

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 21 March 2023

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

5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - RESTORATION OF BUNGAWALBIN LEVEE

Author: Robert Mustow

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- Acknowledges the community's concerns regarding the damage to the Bungawalbin levee and the need to improve its flood resilience;
- Notes Rous County Council's continued efforts to repair and upgrade the levee, despite a number of unsuccessful applications for funding;
- Following the NSW election, makes representations to our local MP and relevant Minister, local Federal MP and relevant Minister, seeking funding for Rous County Council to upgrade the levee for the benefit of the surrounding Richmond Valley community.

REPORT

The devastating floods of 2022 have left a legacy of damaged infrastructure in the Richmond Valley that will take many years to restore. While Council is making good progress in repairing buildings, roads and bridges, the future of other critical infrastructure, such as the Bungawalbin flood levee remains uncertain.

Rous County Council is responsible for maintaining and repairing this levee – along with some 80km of other levees in the Richmond Valley, Lismore and Ballina local government areas. The levee was originally constructed more than 80 years ago to reduce the impact of floods on the Mid-Richmond floodplain. It helps to protect homes at Bungawalbin from inundation, as well as helping rural properties downstream, by reducing flooding of essential access routes and farmlands.

Until recent flood events, the 7.8km levee has been reliable, but the 2017 floods saw the first of a series of failures at the same location. The structure failed again in the 2021 flood, and once more in the 2022 event. It is now at the point where a significant upgrade is required to make this critical infrastructure more resilient.

Although Rous County Council has managed to carry out repairs both upstream and downstream of the main damage site, there is still a 35-metre section where the rock armouring that was placed as part of the 2021 repairs has subsided into Bungawalbin Creek. This needs to be reinstated to return the structure to its pre-flood condition and Rous is currently awaiting Disaster Recovery Funding for these repairs.

However, attempts to upgrade the levee and improve its flood resilience have repeatedly failed to gain funding support from various state and federal programs, as it seems this project doesn't fit the criteria for various grants. So far, four out of seven attempts to gain funding have been rejected, two are still under consideration and one appears to have stalled. Although the levee upgrade project was ranked quite highly in the early assessments for funding under the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative, it failed to make the final short-list for funded projects. Rous will be following up with NRRF on possible funding options.

Richmond Valley Council will also be supporting the upgrade project by sharing the results of its new flood study with Rous, however further expert analysis of this information will be required to determine an appropriate engineering solution for the levee upgrade.

The levee is an essential piece of infrastructure to help protect local homes and rural properties and support continued agricultural productivity. Where farmland suffers prolonged flooding, crops can't be harvested or planted and whole seasons of production can be lost. Estimated losses from the recent damage to the levee are approximately \$2.7m.

Council has previously received representations from Bungawalbin residents about the impact the damage to this levee is having on local families, farmlands and the environment. I believe it is time for us to get behind Rous in its continued attempts to get this infrastructure upgraded for the benefit of our mid-Richmond communities. Accordingly, I would seek Council's support to advocate to our local members and the relevant Ministers, following the State election, in support of Rous' funding bid.

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 21 FEBRUARY 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 February 2023.

REPORT

Refer attached Minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Minutes 21 February 2023 (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 14 FEBRUARY - 13 MARCH 2023**

Author: Robert Mustow

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 14 February – 13 March 2023.

FEBRUARY 2023

- 15th Rous County Council meeting
- 15th Rural Fire Service – staff member send-off
- 16th Northern Rivers Local Emergency Management Committee – Information Session
- 17th Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board meeting Murwillumbah
- 18th Opening of “High 5” Exhibition at Cassino Art Gallery
- 20th Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative Discussion
- 21st Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 23rd Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative Local Government Roundtable Goonellabah
- 26th Active Fest Colley Park Casino
- 27th Casino Ambulance station opening – Chris Gulaptis MP
- 27th Official opening of the Rappville Community Hall with Chris Gulaptis MP, Kevin Hogan MP
- 27th Naughtons Gap funding announcement – Minister Farraway MP
- 28th Soft Launch of the Casino Library upgrade
- 28th Meeting with Senator Sheldon MP – Flood recovery
- 28th Gathering of Reflection and Healing Lismore

March 2023

- 1st Casino Recovery BBQ
- 1st Woodburn Community Recovery event
- 1st Northern Rivers Rail Trail opening - Tweed section, Murwillumbah
- 1st Clarence Electorate Local Woman of the Year announcement
- 1st Peace Torch visit to Casino (a team of international runners)
- 1st Screening of Tinnie Heroes at Woodburn
- 2nd 19 Historical Walk signs around Casino - completion of project celebration
- 7th Meeting with constituent
- 7th Richmond Valley Council Councillor Information Session
- 11th Casino & District Historical Society Annual general meeting
- 11th Evans Head Living Museum 20th anniversary celebration

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT MARCH 2023 - ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report – Rous County Council for March 2023.

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 15 February 2023.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rous County Council Meeting 15 February 2023**

Rous Council Meeting 15 February 2023

Summary of main items of business



1. Quarterly Budget Review Statement quarter ending 31 December 2022

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

The following adjustments were noted:

March 2022 Floods

Rous' insurance policy with Statewide Mutual includes flood cover with a sub-limit of \$2M that applies for property loss and business interruptions. The claim is ongoing and budget estimates have been provided for claims received and expenses to 31 December 2022 including commitments.

In addition to the insurance claim, Disaster Recovery Funding has been claimed. The works associated with this claim continue and will be in addition to the insurance claim which is concurrently being prepared to fund the replacement/renewal of eligible affected assets. Once a formal agreement is in place with NSW Public Works budget estimates will be provided. At present no changes have been made to the budget regarding these works, an update to budget will be presented through the QBRs process when details are available.

Impact on Reserves as a whole

The required changes this quarter will result in an additional \$1,099,400 being transferred to reserves in the 2022/23 financial year. The projected balance as at 30 June 2023 will increase to \$16,137,300 which is short of the internal reserves policy target of 6 months operating expenditure or \$17,470,000. This is an internal policy, rather than one mandated. It should be noted that the loan covenant that exists between Rous County Council and New South Wales Treasury Corporation requires reserves to held that equal 6 months of the next financial year's operating expenditure less depreciation. The projected balance above of \$16,137,300 exceeds this reserve target of 6 months operating expenditure less depreciation or \$14,887,000.

At present Council is unable to meet the internal reserves policy targets for the Bulk, Retail and Flood reporting units based on budget forecasts. It is important to note that this policy is an internal guiding document adopted by Council, not an external requirement. There is a level of inconsistency between the internal policy and the requirements from regulations and external loan caveats. It is proposed that a revised policy will be presented to Council in the near future.

2. Retail Water Customer Account Assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$5,345.48.

With the addition of section 377 (1A) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the General Manager is authorised to approve the granting of financial assistance without a resolution from Council. As such the previous practice of presenting applications for financial assistance for Council approval will cease.

Future applications for financial assistance will be determined by the General Manager under delegation dated 17 August 2022. An information report will be provided to Council bi-annually to provide the details of financial assistance granted during the periods 1 January to 30 June and 1 July to 31 December each year.

3. Finalisation of Scoping Study for the Richmond River Coastal Management Program

Preparation of the Scoping Study involved a community input/consultation phase, extensive engagement with catchment stakeholders and a series of workshops with all catchment councils.

The Final Draft Scoping Study was placed on public exhibition for a 3 week period (from 21 November to 16 December 2022) providing the invited stakeholders and the broader community the opportunity to review the Final Draft Scoping Study. The Scoping Study has also been reviewed by internal stakeholders.

Rous and its consultants – in partnership with catchment councils - have completed all requirements of the NSW Coastal Management Manual in relation to the conduct of a Stage 1 Scoping Study. The Scoping Study will be finalised as outlined in the submissions report. Staff will then proceed to lodge the Stage 2 grant application.

4. Adopt Bulk Water Supply and Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plans

Following consideration of the draft Bulk Water Supply and Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plans (DSP) at the 14 December 2022 Council meeting, the two (2) draft DSPs were placed on public exhibit via Council's website from 19 December 2022 to 2 February 2023. Council did not receive any submissions.

The developer charges as presented in the DSPs are proposed to be implemented from 1 July 2023 and indexed in accordance with Council's 'Revenue' policy.

3. Policies for revocation

Council agreed to revoke its Sponsorship and Donations policy (dated 2004). Relevant content contained in the policy has been captured within the Regional Demand Management Plan (2023-2026) and there is no longer a business need for the policy in its current form.

4. Information reports

i) Investments – January 2023

- The RBA cash rate is 3.1%. The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) is 3.37%.
- Total funds invested is \$38,708,511. This includes term investments and cheque account balance.
- Weighted Average Return is 3.11%. This represents an increase of 14 basis points compared to the December 2022 result (2.97%) and is 26 basis points below Council's benchmark.
- Interest earned for the period is \$105,411. Interest earned compared to the original budget is \$214,045 above the pro-rata budget.
- Cheque account balance is \$176,970.

- Ethical holdings is \$8,000,975 (20.67% of current holdings)

ii) Water production and consumption – December 2022

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

| Council | Dec 2020 (kL) | Dec 2021 (kL) | Dec 2022 | % of Total Sales |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Ballina Shire Council | 341,693 | 320,883 | 321,759 | 37.6% |
| Byron Shire Council | 248,302 | 211,504 | 229,497 | 26.82% |
| Lismore City Council | 273,373 | 255,149 | 246,528 | 28.81% |
| Richmond Valley Council | 58,252 | 58,421 | 57,889 | 6.77% |
| Total monthly consumption by constituent councils | 921,620 | 845,957 | 855,673 | |

iii) Debt write-off information summary and other matters

Council received and noted the report with debts written-off totalling \$18,304.79 for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022.

The following reports were also provided and noted:

- Reports/actions pending.
- Delivery program update – 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

5. Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support: Contract # RCC1122-0014

Council undertook an open tender process for the procurement of industrial control system integration support services under a schedule of rates contract. The contract term is for one (1) year with an option to extend a further two (2) periods of two (2) years each period. Should the contract continue for the full term of five (5) years the upper limit for the contract value will be \$3.75M ex GST and as such an open tender process was deemed to match the needs of the tender.

Council agreed to accept the schedule of rates tender submitted by SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd for a period of up to five (5) years and approve an upper limit contract value of up to \$750,000 ex GST per year.

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

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

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

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

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

That items identified be determined without debate.

14 GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 NORTHERN RIVERS RECONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE**

Author: Vaughan Macdonald

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council resolved at its February Meeting to invite Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation Chief Executive, David Witherdin to provide an update on the Richmond Valley's flood recovery progress. Mr Witherdin attended Council's March Information Session and provided details of the Corporation's activities including the Resilient Homes Program, proposed housing development under the Resilient Lands Program and future planning to improve flood resilience in local villages. He also answered numerous questions from councillors concerning flood recovery issues that are being raised by the community. Council stressed the need to expedite local recovery programs and to provide homeowners with certainty on government funding options. Further consultation between Council and the NRRC is planned as the Corporation moves towards releasing its regional growth strategy and finalising housing buy-back offers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the progress achieved in delivering the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation's flood recovery program.
2. Continues to work closely with the NRRC to expedite housing and development programs, improve flood resilience and complete much needed infrastructure repairs in the Richmond Valley.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Sustain - Objective 10: Lead and advocate for our community

10B Advocate to federal and state governments for community needs and priorities

10B1 Advocate for community priorities and actively seek grant funding

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The NRRC administers funding for disaster recovery works and infrastructure betterment programs. Some \$200 million in flood repairs has been identified for the Richmond Valley, with a further estimated \$180 million in (as yet) unfunded works to support flood recovery.

REPORT

At its February meeting, Council considered a progress report on the first six months of its Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan. While acknowledging the milestones achieved under its plan, Council noted concerns within the community that state government-led programs – particularly housing buy-back schemes - were not reporting the same level of progress. Council resolved to invite Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation Chief Executive, David Witherdin to provide an update on Richmond Valley flood recovery at a future councillor information session.

Mr Witherdin attended Council's March information session and presented details of the Valley's \$200 million flood repair program – which consists mainly of flood-damaged roads, bridges and culverts, as well as water and sewerage repairs. He reiterated Council's own assessment that the rebuilding program would take some 3-5 years to complete. Apart from immediate flood repairs,

the NRRC has been advised of an additional \$188m in (as yet) unfunded projects to support continued flood recovery in the Richmond Valley. These include priorities such as the Naughton's Gap restoration, and replacement of Casino Sewage Treatment Plant. The flood repair works are being administered by the Corporation's Infrastructure Co-ordination Office. Council is represented on this group and continues to advocate strongly for additional funds for essential works.

Mr Witherdin also provided an update on the Reconstruction Corporation's \$700m Resilient Homes Program, which provides funding for housing buy-backs, house-raising and resilience works. So far, some 5900 homeowners across the Northern Rivers have registered for the program, including 1300 in the Richmond Valley. Some 350 properties across the region have been identified as eligible for buy-back, including about 20 so far in the Richmond Valley, with more under consideration. The program will continue with assessments and notifications over the next six months, with assessments for house-raising and resilience works commencing from April.

Work is also progressing on the \$100m Resilient Lands program, which will help to activate residential development on flood-safe lands in the region. Richmond Valley Council nominated a number of suitable sites for the program and the NRRC received some 35 expressions of interest from private landowners in the Valley. Most of these options were ruled out, due to hazards and constraints, however, the remaining viable sites could provide more than 2000 new homes. The Reconstruction Corporation plans to release a regional Resilient Lands Strategy for public consultation in April and Council continues to work closely with the NRRC to ensure that this strategy reflects the key directions of the recently exhibited Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy.

The Reconstruction Corporation is also working on options to attract and house the large construction workforce that will be required for the rebuilding programs. Sites in the Richmond Valley are currently under consideration and the NRRC plans to release a workforce strategy next month. It is expected that works approved under the house-raising and resilience works options will be provided by a pool of contract workers, managed by the NRRC, with a focus on providing opportunities for local businesses and suppliers.

CONSULTATION

Since November 2022, NRRC has held over 50 community engagement activities, including nine in the Richmond Valley with 507 attendees. Further sessions are planned for Coraki and Whiporie in the future. Council continues to work closely with the Corporation to ensure that local issues and needs are highlighted in forums such as the Infrastructure Co-ordination Office and will be seeking further updates on progress from the NRRC in coming months.

CONCLUSION

Richmond Valley Council continues to deliver its plan for long-term recovery of the Richmond Valley following the 2022 floods and will work with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation to help ensure that State-led recovery programs are delivered for our community. Council will be seeking regular progress updates from the NRRC on the Resilient Homes and Resilient Lands Programs and will continue to advocate for additional funding for key recovery priorities, including restoration of Naughtons Gap and the replacement of the Casino STP.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

15.1 MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR COUNCIL-RELATED DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Tony McAteer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recent amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 come into force on 3 April 2023 and require Council to have a Conflicts of Interest Policy for Council-related Development Applications, and to consider the policy when determining any such development applications (DAs).

The draft Policy, that received in principle support at Council's 21 February 2023 Ordinary Meeting, was publicly exhibited from 22 February 2023 to 8 March 2023 with one submission being received. As a result of feedback, Appendix A of the draft policy has been amended to provide further clarification. The revised policy is presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts CPOL15.22 Managing Conflicts of Interest for Council-related Development policy.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Sustain - Objective 10: Lead and advocate for our community

10D Lead with integrity

10D1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

Changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, that commence on 3 April 2023, require local councils to have a Conflicts of Interest Policy for Council-related Development Applications and to consider the policy in determining any such development applications (DAs).

Council-related development applications are those made by Council, or over Council owned/controlled lands. This includes a DA lodged by a third party over Council land.

Councils undertake development for a variety of reasons. This may be as simple as building a new bus shelter or upgrading a local playground, or as complex as a major redevelopment of community infrastructure, such as a public swimming pool or showground. Councils may also undertake development to achieve a social outcome, such as providing more housing, or to support economic stimulus through commercial investment, such as the upgrade of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that any potential conflicts of interest arising from Council being the applicant and/or landowner, as well as the Consent Authority are effectively managed. Although the regulation only requires councils to address conflict of interest at the development application stage, Council has chosen to extend the scope of its policy to consider all phases of a

development – from application preparation, assessment, determination, post consent certification through to regulatory compliance. This aims to achieve transparency throughout the process.

The Policy also considers:

- Managing conflicts of interest in circumstances where Council may own/control adjoining land to a proposed development or have a commercial interest associated with that development, and
- Incorporating conflicts of interest risk management strategies into the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for development without consent.

In addition to the policy requirements, all Council-related development applications, irrespective of the conflicts of interest risk, must be publicly exhibited for a minimum of 28 days and have the risks, and measures to be taken, recorded in the Development Register.

The attached Managing Conflicts of Interest for Council-related Development Policy (CPOL15.22) has been prepared in accordance with the *Council-related Development Application Conflict of Interest Guidelines* (the guideline) produced by the Department of Planning and Environment.

CONSULTATION

The draft policy was publicly exhibited for a period of 14 days, from 22 February 2023 to 8 March 2023. One submission was received which raised three concerns:

1. Suggestions to include public consultation on Council-initiated development proposals as a key means by which conflict can be seen to be managed.
2. The need for further consideration of development without consent matters, and how potential conflicts of interest in those activities are managed. It was suggested that REFs should be subject to a public consultation phase before determination.
3. The risk table doesn't mention development where an occupation of Council-owned land will occur, for example, redevelopment of a shopping centre requiring use of a Council-owned carpark.

Note: A copy of the above submission was provided to Councillors.

Comments:

1. The Draft Policy includes provision for public consultation (Pg3) This reflects amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* which will include a minimum 28-day public exhibition period for council-related development applications (cl.9B of Schedule 1 Community participation requirements). A future amendment will be made to Council's Community Participation Plan (CPP) to include a specific reference to clause 9B. However, its current omission will not affect the requirement for council-related development applications to be publicly exhibited.
2. Part 5 Review of Environmental Factors (REF) relates to development without consent which does not have a 'determination' requirement. The Regulation specifies which REFs must be published on the web, but there is no public notification process for REFs.
 - I. The Policy has been extended beyond the reach of the Regulation and guideline to include consideration of risk and the inclusion of a Risk Management Statement in REFs.
 - II. Appendix A of the Policy has been amended to include an additional line item, under the heading Management Strategies that may be applied, for development without consent.
3. A decision to include public land within a private development would be one made by the elected Council under the *Local Government Act 1993* or *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and be subject to public scrutiny outside this Policy. Notwithstanding, the subsequent development application would constitute Council-related development and be subject to this Policy.

CONCLUSION

Councils undertake development for a number of reasons and the scope and scale of these projects varies considerably. Recent amendments to State planning regulations emphasise the importance of managing potential conflicts of interest where Council is both the applicant and/or landowner and the consent authority. Council has prepared a Managing Conflicts of Interest for Council-related Development policy to address these issues. The draft policy was exhibited for public comment and, following receipt of one written submission, a minor amendment to further clarify requirements has been included.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **CPOL15.22 Managing conflicts of interest for council-related development (under separate cover)**

15.2 AIRFORCE BEACH VEHICULAR ACCESS OPTIONS

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Andy Edwards

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At Council's February 2023 Ordinary Meeting a report was presented outlining the frequency of anti-social behaviour on the region's beaches, and the impact of increased patrols. Council resolved to receive a further report on the process of limiting vehicular access to Airforce Beach, Evans Head.

Initial consultation has been carried out in order to comprehensively brief Councillors on the available options. Liaison with government agencies supports the current ranger patrols and further restriction on Airforce Beach. The cost of imposing a night-time curfew would appear to be cost prohibitive, leaving Council with the options of continuing the status quo or closing the beach to recreational vehicles (4WDs).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information contained within the Airforce Beach Vehicular Access Options report;
2. Notes the ongoing challenges with driver behaviour and vandalism to access points on Airforce Beach and Boundary Creek;
3. Commences consultation with the community, and carries out further consultation with government agencies, with a view to closing Airforce Beach to recreational vehicles.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

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

11D Deliver quality services for the community

11D2 Deliver consistent regulatory and compliance services

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A full costing of imposing a curfew or closure of the beach would need to be undertaken. Early estimates on imposing a curfew would be a weekly commitment of \$1,115 to cover out of hours salary costs. New signage would be approximately \$2,000 and a gate including barrier is estimated at approximately \$5,000.

REPORT

In order to limit vehicular access to Airforce Beach it will be necessary to install a gate, similar to the gate at Boundary Creek, at the eastern section of the existing carpark. It is likely that large boulders or a similar barrier would need to be in place to prevent drivers making a new track beside the gate. Currently the only vehicles allowed on the beach are recreational 4WDs. Motorbikes, standard cars and wheeled sail crafts are not permitted. Limitation of 4WDs could be in the form of a curfew or a beach closure allowing only professional fishers, indigenous groups and emergency service vehicles to have access, as per the Boundary Creek access track.

The installation of a gate would then require signage to be changed to reflect any changes made to access times and restrictions on Airforce Beach. Council is the crown land manager so any beach closure to recreational 4WDs would need to be advertised and public feedback sought. Closure of

the beach to recreational 4WDs would still require Council to do patrols but these patrols could be carried out during the normal working week at no additional cost to Council in overtime salaries.

Council has liaised with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Crown Lands with regard to available options for the management of 4WD vehicle access and use of Airforce Beach. Options discussed involved maintaining the status quo (i.e. patrols), imposing a curfew and closure of the beach.

Crown Lands has responded that it supports continuing patrols and further restrictions to address the ongoing issues with 4WD access.

NPWS has provided in principle support for continuing patrols until such a time as a decision is made to close the beach or impose further restrictions. NPWS suggests that driving should be limited to an area that aligns with the northern most extent of the off-leash dog area to prevent vehicles in the Salty Lagoon area. This location would help satisfy cultural and ecological concerns in the Salty Creek lagoon area and surrounding sand dunes. Recent studies by NPWS in the closed sections of beaches from South Ballina to Broadwater Beach have shown an increased number of fledglings; revealing the negative impact that beach vehicles have previously had on native wildlife.

Recently NPWS has issued 60 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) due to people accessing the Broadwater National Park from Airforce Beach. This indicates the high level of enforcement action required by both Council and NPWS to address these behaviours.

Feedback from NSW Police suggests that driver behaviour this summer showed an improvement, however, they suggest at a minimum the beach has a night-time curfew. The night-time use of the beach has resulted in serious vehicle accidents due to drivers being unfamiliar with the changing conditions, namely the exposed nature of the 'coffee rock'.

Notwithstanding the cost of a gate and updating signage, if Council was to impose a curfew, there would be a need for a Council employee to close and open the gate. Times suggested for a curfew have been between the hours of 9pm and 5am. It is likely that a Council employee would be on an on-call register. Under the Award conditions, this would result in payment of the on-call levy, as well as a 2-hour payment to open and a 2-hour payment to close the gate, resulting in 28 hours a week in salary costs. An approximate salary calculation of a Grade 8 employee on call for these 28 hours plus on call allowance would be in the vicinity of \$1,115 per week.

In the event that a member of the public was to be inadvertently locked on the beach, extra attendance may be required for an employee to go to the beach and open the gate, resulting in a further cost to Council. Council could consider advertising for a contractor to undertake the task of opening and closing the gate, however it is envisaged that this would be at a similar cost to Council undertaking the task, and there may be an element of unreliability in the arrangements.

CONSULTATION

Council has liaised with Crown Lands, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and NSW Police regarding future options for the beach. Pending the outcome of Council's consideration of this report, further consultation could be carried out with these stakeholders and the community.

CONCLUSION

Effectively managing vehicles on Airforce Beach presents a number of challenges for Council. This includes the ongoing cost of compliance patrols, as well as the cost to replace vandalised signs, barriers and padlocks. While imposing further limitations on vehicle access times may help to address behaviours, the operation and enforcement of a curfew on the beach may be cost prohibitive. Therefore, two options appear viable, being the maintenance of existing patrols or closing the beach to recreational vehicles (4WDs). It is recommended that Council consults with the community on the future of Airforce Beach with a view to closing the beach to all vehicles with the existing limited exceptions able to use the gate-controlled access at Boundary Creek.

15.3 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Joshua Moroney

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its 20 December 2022 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to place the Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy on public exhibition for an extended period of 60 days ending 28 February 2023.

This report provides feedback obtained during public consultation received by Council during the exhibition period and recommends that the Draft Strategy be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Sustainable Communities Strategy 2023-2028.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

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

11A Manage resources responsibly

11A2 Ensure resources are managed transparently and responsibly

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Proposed actions in the Strategy will be funded through annual budget allocations, as well as special purpose grants. The strategy investigates possibilities to boost grant funding for environmental initiatives and achieve cost savings by reducing energy and water consumption and potentially offsetting carbon emissions.

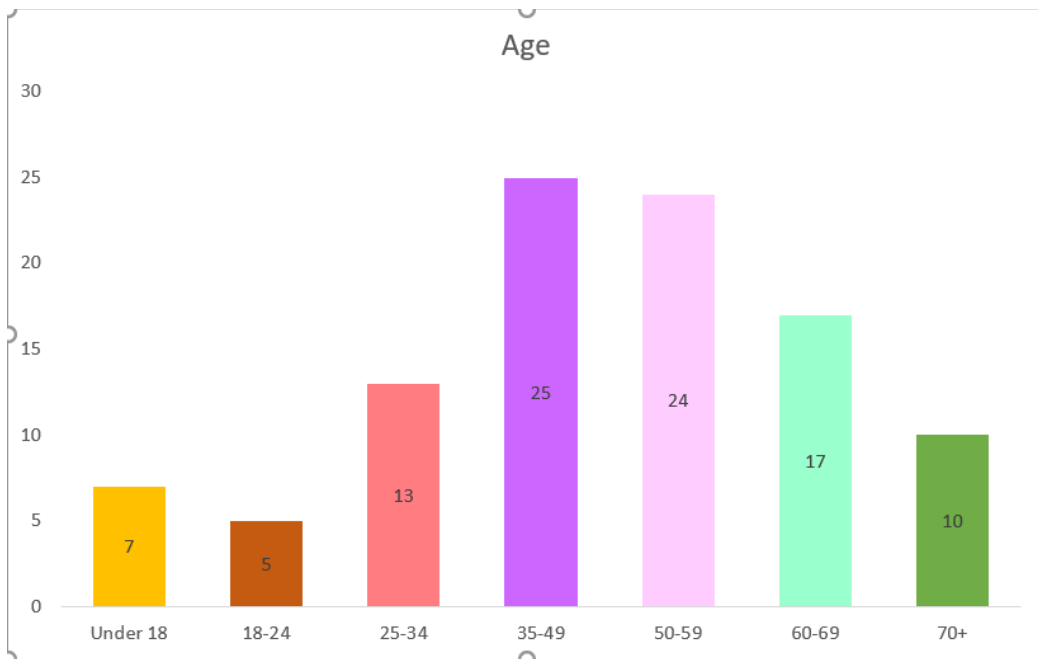
REPORT

The Sustainable Communities Strategy aims to protect the Richmond Valley's natural environment and provide a beautiful place to live, work, play and invest for the future. The Strategy will guide Council's activities through to 2028, including key focus areas such as waste reduction, improving flood resilience, restoring and enhancing native habitat, cooling and greening communities and improving the environmental performance of Council's operations and infrastructure.

Council conducted community consultation from 21 December 2022 to 28 February 2023, with an encouraging response from the community. Consultation included an online survey and face-to-face pop-up stalls in Casino, Coraki and Evans Head and the results were overwhelmingly positive, with respondents expressing the importance of environmental issues in the community.

Council received one written submission during the consultation which commended Council for its focus on environmental sustainability considerations and stressed the importance of reflecting these goals in Council's decision-making. The submission also expressed concerns regarding thermal waste management processes.

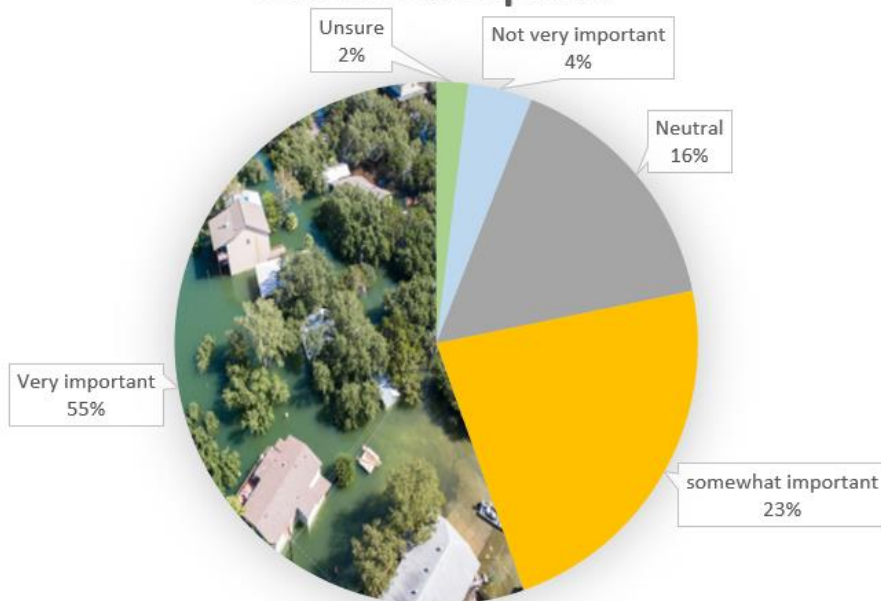
Over 100 respondents completed the survey rating the importance of five sustainability principles on a scale of very important, somewhat important, neutral, not very important, and unsure. Below is a visual representation of the survey response during the community consultation period.



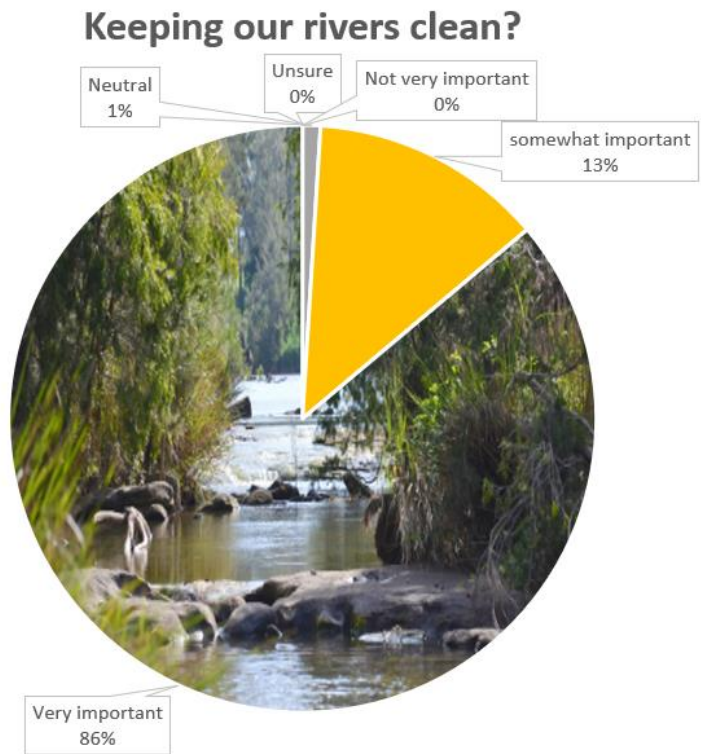
Findings:

The survey found that all age groups showed strong support for preparing for and adapting to climate change and associated impacts. The under 18 age group unanimously indicated that it is "very important." However, there was a wider range of responses from the 35-49, 50-59, and 60-69 age groups, with half of the participants indicating that it is "somewhat important" to "neutral." These results suggest a need to focus on increasing awareness around preparing for and adapting to climate change and associated impacts within those age groups.

Preparing for, & adapting to climate change and associated impacts?

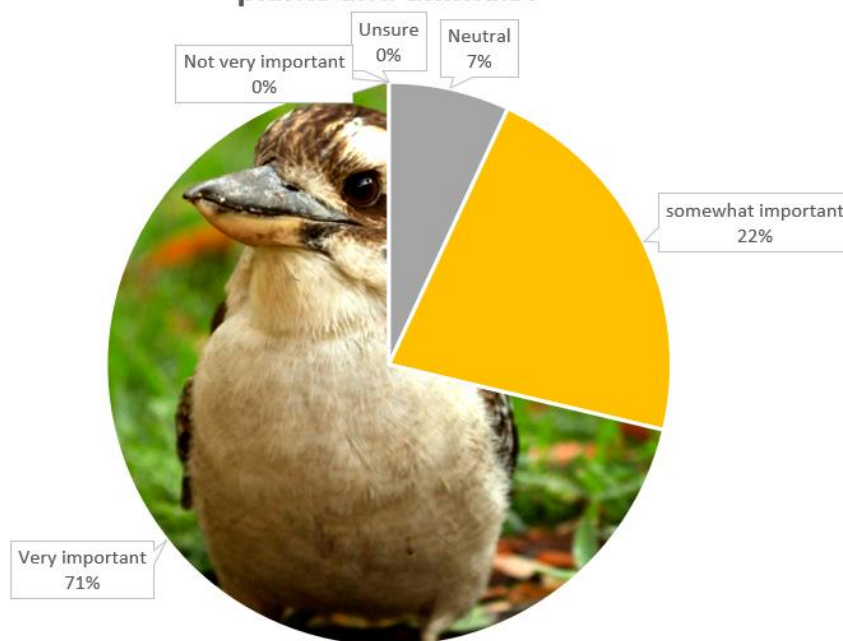


The survey revealed that respondents of all age groups consider keeping rivers clean to be important. Among all age groups, the highest proportion of respondents who consider it "very important" to keep rivers clean are those aged 70+ and those aged 50-59. Respondents aged 35-49 have the highest proportion of those who consider it "somewhat important" to keep rivers clean. There are very few respondents who consider keeping rivers clean to be "not very important" or have a neutral opinion about it, across all age groups.



The survey found that biodiversity conservation and protection of native plants and animals are considered important across all age groups. The majority of respondents in all age groups rated it as either "very important" or "somewhat important." The younger age groups, specifically 18-24 and 25-34, had a higher percentage of respondents who rated it as "somewhat important" compared to "very important." However, the percentage of respondents who rated it as "very important" increased in the older age groups. Overall, the results suggest that there is a general concern for biodiversity conservation and protection of native plants and animals across all age groups.

Biodiversity conservation and protection of native plants and animals?



Council officers also conducted face-to-face community consultations engaging with over 30 people in Casino, Coraki, and Evans Head. It was evident that the community is passionate about looking after the environment and protecting natural resources.

Based on face-to-face responses, some key findings include:

1. The protection of native flora and fauna is important, along with the management of waterways, biodiversity, and climate change.
2. The eradication of cane toads is a concern.
3. Community engagement and education are crucial for sustainability.
4. The use of recycled materials in road pavements is a suggested solution.
5. A comprehensive strategy that covers all key aspects is necessary.
6. There is a desire to build a dam and riparian vegetation/habitat zone along watercourses and drainage paths.
7. Protection of existing habitat, including trees on properties and in villages, is important, along with more bike paths with proper canopy cover.
8. Council actively reducing its carbon footprint, more solar on facilities, and a tree protection order are desired.
9. Better recycling at the council landfill is needed.
10. Maintaining stormwater drains and doing something with waste at the waste facility is important.
11. Additional drought-proofing strategies and creating a Northern Rivers Water supply network are desired.
12. More trees around town and encouraging people to plant more on their properties are desired.
13. The health of the Richmond River is a concern.

CONSULTATION

Council advertised the Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy 2023-2028, from 21 December 2022, with public submissions closing at 5:00pm Tuesday 28 February 2023. Advertising included coverage on Council's Facebook page and website. Council received 1 written submission during this time.

Council conducted an online survey in February comprised of 7 questions to help support engagement and gain a better understanding of the community's priorities. Over 100 respondents completed the survey.

Council officers conducted face-to-face community consultations engaging with over 30 people in pop-up stall sessions in Casino, Coraki, and Evans Head.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy sets a new direction for Council in building community resilience, protecting the Valley's unique environment and reducing our carbon footprint. The strategy complements the Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Regional Jobs Precinct initiative by promoting liveable, healthy communities and achieving a balance between growth and sustainable living.

The survey and face-to-face consultations showed that the community is concerned about preserving the environment and protecting natural resources. As community feedback supports the key directions and actions outlined in the strategy it is recommended that Council adopts the Sustainable Communities Strategy 2023-2028 as presented in this report.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Sustainable Communities Strategy (under separate cover)**

16 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

16.1 NRLX PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Bradley Willis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its Ordinary Meeting held 20 December 2022, Council resolved to place the proposed NRLX fees and charges for the 2023-24 financial year on public exhibition for an extended period of 60 days, ending 28 February 2023. If subsequently endorsed, these proposed fees and charges are to be incorporated into the 2023-24 Revenue Policy.

This report provides information regarding public submissions received by Council during the exhibition period.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the consultation undertaken on the proposed fees and charges for the NRLX which have been exhibited in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*;
2. Endorses the proposed fees and charges for incorporation in its 2023-24 Revenue Policy.

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 outlined in the report.

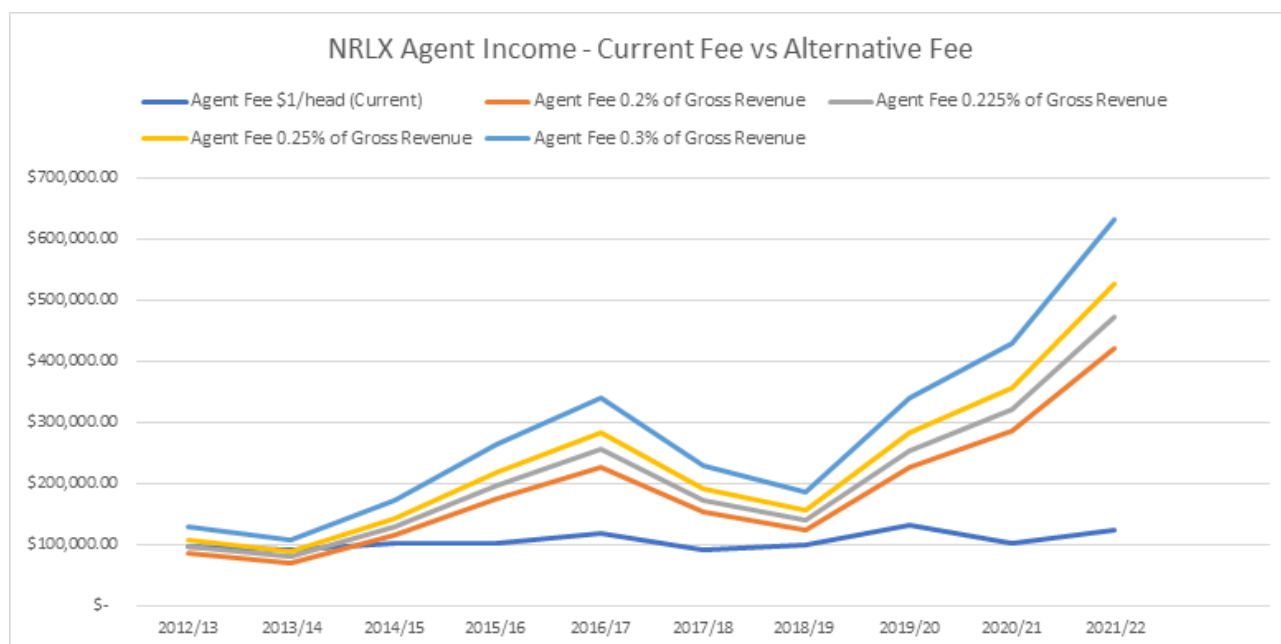
REPORT

Council has invested significant funds into upgrading the NRLX over recent years which has enabled major improvements to the operational conditions which has in turn boosted the reputation of the facility. Significant advancements in the health and safety of workers, livestock and all site users has had a direct effect on improved cattle sales. The increased community prosperity gained from the NRLX is of significant benefit to the many stakeholders that utilise the facility and it is critical the business operates as an enterprise that the broader community/rate payer is not subsidising.

The proposed NRLX fees and charges for the 2023-24 year aim to ensure that businesses that benefit financially from using a community asset are doing so at an acceptable commercial standard in the view of the community. Vendor fees are at a level that remains competitive in the marketplace and are directly comparable to genuine competitors of similar quality facilities. Agent fees however are an area of significant disparity to our saleyard competitors. By comparison the proposed rate of 0.2% of gross sale price is the most competitive in benchmarked data that was obtained by both the independent operational review and data gathered by the NRLX. (Table Page 2).

Evolution of the industry and required standards have increased operational expenses that affect the financial return of the business. It is also necessary for the business to remain at the forefront of innovation and standards while ensuring costs are tightly monitored.

| Information obtained in Operational Review | | | Ownership |
|--|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Saleyard | Rate | | |
| Yass Selex | 0.30% | of gross sale price (2018) | Private |
| Mortlake | 0.30% | of gross sale price (2018) | Private |
| Barnawartha | 0.25% | of gross sale price (2018) | Private |
| Carcoar | 0.25% | of gross sale price (2018) | Private |
| Moss Vale | 0.36% | of gross sale price (2022/23) | Council |
| Information obtained by NRLX | | | Ownership |
| Saleyard | Rate | | |
| Mudgee | 0.25% | of gross sale price | Council |
| Tamworth | 0.30% | of gross sale price | Private |
| Inverell | 0.30% | of gross sale price | Private |
| Scone | \$4.50 | Per head | Council |
| Roma | \$2.05 | Per Head | Council |
| Roma Bull & Stud Fee | 1% | Of gross sale price | Council |



The early public exhibition of the NRLX fees and charges, ahead of the full Council Revenue Policy, was undertaken to give prospective businesses, participating in the selling licence Expression of Interest process, some certainty of the fee structure. The evaluation of the Expressions of Interest will commence post its closing date of 3 April 2023.

CONSULTATION

Council advertised the proposed NRLX fees and charges for 2023/2024, from 21 December 2022, with public submissions closing at 5pm Tuesday 28 February 2023.

Advertising included coverage on Council's Facebook page, website, a detailed update to the NRLX Newsletter database comprising of over 2000 email addresses, coverage in the Northern

Rivers Times and an ABC radio interview. Copies of the draft documents were also made available at Council's administration offices in Casino and Evans Head.

Council received one submission, from Richmond River Beef Producers Association. The main theme of the submission was 'the recent proposal to increase the fees for vendors.' However, it should be noted that the proposed fees and charges for the NRLX for 2023-24 show no change in vendor fees. In fact, there has been no increase in vendor fees since 2020.

CONCLUSION

Following the public exhibition period 21 December 2022 to 28 February 2023 of the proposed NRLX Fees and Charges for 2023/2024 as detailed in the report, Council received one submission pertaining to Vendor Fee increases which as explained, are not proposed to increase.

A new fee methodology is one step in the pathway forward for the incremental realignment of the cost sharing between vendors and agents. It is vital that NRLX advocates that the producer has and continues to pay their fair share towards the facility and the revised structure is clearly a fair and equitable charge to the agent for use of a quality facility that enables them to conduct their business from a public asset for their financial gain and benefit. The changes proposed are in the overall interests of sustainability for the future of NRLX, its site users and Richmond Valley ratepayers.

It is recommended that Council endorses the proposed fees and charges as presented for the NRLX in this report for inclusion in its 2023-24 Revenue Policy.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Proposed NRLX Fees and Charges 2023-24**

| Fee Name | 21/22 Fee (incl. GST) | 22/23 Fee (incl. GST) | 23/24 (inc. GST) | % Increase (incl. GST) | \$ Increase (incl. GST) | Unit |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Agent Fees | | | | | | |
| Annual Business Licence Fee | \$10,500.00 | \$10,500.00 | \$10,500.00 | | | Per Annum |
| Agents Business Usage Fee | \$1.00 | \$1.00 per head | 0.20% | | | Gross sale value |
| Agents Business Usage Fee - Bull & Stud Sales | \$2.20/ head | 0.3% sale value | 0.30% | | | Gross sale value |
| Livestock Management Pre & Post sale (Does Not Include Receival) | | | \$4.95 | | \$4.95 | Per head |
| Livestock Delivery Including Delivery Management | | \$4.50 | \$3.85 | | \$3.85 | Per head |
| Special Sale Booking Fee Tuesday-Saturday | \$175.00 | \$180.00 | \$180.00 | | | Per sale |
| Special Sale Booking Fee Monday Sale | | | \$1,320.00 | | \$1,320.00 | Per sale |
| NLIS Transaction Fee | \$74.00 | \$76.20 | \$76.20 | | | Min charge |
| Vendor Fees | | | | | | |
| Vendor Capital Levy | \$2.05 | \$2.05 | \$2.05 | | | Per head |
| Cattle Sold for \$0.01 to \$600.00 | \$9.00 | \$9.00 | \$9.00 | | | Per head |
| Cattle Sold for \$600.01 to \$900.00 | \$11.15 | \$11.15 | \$11.15 | | | Per head |
| Cattle Sold for \$900.01 and Above | \$13.50 | \$13.50 | \$13.50 | | | Per head |
| Bull & Stud Sales - Vendor Fee | \$21.50 | \$22.15 | \$22.15 | | | Per head |
| Bulls (Non-Stud) | \$15.50 | \$15.50 | \$15.50 | | | Per head |
| Vendor Fee - Stocklive Streaming Sales | \$1.50 | \$1.50 | \$1.50 | | | Per head |
| Stocklive Stud Sales | \$1,700.00 | \$1,650.00 | \$1,650.00 | | | Per stud sale |
| Special Weighs | \$11.40 | \$13.50 | \$13.50 | | | Per head |
| Horses - Vendor Fees | \$11.40 | \$13.50 | \$13.50 | | | Per head |
| No Sale Charge | \$11.40 | \$13.50 | \$13.50 | | | Per head/day |
| No Sale Charge Stud Bulls and Registered Livestock Sale | | | | | | |
| Vendor Fee | \$21.50 | \$22.15 | \$22.15 | | | per head |
| Emergency Tags (Supply only) | \$0.00 | \$12.50 | \$12.50 | | | per tag |
| Discretionary Fees | | | | | | |
| Special Sale Fee - Saturday Sale (Minimum 500 Head) | \$0.00 | \$2.50 | \$2.50 | | | Per head |
| Dead Beast Handling Fee (Excludes Disposal – Charged at Cost per kg) | \$105.00 | \$108.00 | \$108.00 | | | Per head |

Proposed NRLX Fees and Charges 2023-24

| Fee Name | 21/22 Fee (incl. GST) | 22/23 Fee (incl. GST) | 23/24 (inc. GST) | % Increase (incl. GST) | \$ Increase (incl. GST) | Unit |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| General Fees | | | | | | |
| Livestock Feeding Permit | | | Remove from Fees | | | Per annum |
| Saleyards Inductions (Minimum 10) | | | Remove from Fees | | | Per person |
| Feeding of Livestock - Small Bale (Subject to Market) | | | \$18.00 | | \$18.00 | Per bale |
| Feeding of Livestock - Round Bale (Subject to Market) | | | \$154.00 | | \$154.00 | Per bale |
| Use of Facility Fee (For Cattle Using Snake Race, Crushes, Pens, Yards) | \$11.40 | \$11.75 | \$11.75 | | | Per head |
| DPI Ramp and Yard Usage - Dipping of Livestock | \$0.00 | \$11.75 | \$11.75 | | | per head |
| Scale Testing Fee | \$290.00 | \$300.00 | \$309.00 | | | |
| Review of Security Footage | \$0.00 | \$132.00 | \$132.00 | | | per hour |
| Labour charges - Per person | | \$90.00 | \$90.00 | | | per hour |
| Infringement Notice - 1st Offence | | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | | | per notice |
| Infringement Notice - 2nd Offence | | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | | | per notice |
| Infringement Notice - 3rd Offence | | \$500.00 | \$500.00 | | | per notice |
| Infringement Notice - Notice to Show Cause | | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | | | per notice |
| After Hours Call Out Fee | | | | | | |
| Monday – Friday (6pm – 6am) | \$163.00 | \$168.00 | \$168.00 | | | per callout |
| Saturday and Sunday | \$210.00 | \$216.00 | \$21.00 | | | per callout |
| Public Holiday | \$267.00 | \$275.00 | \$275.00 | | | per callout |
| Transit Fees | | | | | | |
| Ramp Usage and Transit Yard Fee - Consolidation - Less than 24 Hours | \$0.00 | \$3.00 | \$3.00 | | | per head |
| Ramp Usage and Transit Yard Fee - Consolidation - More than 24 Hours | \$0.00 | \$8.00 | \$8.00 | | | per head |
| Use of Crush/Head Bale Fee | | | | | | |
| Use of Crush Pre or Post Sale at NRLX (Must be Pre-Booked) | \$0.60 | \$0.60 | \$0.60 | | | per head |

Proposed NRLX Fees and Charges 2023-24

| Fee Name | 21/22 Fee (incl. GST) | 22/23 Fee (incl. GST) | 23/24 (inc. GST) | % Increase (incl. GST) | \$ Increase (incl. GST) | Unit |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Holding Paddock Charges | | | | | | |
| 1 Day Minimum | \$90.00 | \$90.00 | \$90.00 | | | |
| 2 Days | \$120.00 | \$120.00 | \$120.00 | | | |
| 3 Days | \$160.00 | \$160.00 | \$160.00 | | | |
| Weekly | \$240.00 | \$240.00 | \$240.00 | | | |
| Monthly | \$720.00 | \$720.00 | \$720.00 | | | |
| Annually | \$3,480.00 | \$3,480.00 | \$3,480.00 | | | |
| Railway Holding Paddocks | | | | | | |
| Weekly | \$130.00 | \$130.00 | \$130.00 | | | |
| Monthly | \$295.00 | \$295.00 | \$295.00 | | | |
| Yearly | \$3,480.00 | \$3,480.00 | \$3,480.00 | | | |
| Truck Wash (Avdata System) | | | | | | |
| Key Purchase | \$46.50 | \$47.90 | \$47.90 | | | per key |
| Usage Per Minute | \$0.93 | \$0.95 | \$0.95 | | | per min pro rata |
| Minimum Charge | \$4.60 | \$4.75 | \$4.75 | | | |
| Canteen Hire | | | | | | |
| Canteen Hire – Casual Hirer (No Lease) | Price on application | | | | | for each use |
| Canteen Hire – Casual Hirer Bond (No Lease) | Price on application | | | | | for each use |
| Advertising Fees | | | | | | |
| Southern Yards Boundary 2,400 x 900mm | \$910.00 | \$910.00 | \$955.00 | 5% | \$45.00 | Per Annum |
| Southern Yards Boundary 1,200 x 900mm | \$510.00 | \$510.00 | \$535.00 | 5% | \$25.00 | Per Annum |
| Southern Yards Boundary 900 x 900mm | \$410.00 | \$410.00 | \$430.00 | 5% | \$20.00 | Per Annum |
| Eastern Loading Zone 3,600 x 900mm | \$1,360.00 | \$1,360.00 | \$1,430.00 | 5% | \$70.00 | Per Annum |
| Eastern Loading Zone 2,400 x 900mm | \$910.00 | \$910.00 | \$955.00 | 5% | \$45.00 | Per Annum |
| Hire Fees | | | | | | |
| NRLX Training Room | \$0.00 | \$20.00 | \$20.00 | | | Per hour |
| NRLX Training Room | \$0.00 | \$70.00 | \$70.00 | | | Per day |
| NRLX Meeting Room | \$0.00 | \$30.00 | \$30.00 | | | Per hour |
| NRLX Meeting Room | \$0.00 | \$110.00 | \$110.00 | | | Per day |

Proposed NRLX Fees and Charges 2023-24

17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

17.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023

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 28 February 2023 is shown below:

| Bank Accounts | Term Deposits | Floating Rate Notes | Fixed Rate Bonds | TCorp IM Funds | Total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| \$17,780,649 | \$37,000,000 | \$4,750,390 | \$2,000,000 | \$14,954,378 | \$76,485,417 |

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 28 February 2023 was 1.93% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for February 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 February 2023.

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 28 February 2023, Council has earned \$1,005,322 in interest, \$342,479 in fair value gains from previously held collateralised debt obligations (CDOs), and \$625,283 in fair value gains from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of \$1,973,085. This equates to 217.59% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$906,782.

During February, Council withdrew the funds held in the Macquarie CMA Account as the net return of 3.30% was less than the return Council receives on its Commonwealth Bank Business Online Saver Account which is 3.45%. Council's financial advisors received a commission of 0.05% of the return on the Macquarie account, with commissions paid for the 2022/2023 financial year to 28 February 2023 totalling \$3,016.

Future fair value gains or losses will continue to be monitored and reported to Council and the budget will be reviewed as part of the March Quarterly Budget Review.

REPORT

Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Cash Rate Update

The RBA raised the cash rate to 3.35% per annum at its February meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in February was 1.93%, a decrease in 838 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 169 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 losses of \$119,072 during the month of February.

The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a loss of \$94,074 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a loss of \$24,998.

During February, financial markets were generally weaker following a very strong January. The expectation that interest rates will have to increase and stay higher for longer pushed global bond yields higher, whereas most equity markets fell following this expectation. 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, 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 \$76,485,417 at 28 February 2023. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$14,235,000), Term Deposits (\$37,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$4,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$14,954,378) and other bank accounts (\$3,545,649).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$43,750,390 represented 57.21% of the total portfolio as at 28 February 2023.

Council made the following new investment during February 2023:

| Banking Institution | Investment Type | Environmentally Sustainable Investment | Amount Invested | Investment Term | Interest Rate |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Macquarie Bank | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 4.26% |
| Australian Unity Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | 6 months | 4.55% |
| Bank of Queensland | Term Deposit | N | \$2,000,000 | 6 months | 4.55% |
| Bank of Queensland | Term Deposit | N | \$2,000,000 | 6 months | 4.55% |
| Transport Mutual Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | 9 Months | 4.90% |
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 4.30% |
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 4.30% |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|----------|-------|
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 4.30% |
| Auswide Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | 6 months | 4.75% |
| Bank of Queensland | Term Deposit | N | \$2,000,000 | 5 months | 4.45% |
| Macquarie Bank | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 4.26% |
| Macquarie Bank | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | 3 months | 4.26% |
| Total | | | \$17,000,000 | | |

Council had the following investment maturities during the month of February 2023:

| Banking Institution | Investment Type | Environmentally Sustainable Investment | Amount Invested | Interest Earned |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|------------------|
| AMP Ltd | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | \$18,348 |
| AMP Ltd | Term Deposit | N | \$2,000,000 | \$36,400 |
| AMP Ltd | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | \$9,493 |
| Judo Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | \$18,247 |
| Auswide Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | \$36,899 |
| Auswide Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | \$36,899 |
| Transport Mutual Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | \$19,233 |
| AMP Ltd | Term Deposit | N | \$1,000,000 | \$18,449 |
| Auswide Bank | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$18,348 |
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$9,599 |
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$9,599 |
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$1,000,000 | \$9,599 |
| Southern Cross Credit Union | Term Deposit | Y | \$2,000,000 | \$18,986 |
| Total | | | \$19,000,000 | \$260,099 |

Council had \$14,954,378 longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 28 February 2023. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

| Investment Holding | Fair Value 28 February 23 | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 28 February 23 | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Medium Term Growth Fund | \$11,991,576 | (\$94,074) | \$447,230 | \$986,547 |
| Long Term Growth Fund | \$2,962,801 | (\$24,998) | \$178,053 | (\$37,199) |
| Total | \$14,954,378 | (\$119,072) | \$625,283 | \$949,348 |

The performance of the NSW Treasury Corporation Investments for February is disappointing; however, it does follow very strong gains in January, again highlighting the ups and downs of long term investments.

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$76,485,417 at 28 February 2023 includes \$41,704,378 or 54.5% 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 months of February 2023, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 28 February 2023 Council's cash and investments totalled \$76,485,417 with \$17,780,649 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 1.93% for the month of February 2023 and total investment revenue equals 217.59% of budgeted revenue for the year to 28 February 2023.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. RVC Investment Pack - February 2023 (under separate cover)

17.2 REVIEW OF RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE POLICY

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Kate Allder-Conn

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council undertakes regular reviews of policies and procedures to ensure they remain compliant with relevant legislation and reflect best practice measures. The Related Party Disclosure Policy has been reviewed and is now presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised Related Party Disclosure Policy.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Sustain - Objective 10: Lead and advocate for our community

10D Lead with integrity

10D1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

REPORT

In line with Council's practice of periodically reviewing adopted policies and procedures, a review of the Related Party Disclosure Policy has been carried out.

The Policy provides guidance to Council's Key Management Personnel (KMP) on compliance with section 413(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standard AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures (July 2015). As neither the relevant legislation, nor the Accounting Standard, have undergone review, there are no substantive changes required to the Policy.

The only notable change is the update made to Council's nominated KMP. The existing policy notes the following KMP:

- Councillors; and
- Executive Management Team (General Manager, Director of Infrastructure and Environment and the Chief Financial Officer).

The KMP have been updated to reflect the current organisational structure:

- Councillors; and
- Executive Management Team (General Manager, Director Community Service Delivery, Director Projects and Business Development, Director Organisational Services and Chief of Staff).

CONSULTATION

Review carried out in consultation with Council's Governance and Finance departments.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopt the revised Related Party Disclosure Policy, noting that no substantive changes were required at the time of review.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Reviewed Related Party Disclosure Policy (under separate cover)**

17.3 CIVICRISK MUTUAL - OPTION TO EXTEND CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE SERVICES

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Kate Ailder-Conn

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council entered into a three-year contract with CivicRisk Mutual Pty Ltd (the Mutual) as provider of Council's insurance related services and insurance coverage, commencing on 1 July 2020. Council Resolution 180220/25 made in February 2020, contained an option to extend the contract by a further two years based on performance of the Mutual.

The three-year term of the contract will conclude on 30 June 2023. Based on the information provided within the report, it is recommended that Council grant the two-year performance-based extension.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council grants a two-year extension to the existing contract for insurance related services and insurance coverage to CivicRisk Mutual Pty Ltd, for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

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

Council is yet to receive insurance pricing for the 2023/2024 year; however, it is expected premiums will exceed the cost paid in 2022/2023, being \$782,013 (exclusive of GST and claim excess costs).

REPORT

Council entered into a three-year contract with CivicRisk Mutual Pty Ltd (the Mutual) as provider of Council's insurance related services and insurance coverage, commencing on 1 July 2020. Council Resolution 180220/25 made in February 2020, contained an option to extend the contract by a further two years based on performance of the Mutual.

Since the commencement of Council's relationship with the Mutual, Council has received significant support through challenging times and a hardening insurance market.

As a result of the floods in February 2022, the Mutual paid out the full flood cover limit of \$5 million, compared to the \$2 million payout neighbouring councils received from our previous insurer. In addition, Council continues to be provided with ongoing flood cover for future flooding events.

Together with receiving competitive insurance rates and fast claims processing, Council receives a number of other benefits under the contract, such as ongoing training sessions for staff and the opportunity to participate in committees that foster information sharing and networking.

Being part of the Mutual provides Council with access to a dedicated team made up of claims managers, independent insurance brokers, panel lawyers and other industry professionals. All of whom are available to respond quickly to enquiries and provide guidance as required.

Additional advantages to Council's membership of the Mutual include the Continuous Risk Improvement Program (CRIP) which involves an assessment of Council's policies and practices

with the intention of highlighting areas for improvement; and the availability of Risk Enhance funding, which Council can apply for to assist in the funding of risk mitigation projects.

In a challenging market, where insurance cover can be difficult to source, Council is well placed through coverage provided by the Mutual.

CONSULTATION

Nil

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council grant a two-year extension to the existing contract for insurance related services and insurance coverage, to CivicRisk Mutual Pty Ltd, for the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2025.

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 FEBRUARY 2023 - 28 FEBRUARY 2023

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Denise Catlin

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 February 2023 – 28 February 2023.

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 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 was 23, with a total value of \$7,414,369.50, less a refused application.

For the month of February, we had two applications determined that were flood affected. DA2023/0076 was a resolution by Council due to it being more than 10% above the permissible height for the property at 305 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Woodburn. Proposed works included - raise flood affected house above the maximum building height plane, complete renovation of the existing building and filling of the land around the raised house. DA2023/0122 was approved for 2270 Bungawalbin Whiporie Road, Gibberagee for the raising of existing dwelling and construction of associated steps and landings.

DA2022/0249 – 24 McDonald Street, Broadwater for the proposed retention of existing dwelling and associated ancillary structures, site works including installation of services and Torrens-title subdivision thereafter to create three (3) x residential lots was determined by way of refusal due to the applicant not being able to meet the standards in relation to flooding issues.

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

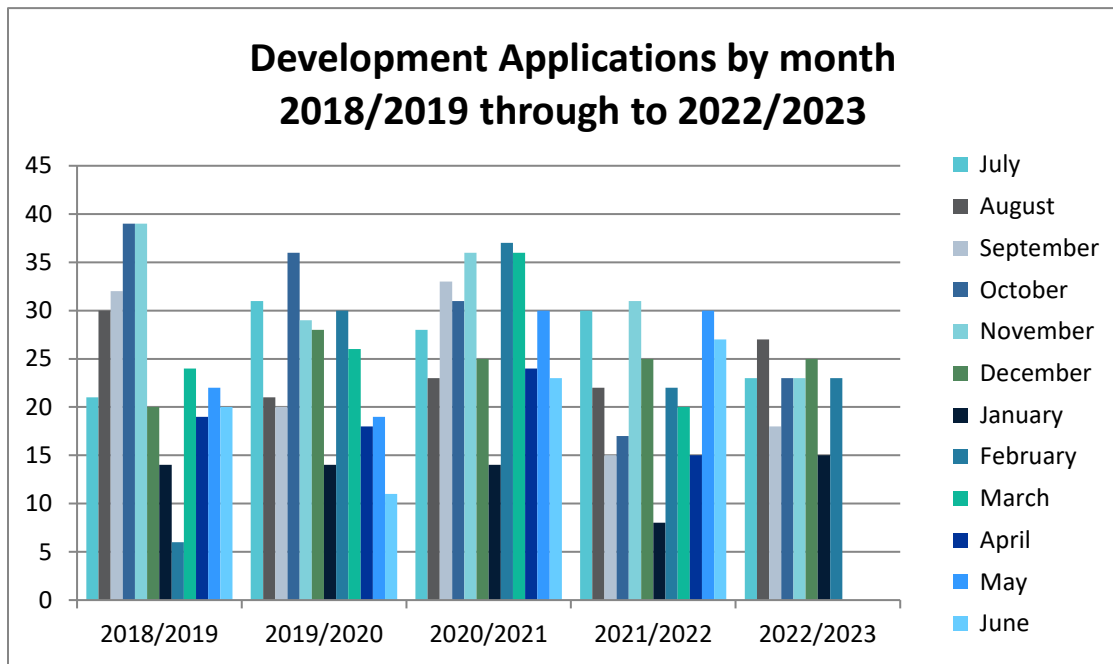


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

Figure 2 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 February 2023.

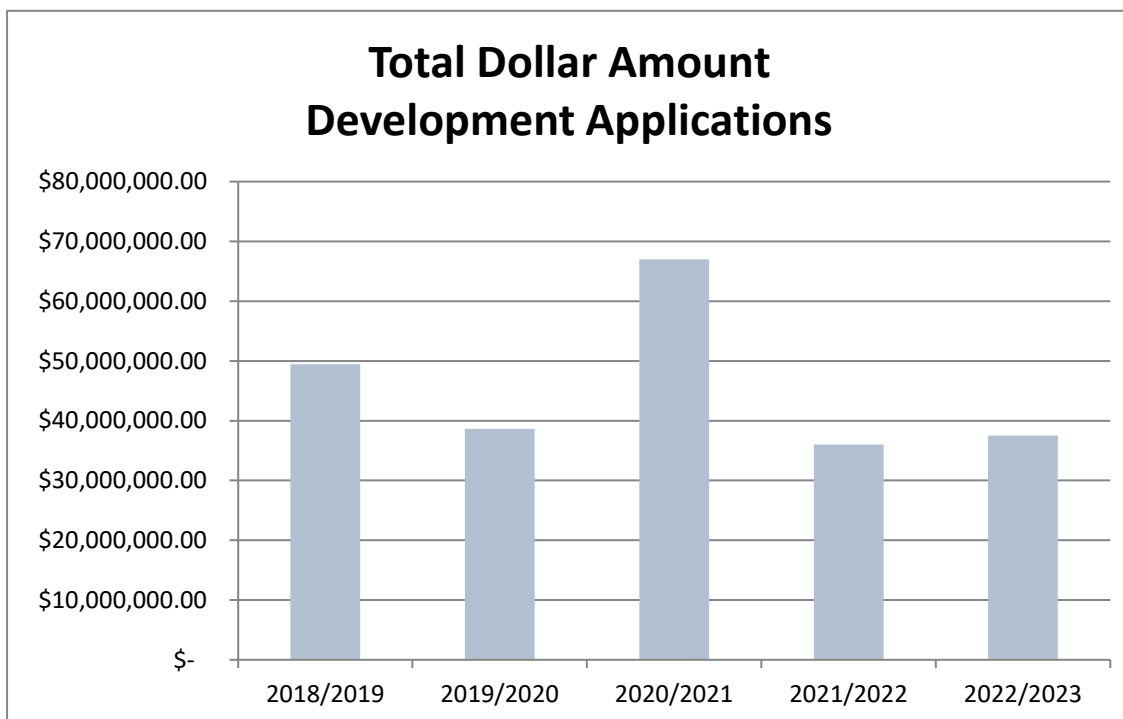


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

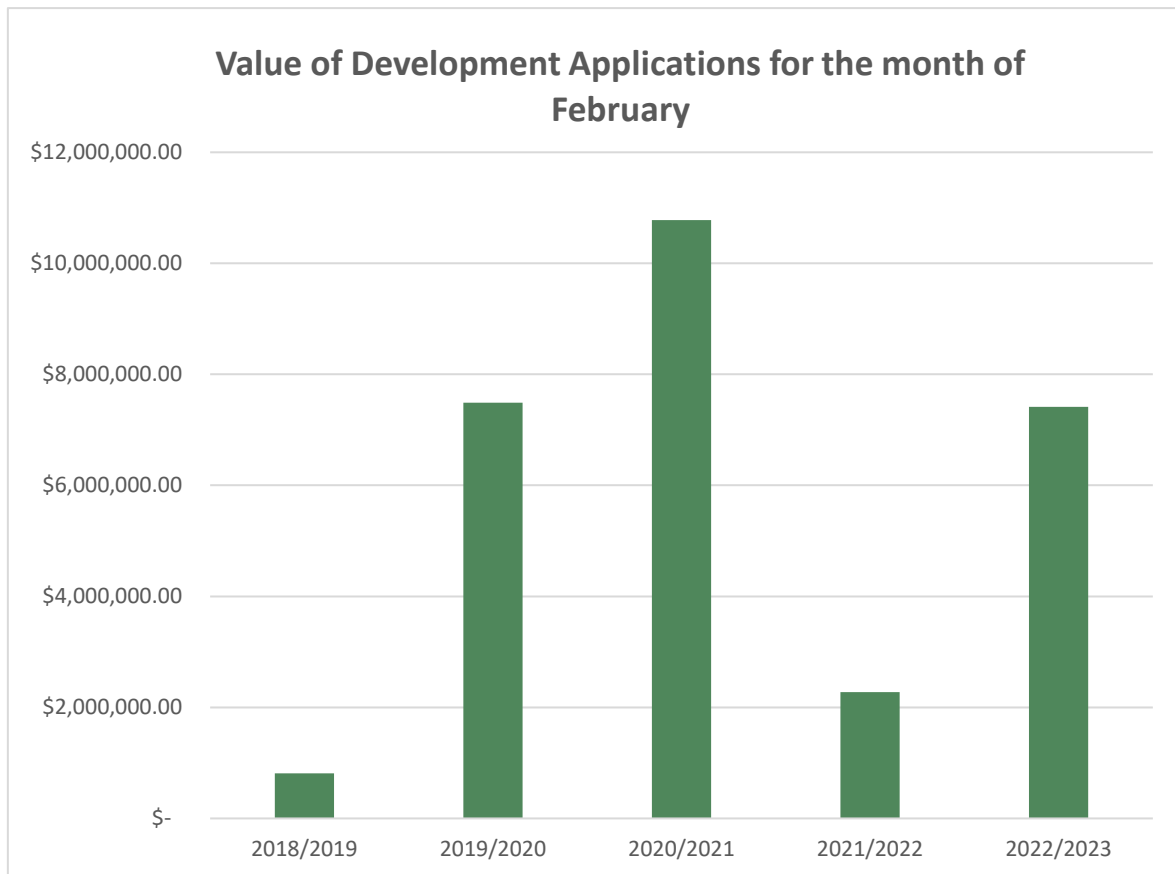


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of February 2023.

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 5 and 6 detail the number of applications determined by Council over the past five years

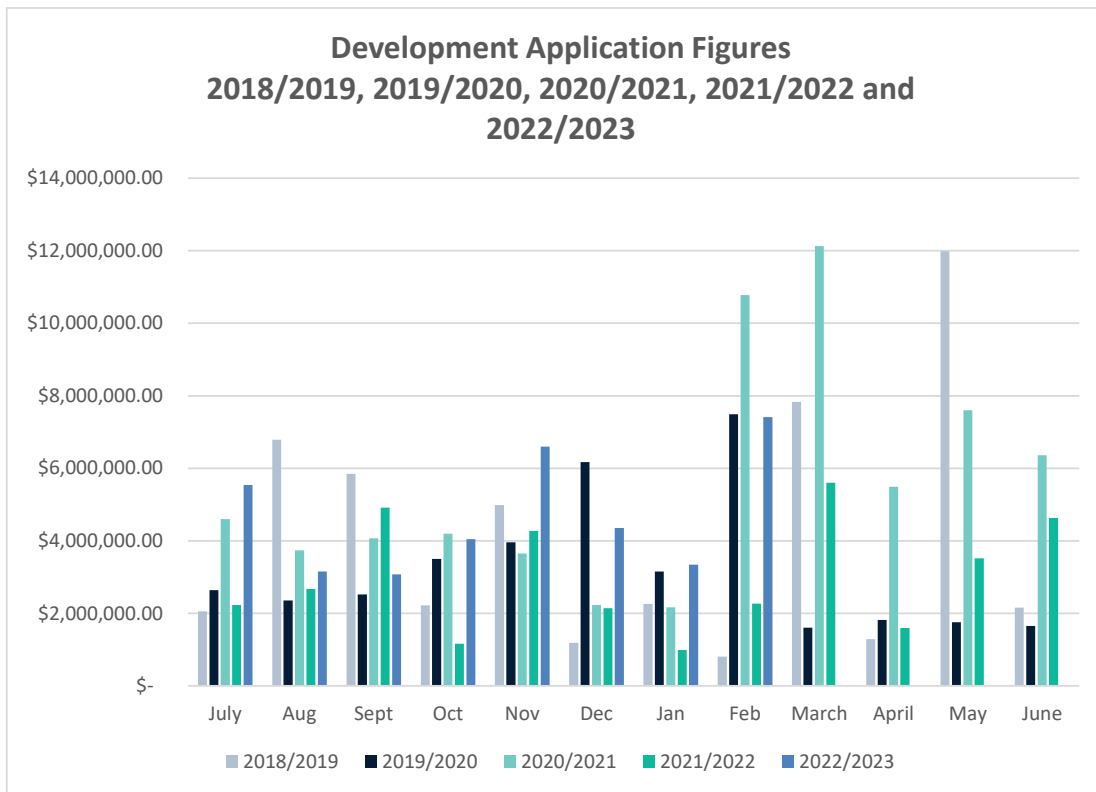


Figure 5: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

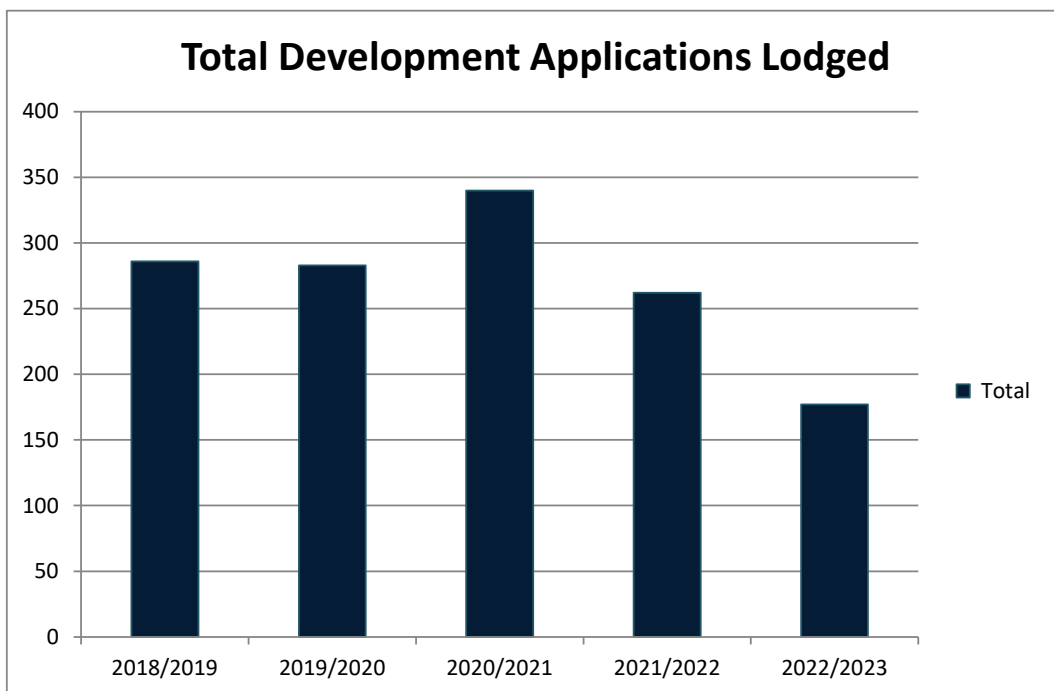


Figure 6: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the months of February 2023

| | |
|---|------------|
| General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55) | 17 |
| Section 4.55 amendments to original consent | 3 |
| Subdivision | 2 |
| Refused | 1 |
| Rejected | 0 |
| Withdrawn | 0 |
| Complying Development (Council Approved) | |
| Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved) | |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINED | 23 |
| | |
| Average assessment days for applications determined in February 2023 | 53 |
| No. of Integrated development applications determined in February 2023 | 3 |
| No. of Designated development applications determined in February 2023 | 0 |
| No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in February 2023 | 115 |

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2022/0075 | McKinlay Enterprises Pty Ltd | McKinlay Properties Pty Ltd | 60 Hare Street, Casino | Replacement of awning, business identification signage and 7m price board | 12/10/2021 | 17/01/2023 | \$60,000.00 |
| DA2023/0060 | Metricon Homes QLD Pty Ltd | Widosea Pty Ltd & Triasa Pty Ltd | 108 West Street, Casino | Construction of two (2) single storey dwellings with attached single garages to form a detached dual occupancy development and associated works | 26/09/2022 | 10/01/2023 | \$558,686.00 |
| DA2023/0084 | Crestwood Drafting Services | DJT Superannuation Pty Ltd | 128-132 Barker Street, Casino | Change of use as health consulting rooms comprising alterations and additions to an existing building including installation of an accessible sanitary facility, new signage and associated works | 9/11/2022 | 10/01/2023 | \$134,750.00 |
| DA2023/0088 | Hayes Building Consultancy | MT Stokes & K P W Stokes | 2 Wallum Drive, Doonbah | Conversion of an existing donga building to be used as an art studio and the permit installation of two (2) shipping containers | 15/11/2022 | 16/01/2023 | \$4,500.00 |
| DA2023/0090 | Scott Davis & Associates | S J Marquet & J P Marquet | 84 Johnston Street, Casino | Demolition of existing outbuildings, alterations & additions to existing dwelling, construction of an attached second dwelling to create a dual occupancy and strata subdivision | 16/11/2022 | 12/01/2023 | \$940,500.00 |
| DA2023/0091 | AGS Commercial Pty Ltd | J Turner | 36 Barker Street, Casino | Storage shed | 22/11/2022 | 5/01/2023 | \$33,709.00 |
| DA2023/0096 | The Shed Company | R S Falconer & A I Falconer | 86 Johnston Street, Casino | Shed and lean to | 29/11/2022 | 9/01/2023 | \$27,837.00 |
| DA2022/0119 | K L Porter | K L Porter | 5 Wiangarie Street, Casino | As built secondary dwelling, 1 bed, 1 bath, detached structure, constructed using 2x 60' shipping containers | 14/12/2021 | 14/02/2023 | \$66,000.00 |

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2022/0191 | Scarrabelotti Holdings Pty Ltd | Scarrabelotti Holdings Pty Ltd | 1410 Bentley Road, Bentley | Integrated Development, construction and operation of a Farm Stay Accommodation being comprising 10 x 1 bedroom glamping style units, internal roadworks and associated infrastructure works. | 29/03/2022 | 14/02/2023 | \$627,907.50 |
| DA2023/0023 | Planit Consulting | Eranda Pty Ltd | 166 Langs Way, Woodburn | Integrated Development for land-based tank aquaculture for algae farming within above ground tanks and associated works | 1/08/2022 | 16/02/2023 | \$3,924,000.00 |
| DA2023/0065 | Crestwood Drafting Services | K A Robertson & R J A H Farrell | 38 High Street, Casino | Extension of existing clad house to involve master bedroom, ensuite and WIR, lounge and laundry | 6/10/2022 | 16/02/2023 | \$94,600.00 |
| DA2023/0080 | AGS Commercial Pty Ltd | T F & L J Rankin | 29 Barker Street, Casino | Demolition of existing shed and construction of a 14m x 5m storage shed | 7/11/2022 | 7/02/2023 | \$48,246.00 |
| DA2023/0085 | Hayes Building Consultancy | C M Dunne & M G Moyle | 5 Fern Place, Evans Head | Renovations and additions to an existing residence, including the addition of a new garage and associated works. Includes a request for a variation to the side and rear setback boundaries for the detached shed. | 10/11/2022 | 23/02/2023 | \$244,900.00 |
| DA2023/0087 | Wassa Pty Ltd | D M Copperthwaite | 87 Canterbury Street, Casino | Proposed secondary dwelling, additions & alterations to existing deck (pergola), new steel storage shed and associated works | 15/11/2022 | 21/02/2023 | \$110,935.00 |
| DA2023/0093 | A N James | A N James | 5 Robinson Avenue, Casino | Carport forward of the building line | 29/11/2022 | 7/02/2023 | \$4,800.00 |

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2023/0103 | ASKC Sheds Lismore Pty Ltd | K A & N M Allen | 14 Cascade Drive, Casino | Erect an insulated panel awning | 2/12/2022 | 1/02/2023 | \$18,390.00 |
| DA2023/0108 | Newton Denny Chapelle | E C Foley | 1780 Casino Coraki Road, Coraki | Proposed subdivision to create two lots | 7/12/2022 | 7/02/2023 | \$0.00 |
| DA2023/0022.01 | D M Salkeld | D M Salkeld & N J Duncan | 430 Myall Creek Road, Bora Ridge | S4.55 (1A) Modification to approved shed - move shed to 5 metres from side boundary & 15 metres from front boundary | 14/12/2022 | 8/02/2023 | \$0.00 |
| DA2023/0112 | R D Hanby | Scarrabelotti Holdings Pty Ltd | 90 O'Connors Road, Fairy Hill | Subdivision to create two lots | 14/12/2022 | 2/02/2023 | \$7,150.00 |
| DA2023/0113 | Perry Homes (Aust) Pty Ltd | P W Shearman | 79 Johnston Street, Casino | Construction of a secondary dwelling and associated works | 15/12/2022 | 16/02/2023 | \$234,279.00 |
| DA2023/0116 | Senica Consultancy Group | A Broadbent & M J Broadbent | 899 Swan Bay New Italy Road, New Italy | Demolition of existing house, new dwelling, deck, swimming pool & ancillary site works | 16/12/2022 | 16/02/2023 | \$1,492,987.00 |

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2023/0121 | The Shed Company | L C & J E Vidler | 152 North Street, Casino | Shed | 4/01/2023 | 16/02/2023 | \$31,738.00 |
| DA2023/0123 | N J Anderson | N J Anderson | 22 Cumberland Street, Casino | Convert as built carport into a shed | 10/01/2023 | 17/02/2023 | \$10,000.00 |
| DA2023/0034.01 | Ballina Pool Shop | E A & S B McEwan | 3 Wallum Drive, Doonbah | S4.55(1A) - Modification to extend existing deck to go around approved inground concrete swimming pool with associated fencing | 11/01/2023 | 24/02/2023 | \$0.00 |
| DA2023/0125 | Profile Pools and Landscaping | S R & K L Hay | 32 Mangrove Street, Evans Head | Construction of an inground concrete pool 6m x 4m with associated fencing | 17/01/2023 | 16/02/2023 | \$66,000.00 |
| DA2023/0131 | The Shed Company | H M & M R Gill | 8 Riverview Place, Casino | Storage Shed - 4m x 7m skillion roof finished in all colorbond steel | 30/01/2023 | 27/02/2023 | \$14,930.00 |
| DA2022/0214.01 | Lydia Charman Town Planning | G L C & J A Bruce | 5 Tullarook Grove, Spring Grove | S4.55 (1) Modification - Shed - 16m x 12m | 6/02/2023 | 7/02/2023 | \$0.00 |

| Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|--|--|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2023/0076 | Hayes Building Consultancy | K E L & Mr B J Thomson | 305 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Woodburn | Raise flood affected house above the maximum building height plane, complete renovation of the existing building and filling of the land around the raised house | 2/11/2022 | 1/02/2023 | \$370,007.00 |
| DA2023/0122 | D D Russo | D D Russo | 2270 Bungawalbin Whiporie Road, Gibberagee | Raising of existing dwelling and construction of associated steps and landings | 4/01/2023 | 14/02/2023 | \$47,500.00 |

| Summary of Development Applications Refused under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Application ID | Applicant | Owners | Location | Development | Date Lodged | Determination Date | Estimated Cost |
| DA2022/0249 | Ardill Payne & Partners | Mrs M A Walker & Mr K R Walker | 24 McDonald Street, Broadwater | Retention of existing dwelling and associated ancillary structures, site works including installation of services and Torrens-title subdivision thereafter to create three (3) x residential lots | 24/06/2022 | 23/02/2023 | \$96,250.00 |

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Rylee Vidler

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of February 2023.

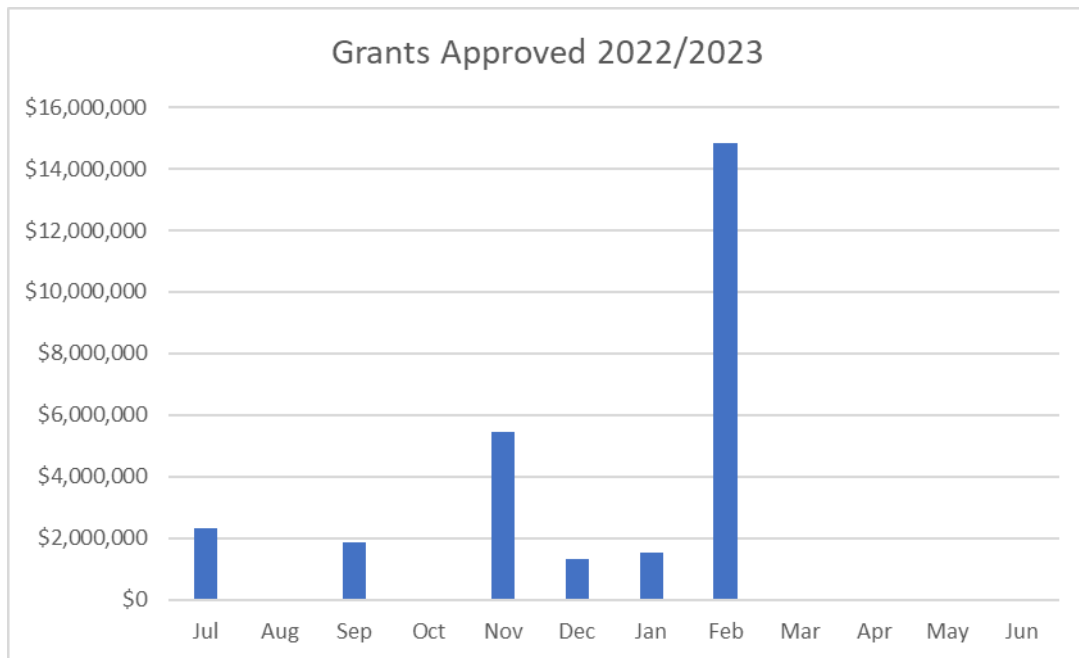
REPORT

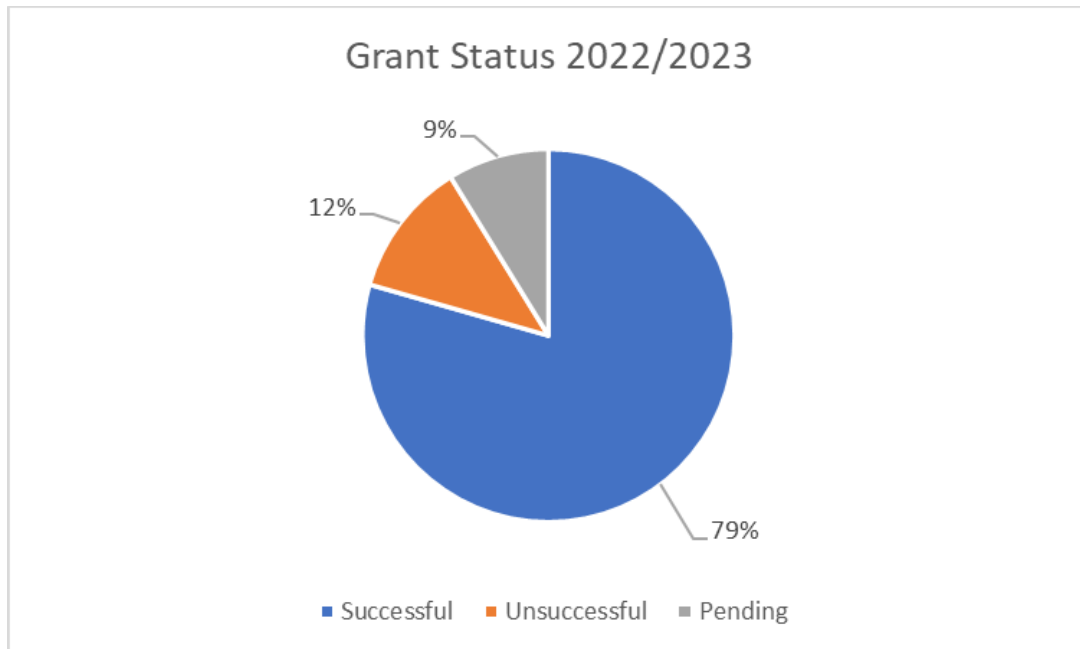
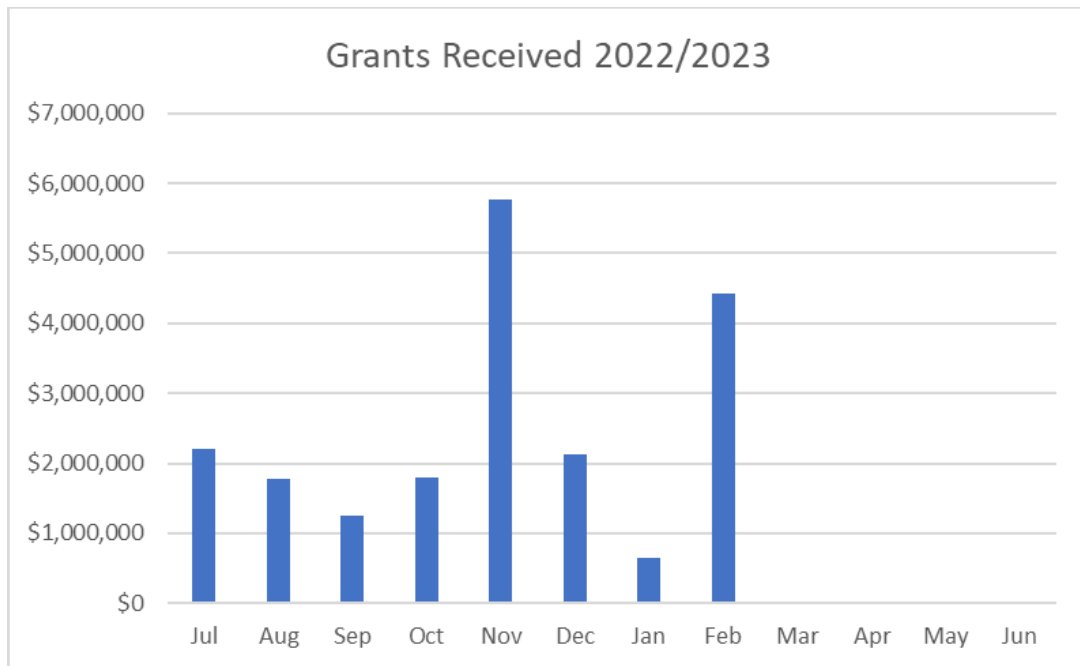
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of February 2023.

During the reporting period, seven grants were approved totalling \$14,824,782. These projects will require Council contributions of \$651,000, bringing the total value for the projects approved to \$15,475,782.

Council received funding for six grants totalling \$4,426,832. Council was notified of three unsuccessful grant applications and no grant applications were submitted during February.

A summary of grants approved and received as well as the status of applications for the current financial year to 28 February 2023 is shown below:





Grants that have been approved

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Date Approved |
|--|--|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Road Repair Application | Transport for NSW (State) | Fixing Local Roads - Regional and Local Roads Repair Fund | \$ 1,939,620 | \$ 1,939,620 | \$ - | 19 January 2023 | 2 February 2023 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to undertake urgent repairs to the road network, which have been significantly impacted by severe flooding, storm damage and persistent wet weather events during 2022. | | | | | | | |
| Coraki Ellangowan Road, Rehabilitations maintenance | Transport for NSW (State) | Fixing Local Roads Round 4 | \$ 2,751,001 | \$ 2,100,001 | \$ 651,000 | 8 September 2022 | 10 February 2023 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to perform shoulder reforming, heavy patching, resurfacing, crack and culvert repairs and improve roadside drainage on 2.7km of Coraki Ellangowan Road | | | | | | | |
| MR145 Road Improvements | National Emergency Management Agency (Federal) | Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative | \$ 4,224,040 | \$ 4,224,040 | \$ - | N/A | 23 February 2023 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to upgrade sections of MR145 to have better access during and post floods. | | | | | | | |
| Thearles Canal (Swan Bay) | National Emergency Management Agency (Federal) | Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative | \$ 1,478,414 | \$ 1,478,414 | \$ - | N/A | 23 February 2023 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to upgrade culverts at Thearles Canal to improve the drainage. | | | | | | | |
| Flood Commemorative Events | Department of Premier and Cabinet (State) | Northern NSW Flood Commemorative Events Grant | \$ 91,667 | \$ 91,667 | \$ - | N/A | 27 February 2023 |
| Comment: This funding was awarded to the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) and has been distributed evenly amongst the member Councils. This funding will allow Council to hold commemorative events across the valley to recognise the anniversary of the floods. | | | | | | | |
| Betterment of Naughtons Gap Road | Transport for NSW (State) | Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package | \$ 3,012,840 | \$ 3,012,840 | \$ - | 1 December 2022 | 28 February 2023 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to design solutions and construction of catch fencing, removal of debris and improving drainage on the upside (northern area) of Naughtons Gap Road slip zone. | | | | | | | |
| Betterment of MR145 Woodburn Coraki Road 'The Dip' | Transport for NSW (State) | Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package | \$ 1,978,200 | \$ 1,978,200 | \$ - | 1 December 2022 | 28 February 2023 |
| Comment: This funding will allow Council to design and construct the Installation of culverts on Woodburn Coraki Road Section 7 Chainage 700-860 | | | | | | | |

Grants that have been received

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Date Received | Total Received |
|---|--|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Richmond Valley Council Local Heritage Grants Program 2022 and 2023 | Heritage NSW (State) | 2021-23 Community Heritage - Local Government Advisors | \$ 11,000 | \$ 11,000 | \$ - | 8 February 2021 | \$ 5,500 7 February 2023 | \$ 5,500 |
| Comment: 2021-22 component of the grant received. Funding is for two financial years. | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Assistance Grant 2022/2023 | NSW Local Government Grants Commission (Federal) | Financial Assistance Grant | \$ 5,981,973 | \$ 5,981,973 | \$ - | N/A - Annual Allocation | \$ 401,923 16 February 2023 | \$ 5,580,050 |
| Comment: Third quarter payment for 2022/23 funding allocation. | | | | | | | | |
| Upgrading Albert Park Tourist Stopover Casino and Shark Bay Evans Head | Department of Regional NSW (State) | Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5 | \$ 1,213,000 | \$ 1,213,000 | \$ - | 23 September 2022 | \$ 970,400 24 February 2023 | \$ 970,400 |
| Comment: 80% of funding received to allow Council to commence works on Albert Park Stopover in Casino and Sharks Bay in Evans Head | | | | | | | | |
| NSW Severe Weather and Flooding 22 Feb 22 - AGRN1012 | Transport for NSW (State) | Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) | \$12,435,454 | \$12,435,454 | \$ - | N/A | \$ 744,045 24 February 2023 | \$12,435,454 |
| Comments: This is a progress payment for emergency and immediate reconstruction work carried out since the February Flood event. Note: The project value is the value of works submitted to Transport for NSW for reimbursement and will increase as more work is completed and submitted. | | | | | | | | |
| Pothole Repair Funding | Transport for NSW (State) | Fixing Local Roads - Pothole Repair Program | \$ 365,344 | \$ 365,344 | \$ - | 2 November 2022 | \$ 365,344 24 February 2023 | \$ 365,344 |
| Comment: Full funding received to allow Council to commence more pothole repair works. | | | | | | | | |
| Road Repair Program | Transport for NSW (State) | Fixing Local Roads - Regional and Local Roads Repair Fund | \$ 1,939,620 | \$ 1,939,620 | \$ - | 19 January 2023 | \$ 1,939,620 27 February 2023 | \$ 1,939,620 |
| Comment: Full funding received to allow Council to commence more repair works. | | | | | | | | |

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Advised Unsuccessful |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Richmond Valley Women - Mind, Body and Soul | Women NSW (State) | 2023 NSW Women's Week Grants Program | \$ 10,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 | 1 December 2022 | 6 February 2023 |
| Comments: This funding was oversubscribed and had a success rate of 30%. | | | | | | | |
| Carwong Road, Rappville Sealing Unsealed Road | Transport for NSW (State) | Fixing Local Roads Round 4 | \$ 700,000 | \$ 525,000 | \$ 175,000 | 8 September 2022 | 10 February 2023 |
| Comments: We received more funding than we applied for to be used on Coraki Ellangowan Road under this program. | | | | | | | |
| Betterment of Richmond Terrace | Transport for NSW (State) | Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package | \$ 9,653,400 | \$ 9,653,400 | \$ - | 1 December 2022 | 28 February 2023 |
| Comments: We received funding for two other projects under this program. | | | | | | | |

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**RECOMMENDATION**

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

22.1 Tender VP333456 - Colley Park Facility Building

This matter relates to a (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

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

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL