

Richmond  
Valley  
Council



# **AGENDA**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting**

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

**Date: Tuesday, 18 April 2023**

**Time: 6pm**

**Location: Council Chambers  
10 Graham Place, Casino**

**Vaughan Macdonald  
General Manager**

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

<b>1</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>MAYORAL MINUTES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	Nil	
<b>6</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	6.1 Minutes Ordinary Meeting held 21 March 2023 .....	6
<b>7</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	Nil	
<b>10</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	Nil	
<b>11</b>	<b>MAYOR'S REPORT</b> .....	<b>8</b>
	11.1 Mayoral Attendance Report 14 March - 10 April 2023 .....	8
<b>12</b>	<b>DELEGATES' REPORTS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	Nil	
<b>13</b>	<b>MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	13.1 Matters to be Determined Without Debate.....	9
<b>14</b>	<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	Nil	
<b>15</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY</b> .....	<b>10</b>
	15.1 Growth Management Strategy & Casino Place Plan - Post Exhibition Report .....	10
<b>16</b>	<b>PROJECTS &amp; BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>14</b>
	Nil	
<b>17</b>	<b>ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	17.1 Financial Analysis Report - March 2023 .....	15
	17.2 Modern Slavery Prevention Policy.....	19
<b>18</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
	Nil	
<b>19</b>	<b>MATTERS FOR INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>22</b>
	19.1 Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Statistics as at 31 March 2023 .....	22
	19.2 Customer Experience Report 1 January – 31 March 2023 .....	26
	19.3 Development Applications Determined Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the Period 1 March - 31 March 2023.....	34
	19.4 Grant Application Information Report - March 2023.....	43

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19.5	Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy letter of thanks .....	49
<b>20</b>	<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE .....</b>	<b>52</b>
20.1	Northern Rivers Reconstruction Commission Question .....	52
<b>21</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING).....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>56</b>
22.1	Land Development Update.....	56
22.2	General Manager's Annual Performance Review - 2022/23 .....	56
<b>23</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>56</b>

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Mayor will provide an Acknowledgement of Country by reading the following statement on behalf of Council:

*"Richmond Valley Council recognises the people of the Bundjalung Nations as Custodians and Traditional Owners of this land and we value and appreciate the continuing cultural connection to lands, their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region in the past, present and future."*

**2 PRAYER****3 PUBLIC ACCESS****4 APOLOGIES****5 MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 21 MARCH 2023**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**REPORT**

Refer attached Minutes.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 1. Unconfirmed Minutes 21 March 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 MARCH - 10 APRIL 2023****Author: Robert Mustow****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 14 March – 10 April 2023.

**MARCH 2023**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Rous County Council Information Session
- 16<sup>th</sup> Directions for Richmond Valley's Economic Development, Evans Head Consultation Session
- 17<sup>th</sup> Casino Indoor Sports Stadium Upgrade Opening
- 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Lismore Mayor and General Manager
- 21<sup>st</sup> Richmond Valley Council Ordinary Meeting
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Coraki Pod Village Welcome Event
- 24<sup>th</sup> Casino Food Co-op Casino Beef Week Launch
- 26<sup>th</sup> Naughtons Gap Book Launch, Windara, Casino
- 30<sup>th</sup> United Hospitals Auxiliaries Zone Conference, Casino RSM

**April 2023**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rappville Hall, screening of *Up Armidale Road* movie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Awards Southern Cross University Lismore
- 4<sup>th</sup> Richmond Valley Councillor Information Session

**ATTACHMENT(S)****Nil**



**12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**

Nil

**13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**

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

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

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

That items identified be determined without debate.

**14 GENERAL MANAGER**

Nil

## 15 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

### 15.1 GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & CASINO PLACE PLAN - POST EXHIBITION REPORT

**Director:** Angela Jones

**Responsible Officer:** Tony McAteer

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has been working in partnership with Regional NSW to plan for more jobs and housing in the Richmond Valley over the next 20 years. This work includes development of the Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Casino Place Plan - which have recently been exhibited for public comment - as well as preparation of the Regional Jobs Precinct Masterplan, which is scheduled for release later this year.

The Growth Management Strategy plans for the sustainable delivery of land, infrastructure, and services to help grow the Valley's population to 27,600 by 2040 and deliver more than 2000 new homes. Much of the growth will be centred around new land releases at Casino and the Casino Place Plan provides more detail on the services, infrastructure and facilities that will be required to support this growing community.

Council exhibited the plans for public comment from 30 November 2022 and 28 February 2023, with 33 written submissions received. Based on the feedback, a number of proposed amendments have been made to the draft documents, which are now presented for Council's consideration.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the outcomes of community consultation on the Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Casino Place Plan and the proposed amendments to the documents in response to public feedback..
2. Adopts the revised Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Casino Place Plan.

#### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Recover - Objective 1: Help communities to recover and reconnect

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

1A1 Prepare Place Plans for towns and villages

#### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The GMS and Casino Place Plan identify additional studies that will be required to support their implementation. This additional work will be addressed in future budget allocations.

#### REPORT

Over the past two years, Council has been working in partnership with Regional NSW to help plan for more jobs and housing for the Richmond Valley. This includes developing the *Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct Master Plan* (to be released later this year) the *Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy* (GMS) and the *Casino Place Plan*. Consultancy firm, GYDE was engaged in 2021 by Richmond Valley Council to prepare the GMS, and also engaged by Regional NSW to prepare the Casino Place Plan and RJP Master Plan. While the RJP Master Plan is still under development, draft versions of the GMS and Casino Place Plan were completed in late 2022 and endorsed for public exhibition at Council's 15 November ordinary meeting.

These documents form an important part of Council’s strategic planning framework and will help to support delivery of the North Coast Regional Plan, as well as the Regional Jobs Precinct initiative. The diagram below shows how the plans will work together.

**Strategic Context**



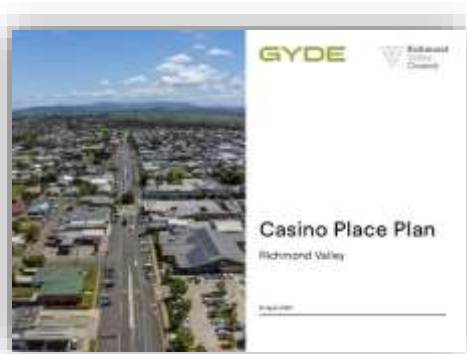
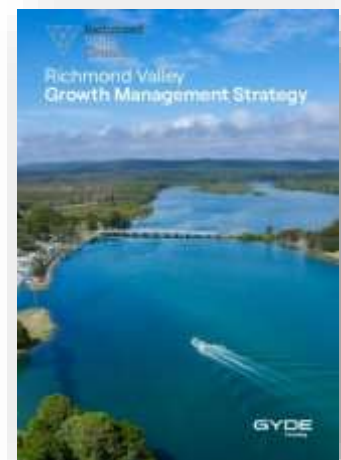
**North Coast Regional Plan 2041 (NCRP)**

The NCRP is the NSW Government’s strategy to support sustainable growth and increased prosperity of the North Coast region over the next 20 years. Development of an urban growth management strategy for the Richmond Valley was one of the key directions identified in the Plan.

**Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy (GMS)**

The GMS sets the council-wide direction for land use planning in the Richmond Valley to guide sustainable growth of residential and commercial development. It supports delivery of the North Coast Regional Plan priorities, Council’s Community Strategic Plan and Local Strategic Planning Statement

The GMS sets a path for increased population growth in the Valley, with some 27,600 residents by 2040. It also plans for 2000+ new homes to house the increased population and identifies where this development can best be located. This includes identifying the supporting infrastructure and services that will be required.



**Casino Place Plan**

The Casino plan is the first of several place plans that Council will deliver for the urban centres of the Richmond Valley.

The Place Plan explores in more detail how new residential and employment growth will be delivered sustainably and identifies key urban design elements to create more liveable, inclusive neighbourhoods and community spaces

The Place Plan also identifies a number of additional studies and plans to be undertaken around the Casino CBD and Casino Health Precinct to revitalise and activate these areas.

## CONSULTATION

Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken on the draft documents between 30 November 2022 and 28 February 2023. The following engagement methods were used-

- Published notices –
  - Details of the exhibition, including copies of the draft documents and additional maps were provided on Council's On Exhibition website page.
  - Richmond Valley Council Facebook posts (4) from December - February -
  - Community Views Newsletter articles (2)
  - Community Connections digital newsletter articles (3)
- Printed Notice at each of Council's Casino and Evans Head Customer Service Centres along with a printed copy of the draft documents.
- Email notifications to over 480 Richmond Valley business owners.
- Stakeholder notifications to 14 government agencies and neighbouring councils.
- Public Exhibition – from 30 November 2022 to 28 February 2023 where written submissions were invited.
- Community information sessions – conducted on 9 February 2023 at the Casino Community & Culture Centre, and 10 February 2023 at the Evans Head Library

GYDE consultancy provided two team members to attend the sessions, along with Council officers, to conduct face-to-face interviews, discuss the draft documents and receive feedback.

A total of 23 people attended the information sessions (20 in Casino and three in Evans Head), with 27 written community submissions and 6 agency submissions being received during the consultation period.

The attached Engagement Outcomes Report, produced by GYDE, outlines the engagement methods undertaken and summarises feedback received during face-to-face consultation at information sessions and through written public submissions. Agency submissions were generally supportive of the strategic directions and commented on the need to align the strategies to both local and State government policies, and to balance growth, infrastructure delivery and environmental constraints in the Richmond Valley LGA.

A number of changes have been recommended by GYDE and incorporated into the updated documents presented in this report. The changes reflect suggested improvements and clarifications from the Department of Planning and Environment's Regional Planning and Biodiversity and Conservation divisions, as well as community feedback.

Updates to the GMS include:

- incorporating the NSW Government's response to the NSW Independent Flood Inquiry
- reinforcing the need for public and active transport
- reinforcing Direction 16 to review growth area mapping as new data becomes available, avoiding intensification of land uses in environmentally constrained areas and considering the application of suitable conservation zones
- providing improved mapping of the rural residential investigation areas
- highlighting that future uses at the Casino airport employment growth area are to remain compatible with existing character and function of the airfield.
- inclusion of an implementation table at the end of the GMS to identify how directions and actions will be delivered

Many of the public submissions on the GMS specifically addressed proposed development of Iron Gates and called for the land to be de-zoned. However, it should be noted that proposed de-zoning of land is outside the scope of the GMS. The study only considers potential new release sites. Accordingly, the GMS acknowledges that the Iron Gates land is currently zoned residential and provides no further recommendation.

Updates to the Casino Place Plan include:

- updating references to the new North Coast Regional Plan 2041
- incorporating the NSW Government's response to the NSW Independent Flood Inquiry
- further emphasising the need to deliver a diverse range of housing types
- noting the need to minimise land use conflict between residential, rural residential and agricultural land uses – including transition or buffering at interfaces
- additional directions relating to liveable communities such as strengthening business opportunities around agriculture and tourism, ensuring social infrastructure meets the ongoing needs of a growing community, and exploring opportunities for public art
- additional commentary around passive and active transport networks, and greening of streets
- additional resilience around transport networks and evacuation planning
- inclusion of an implementation table at the end of the Place Plan to identify how directions and actions will be delivered

## CONCLUSION

Council conducted community engagement on the *Draft Richmond Valley Growth Management Plan* and the *Draft Casino Place Plan* from 30 November 2022 to 28 February 2023. During this process Council received feedback and submissions which are outlined in the attached Engagement Outcomes Report prepared by GYDE consulting. A number of changes to the draft documents have been recommended as a result of the engagement process.

Final versions of the *Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy* and *Casino Place Plan* have been attached to this report and are presented for Council's consideration.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Richmond Valley GMS & Casino Place Plan - Engagement Outcomes Report (under separate cover)**
2. **Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy (under separate cover)**
3. **Casino Place Plan (under separate cover)**

**16 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Nil

## 17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

### 17.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MARCH 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 31 March 2023 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$18,295,857	\$36,000,000	\$5,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$15,163,347	\$77,209,594

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 31 March 2023 was 7.54% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for March of 0.28%, 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 March 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 31 March 2023, Council has earned \$1,189,088 in interest, \$342,479 in fair value gains from previously held collateralised debt obligations (CDOs), and \$834,253 in fair value gains from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of \$2,365,820. This equates to 260.90% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$906,782.

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 3.60% per annum at its March meeting.

##### Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in March was 7.54%, an increase in 561 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 726 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.28% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of \$208,969 during the month of March.

The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a gain of \$166,516 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a gain of \$42,453.

During March, financial markets were extremely volatile as concerns for the banking sector arose following the collapse of two central US banks. There was nervousness surrounding the stubbornly high inflation with banks suggesting more interest rate increases would be needed, however, by the end of March strong gains were posted as concerns around the banking sectors diminished. 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 5 or more years (original investment was October 2018) and the LTGF has a recommended investment timeframe of 10 or more years (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 \$77,209,594 at 31 March 2023. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$17,495,000), Term Deposits (\$36,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$5,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$15,163,347) and other bank accounts (\$800,857).

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 56.66% of the total portfolio as at 31 March 2023.

Council made the following new investment during March 2023:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Bank of Queensland	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	4 months	4.45%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	4.32%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	4.32%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	4.32%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	4.32%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	4.65%
Auswide Bank	Floating Rate Note	Y	\$1,000,000	3 years	3m BBSW +1.5%
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	4.43%



Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	4.43%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$9,000,000</b>		

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

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$18,348
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$36,899
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$13,807
MyState Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$9,704
Gateway Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$9,599
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$19,836
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$12,559
Macquarie Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$12,559
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$9,000,000</b>	<b>\$133,311</b>

Council had \$15,163,347 longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 March 2023. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31 March 23	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 31 March 23	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$12,158,093	\$166,516	\$613,747	\$1,153,064
Long Term Growth Fund	\$3,005,254	\$42,453	\$220,506	\$5,254
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,163,347</b>	<b>\$208,969</b>	<b>\$834,253</b>	<b>\$1,158,318</b>

The performance of the NSW Treasury Corporation Investments for March is very pleasing; however, it comes off the back of a disappointing February result, again highlighting the ups and downs of long-term investments.

**Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)**

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$77,209,594 at 31 March 2023 includes \$38,913,347 or 50.4% 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.

**CDO Class Action**

On 13 April 2018 Council signed up to a class action against Lehman Brothers for monies lost in CDO investments with them, with the amount claimed under the class action being \$462,958.48. Since then, Council has recovered \$3,833.76 through an insurance claim, and has had two dividend payments from the class action totalling \$342,479.49. This leaves \$116,645.23 funds remaining. Council has been advised that there may be further dividends payable, but the value of these is currently unknown.

**CONCLUSION**

During the month of March 2023, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 31 March 2023 Council's cash and investments totalled \$77,209,594 with \$18,295,857 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 7.54% and total investment revenue equals 260.90% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 March 2023.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

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

## 17.2 MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION POLICY

**Director:** Ryan Gaiter

**Responsible Officer:** Geoff Dellar

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NSW councils are now required by law to take reasonable steps to ensure they are not procuring goods and services that are the product of modern slavery. An assessment of Council's supply chain will be carried out to identify areas where modern slavery may be present. A Modern Slavery Prevention Policy has been drafted to provide guidance in procurement activities and raise awareness of modern slavery considerations. The draft policy is presented for Council's consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Modern Slavery Prevention Policy.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

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

11A Manage resources responsibly

11A3 Enhance procurement systems

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

### REPORT

NSW councils are now required by law to take reasonable steps to ensure they are not procuring goods and services that are the product of modern slavery.

Modern slavery is the exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain. It is estimated that globally 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery, including some 15,000 potential victims in Australia.

Modern slavery comes in many forms, including:

- Human trafficking – which involves transporting, recruiting, or harbouring people for the purpose of exploitation, using violence, threats or coercion.
- Forced labour – any work or services which people are forced to do against their will under the threat of some form of punishment.
- Debt bondage/bonded labour – when people borrow money they cannot repay and are required to work to pay off the debt, then losing control over the conditions of both their employment and the debt.

The NSW *Modern Slavery Amendment Act 2021* was passed on 29 November 2021 and commenced on 1 January 2022. As a result, the following requirements are now included within the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* and came into effect from 1 July 2022.

- A council must take reasonable steps to ensure that goods and services procured by and for the council are not the product of modern slavery.
- A council's Annual Report must contain:

- a statement of steps taken to ensure goods and services procured for the council during the year were not the product of modern slavery.
- a statement of the action taken by the council in relation to any issue raised by the Anti-slavery Commissioner during the year concerning the operations of the council and identified by the Commissioner as being a significant issue.

In addition to the above, modern slavery related matters in the *Local Government Act 1993* also require councils to take into consideration social justice principles in all decision making, including procurement. As a custodian of public finances, councils have an ethical obligation to consider, identify and manage modern slavery risks within supply chains.

Certain categories and products have higher modern slavery risks, including construction and manufacturing. Products including cotton, bricks, garments and electronics (laptops, computers and mobile phones) are subject to a higher modern slavery risk. The following indicators are considered when assessing for potential modern slavery risks:

- Where a large order is placed, and a very short turn-around time can be achieved.
- If a supplier quotes a price that seems to be very inexpensive as compared with other quotes received at the same time.

Council is currently undertaking a preliminary review of its supply chain to identify areas where modern slavery may be present. To assist Council to meet its modern slavery prevention obligations a policy has been drafted and is attached for consideration.

### **CONSULTATION**

Nil

### **CONCLUSION**

NSW councils are now required by law to take reasonable steps to ensure they are not procuring goods and services that are the product of modern slavery. The attached Modern Slavery Prevention Policy has been prepared to guide future procurement decisions and is presented for Council's consideration.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **Draft Modern Slavery Prevention Policy (under separate cover)**

**18 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION****RECOMMENDATION**

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

**19.1 NORTHERN RIVERS LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE STATISTICS AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

**Director:** Ben Zeller

**Responsible Officer:** Bradley Willis

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the financial year to date Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Statistics as of 31 March 2023.

**REPORT**

This report provides a financial year to date update on the key statistics and financial performance of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange on 31 March 2023.

**Key Statistics**

	To 31 March 2023	Comparison of last year to 31 March 2022
Throughput	89,290	82,222
Gross sales revenue	\$118,273,626	\$146,491,319
Council revenue share	\$1,564,118 (1.32%)	\$1,448,534 (0.99%)
Estimated Agents revenue share at 5% commission	\$5,913,681.30	\$7,324,566
Producers' revenue share	\$110,795,827	\$137,718,219
NRLX Program deficit	\$431,670	\$415,874

**NRLX Income and Expenditure to 31 March 2023**

With continued increases in throughput numbers the NRLX has gained an increase of \$115,000 in revenue compared to the same period in 2022 noting that the revenue of 2022 was an increase of \$100,000 from 2021. Total revenue to 31 March is \$1,564,118 which accounts for 80% of yearly budget. The operating deficit of \$201,036 (LY \$151,403) is an increase for the YTD compared to the previous year. Depreciation is factored into this result which when added back shows a cash surplus result to 31 March of \$143,728 (LY \$232,651).

Operating expenses excluding depreciation are \$1,258,056 (LY \$1,072,231) with an added depreciation figure of \$344,764 YTD bringing total operating expenses to \$1,602,820. Other significant expenses in the financials include \$59,757 in legal expenses which relates to an historical WHS matter and current legal expenses for the revised Agent Licence Agreements.

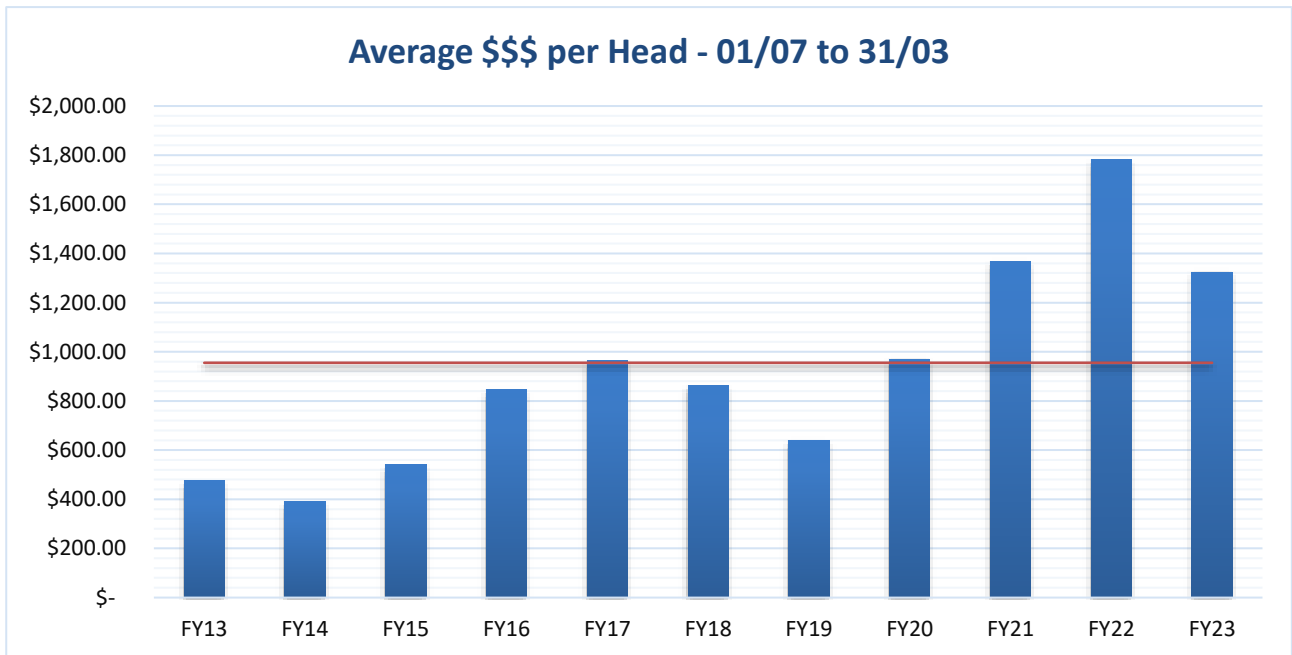
Fees and rent revenue of \$1,354,357 is currently 77.63% of budget (\$1,744,609).

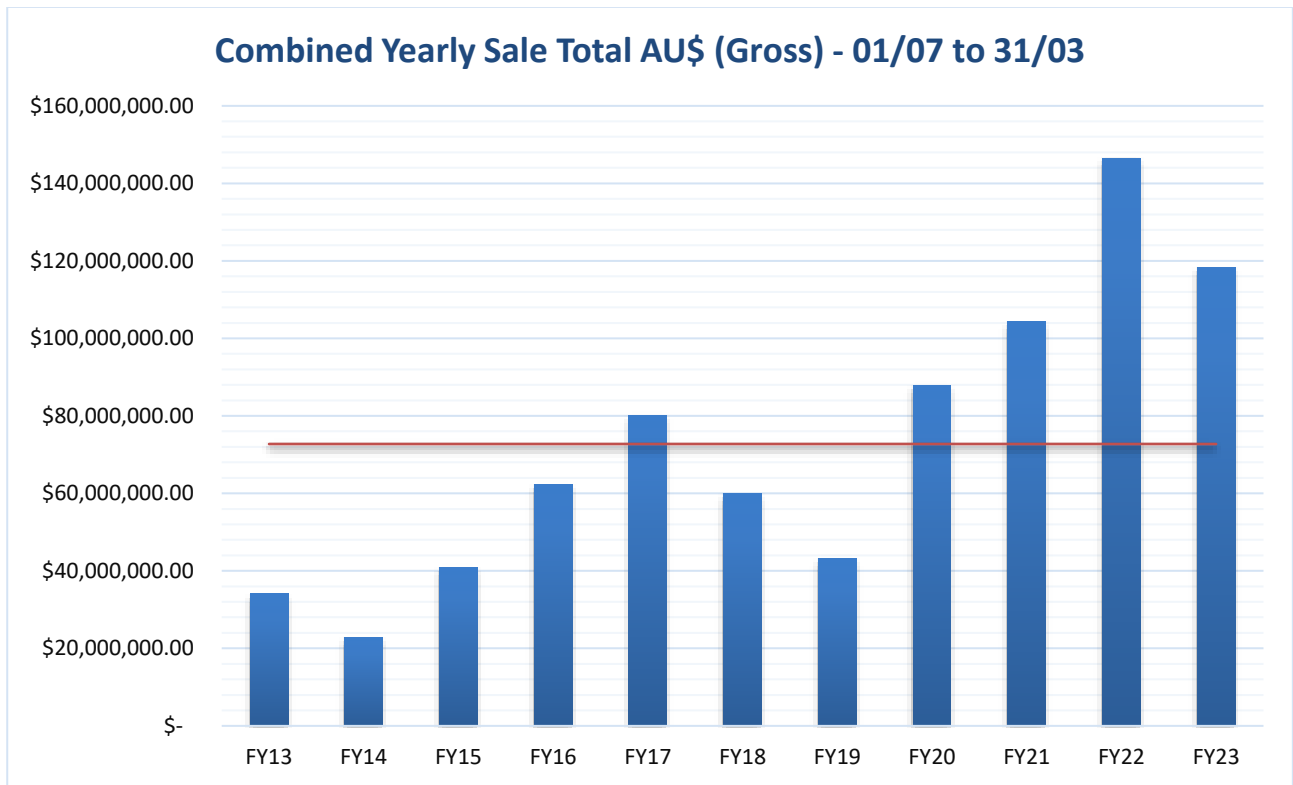
YTD sale numbers are up 7,068 or 8.5% on last year and this can be partly attributed to the inclusion of Lismore saleyards numbers as the closure of the facility was ongoing until 30 March 2023. Lismore based agency Ian Weir & Son have contributed 11,911 head to the facility compared to 2,724 head in the same intervening period in 2022. This demonstrates the need for NRLX to continue increasing its regional presence and access further livestock from neighbouring smaller competing saleyards to continue to increase throughput numbers.

For the current financial year to 31 March 2023 there has been 89,290 head sold with a total dollar value of \$118,273,625.88. This is up 7,068 head on this time last year. That’s an average price per head sold of \$1,325 so far for the year and this has been reduced from \$1,781 this time last year, a drop of \$456 per head. In context however the current average per head price is the third highest on record and there’s still optimism for the market to improve in the last quarter of the financial year.

The Agent Licence Expression of Interest closed on 3 April 2023 and the evaluation panel is currently reviewing the applications received. This process is on schedule for completion in May 2023.

The NRLX canteen operator Ronda’s Catering Service has also provided notice to vacate at 30 June 2023 after 16 years as the licensee and combined 30 years of service at the facility. An expression of interest for a new canteen licence was released 16 March and concludes 5pm 27 April 2023.





Historical YTD throughput numbers and average

MONTH	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Average
July	7,803	8,058	9,274	10,819	11,169	8,168	7,824	9,979	9,537	9,307	7,786	9,066
August	6,966	5,324	5,174	8,744	10,097	4,789	6,965	8,952	6,632	6,494	7,010	7,013
September	6,335	4,874	7,965	8,134	6,176	5,271	5,636	8,800	7,187	9,479	7,883	7,067
October	7,130	5,286	6,146	4,889	6,916	3,821	5,198	9,099	6,445	5,274	7,741	6,177
November	6,775	5,203	5,631	6,760	10,104	9,485	8,004	17,005	9,620	7,313	12,051	8,905
December	4,010	4,488	2,645	3,790	4,547	5,305	4,477	4,050	4,428	5,566	5,571	4,443
January	6,316	4,673	9,744	6,469	6,584	5,867	8,047	6,518	5,829	6,054	6,926	6,639
February	9,706	4,748	12,809	10,469	10,346	9,433	9,516	10,710	11,831	14,143	12,718	10,584
March	16,590	16,113	15,866	13,562	17,290	17,119	11,711	20,389	14,930	18,592	21,604	16,706
April												
May												
June												
	<b>71,631</b>	<b>58,767</b>	<b>75,254</b>	<b>73,636</b>	<b>83,229</b>	<b>69,258</b>	<b>67,378</b>	<b>95,502</b>	<b>76,439</b>	<b>82,222</b>	<b>89,290</b>	<b>76,601</b>

Financial data YTD 31 March 2023



NRLX Income and Expenditure (excludes committed orders)	Actual 31-Mar-23 (\$)	Current Budget (\$)	Percentage %	Actual 31-Mar-22 (\$)
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Fees & Rent	1,354,357	1,744,609	77.63%	1,282,521
Biosolids Project	21,575	0	0.00%	22,362
Other Contributions	25,852	0	0.00%	0
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>1,401,784</b>	<b>1,744,609</b>	<b>80.35%</b>	<b>1,304,883</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Salaries and On costs	449,816	650,923	69.10%	420,527
Materials and Contracts	338,546	370,084	91.48%	205,609
Interest on Loans	47,523	47,524	100.00%	38,445
Depreciation	344,764	515,616	66.86%	384,055
Electricity Charges	52,604	37,044	142.00%	35,400
Telephone Charges	3,809	6,493	58.66%	4,063
Insurance Charges	24,898	20,000	124.49%	15,605
Advertising Costs	15,975	15,375	103.90%	13,778
Software Licences	30,243	62,150	48.66%	28,262
Other General Expenses	13,411	8,575	156.40%	10,387
Biosolids Project	36,242	75,000	48.32%	86,844
Internal Charges	173,322	289,102	59.95%	203,735
Legal Costs	59,757	0	0.00%	0
Printing and Stationery	6,176	8,000	77.19%	5,635
Security Charges	5,735	5,125	111.90%	3,942
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,602,820</b>	<b>2,111,011</b>	<b>75.93%</b>	<b>1,456,286</b>
<b>Operating Result - Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(201,036)</b>	<b>(366,402)</b>	<b>54.87%</b>	<b>(151,403)</b>
<b>Operating Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>143,728</b>	<b>149,214</b>	<b>96.32%</b>	<b>232,651</b>
<b>Capital Income</b>				
<b>Capital Grants &amp; Contributions/Loan Funding</b>				
Capital Works Levy	162,334	214,318	75.74%	149,040
<b>Total Capital Income</b>	<b>162,334</b>	<b>214,318</b>	<b>75.74%</b>	<b>149,040</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>				
Plant Purchases	15,603	15,496	100.69%	67,614
Shed	0	0	0.00%	8,683
Loan Principal Repayments	377,364	377,364	100.00%	363,425
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>392,967</b>	<b>392,860</b>	<b>100.03%</b>	<b>439,721</b>
<b>Program Result - Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(431,670)</b>	<b>(544,944)</b>	<b>79.21%</b>	<b>(442,085)</b>
<b>Program Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(86,905)</b>	<b>(29,328)</b>	<b>296.32%</b>	<b>(58,030)</b>

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

**19.2 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2023**

**Director:** Angela Jones

**Responsible Officer:** Sharon Banning

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 January – 31 March 2023.

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

**REPORT**

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

**Call Statistics**

A total 10,326 calls were handled by the contact centre team during the reporting period, which is a 37.8 percent decrease for the same period during the previous year, and a 11.5 percent decrease on the previous quarter's volumes. The spike in call volumes in 2022 can be directly attributed to the flood event generating requests for assistance from our community. The contact centre has exceeded all service targets for the reporting period, including 85.2 percent of calls answered within 20 seconds, average time each caller spends in the queue is 18 seconds and the percentage rate for calls abandoned is less than one percent.

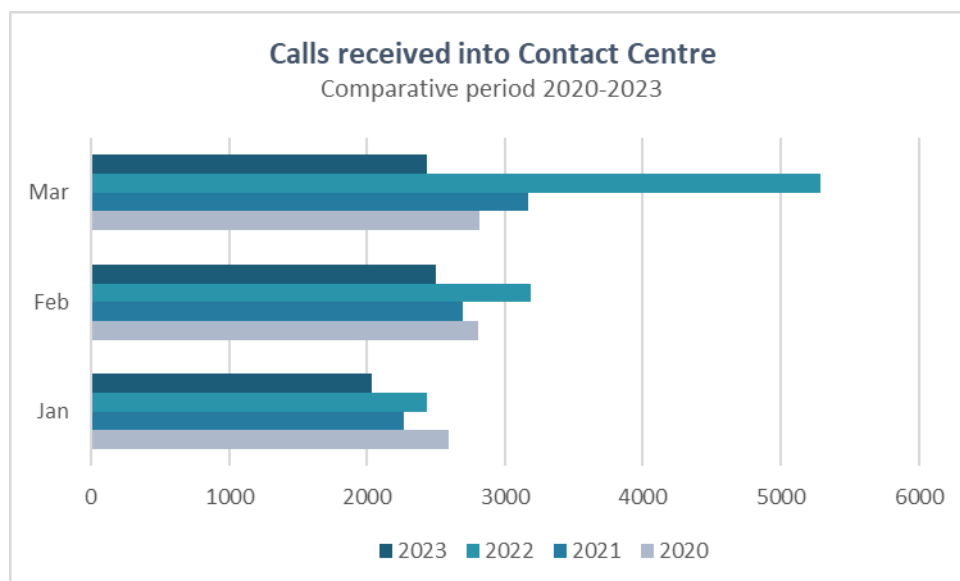


Figure 1: Calls received through the call centre, comparison year on year

**Receipt and Administration Statistics**

A total 2717 receipts were processed for the reporting period, a six percent increase for the same period of the previous year of 2563 receipts. The month of February saw an increase in number of receipts processed, which can be attributed to the rates instalment period.

Of note, four percent of the total receipts processed was within the earlier hours of operation at the Casino office, reinforcing our community’s preference to conduct their business early in the morning.

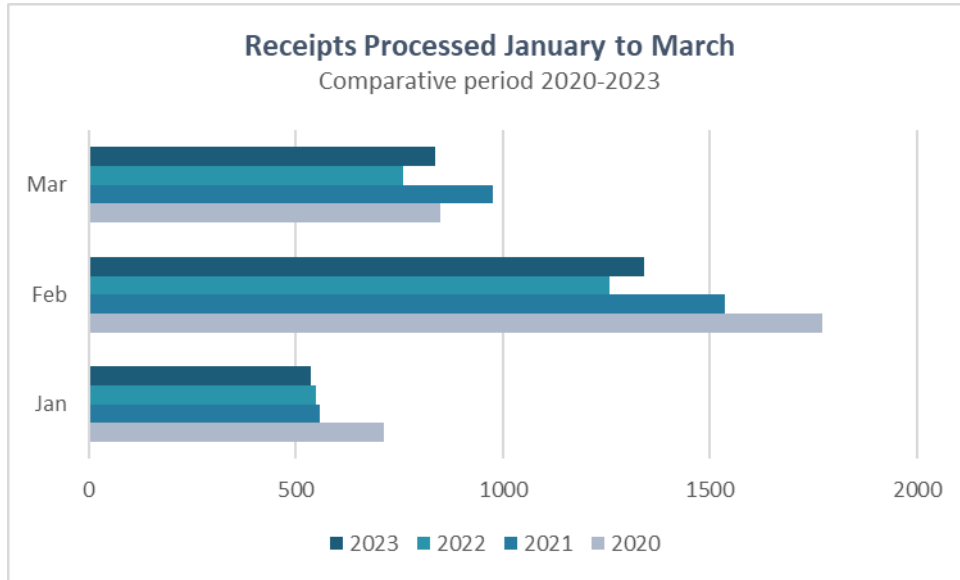


Figure 2: Total number of receipts

**Certificates and Customer Requests**

97.6 percent of Section 735A, 10.7 and 603 certificates were completed within set timeframes in accordance with Council’s service standards. Of the 396 certificate applications received, 65 percent were 10.7 certificates, a 3.1 percent increase in property enquiries from the previous quarter.

Applications on the whole have steadily increased in volume month on month, post the holiday period.

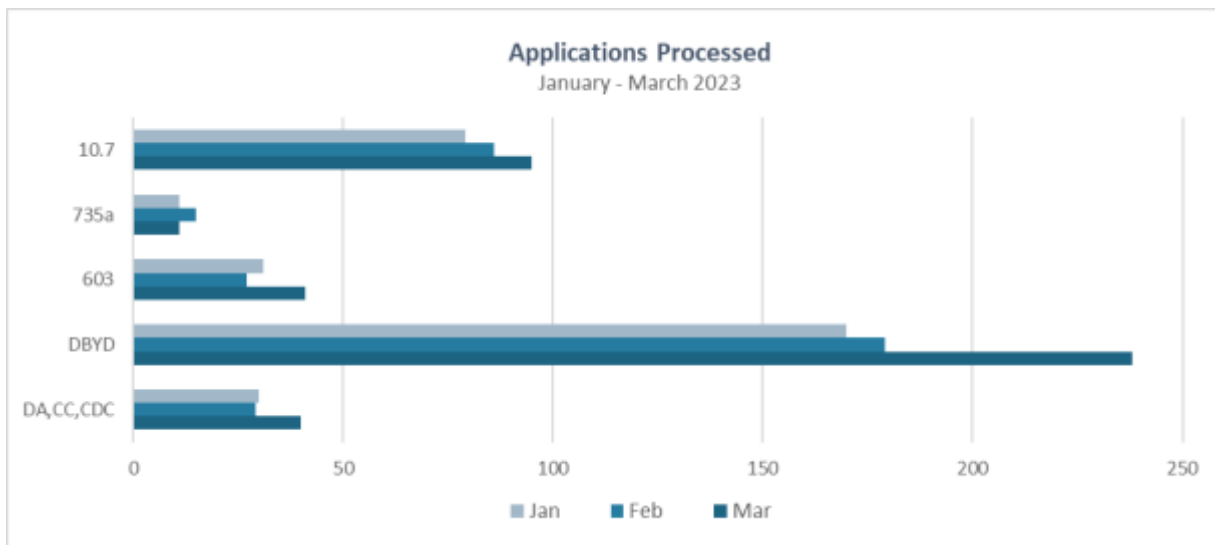


Figure 3. Applications received

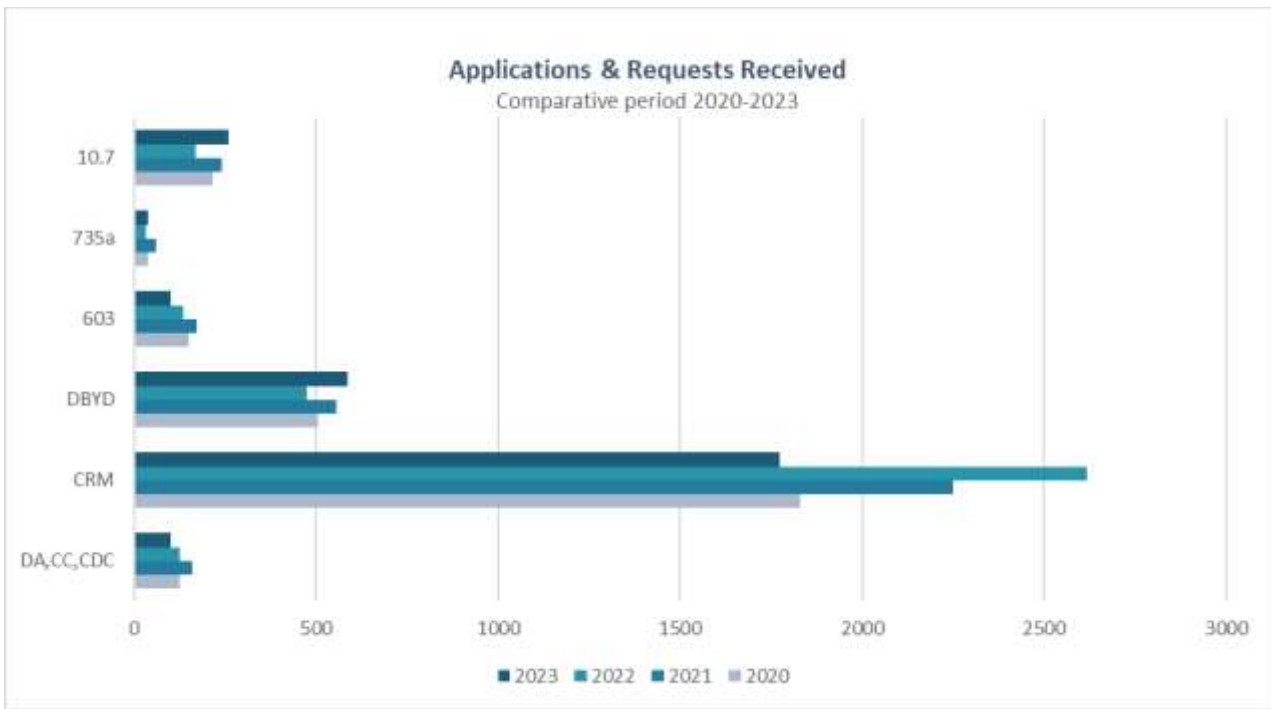


Figure 4. Applications and requests comparison

**Customer Request Management System - Key Statistics**

During the reporting period, 1773 new requests were logged, a decrease of 3.6 percent compared to the previous quarter and a 34.5 percent decrease on the same reporting period of the previous year. 22.2 percent of requests related to water and sewer, the focus of these were stormwater infiltration smoke testing and internal test and tag compliance. 20.1 percent of requests were directed to rangers for follow-up, with most of these pertaining to roaming or lost animals as a result of storms.

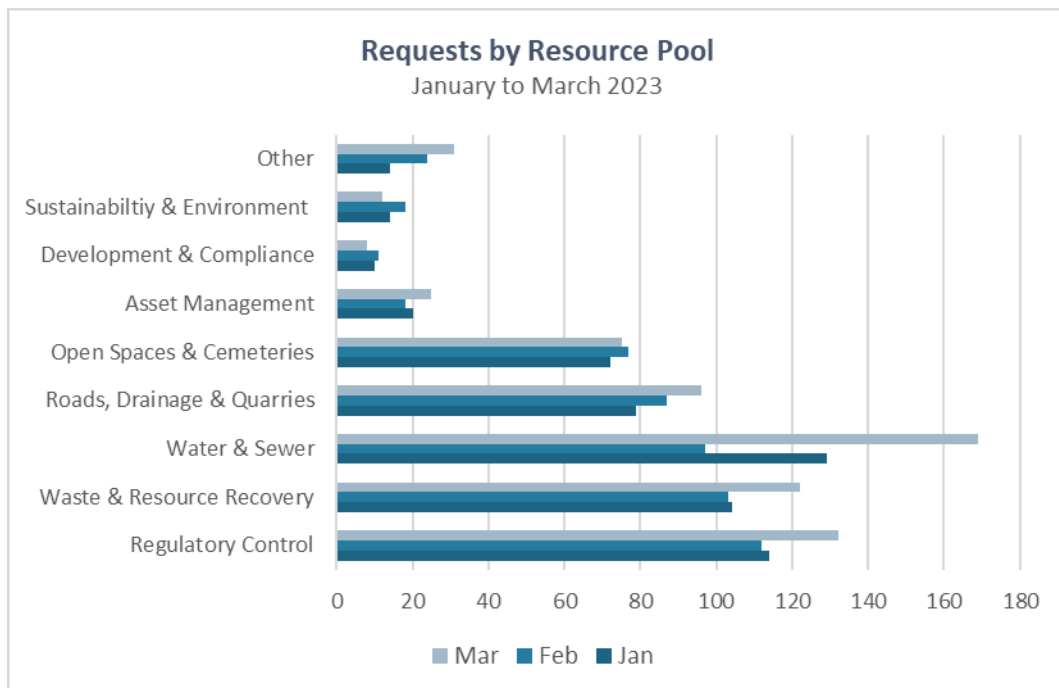


Figure 5: Number of requests

**Development Concierge**

The announcement by the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation of the Resilient Homes program in October 2022 has provided another layer of support to flood-affected properties to assist with their rebuild. Assistance is via either the voluntary house raising scheme, assistance to retro-fit damaged properties or options to relocate through the home buy-back program. As residents learned of their eligibility and information about these programs began to flow into the community, enquiries to the Concierge increased. Relocatable tiny homes have come into focus, following a recent news article highlighting their benefits as temporary emergency housing allowing residents to return to their property whilst rebuilding the main residence.

**e-Planning Portal – Key Statistics**

Richmond Valley’s average pre-assessment time for applications received via the planning portal remains competitive, being the most efficient of all neighbouring councils. First responders strive to complete a preliminary assessment within 24 hours of receipt of an application.

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



Figure 6: Average pre-assessment time by Council

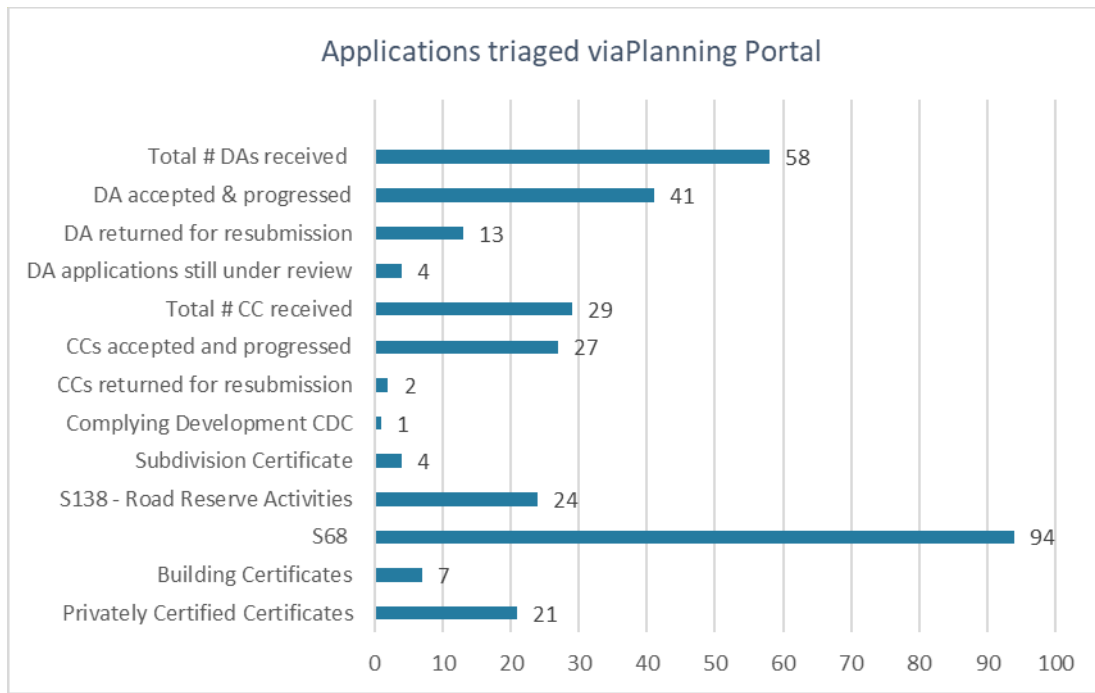


Figure 7: Applications received via the NSW Planning Portal

**OneRoad – Key Statistics**

Members of the Customer Experience team collaborate with Roads & Drainage, Events and Assets teams, as well as Emergency Services, to ensure all scheduled and unplanned road incidents are entered through the One Road portal in a timely manner. Road users can be confident conditions and closures via the Live Traffic app are current and regularly updated.

Our Roads and Drainage teams, supported by multiple contractor road maintenance crews, focused on restoring our road network to better than pre-flood standards. Updating scheduled road maintenance via the One Road platform informs residents of expected delays and provides alternate routes to minimise disruptions.



Figure 8: Total planned and unplanned road incidents recorded

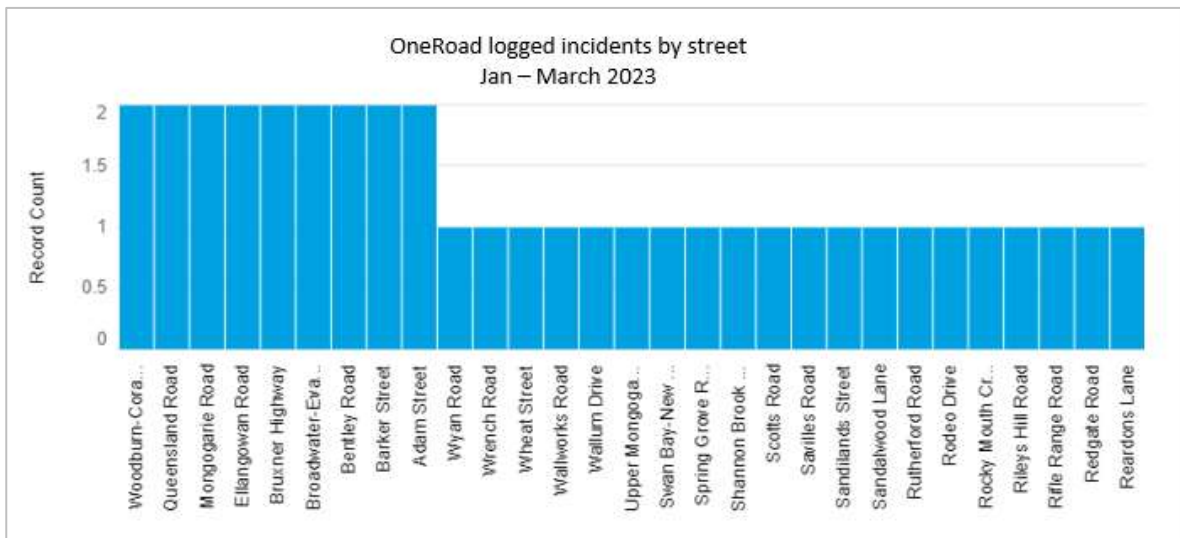


Figure 9: Number of road incidents by street

**Customer Satisfaction Survey**

The six-monthly customer service feedback survey was conducted during January with more than 80 percent of respondents being very satisfied or satisfied with the customer service received when dealing with Richmond Valley Council, with 76 percent of respondents being assisted at the first point of contact.

More than 20 percent of the respondents contacted Council for assistance with rates, which correlates to reminder letters issued with the survey period.

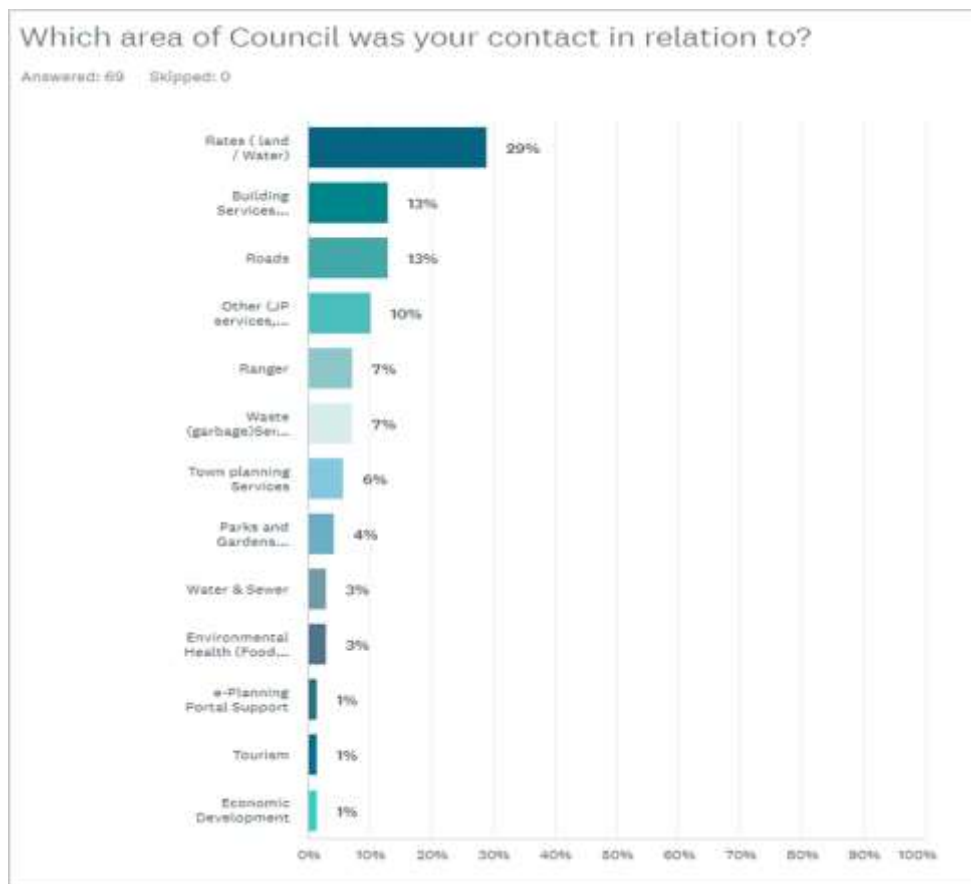


Figure 10. Customer contact with Council

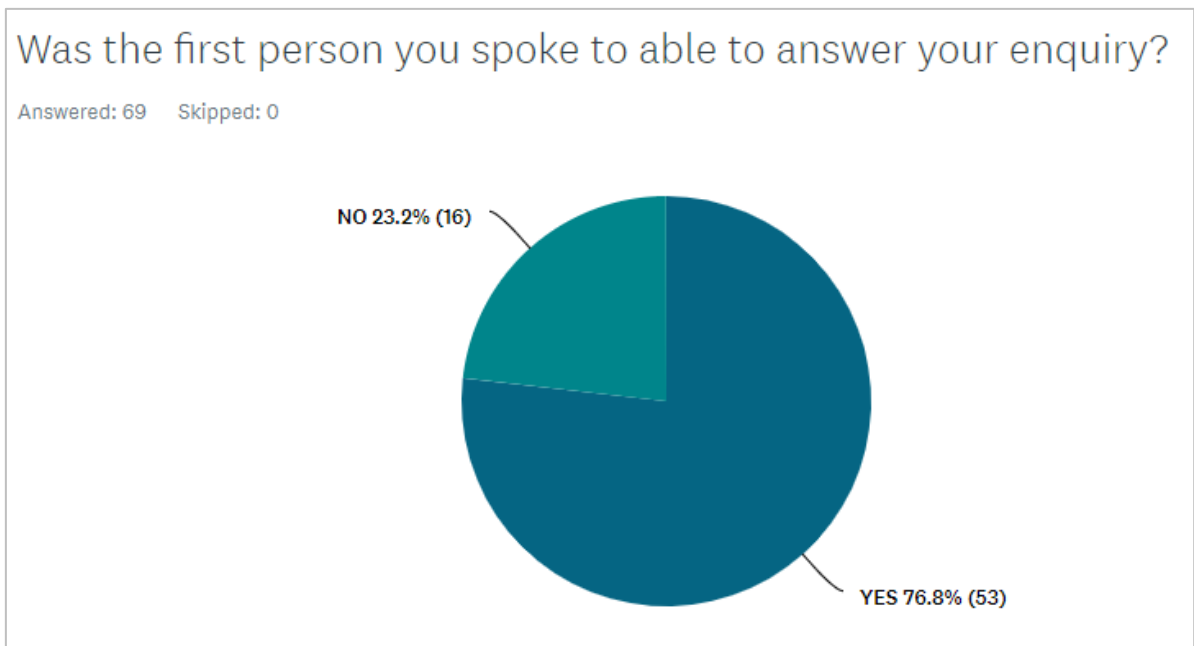
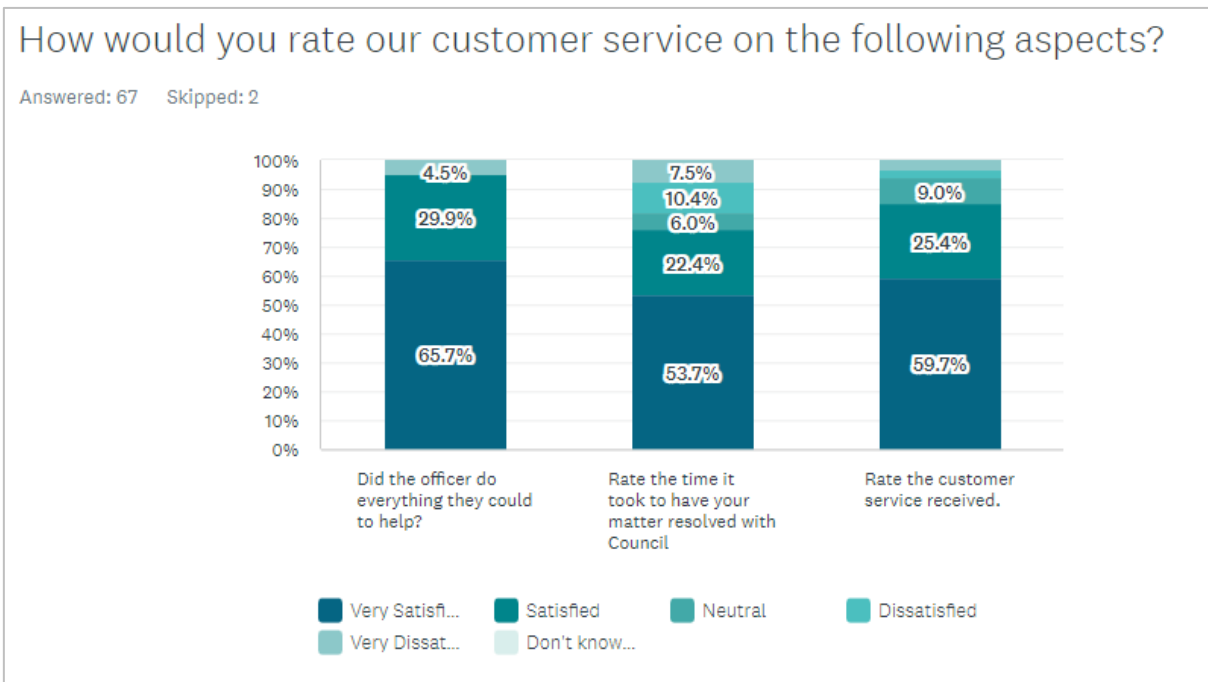


Figure 11 & 12. Customer service ratings

**Opportunities for Improvement**

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

- Continue to work closely with customers lodging applications via the e-planning portal to ensure submission to lodgement timeframes are maintained to our standard.
- Continue to provide training and upskilling of our newer, less experienced staff to increase their ability to achieve first contact resolution of 80 percent.



**CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

**19.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH - 31 MARCH 2023**

**Director:** Angela Jones

**Responsible Officer:** Tony McAteer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 March 2023 – 31 March 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 March 2023 to 31 March 2023 was 21, with a total value of \$7,135,097.32.

For the month of March, we had two applications determined that were flood affected. DA2023/0119 – 3 Alfred Street, Woodburn, proposed house raising and replacement of decks; and DA2023/0134 – 6 Fischer Street, Broadwater, proposed new two storey dwelling and associated works.

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

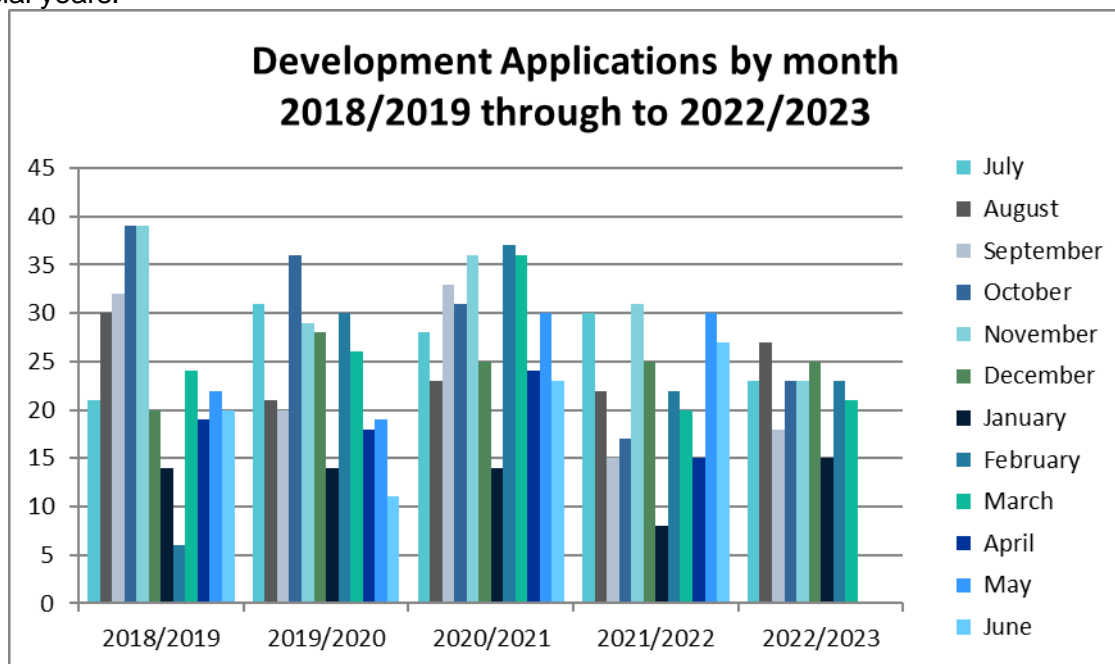


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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 March 2023.

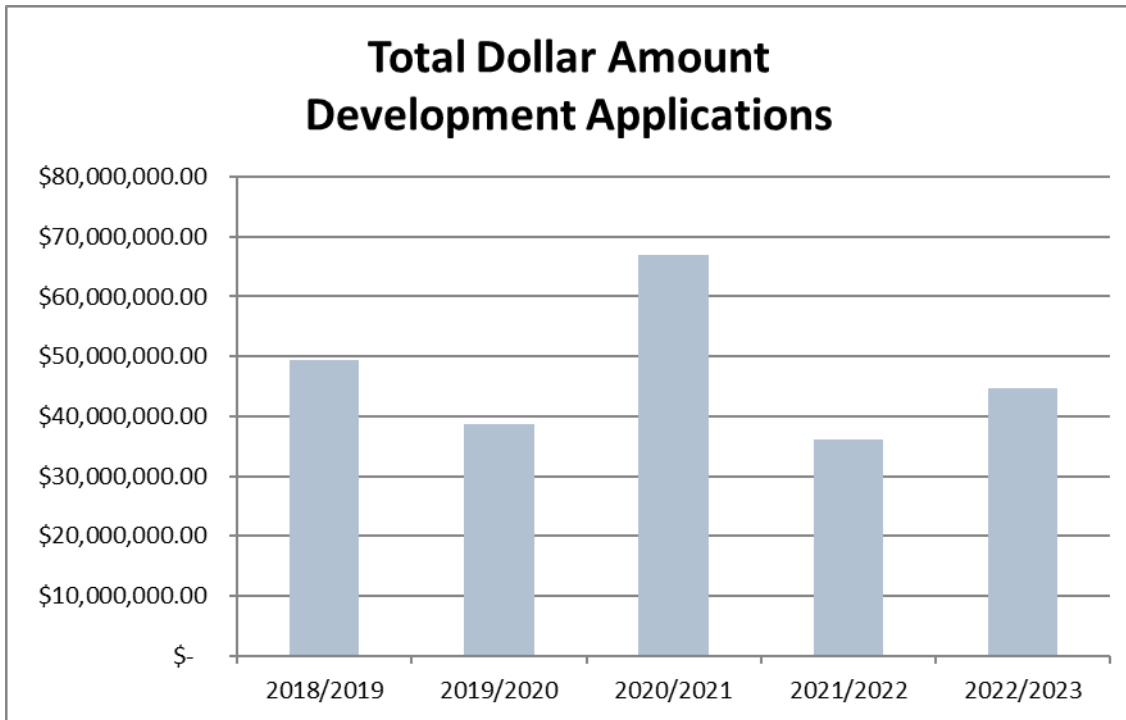


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

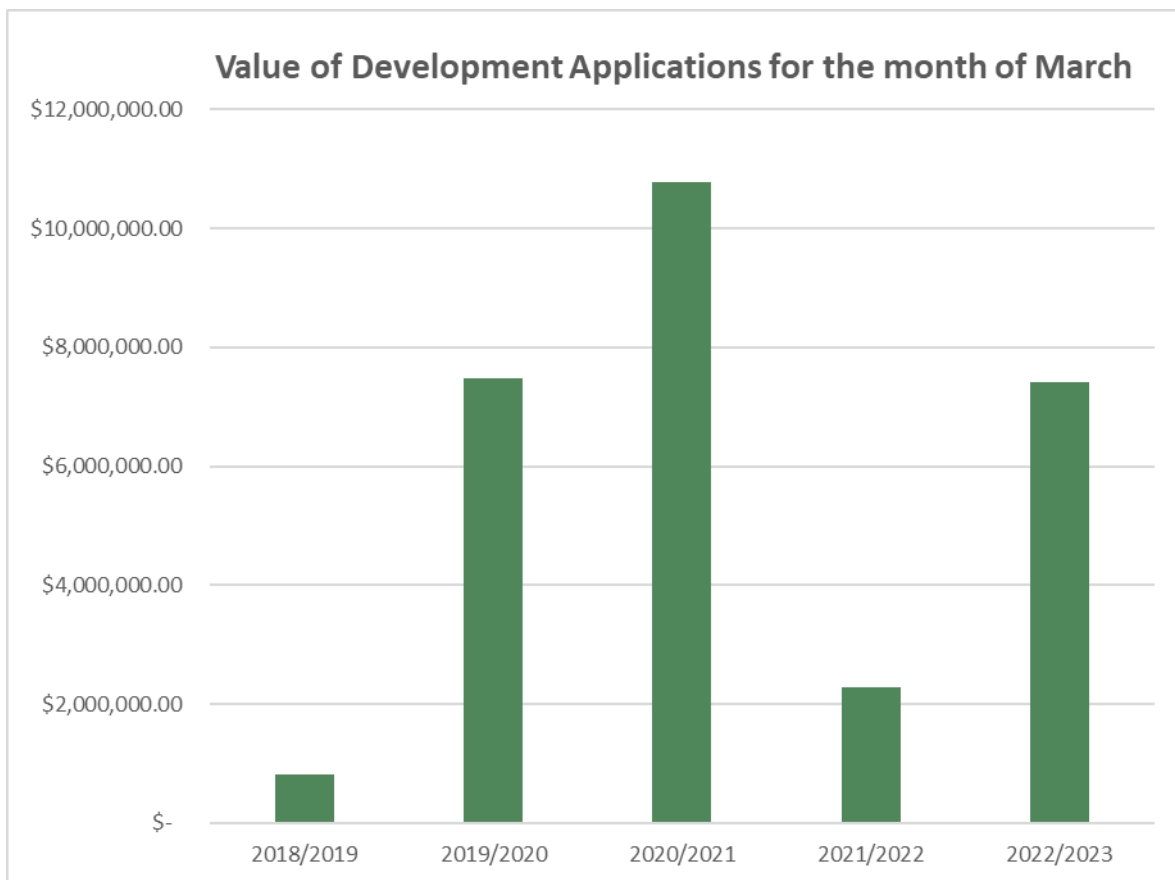


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of March 2023.

**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.

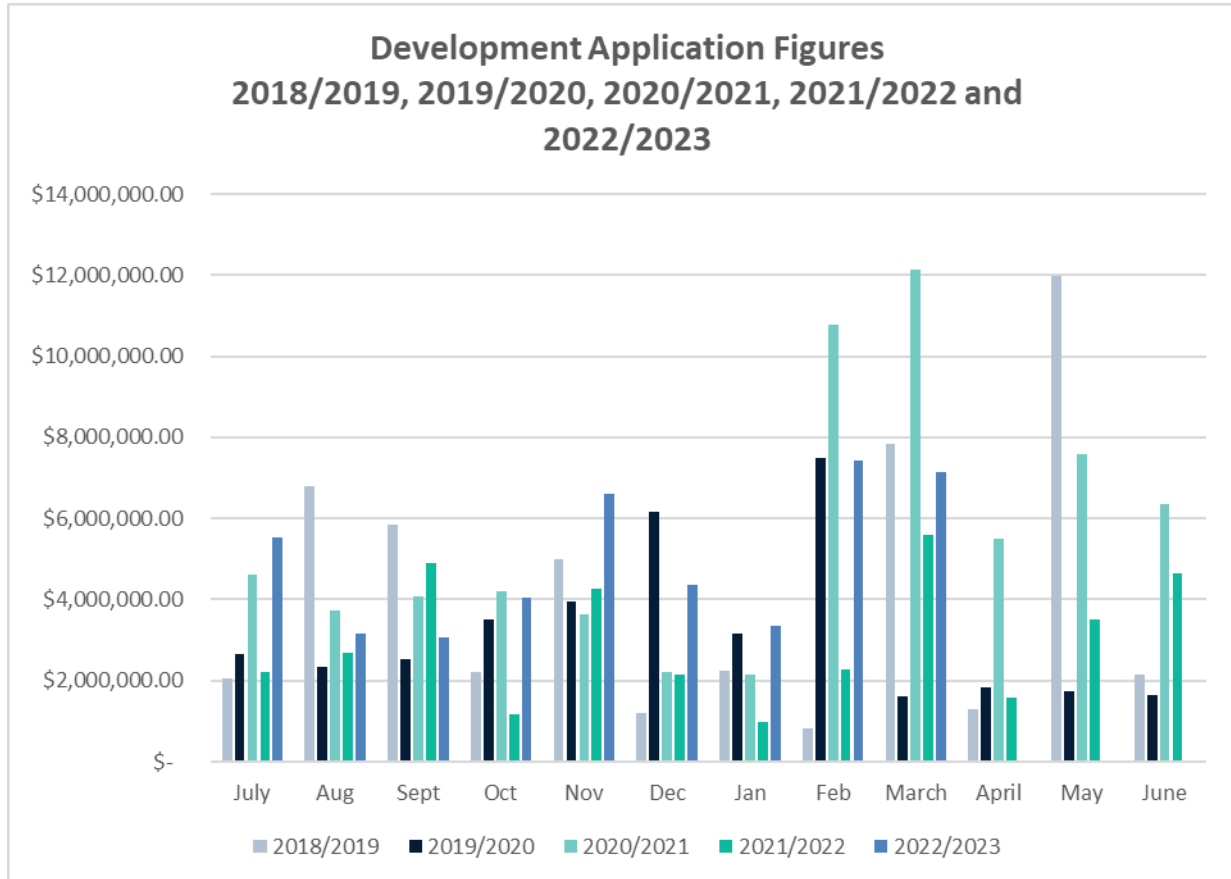


Figure 5: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

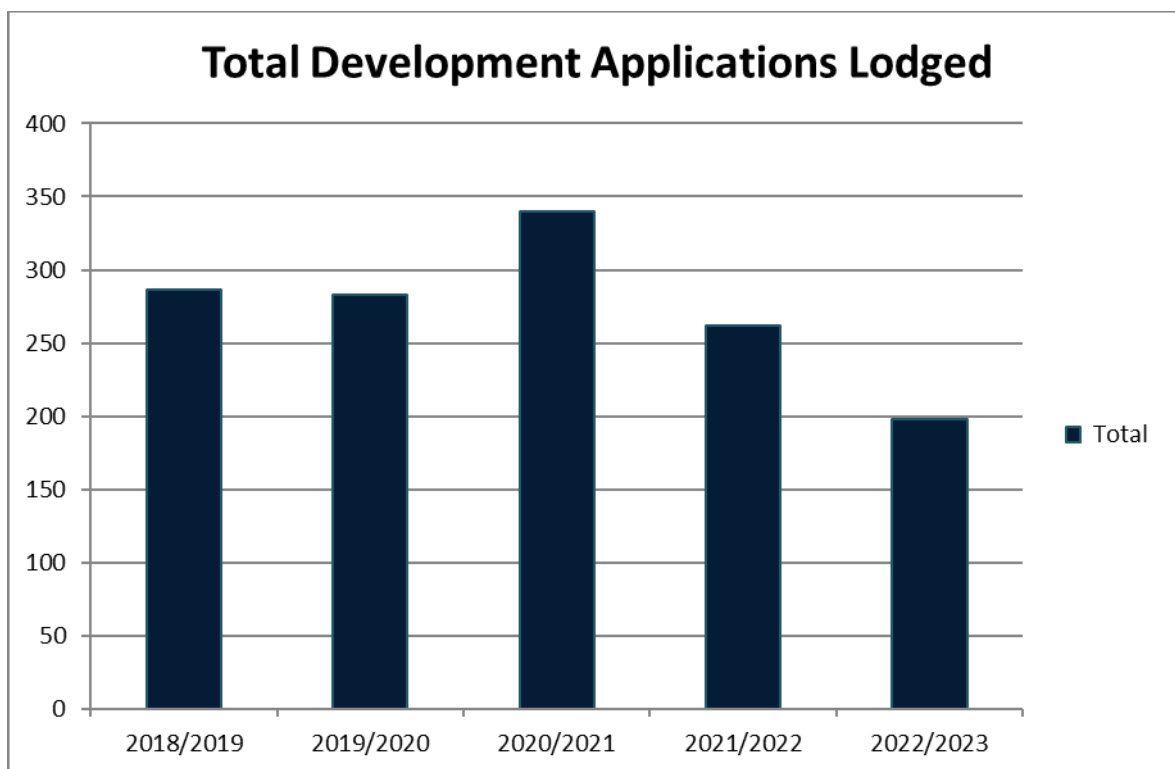


Figure 6: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

**Activity for the months of March 2023**

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	15
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	5
Subdivision	0
Refused	0
Rejected	0
Withdrawn	0
Complying Development (Council Approved)	0
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	1
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINED</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Average assessment days for applications determined in March 2023</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>No. of Integrated development applications determined in March 2023</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>No. of Designated development applications determined in March 2023</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in March 2023</b>	<b>148</b>

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0195	Newton Denny Chapelle	The Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust	93 Manifold Road, North Casino	Proposed bulk earthworks to enable a sports field expansion and construction of a storage shed for an existing educational establishment, including vegetation removal and associated works	5/04/2022	30/03/2023	\$1,624,225.00
DA2023/0089	Ardill Payne & Partners	A C Wallace	6 Cashmore Lane, Evans Head	Secondary dwelling	16/11/2022	23/03/2023	\$107,635.00
DA2023/0094	The Sydney Collective Pty Ltd	Sle Freehold Pty Ltd	15-19 Oak Street, Evans Head	Alterations & Additions to Illawong Hotel (Heritage Listed Building)	29/11/2022	22/03/2023	\$491,388.70
DA2023/0105	Ardill Payne & Partners	A J Sutton & N A Sutton	39 Forest Street, Coraki	Shed including earthworks for a fill pad	5/12/2022	28/03/2023	\$388,465.00
DA2022/0014.01	Newton Denny Chapelle	A R Barker & L B Barker	69 Ocean Drive, Evans Head	Amend the description of the development to reference the development being completed over two (2) stages. Construction of a two storey dwelling with an attached double garage to form a detached dual occupancy development, civil works & Strata Subdivision to create two lots over two stages being; Stage 1 – Strata subdivision to create two lots, inclusive of a vacant Strata Lot Stage 2 – Construction of dwelling	7/12/2022	9/03/2023	\$0.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0115	The Shed Company	N L Newman	24 Tareeda Court, Spring Grove	Shed for caravan and general storage	15/12/2022	3/03/2023	\$97,124.00
DA2023/0124	B A Harley	P A Comerford & MT Comerford	12 Yarran Street, Evans Head	Demolition of existing structures, construction of an attached two storey dual occupancy and associated works	13/01/2023	28/03/2023	\$2,061,500.00
DA2023/0126	Newton Denny Chapelle	Oaks Community Centre & Third Sector Australia Limited (3SA)	26-28 Oak Avenue, Casino	2.1m high fence around Oaks Centre	18/01/2023	16/03/2023	\$60,000.00
DA2023/0127	A Hallman	State Rail	220 Naughtons Gap Road, Naughtons Gap	Demolition of the existing residential dwelling	19/01/2023	16/03/2023	\$50,000.00
DA2023/0128	CEO Design & Consult Pty Ltd	Department of Education & Communities	Coraki Public School, 50 Adams Street, Coraki	Removal of existing sign and installation of a new pylon sign structure and digital LED sign panel at Coraki Public School	20/01/2023	14/03/2023	\$19,497.50
DA2023/0130	T E Marsden	J G Marsden & T E Marsden	6 Duke Street, Woodburn	Two Storey Dwelling	23/01/2023	13/03/2023	\$410,000.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0143.01	Hayes Building Consultancy	M S Longly & S J Longly	33 Ocean Drive, Evans Head	S4.55 (2) Modification - Amendment to approved dwelling extension plans	24/01/2023	3/03/2023	\$88,300.00
DA2023/0132	C R McClymont	K P McClymont & C R McClymont	310 Ellangowan Road, Yorklea	Proposed Detached Dual Occupancy including ancillary works	30/01/2023	21/03/2023	\$350,000.00
DA2022/0231.01	TMMM Constructions Pty Ltd/as GJ Gardner Homes Grafton	R J S Rae & M L M Williams	6 Ferrier Court, Casino	S4.55 (2) Modification - Change of building elements including revised BASIX certificate for approved dwelling	7/02/2023	6/03/2023	\$0.00
DA2023/0138	N A McCowan	N A McCowan	1246 Mongogarrie Road, Mongogarrie	Install toilet, shower and basin to existing farm shed	14/02/2023	28/03/2023	\$28,500.00
DA2008/0091.02	Richmond Valley Council	Richmond Valley Council	Summerland Way, Casino	Section 4.55 1(A) - Modification of approved subdivision to address Condition 5 regarding 88b restriction for no build areas	14/02/2023	6/03/2023	\$0.00
DA2023/0142	Ardill Payne & Partners	G M Burns & S L Burns	17 Paddon Street, Broadwater	New two storey dwelling with balcony and deck	20/02/2023	28/03/2023	\$510,420.00
DA2016/0220.01	Newton Denny Chapelle	S L Forrester & A M Forrester	306 Langs Way, Woodburn	S4.55 (1A) Modification - to amend the proposed provisioning for electrical infrastructure and water supply.	13/03/2023	28/03/2023	\$0.00



Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0119	Cambuild Australia Pty Ltd	A M Wotherspoon & D J Hutley	3 Alfred Street, Woodburn	House raising & replacement of decks	3/01/2023	28/03/2023	\$129,142.12
DA2023/0134	Hayes Building Consultancy	B L Nathan & D L Nathan	6 Fischer Street, Broadwater	New two storey dwelling and associated works	6/02/2023	21/03/2023	\$660,000.00
Summary of Privately Certified Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2023/0012	Techton Building Services	B N Lane & E M Lane	57 Jersey Drive, North Casino	Inground Swimming Pool	22/03/2023	6/03/2023	\$58,900.00
Summary of Development Applications Refused under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil							
Summary of Development Applications Withdrawn under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil							

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

**19.4 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MARCH 2023**

**Director:** Ryan Gaiter

**Responsible Officer:** Rylee Vidler

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

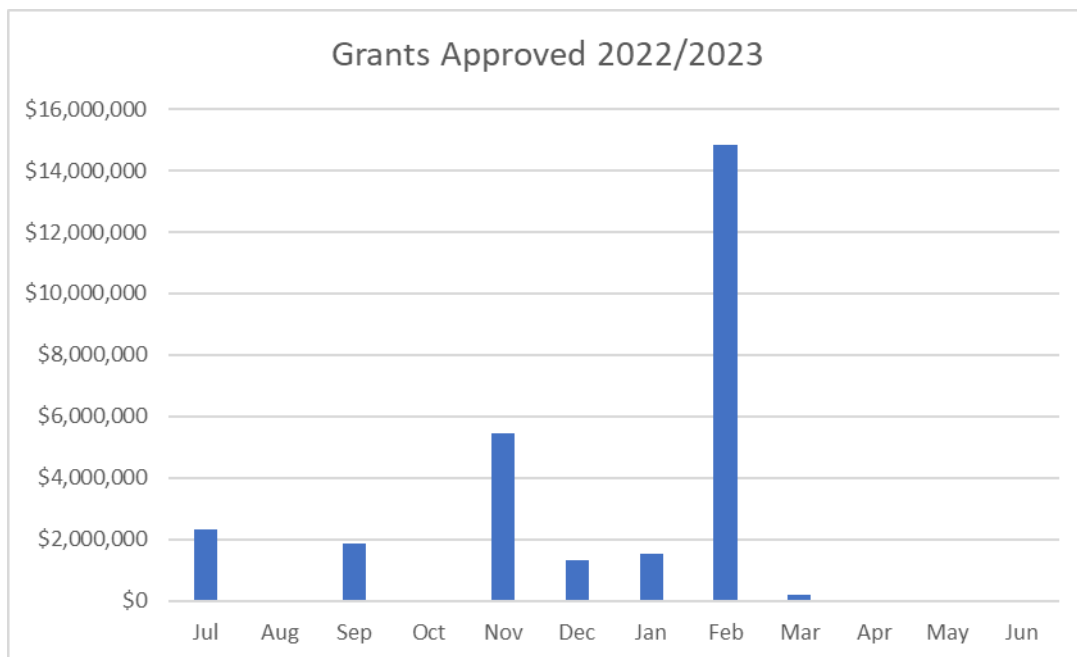
**REPORT**

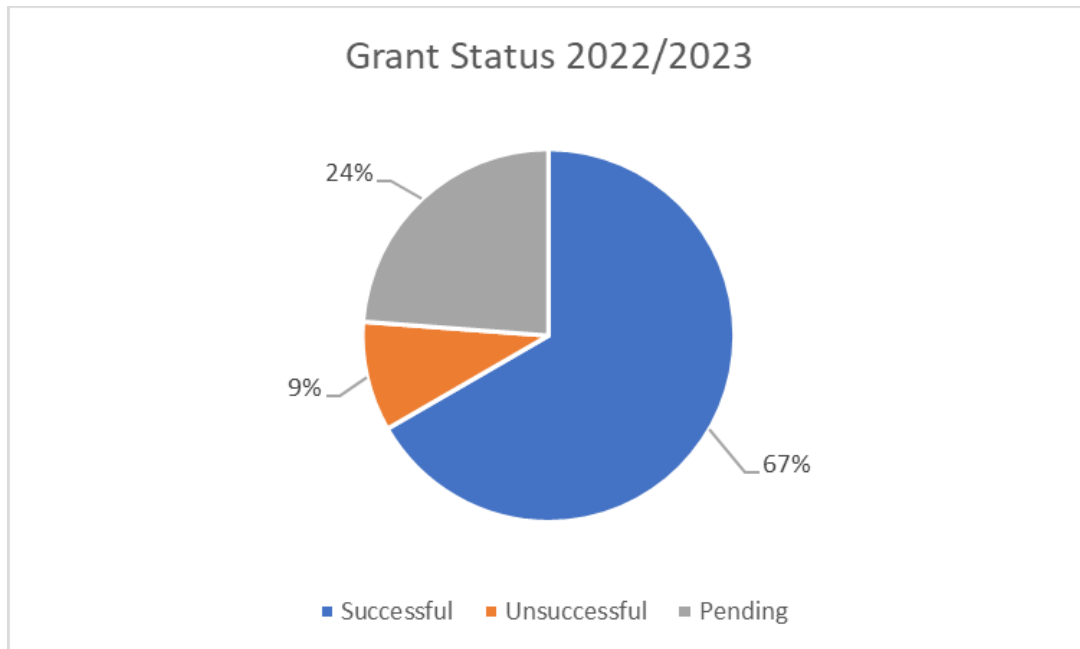
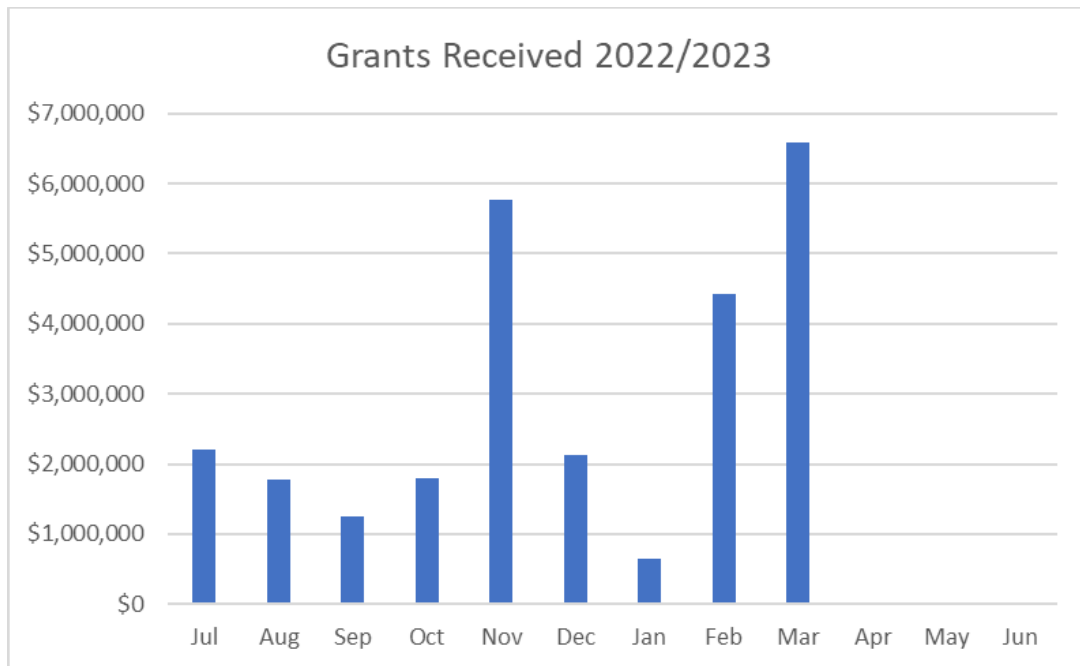
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of March 2023.

During the reporting period, one grant was approved totalling \$179,696. This project does not require any Council contribution.

Council received funding for nine grants totalling \$6,591,802. Council was not notified of any unsuccessful grant applications and seven grant applications were submitted during March.

A summary of grants approved and received as well as the status of applications for the current financial year to 31 March 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
Multipurpose Meeting Rooms for the Community	State Library NSW (State)	Public Library Infrastructure Grants	\$ 179,696	\$ 179,696	\$ -	28 October 2022	2 March 2023
Comment: This funding will allow Council to construct three new meeting rooms to be available at the Casino Library							

**Grants that have been received**

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Casino Sewage Treatment Plant Business Case	Regional NSW (State)	Business Case and Development Fund	\$ 88,217	\$ 88,217	\$ -	23 August 2022	\$ 70,573 17 March 2023	\$ 70,576
Comment: Milestone 1 (80%) to allow commencement of works.								
Roads to Recovery 2019/20 to 2023/24	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Federal)	Roads to Recovery Program	\$ 5,011,072	\$ 5,011,072	\$ -	N/A - annual allocation of \$1,002,214	\$ 132,326 22 March 2023	\$ 3,138,970
Comment: Part payment for 2022/23 allocation.								
Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse Upgrade	Regional NSW (State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 8,200,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 2,500,000 22 March 2023	\$ 4,500,000
Comment: Progress payment per milestone agreements.								
Fixing our Sporting Grounds	Office of Sport (State)	Sports Priority Needs Program	\$ 1,579,506	\$ 1,579,506	\$ -	23 September 2022	\$ 1,421,555 22 March 2023	\$ 1,421,555
Comment: Milestone 1 (90%) of funding received to allow commencement of works.								
Casino Secure Water Supply - Scoping Study	Infrastructure NSW (State)	Restart NSW Safe and Secure Water Program	\$ 160,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	26 March 2019	\$ 50,909 24 March 2023	\$ 80,000
Comment: Milestone 2, 3 and contingencies payment received.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
MR145 Woodburn-Coraki Road Major Upgrade	Transport for NSW (Federal)	N/A - Election Promise	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 1,576,891 29 March 2023	\$ 5,861,385
Comment: Progress payment for works completed on Woodburn to Coraki Road.								
Reynolds Road Bridge	Transport for NSW (State)	Fixing Country Bridges Round 2	\$ 1,285,800	\$ 1,285,800	\$ -	23 November 2021	\$ 514,320 29 March 2023	\$ 514,320
Comment: 40% of funding received to allow commencement of works.								
Lolback Bridge	Transport for NSW (State)	Fixing Country Bridges Round 2	\$ 583,902	\$ 583,902	\$ -	23 November 2021	\$ 233,561 29 March 2023	\$ 233,561
Comment: 40% of funding received to allow commencement of works.								
Flood Commemorative Events	Department of Premier and Cabinet (State)	Northern NSW Flood Commemorative Events Grant	\$ 91,667	\$ 91,667	\$ -	N/A	\$ 91,667 31 March 2023	\$ 91,667
Comment: Council's portion of the grant was received from the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation who are managing the grant.								

### Grant Applications Submitted

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Betterment of Casino Netball Clubhouse	Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	\$ 1,335,750	\$1,335,750	\$ -	27 March 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to demolish the existing clubhouse and construct a new and improved facility for netball at Colley Park						
Betterment of Woodburn Memorial Hall Carpark	Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	\$ 234,647	\$ 234,647	\$ -	27 March 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to formalise Woodburn Memorial Hall Carpark to make the asset more flood resilient.						
Betterment of Casino Swimming Clubhouse	Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	\$ 546,875	\$ 546,875	\$ -	27 March 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to demolish the existing clubhouse and construct a new and improved clubhouse facility.						

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Betterment of Casino Junior Rugby League Clubhouse	Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	\$ 1,607,825	\$1,607,825	\$ -	27 March 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to construct the extension of a multi-purpose, flood and storm resilient clubhouse building and new grandstand to accommodate the public and user groups.						
Betterment of Woodburn Pony and Tennis Clubhouse	Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	\$ 840,000	\$ 840,000	\$ -	27 March 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to construct a new multi-purpose, flood resilient clubhouse building for both the Pony Club and Tennis Club of Woodburn.						
Betterment of Casino Footbridge	Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	\$ 3,505,767	\$3,505,767	\$ -	27 March 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to construct a suspension bridge as a shared cycle and pedestrian pathway from the CBD to South Casino residential and recreational spaces.						
Regional Event Fund Program 2023/2024 Flagship Stream - Casino Truck Show	Destination NSW (State)	Regional Event Fund 2023/24	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	29 March 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will be spent on marketing expenses for the Casino Truck Show, to further advertise the event.						

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**



**19.5 SENATOR THE HON JENNY MCALLISTER, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY LETTER OF THANKS****Director: Vaughan Macdonald****Responsible Officer: Julie Clark****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the correspondence from Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

**SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE**

A copy of the letter received follows.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy letter**



**SENATOR THE HON JENNY McALLISTER**  
**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY**

MC23-013821

Cr Robert Mustow  
Mayor  
Richmond Valley Council

[robert.mustow@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robert.mustow@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your time last month and for providing a draft of the Richmond Valley Council's *Sustainable Communities Strategy 2023-2028*. I commend the Council on its progress on climate adaptation, and in particular on including of improved disaster information and management within your draft strategy.

Local governments have an important role to play in ensuring Australia can adapt to our changing climate and I was encouraged to learn more about the Council's ongoing adaptation and disaster resilience work. In particular, the Council's impressive efforts to respond to and recover from last year's flooding reflect the strength and resilience of the Richmond Valley community. Likewise, your ongoing work to mitigate the heat-island effect through the development of the Cooling the Richmond Valley initiative demonstrates the potential for local government to drive local adaptation.

The Australian Government is committed to working with local governments to strengthen Australia's adaptive capacity and put us in the best possible position to manage the impacts of climate change. Three of the Australian Government programs relevant to your sustainability strategy are the Commonwealth Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program, Disaster Ready Fund and Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

The Government's Commonwealth Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program will support and improve how the Government manages climate risks to policies, programs, operations, assets and services delivered to the Australian community. This program includes a Climate Risk and Opportunity Strategy, a new climate risk assessment and management framework and digital risk assessment toolkit, and a learning and development package. The new climate risk assessment and management framework, digital risk assessment toolkit and learning and development package will be available to all levels of government across Australia, helping to standardise, coordinate and track climate risk management across the nation. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is consulting local governments on this program through the Australian Local Government Association.

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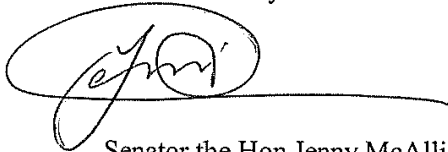
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone (02) 6277 3443

The Government's Disaster Ready Fund will make up to \$200 million available annually (from 2023–24) for disaster prevention and resilience initiatives to help communities protect themselves against the impacts of natural hazards across Australia. The NSW Reconstruction Authority is responsible for managing the applications and distribution of the funds for New South Wales. I encourage you to submit proposals in future funding rounds.

I also encourage businesses within the Richmond Valley local government area to apply for the Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises program. Grants of between \$10,000 and \$25,000 will be available to Small and Medium Enterprises in all industry sectors to enable them to take energy-saving measures. Applications for the grants will close on 19 April 2023, with grants awarded to eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis. Businesses can also visit [www.energy.gov.au/rebates](http://www.energy.gov.au/rebates) and [grants.gov.au](http://grants.gov.au) to find other schemes that may be useful.

Thank you again for your time in discussing climate adaptation and resilience in the Richmond Valley Council with me. I am looking forward to continuing to work with all Australian local, state and territory governments so we can enhance adaptive capacity, reduce vulnerability and better adapt to our changing climate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny McAllister', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape. A horizontal line extends from the bottom of the signature to the right.

Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister  
Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy

**20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****20.1 NORTHERN RIVERS RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION QUESTION****Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald**

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Robert Hayes at the Ordinary Meeting on 21 March 2023.

**Question**

*At the March 2023 Council Information Session, the CEO of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation, Mr David Witherdin, addressed Councillors and staff and he was questioned by the General Manager of Richmond Valley Council as to what the Corporation could do to assist with the re-establishment of a supermarket in Woodburn after the 2022 floods. Can Council follow up with Mr Witherdin to confirm in writing what the Corporation has done to assist the Woodburn community in their plight to have this valued community business re-instated?*

**Response**

*A letter to the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation was issued to reflect discussions at the March 2023 meeting.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the letter provided to Mr Witherdin CEO of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation, be received and noted and once a response is received, a copy be issued to Councillors and reported to the following Ordinary Meeting.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 1. Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation**



Telephone Enquiries to:  
**Vaughan Macdonald**

3 April 2023

Mr David Witherdin  
Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation  
Via email: [david.witherdin@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto: david.witherdin@regional.nsw.gov.au)

Dear David

Thank you for attending our Councillor Information Session to discuss the recovery challenges the Richmond Valley community is facing and how the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation is aiming to support our communities to recover and prosper post floods.

For many of the businesses across our Valley, the recovery journey post flood has been well supported by funding opportunities and government support packages, allowing them to re-open within a reasonable timeframe. As you would be aware, there are still critical businesses in the Richmond Valley that are yet to commence their recovery, due to stringent funding criteria and the impact of their own financial capacity to contribute towards business repairs especially where their homes have also been heavily impacted.

The Woodburn IGA is one of our critical businesses that is unfortunately facing funding challenges which are hindering their recovery journey. The local supermarket was re-established by new owners a short time after the Pacific Highway bypass completion and not long before the March 2022 flood events. Like most businesses that operate in the picturesque river side village of Woodburn, they were unable to afford flood insurance.

It is our understanding that Woodburn IGA & Super Cellars is facing recovery expenses in the range of \$750k to \$1 million, and without the support of government, this essential community business will be unable to meet these costs.



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



t: 02 6660 0300  
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w: [richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

ABN 54 145 907 009





Council is supporting the Woodburn community to progress its recovery towards a position of being self-sufficient once again, and the reinstatement of the Woodburn IGA & Super Cellars would meet a critical need in providing residents with access to daily essentials, providing local employment, supporting community wellbeing, and contributing to local economic activity.

We note that the Government has supported larger businesses with millions of dollars, including Norco in Lismore and Sunshine Sugar in our village of Broadwater. We now ask that re-consideration be given to this business that has a similar relative importance to a community like Woodburn, as Norco and Sunshine Sugar have in Lismore and Broadwater respectively.

We look forward to your corporation's re-consideration of this case and being advised what can be done to contribute to the recovery of this critical business for our Woodburn community. I have also copied in Dominic Lane from the NSW Reconstruction Authority as he has awareness of this case and may be in a position to support in some way.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Macdonald".

Vaughan Macdonald  
**General Manager**

CC Dominic Lane, Executive Director, NSW Reconstruction Authority



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



t: 02 6660 0300  
f: 02 6660 1300



e: [council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)  
w: [richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

ABN 54 145 907 009

**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 Land Development Update**

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.

**22.2 General Manager's Annual Performance Review - 2022/23**

This matter relates to (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

**23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL**