation, IPART announced last month that it would not apply the waste peg – nor would it consider doing so in the foreseeable future. Instead, it recommended that the Office of Local Government provide updated guidance and carry out targeted investigation of councils whose DWM charges seemed unjustifiably high. While this is a positive outcome for local government, it highlights that the NSW Government will continue to monitor our waste charges which have increased significantly in recent years due to the escalating cost of managing the community's waste. This means we must continue to search for more cost-effective measures that are sustainable over the longer term.

Further details on this review can be found at [Domestic waste management annual charges | IPART \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/domestic-waste-management-annual-charges)

Alternate Waste Treatment Solutions – Expression of Interest Final Summary

In mid-2022, Richmond Valley Council (on behalf of nine Councils on the North Coast) sought Expressions of Interest (EoI) from the waste management industry to provide long term alternative waste treatment infrastructure. The EoI sought solutions for processing residual waste, recyclates and organics (food and garden). Sixteen submissions were received, which clearly demonstrates there is interest from the market in developing infrastructure on the North Coast.

Submissions covered all waste streams and included a diverse range of technologies - some well-established and internationally commercialised, and others that are newer to the market. Technologies included:

- thermal treatment of residual waste
 - moving grate
 - fluidised bed
 - gasification
 - pyrolysis
 - autoclaving
- processing organic waste
 - in vessel composting
 - anaerobic digestion
- separation of co-mingled recyclates
 - material recovery facilities

Proponents included:

- publicly listed international waste management businesses
- Australian recycling leaders
- Domestic developers with international technology licences
- technology providers
- global and domestic infrastructure investors

Proposed volumes ranged from:

- in the range of 10,000 – 50,000 tonnes per year for recyclate and organics streams
- in the order of 50,000 tonnes per year for novel modular thermal processes for residual waste, with the capacity to scale up
- above 50,000 tonnes per year for commercialised thermal processes for residual waste

The range of solutions proposed, the quality of the proponents and the potential capacities demonstrates that the Northern Rivers has a robust suite of options available. The EOI has shown that there is interest in establishing material recovery facilities and organics treatment options in the region and these possibilities will be pursued. While it is unlikely, based on current performance that our community will ever achieve “zero waste”, it can reduce the amount of residual waste it ultimately generates by increasing resource recovery rates. This is in line with the key directions set by Council’s Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, adopted in 2020.

The EOI process has also shown that, with the volume of residual waste expected to be generated by the North Coast (approx. 100,000 tonnes), the region is more likely to attract Energy from Waste proposals that are based around newer technologies, rather than the more proven processes that are designed for volumes in excess of 300,000 tonnes. This may create some challenges in progressing a proposal to approval. New technology needs to be proven for a period of at least two years to satisfy the EPA as the regulator, so it is unlikely that a small-scale facility would be able to satisfy the new policy requirements established for NSW in 2021.

Impacts of the Energy from Waste Regulation

While Council has been investigating thermal treatment options including Energy from Waste facilities for over four years, the decision to limit these facilities to four areas - flagged in the EfW Infrastructure Plan, and later consolidated through Regulation – has shifted the course of the investigations.

Council had been working on the assumption - based on the NSW Sustainable Materials Strategy – that EfW facilities would form part of the government's new vision for a circular economy and would be largely permissible in most areas, if they met the regulatory requirements.

The NSW EfW Infrastructure Plan 2021, which was designed to encourage investment in regional NSW, was the first document that specified EfW facilities could only be established in four LGAs in NSW (with some minor exemptions where a facility provided power for facilities within the same allotment). The Plan was written by the EPA, which included commentary that inferred that these facilities should not be built in metropolitan areas, despite the fact there are hundreds of them built in densely populated areas across the world.

This was a departure from the NSW Government's circular economy policy position and ultimately served to stigmatise EfW facilities, rather than encourage an informed exploration of the options. From this point on, the four identified areas Goulburn, Lithgow, Parkes & Richmond Valley have had to deal with the consequences of this prohibition approach, which has been embedded in the Thermal Energy from Waste Regulation early in 2022. Council made a submission to this draft regulation (Attachment 2) pointing out these challenges, however our concerns were largely ignored and the Regulation has now been made.

Council has been liaising with Parkes and Lithgow Councils, given our common interests, to advocate for more support from the NSW Government to assist with consultation and education of the community and to identify opportunities that could be achieved for communities that host an EfW facility. A detailed submission was prepared and signed by the Mayors of the three Councils back in March 2022 and is attached for information. In summary it outlines the challenges these LGAs face in handling concerns within communities and sought:

1. A State-initiated education/communication campaign on EfW
2. Community Impact/Economic Innovation Fund
3. Voluntary Planning Agreement Framework.

There have been discussions with Regional NSW, however, to date there has been no commitment to a specific Energy from Waste support.

Progress on the Parkes proposal

A procurement process is underway in Parkes for the establishment of an EfW facility in its Special Activation Precinct, with this process being led by the NSW Government's Regional Development Corporation. The process should provide a clear indication as to whether regional communities and State regulators are ready to embrace EfW technologies as part of the future of waste management. Given the progress already made with the Parkes proposal, it may be prudent to adopt a watching brief on this issue before actively pursuing any further interest in a local proposal. With a State election next March, it may also be prudent to pause investigations on this issue in case there is a change of Government, which would enable Council to confirm the position of the elected Government post-March 2023.

Should Council choose to wait for the Parkes outcome to be resolved, work could still continue on progressing investigation into solutions for recycling and composting. More detailed costings could also be prepared on all future options for residual waste including the option for Petersons Quarry in Coraki being used as a regional landfill facility once its quarry material resource is fully utilised. This work would help to inform the scheduled review of Council's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, which will be completed in early 2023. Consultation on the revised strategy is scheduled for March-April 2023.

CONSULTATION

Future consultation on the community's willingness to accept an Energy from Waste facility will be included as part of the consultation process for the Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct Master Plan.

CONCLUSION

Council's journey towards finding a better waste management solution has been progressing, with many new developments along the way. The latest milestones provide an opportunity to pause and reflect on future strategic direction. It is recommended that Council resolve a position that it will not progress any active investigations until such time as the Parkes EfW assessment process has further progressed. This approach will enable Council to monitor the process and learn from it before making any decisions to actively pursue an EfW facility in the Richmond Valley as a solution to our waste management challenges.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Submission to IPART Waste Review October 2020 (under separate cover)**
2. **RVC EfW Regulation consultation response (under separate cover)**
3. **EfW Regulation - Joint submission PSC, LCC, RVC (under separate cover)**

14.3 REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Director: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Jenna Hazelwood

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council has been working to strengthen the organisation's risk management systems and has recently reviewed its Risk Management Framework, as required, after the local government election. In response to the challenges experienced over the past 12 months, the revised framework strengthens its focus on community resilience and disaster preparedness and revised risk appetite statements have been developed in consultation with Councillors and staff. The revised framework is now presented for Council's endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised Richmond Valley Council Risk Management Framework.

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

Improving risk management systems

Richmond Valley Council has been working to strengthen its risk management systems and to better integrate them with IP&R and other business processes.

There are four main drivers behind the current improvement program:

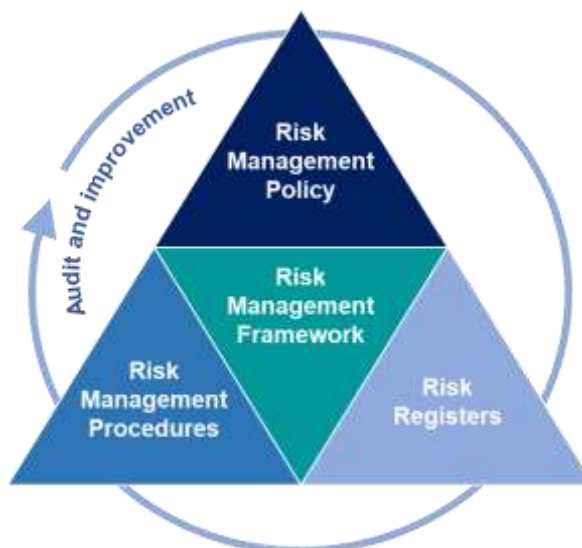
1. The increasing frequency of natural disasters and other major events, such as the pandemic
2. The opportunities and challenges of a growing program of capital works and civic improvement projects.
3. Changes to the *Local Government Act 1993* (commencing this year) which will ultimately prescribe a new risk management and internal audit framework for councils.
4. Changes to Council's insurance arrangements, and stronger due diligence requirements from its insurer, Civic Risk Mutual.

Council operates in a complex risk environment and has a two-part responsibility for risk management under the *Local Government Act 1993*:

- To proactively and effectively manage risks within the organisation (s.8C and 428A)
- To manage risks to the community, through effective long-term planning and stewardship over community resources and assets (s.8A and 8C).

In May 2021, the previous Council adopted RVC's first corporate Risk Management Framework. This framework forms the centrepiece of the risk management system, as shown below.

Following the 2021 local government election, Council is required to revise the Risk Management Framework, including key focus areas and risk appetite statements.



Key focus areas for risk management

The original Risk Management Framework identified 10 key focus areas for risk management and discussed Council's risk appetite for each of these areas. The Focus Areas provide the means of testing whether organisational risks are being addressed, and Council's risk management processes and future internal audit programs will be built around them. The areas are high level and each one covers a broad range of operations.

Since the framework was adopted, Council has experienced several major floods and the continued impacts of the global pandemic. This has provided an opportunity to test the framework and whether the original focus areas reflect the current operating environment. After consultation with Councillors and the Executive leadership team, some changes are proposed to the key focus areas for the revised framework. This includes consolidating the 10 areas into seven and adding an additional focus area to highlight the significant risk of natural disasters and global issues to Council's ongoing operations.

CONCLUSION

Council's Risk Management Framework has been revised, following the 2021 Local Government election, with the key risk management areas being streamlined and new risk appetite statements developed in consultation with Councillors. The revised Framework is presented for Council's endorsement.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Revised Risk Management Framework 2022 (under separate cover)**

15 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

15.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Hayley Martin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted the audited financial statements for 2021/2022 at its Ordinary Meeting held 18 October 2022. At that Meeting, Council also resolved to present the audited financial statements and auditor's reports to the public at its November Ordinary Meeting. The presentation of these reports to the public is in accordance with section 419 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the final step in complying with the legislative requirements regarding annual financial reporting.

Council's external auditor, the Audit Office of New South Wales has advised that its representative firm, Thomas, Noble and Russell (TNR) will provide a presentation on the auditor's reports in relation to the 2021/2022 financial statements at this meeting. The Auditor has expressed an 'unmodified opinion' on the financial statements. This means that it was of the opinion that the financial reports present fairly the financial position of Council as at 30 June 2022 and its financial performance and cash flows were presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other legislative requirements.

As reported to the October Ordinary Meeting, 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. Council also 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. Further details are provided in the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Sections 418 and 419 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council presents the financial statements of Richmond Valley Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 to the public.

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

Section 418 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to fix a date for a meeting where the financial statements are to be presented to the public and Section 419 (1) requires Council to present the financial reports and auditor's reports to the meeting on the date fixed. Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 October 2022 that the financial statements would be presented at the meeting to be held on 15 November 2022.

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)

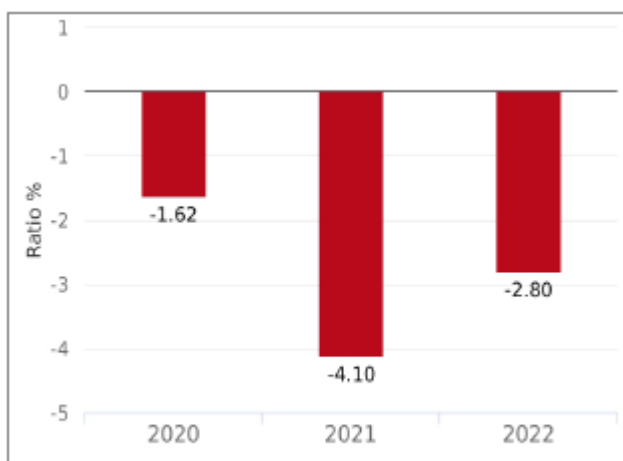
Statement of Financial Position	Actual 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
Total Current Assets	89,643	72,437
Total Non-Current Assets	842,277	804,879
Total Assets	931,920	877,316
Total Current Liabilities	26,170	20,594
Total Non-Current Liabilities	24,598	23,230
Total Liabilities	50,768	43,824
Net Assets	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

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

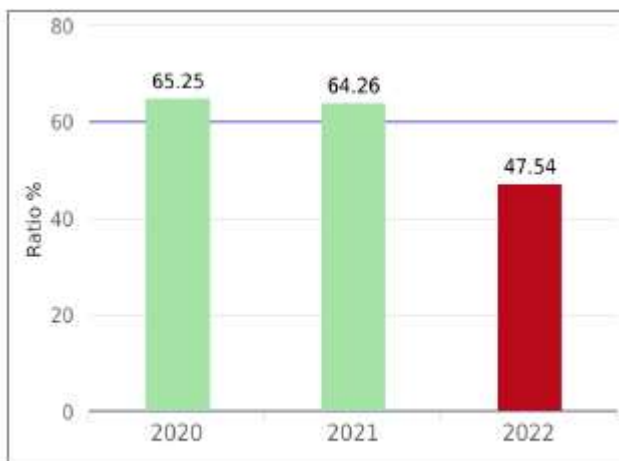
Council's key performance measures remain strong, with the majority of these being above the industry benchmark. These are summarised below:

Operating performance ratio



Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Own source operating revenue ratio

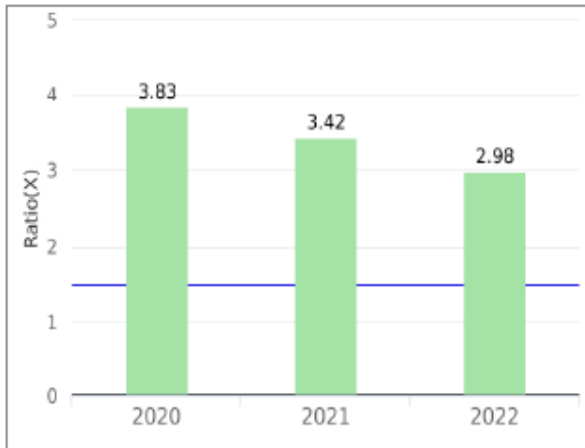


Benchmark: — > 60.00%

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.

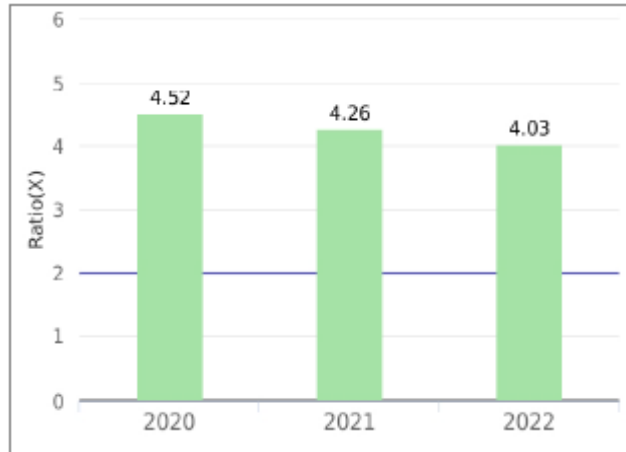
Council's own source operating revenue ratio has decreased to 47.54%, compared to 64.26% in 2020/2021. This is largely as a result of Council receiving insurance and natural disaster funding as a result of the major flood event in February 2022. Council's special rate variation has contributed to having 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

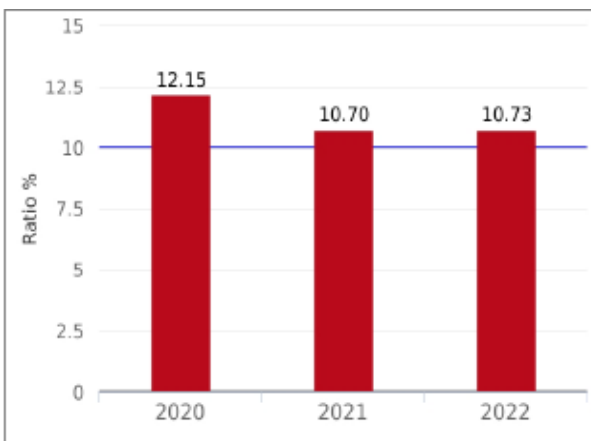


Benchmark: — > 2.00x

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.

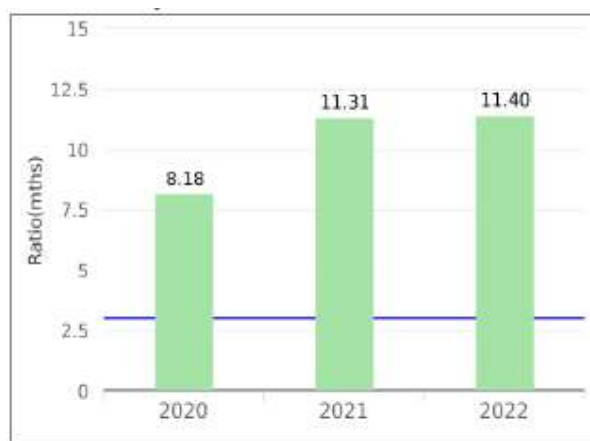
The debt service cover ratio has decreased slightly to 4.03, from 4.26 in 2020/2021. This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 2.00x.

Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



Benchmark: — < 10.00%

Cash expense cover ratio

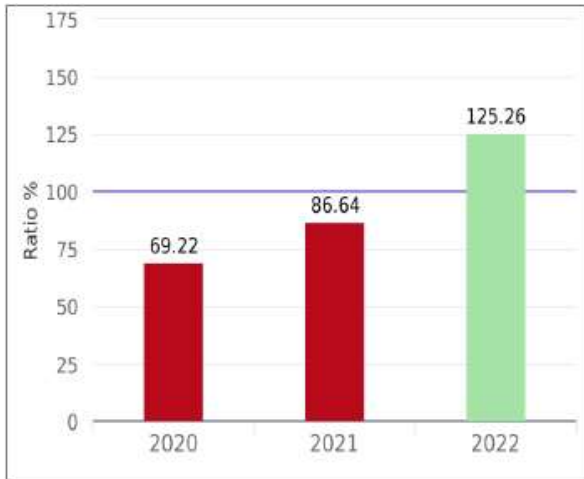


Benchmark: — > 3.00mths

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%.

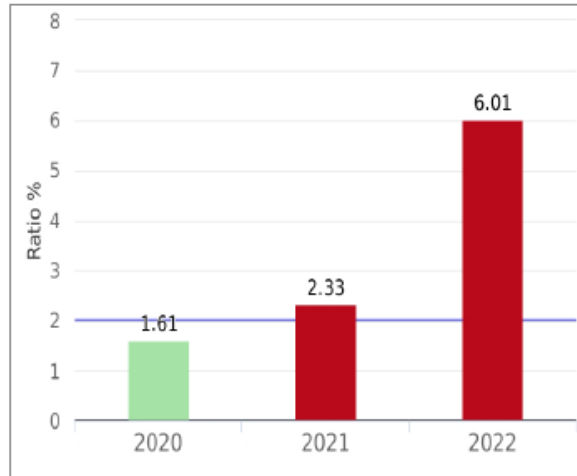
The cash expense cover ratio has remained relatively consistent to the previous year at 11.40 months, from 11.31 months in 2020/2021. This ratio indicates the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow and is well above the benchmark of > 3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

Building and infrastructure renewals



Benchmark: — $\geq 100.00\%$

Infrastructure backlog ratio

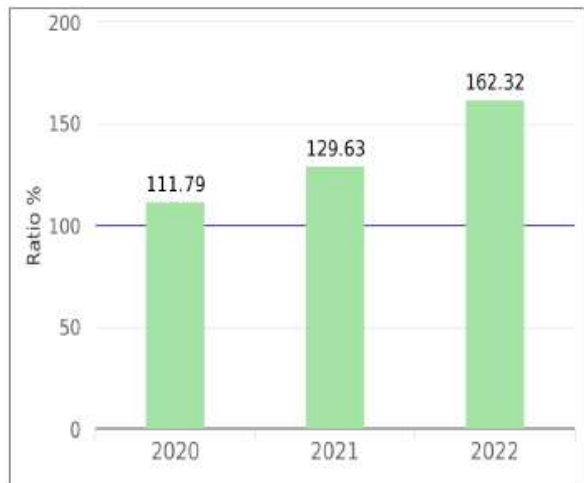


Benchmark: — $< 2.00\%$

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

Copies of the financial statements have been made available for viewing and download by the public from the date public notice was given until the day after the meeting where the financial statements were presented.

CONCLUSION

The presentation of Council's financial statements to the public is the last step in complying with the legislative requirements regarding annual financial reporting. Council has also advertised the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022, advising that they will be presented to the public at this Ordinary Meeting and inviting submissions. Section 420 of the *Local Government Act 1993* invites submissions from the public on the financial statements and Section 420 (3) requires Council to refer any submissions it may receive to the Auditor. Submissions close at 4:00pm Tuesday 22 November 2022. If any submissions are received, these will be reported to the December 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15.2 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Zakari Witt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the proposed adjustments for the 2022/2023 budget for the quarter ended 30 September 2022 along with proposed carry over works from the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

The proposed changes see Council's projected operating surplus from continuing operations for 2022/2023 increase to \$25,041,838, from the original budget surplus of \$21,347,206. The operating result before capital grants and contributions has shown an increase to a surplus of \$471,467.

Income from continuing operations has increased by \$8,032,053, to a projected total of \$99,203,262. This is largely due to natural disaster grant funding being approved for recovery and reconstruction efforts due to the flood events of February 2022. Expenses from continuing operations have increased by \$4,337,422 to a projected cost of \$74,161,425.

Council has performed a thorough review of its capital works program, resulting in an increase of \$2,951,958 to a projected total of \$53,563,748. This is largely due to projects being carried over to the 2022/2023 year from the 2021/2022 year, having been delayed by wet weather and contractor availability brought about by the flood event of February 2022. The notable increases include carry overs in the areas of Building and Maintaining Roads and Waste Management which are largely natural disaster flood projects or projects that have been delayed because of the impact of the February 2022 flood. The delivery of Council's capital works program has been strongly impacted by supply constraints and contractor availability. It is expected that these impacts will be felt throughout the 2023/2024 financial year as the community recovers. Council will thus ensure its capital works program is closely monitored, with any adjustments required to be included in future quarterly budget reviews or monthly budget adjustment reports to Council.

Council's unrestricted cash surplus has increased by \$29,475 to \$287,260 as at 30 September 2022. This is a result of the NSW Government providing a one-off payment to help offset the increase of the Local Government Emergency Services Levy contributions in 2022/2023 due to ongoing hardship events such as the February 2022 flood and the COVID-19 pandemic. This has resulted in a net saving of \$29,475 and ensures that there was no net increase in the Emergency Services Levy over the past three years.

A detailed Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the first quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year has been circulated separately to each Councillor. These changes are disclosed by priority areas on pages 2-8 of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement and detailed explanations are provided on pages 9-20.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2022; and
2. Approves the recommended budget variations.

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 detailed in the report.

REPORT

The budget review for the first quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year has seen Council's operating result from continuing operations improve to a projected surplus of \$25,041,838. This is an increase of \$3,694,632 from the original budget surplus of \$21,347,206. Council's projected operating result before capital gains and contributions is a surplus of \$471,467.

Council's estimated budget result (unrestricted cash result) has increased slightly from the original budget of \$257,785 to \$287,260 as at September 2022. This is due to the NSW Government providing a one-off payment to help offset the increase of the Local Government Emergency Services levy contributions for 2022/2023 brought about by ongoing hardship events for the local government area such as the flood in February 2022. The impact on Council's cash result is expected to be a saving of \$29,475.

In overall cash terms, there is a decrease in the estimated funding from reserves of \$713,199 with an estimated total transfer from reserves of \$9,496,340 for the 2022/2023 financial year. This is mainly due to significant scrutiny of carry over works and Council's capital works program.

Income from continuing operations has increased by \$8,032,053, with total income now projected to be \$99,203,262. Largely contributing to this increase is a \$3,000,000 interim payment from Council's flood policy with CivicRisk Mutual Ltd, a claim being received of \$2,753,321.02 from the Public Works Advisory board for the waste clean-up efforts after the February 2022 flood event and 50% of a \$2,004,428 grant being received for Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program of Works which will allow works to be performed at Casino Memorial Pool, Evans Head Aquatic Centre, Coraki Public Pool, Woodburn Public Pool and Colley Park. Offsetting these increases was the removal of \$2,500,000 of grant funding for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail project as work is expected to continue into the 2023/2024 year. All recommended changes for Council resolution of \$8,032,053 are disclosed by Priority Area on page 4 of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement and detailed explanations are provided on pages 9-20.

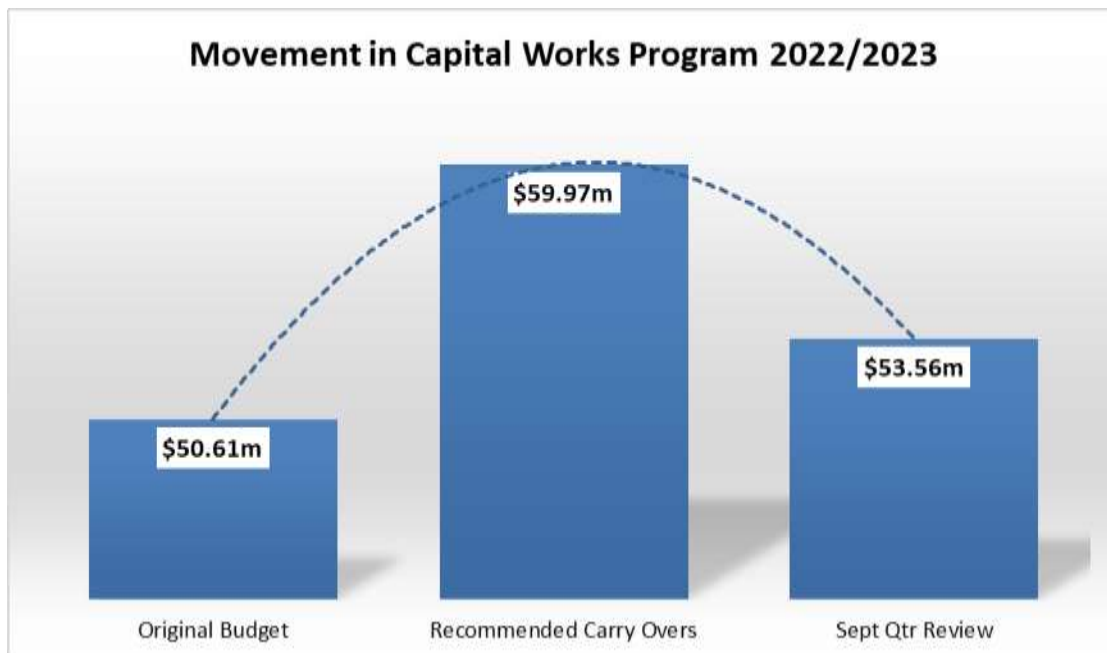
Expenses from continuing operations have increased by \$4,337,422 to a projected total of \$74,161,425. This is largely attributed to work undertaken of \$2.75 million for the waste clean-up efforts after the February 2022 floods and \$271,304 carried over from 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 for work funded by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority for the Bushfire Green Waste clean-up and processing program. In addition, the remaining \$365,137 from the \$5 million received from Transport for NSW in relation to the February 2022 flood event has been allocated to emergency restoration works from the unexpended grant reserve. All recommended changes for Council resolution of \$4,337,422 are disclosed by Priority Area on page 5 of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement and detailed explanations are provided on pages 9-20.

Council's capital works budget has increased from the original budget by \$2,951,958 at 30 September 2022. The projected capital works program now totals \$53,563,748, with increases being predominantly the results of projects carrying over from the 2021/2022 financial year. A comprehensive review of the 2022/2023 capital works program has been performed, considering recommended carry overs which totalled \$9,361,887 and resulted in the removal or deferral of \$6,409,929 in other capital works. As recovery works from the February 2022 flood event are an increasingly larger focus for the Northern Rivers, carry overs and adjustments have been done with the information currently available and it is likely that there will be further adjustments to the capital works program as the reality of contractor and material availability becomes apparent. Council is expecting this to be an ongoing issue for the remainder of 2022/2023 and is monitoring the Capital

Works Program closely. All recommended changes to the Capital Works Program are disclosed by Priority Area on page 6 of Council’s Quarterly Budget Review Statement and detailed explanations are provided on pages 9-20.

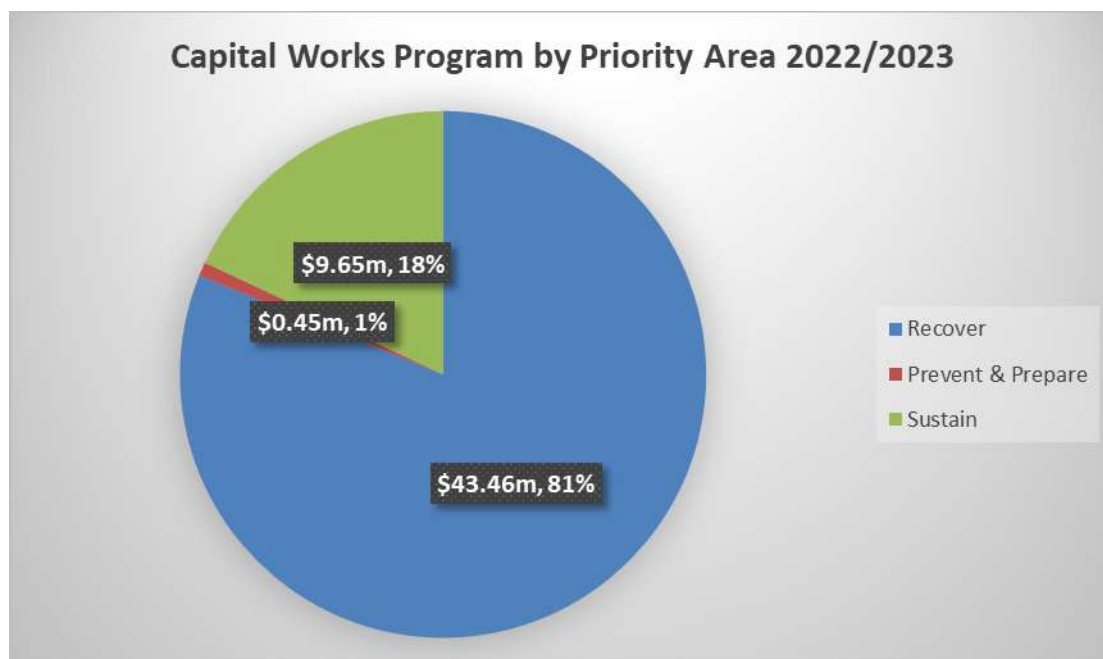
As mentioned above the carry overs from 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 have been incorporated into the September Budget Review. Carry over works represent those projects that were not fully completed in the financial year ended 30 June 2022. Proposed carry over works total \$9,967,639 which includes \$605,752 in operational projects and \$9,361,887 in capital projects. The carry overs of \$9,967,639 from 2021/2022 will bring the 2022/2023 capital works budget to \$53,563,748 offset by the changes made as part of the September Quarterly Review. Carry over works comprise projects with unexpended grant funding totalling \$3,029,387, unexpended special rates variations of \$633,741, projects funded from other internal and external reserves of \$4,923,328 and projects funded from general revenues or grants yet to be received of \$775,431. Council is obligated to restrict unspent grant funds and carry over to enable the completion of these projects as per the funding agreements.

The following graph tracks the movement in the capital works program for 2022/2023. Council started the year with an adopted budget of \$50.61 million, once the carry over works were added the capital works budget totalled \$59.97 million, staff then completed a review of the capital works budget and removed \$6.41 million that will not be completed this financial year, this leaves a capital works program of \$53.56 million as at September 2022.



Council’s capital works program will need to be closely monitored and further reviewed throughout the remainder of the year to ensure all projects are able to be delivered.

The following graph provides a summary of the capital works program by Priority Area:



Council's projected budget position and recommended changes for Council resolution are summarised in the table below:

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2022	Original Budget 2022/2023	Recommended Changes for Council Resolution	Projected Year End Result 2022/2023
Income from Continuing Operations	91,171,209	8,032,053	99,203,262
Expenses from Continuing Operations	69,824,003	4,337,422	74,161,425
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	21,347,206	3,694,632	25,041,838
Operating Result before Capital Income	(1,848,888)	2,320,355	471,467
Add: Non-Cash Expenses	18,233,330	0	18,233,330
Add: Non-Operating Funds Employed	4,496,899	0	4,496,899
Less: Capital Expenditure	50,611,790	2,951,958	53,563,748
Less: Loan Repayments	3,417,398	0	3,417,398
Estimated Funding Result – Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,951,754)	742,674	(9,209,080)
Restricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	(10,209,539)	713,199	(9,496,340)
Unrestricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	257,785	29,475	287,260

Pages 9 to 20 of the attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement contain the detailed budget variation explanations. A summary of the main contributing factors within each Priority Area is as follows:

Recover

- Decrease in capital grants of \$2.5 million of grant funding for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail which will continue into 2023/2024.
- \$3,602,656 in Building and Maintaining Roads capital expenditure is being carried forward to 2022/2023 with \$1,636,218 being carried forward because of delays due to weather and contractor availability.
- \$806,343 carry over for the Casino Swimming Pool and a further increase in capital expenditure of \$802,625 all grant funded for work on both the Casino & Coraki Swimming Pools.

Prevent & Prepare

- Council has been successful in being approved by Local Government NSW for funding of \$299,992 for a 10-year program of which \$109,422 has been paid to restore and enhance flying fox conservation.
- \$113,500 carry over in income and expenditure for the restoration of burnt riparian areas grant funded project.

Sustain

- \$3,000,000 in capital expenditure has been reallocated back to the real estate reserve as a proposed purchase of residential land is now not expected to occur in 2022/2023.
- Council has been successful in receiving an interim payment due to damage caused because of the February 2022 flood of \$3,000,000 from their flood policy with CivicRisk Mutual Ltd.
- \$530,103 was carried forward to 2022/2023 due to supply chain delays for new vehicles that have been ordered but not yet received.
- \$890,000 was carried forward to 2022/2023 due to supply chain delays meaning delivery for Garbage Trucks occurred in July 2022.
- Council was successful in receiving funding of \$2,753,322 from a claim made to Public Works Advisory Board for work undertaken in the clean-up of the February 2022 flood.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the first quarter, Council's operating result from continuing operations is a projected surplus of \$25,041,838, with a projected surplus before capital grants and contributions of \$471,467. Council's capital works budget has increased to \$53,536,748 and this will be closely monitored to ensure all projects can be delivered. Council's estimated budget result (unrestricted cash result) has increased slightly to a projected \$287,260 and overall, Council's projected financial position at year end remains satisfactory.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2022 (under separate cover)**

15.3 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - OCTOBER 2022**Director:** Ryan Gaiter**Responsible Officer:** Rylee Vidler**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the status and performance of its cash and investment portfolio in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* s.625, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.212, Australian Accounting Standard (AASB 9) and Council's Investment Policy.

The value of Council's cash and investments at 31 October 2022 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$14,338,485	\$36,000,000	\$4,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$14,677,874	\$71,766,749

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 31 October 2022 was 8.88% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for October of 0.24%, 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 October 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 31 October 2022, Council has earned \$307,495 in interest and \$348,780 in fair value gains for total interest and investment income of \$656,275. This equates to 72.37% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$906,782. Council currently receives a net return of 2.75% on its Macquarie CMA Account after Council's financial advisors receive their commission of 0.05%. Commissions for the 2022/2023 financial year to 31 October 2022 total \$1,519.

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 2.60% per annum at its October meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in October 2022 was 8.88%, an increase in 1093 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 864 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.24% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of \$350,117 during the month of October.

The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a gain of \$241,977 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a gain of \$108,140.

The markets throughout October remained highly volatile with global growth concerns and risks of a US and global recession continuing. This was evident in the equity markets performance which rose strongly following the back to back falls in August and September. 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 \$71,762,314 at 31 October 2022. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$3,745,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,022,715), Term Deposits (\$36,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$4,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$14,677,874) and other bank accounts (\$570,770).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$42,750,390 represented 59.57% of the total portfolio as at 31 October 2022.

Council did not make any new investments during the month of October 2022.

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

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$6,658
ME Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$8,630
Total			\$2,000,000	\$15,288

Council had \$14,677,874 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 October 2022. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31 October 22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 31 October 22	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$11,788,210	\$241,977	\$243,864	\$783,181
Long Term Growth Fund	\$2,889,664	\$108,140	\$104,916	(\$110,336)
Total	\$14,677,874	\$350,117	\$348,780	\$672,845

The performance of the NSW Treasury Corporation investments for October is very pleasing, it does however show 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 \$71,766,749 at 31 October 2022 includes \$45,442,874 or 63.30% 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 October 2022 Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 31 October 2022 Council's cash and investments totalled \$71,766,749 with \$14,338,485 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 8.88% for the month of October 2022 and total investment revenue equals 72.37% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 October 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

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

15.4 CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Kate Allder-Conn

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 440(7) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), each Council is required within 12 months of a Council election to review and adopt its Code of Conduct.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) most recently amended the Model Code of Conduct in late 2020, along with the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Procedures). The Model Code of Conduct and Procedures are prescribed under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

This report fulfils Council's requirement as prescribed under s440 of the Act, to review and adopt a Code of Conduct.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Model Code of Conduct for NSW Councils as its Code of Conduct, incorporating the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW.

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

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

REPORT

The Model Code of Conduct and Procedures were last updated by the OLG in late 2020. At that time Council were taken through the key changes made and both the Model Code and Procedures were adopted as Council's Code of Conduct in September 2020. Since that time there have been no further updates to either document.

It is open to adopt a Code of Conduct that is different from the Model Code, however any amendments must not be inconsistent with the Model Code. Upon review of the Model Code and Procedures, it would be difficult to put forward any meaningful amendments that would be a departure from the Model Code and Procedures. Therefore, it is recommended that the Model Code and Procedures be once again adopted as the Council's Code of Conduct.

Following the local government election in December 2021, all Councillors received induction training which included a briefing on the Code of Conduct. It is intended that ongoing training will be provided to Councillors on Code of Conduct and other relevant matters as part of the Councillor professional development program.

CONSULTATION

Nil

CONCLUSION

As prescribed under s440 of the Act, Councils are required to adopt a Code of Conduct that incorporates the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct within 12 months of a Council election. Council has previously adopted the Model Code and Procedures, and it is recommended that Council continue this practice.

Code of Meeting Practice – available at this link: [CPOL 1.1 Code of Conduct.pdf](#)

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15.5 ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022**Director: Ryan Gaiter****Responsible Officer: Kate Ailder-Conn****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Annual Report is one of the key points of accountability between Council and its community. It reports on Council's financial performance and its progress in implementing the Delivery Program and achieving Community Strategic Plan outcomes.

The 2021/2022 financial year has been another dynamic year in the Richmond Valley, with the flood event of February 2022 representing a significant challenge for both Council and the community alike. The Richmond Valley embraced the opportunity for growth, in amongst the focus on recovery.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Richmond Valley Council 2021/2022 Annual Report.
2. In accordance with section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, posts the Annual Report on Council's website and provides a link to the Minister for Local Government and the Office of Local Government.

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

Council is required under section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to prepare an Annual Report. The document reports on Council's progress in implementing its Delivery Program and achieving Community Strategic Plan outcomes.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 also prescribes additional information for inclusion in the Annual Report including Council's audited financial statements and notes, and any information required by the Office of Local Government Guidelines.

The 2021/2022 has seen the Richmond Valley face significant challenges, most notably, the flood events of February/March 2022. Despite these challenges, Council has managed to maintain key community services and continues its commitment to deliver signature projects. Highlights have included:

- Advocating strongly for support for the community to recover from the floods;
- Casino Drill Hall Memorial Walk and Coronation Park upgrade;
- Reynolds Road industrial subdivision;
- Northern Rivers Rail Trail (Casino to Bentley) construction works;
- Casino Memorial Olympic Pool Upgrade – Stage 1 construction; and

- Woodburn-Coraki Road works.

A copy of the 2021/2022 Annual Report has been circulated separately to Councillors. The Report will be posted on Council's website and advice of this provided to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2022.

CONSULTATION

Notification of the report will be made via social media, Council's website and the community newsletter.

CONCLUSION

The Richmond Valley Council 2021/2022 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and associated Regulations and Guidelines and is presented to Council to receive and note.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

16 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

16.1 RICHMOND VALLEY GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND CASINO PLACE PLAN

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Tony McAteer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past year, Council has been working in partnership with Regional NSW to prepare pathways to deliver housing and jobs in the Richmond Valley. Completion of the draft Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Casino Place Plan marks an important milestone in this process. Growth management strategies are key strategic documents used to plan for the sustainable delivery of land, infrastructure and services to meet forecast residential and employment growth. Place Plans sit below the GMS and provide a higher level of detailed analysis of constraints and opportunities to manage the expected growth.

The *Draft Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy* (GMS) and the *Casino Place Plan* are presented to Council for in-principle support so they may be exhibited for community feedback. These documents have been produced in concert with the *Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct Master Plan*, which is under preparation by Regional NSW and due for release in early 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the *Draft Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy* and *Draft Casino Place Plan*;
2. Provides in-principle support for these documents; and
3. Authorises the public exhibition of the documents in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Recover - Objective 1: Help communities to recover and reconnect

1A Work with the community to revitalise our towns and villages

1A1 Prepare Place Plans for towns and villages

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The GMS and Casino Place Plan identify additional bodies of work needed to develop a comprehensive strategic planning framework. This additional work will be costed into future budget estimates for implementation.

REPORT

The *Richmond Valley Council Local Strategic Planning Statement* (LSPS) and the *North Coast Regional Plan* (NCRP) identified the need to prepare an urban growth management strategy (GMS) for the Richmond Valley LGA to support and guide sustainable growth of residential and employment lands. The need for renewed strategic plans was also reinforced at the commencement of the Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct project (RJP) where the delivery of housing to support employment and jobs creation was seen as critical to the project's success.

Over the past year, Council has been working in partnership with Regional NSW to prepare pathways to deliver housing and jobs in the Richmond Valley. This includes development of the *Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy*, *Casino Place Plan* and the *Richmond Valley Council Regional Jobs Precinct Master Plan* to help deliver these opportunities.

GYDE consulting was engaged in 2021 by Council to prepare the GMS, and by Regional NSW to prepare the *Casino Place Plan* and *RJP Master Plan*. Delivery of the *RJP Master Plan* has been slightly delayed but the *Draft GMS* and *Draft Casino Place Plan* have been delivered and are submitted as attachments to this report for in-principle support of Council to authorise their concurrent public exhibition.



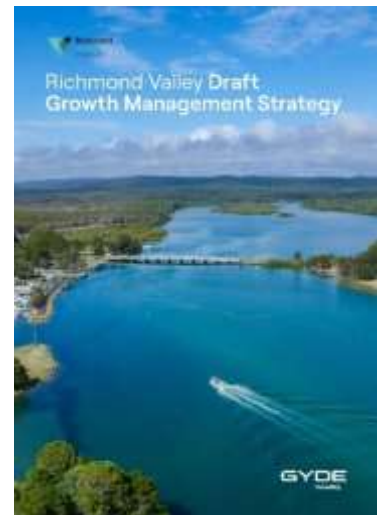
Figure 1: Simplified flow diagram showing hierarchy of strategic planning documents including GMS and Place Plans

Richmond Valley Draft Growth Management Strategy (GMS)

The purpose of a GMS is to support and guide the sustainable growth of both residential and employment land in the Richmond Valley.

The GMS:

- provides evidence regarding the current and future projected demand for and supply of employment and residential land
- establishes key principles to enable Council to plan for sustainable growth
- provides clear direction regarding the location and priorities for managing growth of employment and residential land.



Draft Casino Place Plan



This is the first of several place plans for the urban centres of the Richmond Valley.

The Casino Place Plan has been prepared to guide planning for population and employment growth, and place outcomes in Casino at a higher level of detail than has been provided in the GMS. Its preparation is in response to identified planning and urban design issues & opportunities. It aims to coordinate and put in place strategies and enablers to attract and manage employment and population growth at levels above those previously anticipated for Casino.

CONSULTATION

Details of community engagement have yet to be confirmed, however the *Draft GMS* and *Draft Casino Place Plan* will be publicly exhibited for an extended period to take into consideration the Christmas/New Year holidays. It is proposed to exhibit from early December 2022 with submissions being accepted by Council until late February 2023.

The documents will be made available to download from Council's "On Exhibition" webpage and printed copies will be available to view at each of Council's Customer Service Centres in Casino and Evans Head. GYDE Consulting has been engaged to hold several community drop-in/information sessions which will be conducted in early February 2023.

At the conclusion of the exhibition, all submissions will be reviewed by Council staff and GYDE, the GMS and Place Plan updated to reflect feedback and then the final documents will be presented to Council for adoption.

CONCLUSION

The *Draft Richmond Valley Growth Management Plan* and the *Draft Casino Place Plan* are presented to Council for in-principle support to approve commencement of community engagement from December 2022 through to late February 2023.

These plans form a significant part of the strategic planning framework by replacing many aging strategies and by providing guidance on how, when, and where to provide for sustainable residential and employment growth over the next 20 years. The plans also identify urban design issues and opportunities which will need additional coordinated planning and implementation.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**17.1 CASINO RACECOURSE AND SHOWGROUND BUSINESS PLAN AND MANAGEMENT MODEL 2022**

Responsible Officer: Ben Zeller

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Casino Racecourse and Showground is currently undergoing a \$9.6 million redevelopment through funding received under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund. As with the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, significant infrastructure upgrades provide an opportunity to assess facility management models and how business principles can be applied to ensure that future maintenance and renewal responsibilities are met.

In late 2021, Council engaged Viva Consulting, a local consulting firm with local government, business, tourism and racing industry experience to review the Casino Showground precinct and provide an options assessment for the ideal management structure to leverage the opportunities the upgrade will provide.

As a multi-use facility, there are often conflicting opinions from stakeholder groups on the best use of funding. While due consideration will be given to the needs of all user groups, an acknowledgment needs to be given to the groups and industries that will reduce the future cost imposed on Council for running and maintaining the facility.

The Casino Racecourse and Showground Business Plan and Management Model 2022 highlights several different management structures for consideration with the primary aim to ensure the facility has high volume usage, generates significant revenue and provides both social and economic benefit for the Richmond Valley.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Considers the options outlined in the Casino Racecourse and Showground Business Plan and Management Model 2022, and
2. Authorises the General Manager to explore the recommendations contained, particularly regarding future management structures and provide a future report prior to completion of the project for Council's consideration.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Sustain - Objective 8: Strengthen the regional economy

8D Attract new businesses to the Richmond Valley to support a diverse economy

8D1 Create a regulatory environment that supports investment

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The precinct upgrade is subject to the following funding sources:

- Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund \$8.2 million (State/Federal)
- Showground Stimulus Funding \$919,000 (State)
- Drought Communities Funding \$420,000 (Federal)
- Crown Land Flood Stimulus \$49,500 (State)
- Council contribution \$50,000 (RVC)

- Operationally, the Casino Showground has reported deficits over the last five years of \$235,631 (2022), \$205,152 (2021), \$211,365 (2020), \$209,361 (2019) and \$193,341 (2018).

REPORT

Viva Consulting was engaged by Richmond Valley Council in late 2021 to develop a Business Plan and Management Model options for the Casino Racecourse and Showground. This engagement followed the securing of \$9.6 million in funding to upgrade elements of the precinct. The redevelopment of the precinct will see vast improvements to existing facilities and new infrastructure that will ideally position the site as the hub for equine activities and events in Richmond Valley and for the North Coast region. The precinct is unique in that few other venues in the country offer facilities that will cater for so many disciplines.

The redevelopment has three key focus areas for future site use:

- Increased daily usage and income generation via on-site stabling and training of racehorses with the aim of becoming a significant training hub for the racehorse training industry,
- Increased scope for larger scale events across several disciplines with particular attention on high quality and undercover outdoor equestrian and entertainment events,
- Continuation of effective local use of the site by a range of community and sporting organisations as well as facilitating an increase in participation in a range of sporting, agricultural and community pursuits within the complex.

The Casino Showground and Racecourse is a public Crown Reserve approximately 62 hectares in area. Richmond Valley Council is the Trust Manager for the reserve with user groups being issued with annual and event-based licenses for use. Council's current responsibilities include venue bookings and licensing arrangements, infrastructure maintenance and improvements, risk and safety management, stakeholder engagement and management, and general upkeep and amenity.

Council has not had a dedicated full-time resource appointed to showgrounds operations, with tasks dealt with by the Assets team as part of their substantive duties. Existing stakeholders tend to co-ordinate activities amongst themselves with generally amicable cooperation.

Similarly, to other Council facilities like the Public Swimming Pool network and the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, the Showgrounds operates at a financial deficit.

Casino Showground	Actual 30-Jun-19	Actual 30-Jun-20	Actual 30-Jun-21	Actual 30-Jun-22
Income and Expenditure	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Operating Income	-	-	-	-
Race Club Electricity Share	2,674	8,135	3,630	9,463
Fees Other	877	1,044	3,292	1,904
Internal Hire Fees	0	3,909	6,771	743
Rental Income	14,584	8,584	9,655	6,966
Total Operating Income	18,135	21,672	23,349	19,076
Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
M & R - Grounds	2,169	4,035	8,075	4,421
M & R - Other	5,547	8,037	4,564	613
M & R - Other Structures	7,441	5,340	6,368	24,447
M & R - Buildings	8,866	15,988	23,138	12,385
Insurance	7,243	7,826	10,078	15,621
Electricity	10,926	23,456	10,372	27,037
Showground Rings and Yards	10,526	5,543	5,612	0
Other General Expenses	13,200	14,624	22,798	21,840

Internal (Rates/Water)	29,442	13,672	2,831	13,314
Depreciation	132,135	134,516	134,665	135,028
Total Operating Expenses	227,495	233,037	228,501	254,707
Operating Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	(209,361)	(211,365)	(205,152)	(235,631)
Operating Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	(77,225)	(76,849)	(70,487)	(100,603)

The current upgrade will see a significant uplift in onsite activity with Council needing take a lead role in the management and coordination of the facility to drive business and development growth. Increasing revenue sources and careful monitoring of expenses will be required, evidenced by the need to improve recent financial performance. Depreciation costs will increase sharply on completion of the build whereby revenue amounts will need to be increased to ease the financial burden on Council and to plan for future asset renewals. The Casino Racecourse and Showground Business Plan and Management Model 2022 proposes strategic objectives for thoroughbred training and racing, barrier trials, race meetings, stable rent, equestrian training, dressage, show jumping, riding schools, cross country, cutting events, rodeo, camp drafts, Olympic training, and community event attraction that will all potentially provide revenue streams.

Marketing of the new facility to attract new stakeholders along with management of current events and stakeholders may require a change in human resource allocation from Council. The plan proposes three potential options:

- Status Quo plus Business Development Coordinator
 - Appointment of a full time Business Development Coordinator to drive demand and business operations at the Racecourse and Showground. The role would work closely with existing stakeholders and oversee the entire facility, being a conduit to all parties and making decisions on-site in the best interests of the venue.
- Full Time Council Structure
 - Council has full time management responsibility of the entire venue including racetrack and stable management. A venue manager is appointed with Council support staff to assist with administration, event management, and maintenance obligations.
- Integration into Existing Business Unit
 - Council combines the Showground management element with an existing business unit or other similar facilities. The Showground may be considered as part of a portfolio with the Aerodrome, Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Swimming Pools and Quarry enterprises. Another option may be to combine it with the NRLX as part of a Richmond Valley Agriculture enterprise.

Further investigation and financial analysis of all the options will be required to be undertaken well in advance of the facility upgrade completion. This should occur with reference to detailed budget planning and projections of the financial implications for the completed build and what economic activity that may generate.

CONSULTATION

Viva Consulting conducted face to face and telephone meetings with most stakeholders in late 2021 and early 2022. These stakeholders included:

- Casino Racing Club
- Casino Show Society
- Casino Pony Club
- Richmond Valley Riding Club
- Casino Community Men's Shed

- Casino Rodeo and Camp draft Association
- Northern Rivers Horse Cutting Club
- Council operational staff.

CONCLUSION

The Casino Racecourse and Showground upgrade will provide a great opportunity for the Richmond Valley to attract a wide range of equine and community events. It will also create a responsibility for Council to ensure the management and resources allocated are of a standard befitting such a high-quality venue.

The Casino Showground Racecourse Business Plan and Management Model 2022 outlines the opportunities and strategic objectives for the facility and provides options on potential management models for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Andy Edwards

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 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 October 2022 to 31 October 2022 was 23, with a total value of **\$4,044,426.60**.

During this reporting period, two of the applications determined were for flood affected properties, being DA2023/0025 – 64-68 Bridge Street, Coraki and DA2023/0043 – 7-9 Richmond Terrace, Coraki.

One application withdrawn as per the applicant’s request – DA2019/0250 – 620 McDonalds Bridge Road, Stratheden.

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

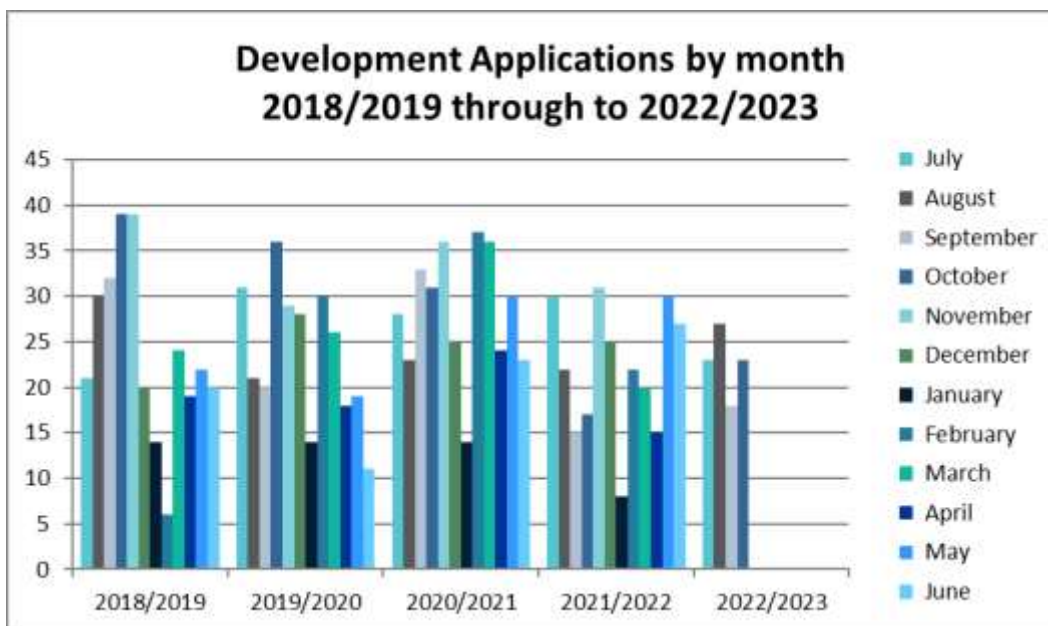


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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 October 2022.

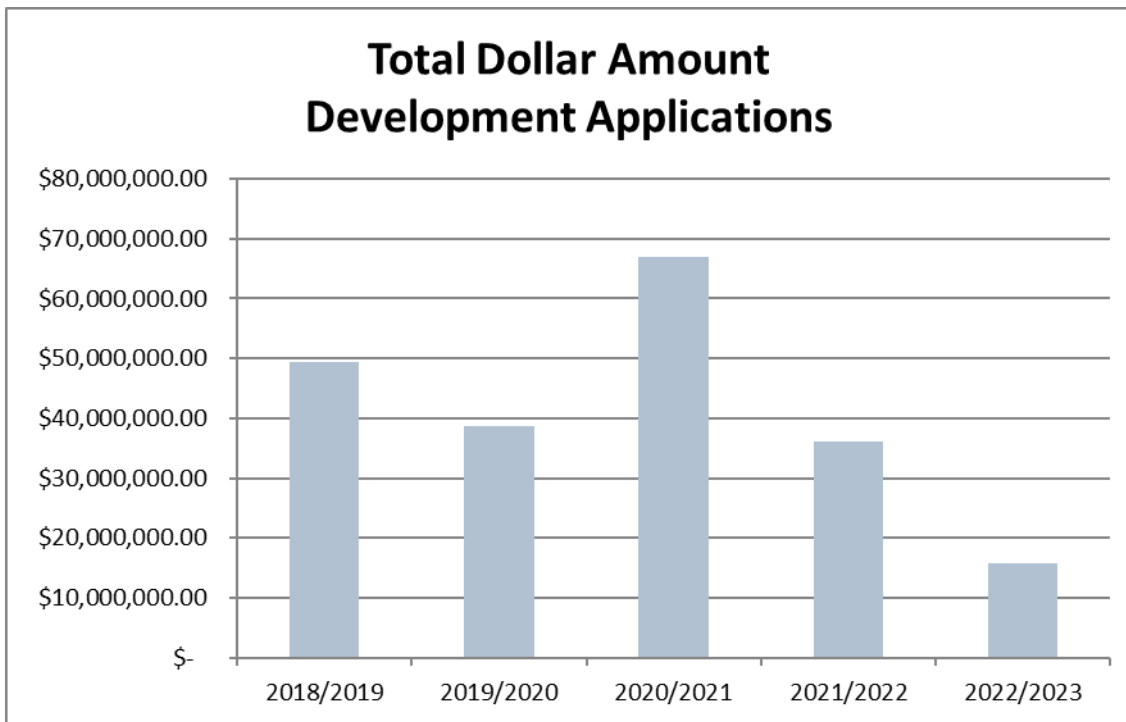


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

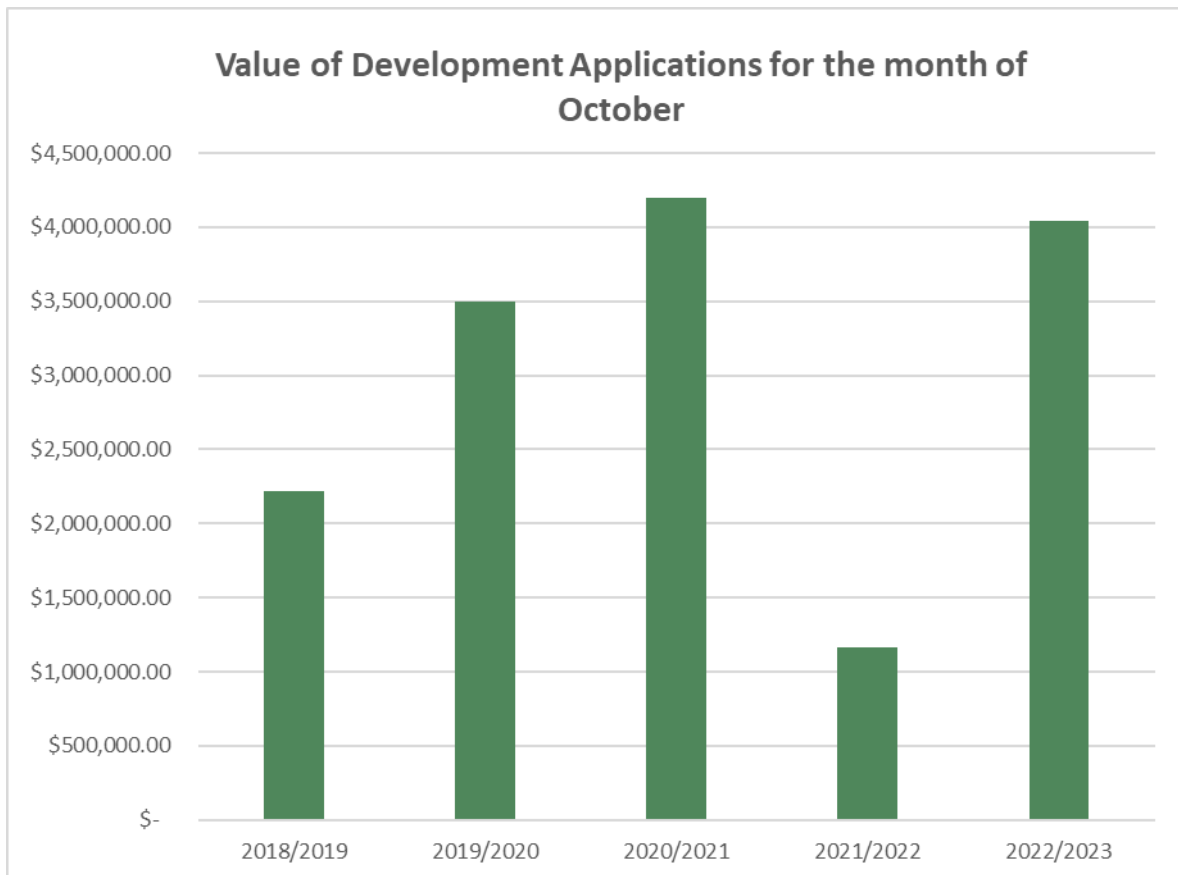


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of October 2022

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.

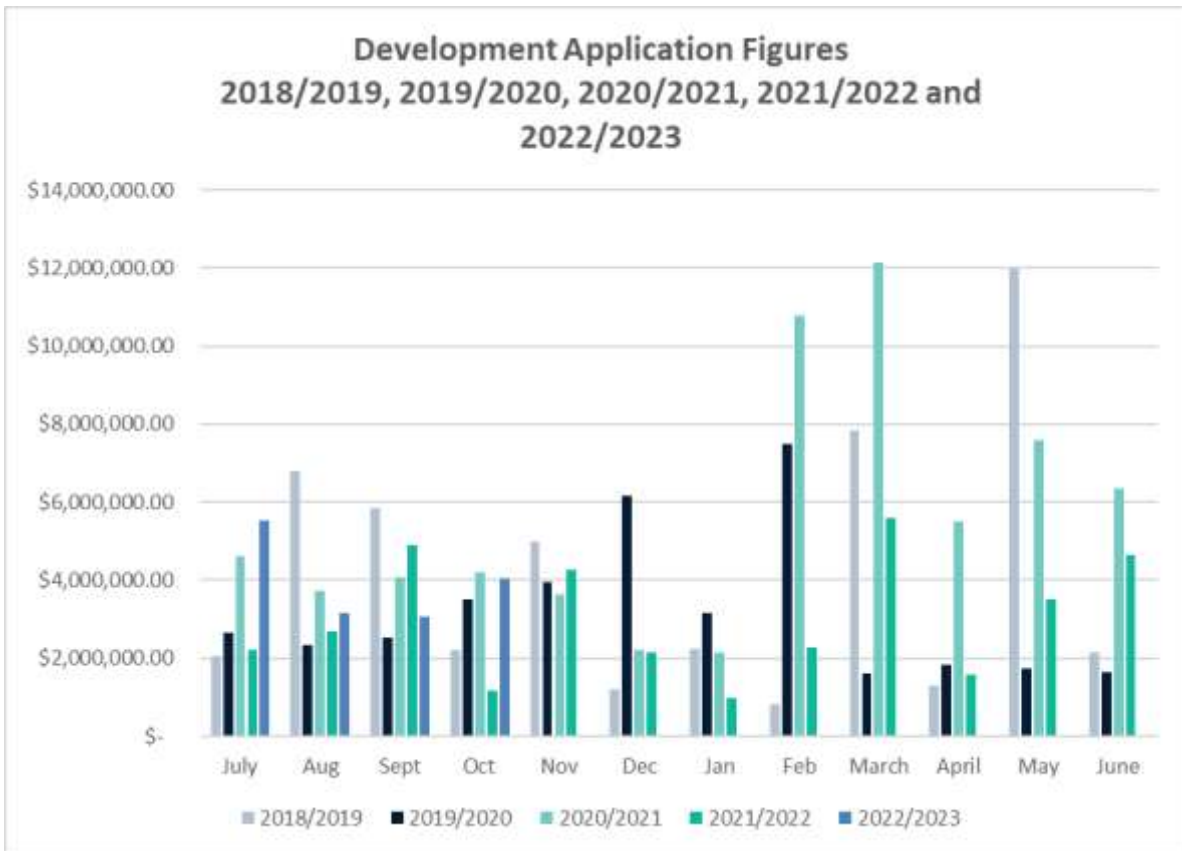


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

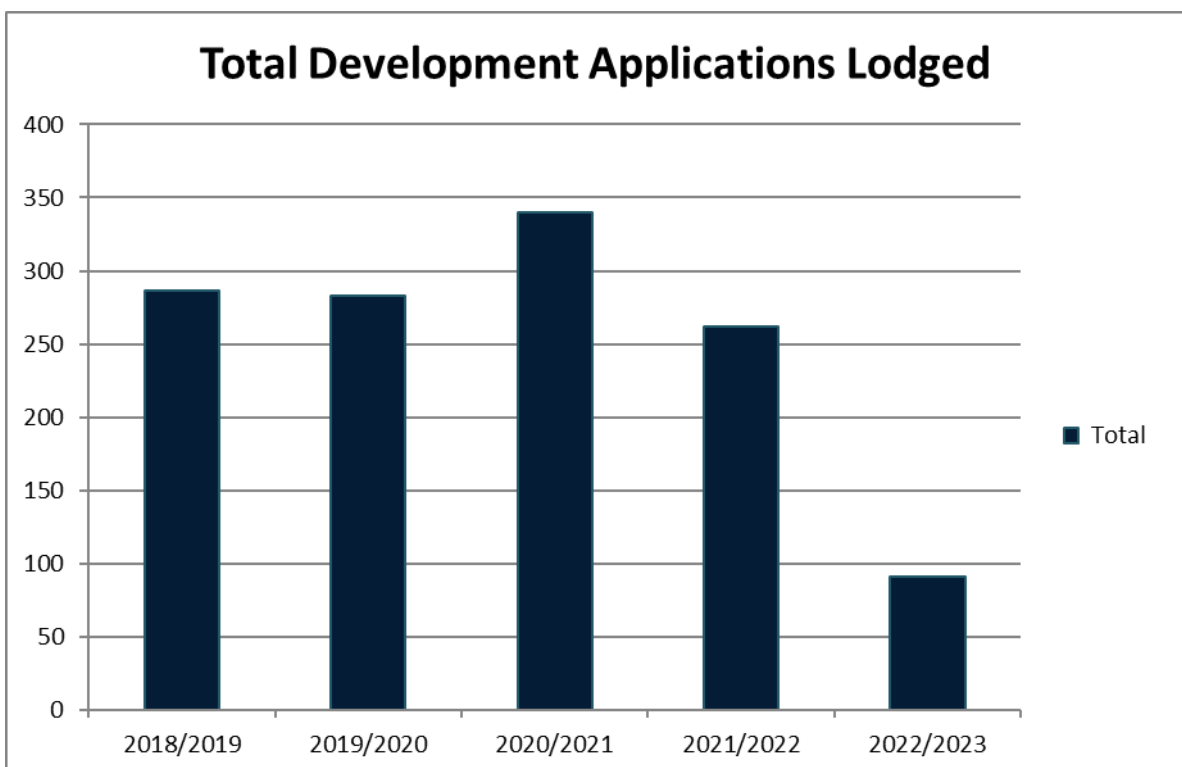


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the month of October 2022

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	20
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	1
Subdivision	1
Refused	0
Rejected	0
Withdrawn	1
Complying Development (Council Approved)	1
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINED	23
Average assessment days for applications determined in October 2022	48
No. of Integrated development applications determined in October 2022	1
No. of Designated development applications determined in October 2022	0
No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in October 2022	122

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0157	Riordans Consulting Surveyors Pty Ltd	MJ Evans	8 Duncan Street, Broadwater	TorrensTitle Subdivision to create 2 lots being proposed Lot 1 & 2, demolition of shed, vegetation removal and associated subdivision works.	15/02/2022	24/10/2022	\$15,000.00
DA2022/0226	Professional Planning Group - PPlan	SR & SF Tarrant	45 Pine Tree Road, Broadwater	Construction of a new dwelling to create a dual occupancy & associated works	24/05/2022	18/10/2022	\$366,196.00
DA2023/0005	ND Schneider	GJ & SM McGrath	53 Sextonville Road, Casino	Open shed for caravan	11/07/2022	24/10/2022	\$12,500.00
DA2023/0022	DM Salkeld	DM Salkeld & NJ Duncan	430 Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge	Farm shed - 9m x 12m	29/07/2022	17/10/2022	\$17,360.00
DA2023/0026	G Watson	SL Comish	37 Simpson Parade, Casino	Installation of an inground swimming pool and relevant fencing	2/08/2022	5/10/2022	\$10,000.00
DA2023/0029	MH Brednow	MH Brednow & CA Parish	38 Cedar Street, Evans Head	Replace existing shed with new shed in a slightly new location. Install underground water storage, and a retaining wall	4/08/2022	6/10/2022	\$60,500.00
DA2023/0035	Atlas Awnings	BA & LT Beckham	9 Small Street, Casino	New carport and patio with a variation request to the DCP for front building line setback from 6m to 1.5m	15/08/2022	10/10/2022	\$24,680.00
DA2023/0038	LC Hitchcock	BOJ Luiters & LC Hitchcock	610 Avenue Road, Ellangowan	Resited Dwelling	16/08/2022	5/10/2022	\$81,000.00
DA2023/0039	MD Hannah	MD Hannah	4 Kalinda Place, Casino	Shed extension	17/08/2022	17/10/2022	\$12,000.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0040	Crestwood Drafting Services	KA Robertson & RJAH Farrell	38 High Street, Casino	9m x6m colorbond shed	17/08/2022	11/10/2022	\$15,950.00
DA2023/0041	MR Greentree	MR & KM Greentree	646 Spring Grove Road, Spring Grove	Inground fibreglass swimming pool with associated fencing	17/08/2022	11/10/2022	\$21,700.00
DA2023/0044	Hayes Building Consultancy	MT & KPW Stokes	2 Wallum Drive, Doonbah	Change of use of an existing outbuilding to a secondary dwelling, detached laundry and bathroom and associated works	24/08/2022	12/10/2022	\$49,170.00
DA2023/0047	Senica Consultancy Group	ND & SM Anderson	16 Pitt Street, Broadwater	Erection of a double storey dwelling with an attached garage and ancillary site works	25/08/2022	24/10/2022	\$502,035.00
DA2023/0048	Senica Consultancy Group	MJ & DJ Grant	19 Paddon Street, Broadwater	Erection of a double storey dwelling with an attached garage and ancillary site works	25/08/2022	24/10/2022	\$487,415.00
DA2023/0050	Barnson Pty Ltd	Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council	4 Box Ridge Road, Coraki	Upgrading community services, facilities and amenities, including works to private roads, sewer, stormwater, and water infrastructure, power supply works, construction of village amenities including toilets, landscaping, picnic shelter and resurfacing basketball court.	1/09/2022	24/10/2022	\$1,616,672.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0051	KF Flynn	KF Flynn	Shannonbrook Road, Shannon Brook	Construction of 18m x 45m shed with attached 6m x 45m awning for horse arena, stables and machinery storage	1/09/2022	24/10/2022	\$152,500.00
DA2022/0225.01	Ballina Pool Shop	CJ & CM Robinson	46 Bottlebrush Crescent, Evans Head	S4.55 (1A) Modification - Change in pool construction from a fibreglass pool to a concrete pool, and a slight modification to pool location on site plan to comply with condition 23 of the original DA2022/0225	2/09/2022	10/10/2022	\$0.00
DA2023/0052	The Shed Company	LA Matthews	38 Llewellyns Road, Casino	6m x 8m shed extension and 7m x 12m skillion carport	2/09/2022	21/10/2022	\$33,000.00
DA2023/0053	J Baker	J Baker	67 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Coraki	Double storey dwelling with attached carport and construction of a new shed	7/09/2022	21/10/2022	\$383,900.00
DA2023/0057	The Shed Company	AW & DV Fowler	4 Riverside Lane, Csino	7m x 10m Colorbond Shed	15/09/2022	25/10/2022	\$44,000.00
Summary of Bushfire Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil							

Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0025	P M Harkin	IT Flear & PM Harkin	64-68 Bridge Street, Coraki	****FLOOD AFFECTED**** Raise house and relocate on land along with alterations and additions including carport, deck, stairs & roof	2/08/2022	7/10/2022	\$60,000.00
DA2023/0043	K Gregg	EM & DG Gregg	7-9 Richmond Terrace, Coraki	***FLOOD AFFECTED***Sliding and raising existing residential dwelling for flood mitigation purposes	22/08/2022	11/10/2022	\$49,118.60
Summary of CDC Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2023/0006	North Coast Sheds & Garages Pty Ltd	LS Radovic	13 Grevillea Place, Swan Bay	Shed	5/10/2022	25/10/2022	\$29,730.00
Summary of Development Applications Refused under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil							
Summary of Development Applications Withdrawn under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 October 2022							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2019/0250	DM King & Kingsbrae Partnership Pty Ltd	DM & RC King	620 McDonalds Bridge Road, Stratheden	***** WITHDRAWN ***** Processed 21/10/2022 - "As Built" Facility for regular servicing/repairing of plant and equipment used for purposes of a rural enterprise	25/05/2019	Nil	\$120,000.00

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.2 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT STATISTICS**Director: Ryan Gaiter****Responsible Officer: Kate Allder-Conn****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

REPORT

Councils in NSW are required to report on Code of Conduct complaint statistics, within three months of the end of September each year.

The requirements are outlined in Clause 11.1 and 11.2 of the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW, with the report being forwarded to the Office of Local Government.

Council has received no Code of Conduct complaints during this period.

A copy of the complaint statistics report for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 is attached for information.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics for period ending 31 August 2022**

Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics Richmond Valley Council			
Number of Complaints			
1	a	The total number of complaints received in the period about councillors and the General Manager (GM) under the code of conduct	0
	b	The total number of complaints finalised in the period about councillors and the GM under the code of conduct	0
Overview of Complaints and Cost			
2	a	The number of complaints finalised at the outset by alternative means by the GM or Mayor	0
	b	The number of complaints referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG) under a special complaints management arrangement	0
	c	The number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer	0
	d	The number of code of conduct complaints finalised at preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	e	The number of code of conduct complaints referred back to GM or Mayor for resolution after preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	f	The number of finalised code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer	0
	g	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be no breach	0
	h	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be a breach	0
	i	The number of complaints referred by the GM or Mayor to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police	0
	j	The number of complaints being investigated that are not yet finalised	0
	k	The total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints within the period made about councillors and the GM including staff costs	0

Preliminary Assessment Statistics	
3	The number of complaints determined by the conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage by each of the following actions:
a	To take no action (clause 6.13(a) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
b	To resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(b) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
c	To refer the matter back to the GM or the Mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(c) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
d	To refer the matter to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police (clause 6.13(d) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
e	To investigate the matter (clause 6.13(e) of the 2018 and 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
Investigation Statistics	
4	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was no breach , in which the following recommendations were made:
a	That the council revise its policies or procedures <input type="text" value="0"/>
b	That a person or persons undertake training or other education (clause 7.37 of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.40 of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
5	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the following recommendations were made:
a	That the council revise any of its policies or procedures (clause 7.36(a) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.39 of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
b	In the case of a breach by the GM, that action be taken under the GM's contract for the breach (clause 7.36(h) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.37(a) of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
c	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 (clause 7.36(i) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.37(b) of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
d	In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the matter be referred to OLG for further action (clause 7.36(j) of the 2018 Procedures or clause 7.37(c) of the 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>
6	Matter referred or resolved after commencement of an investigation (clause 7.20 of the 2018 or 2020 Procedures) <input type="text" value="0"/>

Categories of misconduct	
7 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach with respect to each of the following categories of conduct:	
a General conduct (Part 3)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
b Non-pecuniary conflict of interest (Part 5)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
c Personal benefit (Part 6)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
d Relationship between council officials (Part 7)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
e Access to information and resources (Part 8)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Outcome of determinations	
8 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council failed to adopt the conduct reviewers recommendation	<input type="text" value="0"/>
9 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council's decision was overturned following a review by OLG	<input type="text" value="0"/>

19.3 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE STATISTICS - 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**Director: Ben Zeller****Responsible Officer: Bradley Willis****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the financial year to date Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Statistics as at 30 September 2022.

REPORT

This report provides a financial year to date update on the key statistics and financial performance of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange on 30 September 2022.

KEY STATISTICS**To 30 September 2022** (LY to 30 September 2021)Throughput **22,679** Across 25 Sales (LY 25,280 22 sales)Gross sales revenue **\$30,347,437** (LY \$39,389,921)Council revenue share **\$593,061 (1.95%)** (LY \$474,141 (1.2%))Estimated Agents revenue share at 5% commission **\$1,517,371** (LY \$1,969,496)NRLX Operating Result (**-\$100,494**) (LY -\$114,300)NRLX Program deficit (**-\$53,241**) (LY -\$269,846)

The 2021/22 MLA Saleyard Survey results were released on 27 October with total cattle saleyard throughput up by 7% across the country. NRLX throughput was up 19.3% from the previous year to 123,713 head and this has moved the facility to number two for throughput in NSW just 1150 head behind the privately owned and operated Tamworth Regional Livestock Exchange. Until 2019 NRLX had historically hovered consistently at number seven in NSW for throughput. Since construction there has been a gradual progression up the rankings, 4th in 2019/20, 3rd in 2020/21 and now as number two for NSW. The results demonstrate consistency in the business operations and further vindicate Council's decision to invest in the facility for the benefit of the Richmond Valley Agriculture sector and the community. It also holds the business in good stead for the next period of improvement, particularly with regards to sale day operations management and licensing agreements with agencies.

NRLX INCOME AND EXPENDITURE to 30 September 2022

With throughput numbers remaining consistent and continued high sale prices, the NRLX has returned an operating deficit of \$100,494 (LY -\$114,300). Depreciation of \$129,581 on the facility is factored into this result which when added back shows a cash surplus result to 30 September of \$29,087 (LY \$13,727) against a pro-rata budget surplus of \$82,175.

Fees are currently 22% of budget and agent business usage fee is 25% of budget putting core income above anticipated and historical YTD percentages. Total operating income is 27.75% of the yearly budget.

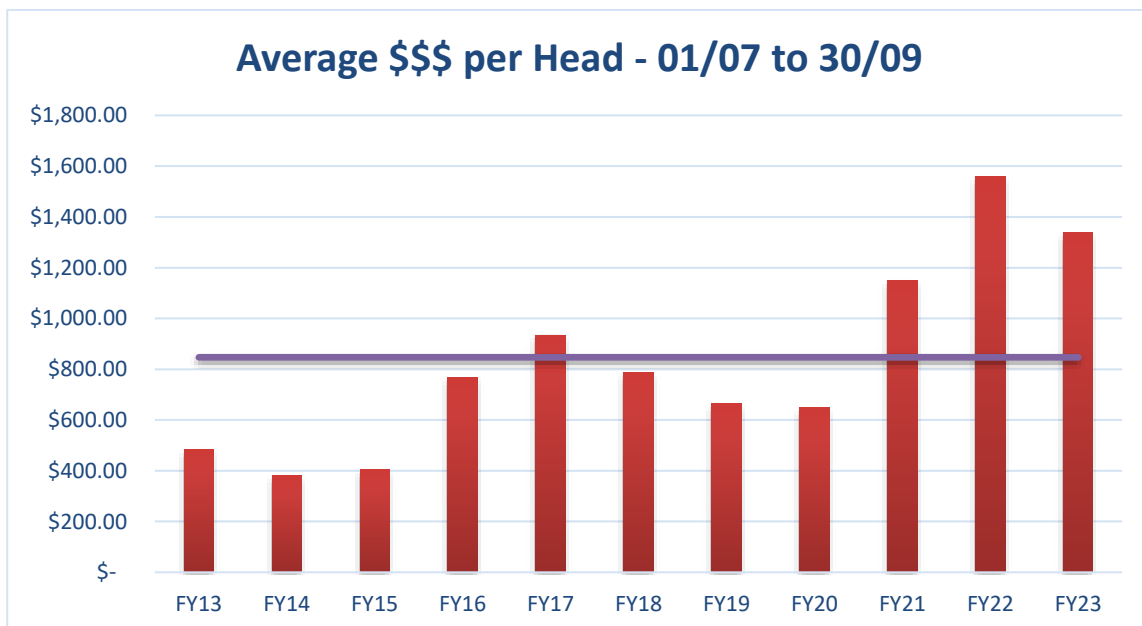
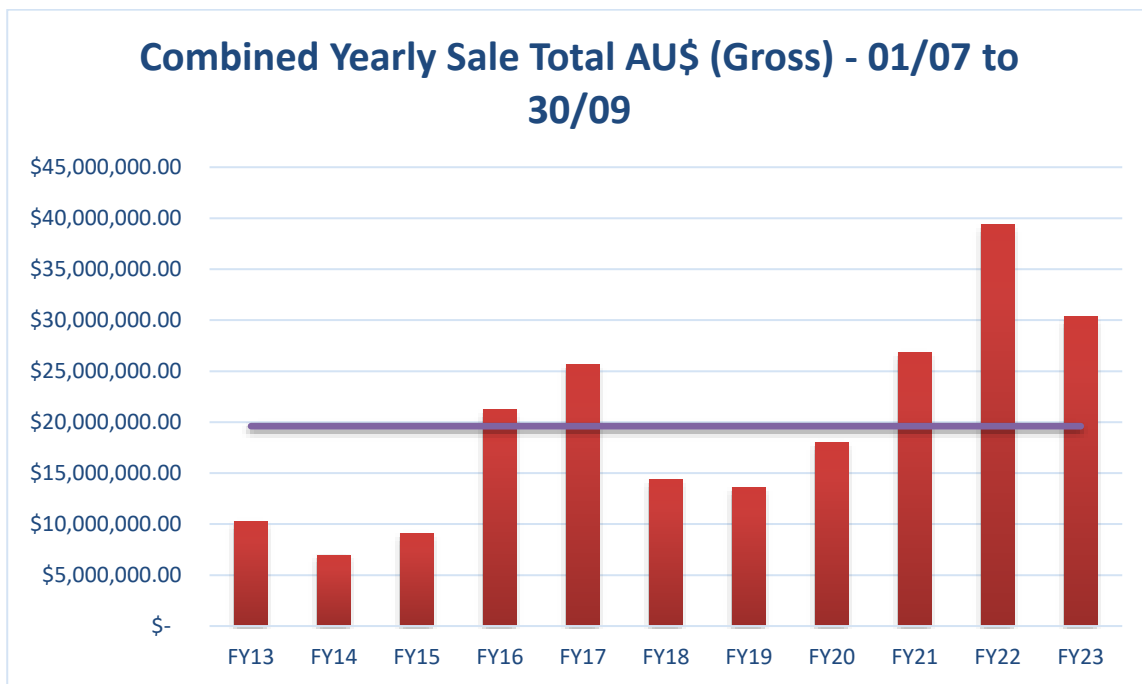
Operating expenses to 30 September of \$636,363 are over pro-rata budget sitting at 30% and up \$90,751 from last year of \$545,885. Salaries, materials and contracts and other general expenses are being monitored carefully throughout the financial year to ensure the improved financial performance can be realised. Notable expenses include \$6,300 from legal expenses in relation to a historical injury claim that is an ongoing matter.

The NRLX Program result (operational and capital) is a deficit of \$53,241 (LY -\$269,846) against a budget deficit of \$349,962.

The main factors for this performance against budget:

- Increased livestock pricing and the price-based fee structure
- Diversification of the business including rentals and increased rents
- Enforcement of transit fees and transit policy
- Additional livestock with the inclusion of sales from a neighbouring facility that was severely damaged in the floods.
- Tightly controlled expenditure.

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



NRLX Income and Expenditure (excludes committed orders)	Actual 30-Sep-22 (\$)	Budget (\$)	Percentage %	Actual 30-Sep-21 (\$)
<u>Operating Income</u>				
Fees & Rent	529,687	1,744,609	30.36%	410,414
Biosolid Project	0	160,000	0.00%	21,171
LIRS Subsidy	0	28,435	0.00%	0
Other Contributions	6,456	0	0.00%	0
Total Operating Income	536,142	1,933,044	27.74%	431,585
<u>Operating Expenses</u>				
Salaries and On costs	192,806	650,923	29.62%	155,970
Materials and Contracts	146,515	445,084	32.92%	96,931
Interest on Loans	25,317	47,524	53.27%	26,073
Depreciation	129,581	515,616	25.13%	128,027
Electricity Charges	22,183	37,044	59.88%	16,865
Telephone Charges	1,836	6,493	28.28%	1,413
Insurance Charges	24,898	20,000	124.49%	15,361
Advertising Costs	3,401	15,375	22.12%	7,236
Printing and Stationery	2,220	8,000	27.75%	0
Licence Fees	0	8,949	0.00%	0
Subscriptions	565	2,000	28.25%	0
Security Charges	2,998	5,125	58.49%	0
Staff Training	4,175	0	0.00%	0
Software Licences	14,425	62,150	23.21%	11,765
Other General Expenses	8,045	6,575	122.35%	6,002
Biosolids Project	0	0	0.00%	0
Internal Charges	57,673	289,102	19.95%	80,242
Total Operating Expenses	636,636	2,119,960	30.03%	545,885
Operating Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	(100,494)	(186,916)	53.76%	(114,300)
Operating Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	29,087	328,700	8.85%	13,727
<u>Capital Income</u>				
<u>Capital Grants & Contributions/Loan Funding</u>				
Capital Works Levy	56,919	214,318	26.56%	42,556
Total Capital Income	56,919	214,318	26.56%	42,556
<u>Capital Expenditure</u>				
Plant Purchases	9,666	0	0.00%	17,921
Shed	0	0	0.00%	0
Loan Principal Repayments	0	377,364	0.00%	180,182
Total Capital Expenditure	9,666	377,364	2.56%	198,103
Total Program Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	(53,241)	(349,962)	15.21%	(269,846)
Program Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	76,340	165,654	46.08%	(141,819)

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.4 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2022

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Rylee Vidler

RECOMMENDATION

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

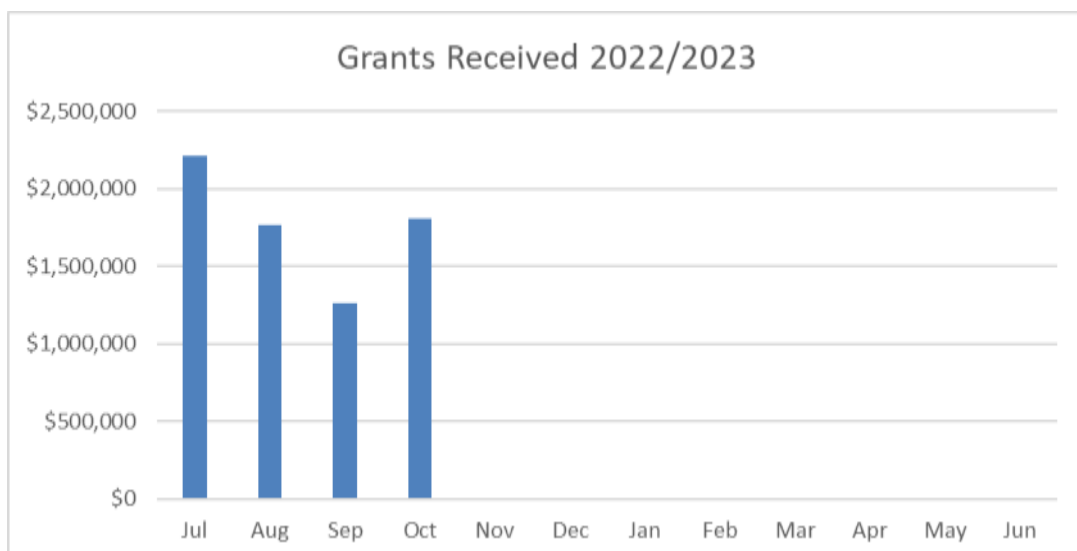
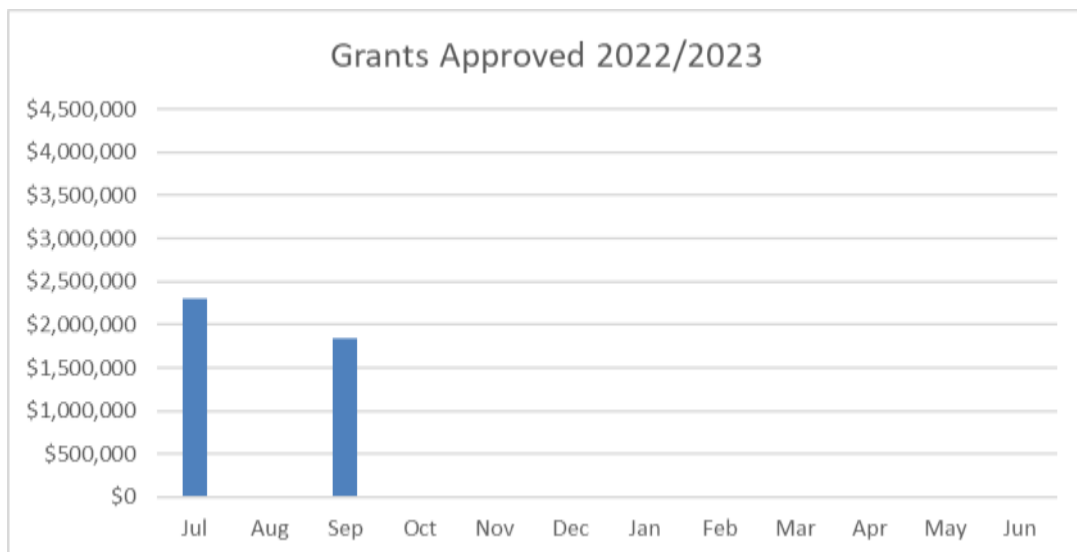
REPORT

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 October 2022.

During the reporting period, there were two grants approved.

Council received funding for six grants totalling \$1,803,997. 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 31 October 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
Woodburn Honour Board	Office of Veterans Affairs (State)	Community War Memorials Fund	\$ 19,600	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,600	26 July 2022	4 October 2022
Comment: This funding will allow restoration of The Great War Memorial Boards damaged at the Woodburn Hall during the February/ March Flood.							
Digital Device Library	Good Things Foundation (Other)	Be Connected Network	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	7 October 2022	17 October 2022
Comment: This funding will allow the library to purchase devices that can then be loaned out to people 50 years and over, helping them stay connected.							

Grants that have been received

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Casino Industrial Precincts	Public Works Advisory (Federal and State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	\$ 9,969,000	\$ 9,969,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 28,952 5 October 2022	\$ 100,475
Comment: Progressive claim received for works performed on the Casino Industrial Precinct.								
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	\$ 600,000 5 October 2022	\$ 600,000
Comment: Funding received for 50% of grant allocation.								
Casino Industries Activation Project	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Federal)	Building Better Regions Fund - Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 4	\$ 3,081,375	\$ 1,540,688	\$ 1,540,687	19 December 2019	\$ 505,155 18 October 2022	\$ 1,288,669
Comment: Progress payment per grant agreement.								
Elliots Road Timber Bridge Replacement	Transport for NSW (State)	Fixing Country Bridges Round One 2020	\$ 368,429	\$ 368,429	\$ -	2 October 2020	\$ 246,286 26 October 2022	\$ 368,429
Comment: Progress payment for works completed on Elliots Road Timber Bridge								
MR145 Woodburn-Coraki Road Major Upgrade	Transport for NSW (Federal)	N/A - Election Promise	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 291,994 26 October 2022	\$3,821,819
Comment: Progress payment for works completed on Woodburn to Coraki Road.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Public Library Subsidy 2022/2023	State Library NSW (State)	Public Library Subsidy	\$ 131,610	\$ 131,610	\$ -	N/A - Annual Allocation	\$ 131,610 28 October 2022	\$ 131,610
Comment: Per Capita Subsidy of \$67,180 and Subsidy Adjustment of \$64,430 received.								

Grant Applications Submitted

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Halsteads Drive - Remove	Crown Land NSW (State)	Flood Recovery Fund - AGRN1012	\$ 487,086	\$ 487,086	\$ -	1 October 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to remove the damaged infrastructure and prepare the area to allow access for the survey, design and geotechnical investigation to commence.						
Halsteads Drive - Rebuild	Crown Land NSW (State)	Flood Recovery Fund - AGRN1012	\$ 1,349,500	\$ 1,349,500	\$ -	1 October 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to carry out the survey, design and geotechnical investigation of a suitable replacement structure and construct the new accessway to the river.						
Digital Device Library	Good Things Foundation (Other)	Be Connected Network	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	7 October 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow the library to purchase devices that can then be loaned out to people 50 years and over, helping them stay connected.						
Reconnecting Richmond Valley Youth	Office for Regional Youth (State)	2022/23 Summer Holiday Break Program	\$ 11,580	\$ 9,590	\$ 1,990	19 October 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council provide activities for young people in various towns across the LGA during the 2022/23 summer holidays. This grant will be delivered in partnership with One Mob Radio, who will contribute the additional \$1,990. Council will not make a cash contribution to the project.						

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Multipurpose Meeting Rooms for the Community	State Library NSW (State)	State Library Infrastructure Grants	\$ 179,696	\$ 179,696	\$ -	28 October 2022
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to construct three new meeting rooms in the Casino Library.						

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.5 INFRASTRUCTURE RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE**Director:** Angela Jones**Responsible Officer:** Nolan Lekay**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the information provided in the Infrastructure Reconstruction Update.

REPORT

Council has been making good progress in repairing flood damaged community assets. The below points highlight the key areas of interest. Reports will be provided on a quarterly basis, summarising the work taking place and the key statistics.

1. RVC road network (1175km) consists of:
 - 553km sealed roads.
 - 622km unsealed road.
 - Approximately 75% of sealed and unsealed roads have been impacted by the flood event.

2. Spend to date on the recovery effort:

Emergency Works (EW)	Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW)	Essential Public Asset Restoration (EPAR)	TOTAL
\$4.4m	\$3.4m	\$0.0m	\$7.7m

3. Projects of Note:

Project	Details
Bentley Road	Rock face slip. Proposed design received and being reviewed - we endeavour to have these works completed by mid-December 2022, weather permitting; Briefing paper being compiled.
Naughtons Gap Road	Regional Geotechnics undertaking an options report. Byron Bay Surveying undertaking survey work to quantify material at risk of slipping above the road. Reports has been received and a review is underway.
Upper Cherry Tree Road	Major EW/IRW have been completed.
Bungawalbin Whiporie Road	Major EW/IRW have been completed.

4. Key Dates and Timelines relating to Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA):
- Emergency Works has been extended from 30-Sept-22 to 31-Dec-22.
 - Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW) expires 31-Dec-22.
 - All IRW's will be converted to EPAR's (Essential Public Asset Reconstruction works) by mid Nov-22.
5. Contractor Information:
- 10 Council and 14 Contractor crews are currently assisting with the recovery effort.
 - Majority of the contractors are based locally.
 - The crews are performing grading, drainage/culvert repairs and bitumen sealing.
 - RVC branded signs for contractors' plant are now in use to ensure the public can identify our contractors.
6. Quarry and Materials Information:
- Four Quarries providing material.
 - Sufficient material supply is available now, however the potential for supply constraints and options to resolve this are being discussed with the NRRC.
 - Projections indicate approximately 250,000 tons of gravel will be required to repair the RVC unsealed network
7. Transport for NSW Applications and Claims:

Projects (EW/IRW)	Application Status	Applied Total (\$)
49	Approved	10,722,338.00
18	Issued for Approval	2,922.368.76
62	In Progress	5,888,232.00
Total 129		19,532,938.76

To date, there have been no significant issues working with TfNSW when seeking approval for scopes of works and Council staff have formed professional working relationships with the TfNSW team. Recovery works are currently tracking well and to the expected schedule. A focus has been to maintain momentum by ensuring enough forward works are planned and approved in order to retain the services of the various local contractors.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

20.1 RESPONSE TO QUESTION; CR ROBERT HAYES - CASINO'S WATER PRICING

Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Robert Hayes at Council's 18 October 2022, Ordinary meeting:

Question

Can the General Manager bring a report back to the November Council meeting with a full cost assessment related to the discounted water supplied to the Northern Cooperative Meat Company, explaining the possible effect it has on the water rates of all the ratepayers across Richmond Valley Council.

I would like to see the report based around a scale of discounted rates from the existing rate of \$1.06 per kl, \$1.44 per kl, \$2.16 per kl, in comparison with the current manufacturers business rate of \$2.88 per kl.

Response

Local councils who provide water services currently levy a two-part water charge for residential and commercial customers, in line with NSW regulatory requirements. The first part of the charge – the access fee – is a fixed charge that relates to the capital cost of providing, maintaining and replacing the community's water supply network, including water reservoirs, pumping stations and the water treatment plant.

The second part of the charge is the water consumption fee, which relates to the amount of water consumed by each customer. This charge is determined based on the total operational cost Council incurs to extract, treat and distribute the water. Water regulators provide guidance on how these charges should be determined, with the consumption charge generally making up 75% of total water revenue and the access charge, 25%. This is designed to discourage customers from wasting water, by sending a price signal about the true value of water resources.

Councils have some flexibility in how the water consumption charge is configured. Some councils charge the same price per kilolitre of water for all customers. Some have different rates for residential and commercial customers, some offer discounted rates for high water users. Richmond Valley Council charges its residential and commercial customers the same price per kl (\$2.88) - with the exception of the Northern Cooperative Meat Company, which pays a discounted rate of \$1.06 per kl. Residential customers pay a higher rate of \$4.38 once they consume more than 200kl of water.

Last year Council received a total of \$4,927,065 in water consumption revenue.

Theoretically, charging the NCMC more for its share of water consumption could translate to cheaper water consumption prices for other customers. However, Council would need to off-set this against the possibility that providing cheaper water for residential and commercial customers may encourage them to consume more – thus increasing annual supply costs and environmental impacts.

Water consumption varies from year to year for each customer, depending on climatic conditions, social circumstances and economic factors. Similarly, the cost of providing the water also varies. It is therefore difficult to calculate the exact financial impact of modifying these charges across the board.

The following tables are based on last year's published consumption for the NCMC, and the total consumption revenue received in the water fund last year.

This shows what the average price could be for all other consumers, based on various price structures for the NCMC, starting with the published price in Council's Revenue Policy, and assuming the same level of revenue is generated.

Casino Food Co -Operative per kL	\$1.06	\$1.44	\$2.16	\$2.88
Average for Other Water Consumers per kL	\$2.88	\$2.60	\$2.27	\$1.94

The following table details the extra revenue Council would receive if it were to keep all other charges the same and increase the NCMC's charge at the requested different rates, based on last year's consumption.

Price point – consumption per kL	\$1.06	\$1.44	\$2.16	\$2.88
Total Revenue from NCMC	\$734,543.96	\$997,871.04	\$1,496,808.56	\$1,995,742.08
Increase in Revenue		\$263,327.08	\$762,262.60	\$1,261,198.12

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)