

Richmond
Valley
Council



ATTACHMENTS

Tuesday, 15 August 2023

UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Ordinary Council Meeting

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Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
18 July 2023**

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18 JULY 2023

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18 JULY 2023

**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON TUESDAY, 18 JULY 2023 AT 6PM**

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Angela Jones (Director Community Service Delivery), Ryan Gaiter (Director Organisational Services), Ben Zeller (Director Projects & Business Development), Jenna Hazelwood (Chief of Staff), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor), Simon Breeze (IT Support Coordinator)

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

2 PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

3 PUBLIC ACCESS

Nil

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 MAYORAL MINUTES**5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - CASINO UNITED HOSPITAL AUXILIARY****RESOLUTION 180723/1**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council extends its gratitude and appreciation to the Casino United Hospital Auxiliary for the tireless service the members have provided to our community for over 120 years.

CARRIED

5.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - NORTHERN RIVERS FLOOD RECOVERY**RESOLUTION 180723/2**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council:

1. Notes the recent advocacy efforts of the Mayor and General Manager on behalf of our community to seek a more equitable allocation of funding and support to the Richmond Valley and across the whole Northern Rivers region; and
2. Agrees for the Mayor to write to the Premier, the Minister for Emergency Services and the Minister for Planning to highlight the priorities for residents impacted by floods across the Richmond Valley.
3. Seeks a meeting with the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority to discuss how Council and the NSWRA can work together to speed up flood recovery and achieve our community's vision set out in our *Richmond Valley 2040* Community Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 20 JUNE 2023****RESOLUTION 180723/3**

Moved: Cr Sam Cornish
Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 June 2023, including the following amendments to Item 7.1 and Item 7.2.

7.1 NORTHERN RIVERS RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY RESPONSE

Cr Robert Hayes referred to Item 7.1 Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) Response, and the letter provided to the Corporation's CEO David Witherdin seeking assistance for the Woodburn IGA, and asked if a response had been received?

Also the approaches made to Janelle Saffin MP and Minister for Planning and Public Spaces the Hon Paul Scully MP who were following up on the issue.

The General Manager advised a response letter had been received from the NRRC, which would be forwarded to Councillors. In summary, the letter states the focus of the NRRC is housing recovery and it currently does not have any programs which would fit the Woodburn IGA's business request. The Woodburn IGA's owner, Ms Hundy has also received a similar response from the NRRC and was thankful for Council's support in bringing this matter to the government's attention.

7.2 WOODBURN RIVERSIDE STREETSCAPE DESIGN

Cr Robert Hayes referred to Item 19.1 Woodburn Riverside Streetscape Design and enquired who were following up on the issue and asked if there was a timeline.

Director Projects & Business Development advised the contract for the works was executed on 19 June 2023 with a timeline of consultation with the public commencing in the upcoming weeks and the designs to be commenced within two months.

CARRIED

6.2 MINUTES EXTRARDINARY MEETING HELD 29 JUNE 2023**RESOLUTION 180723/4**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys
Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29 June 2023.

CARRIED

7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Cr Hayes referred to Item 7.1 Northern Rivers Reconstruction Authority Response and enquired if there had been any further advice received from the Minister regarding financial assistance for the Woodburn IGA Supermarket.

The General Manager advised no further correspondence or advice had been received since the previous letter advising Ms Hundy that the focus of the NRRC is housing recovery. However Ms Hundy met with both Ministers when they visited the area last week and outlined her situation. The Ministers' visit formed part of the Government's plan to reset recovery in the Northern Rivers. Council is awaiting further advice on what the reset will entail.

Cr Hayes referred to Item 7.2 Woodburn Riverview Streetscape Design, noting the commencing date for the works has now changed to September.

The Director Projects & Business Development advised that an updated program of works has been received from the contractor and works will not commence until late September.

The General Manager suggested the updated information be included in the next community newsletter.

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cr Robert Mustow declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 14.1 Richmond Valley Flood Recovery Update and 15.1 Casino Flood Study, Stormwater Study and Inflow and Infiltration Strategy update; due to owning a flood impacted property and owning property in the identified areas.

Cr Debra McGillan declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 14.1 Richmond Valley Flood Recovery Update, due to owning a flood impacted property.

Ryan Gaiter Director Organisational Services declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 14.1 Richmond Valley Flood Recovery Update, due to owning a flood impacted property.

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 13 JUNE - 11 JULY 2023****RESOLUTION 180723/5**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow
Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 13 June - 11 July 2023.

.CARRIED

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT MAY 2023 - ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL****RESOLUTION 180723/6**

Moved: Cr Sandra Humphrys
Seconded: Cr Robert Mustow

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

CARRIED

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE****RESOLUTION 180723/7**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That items 17.1 and 17.2 identified be determined without debate.

CARRIED

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18 JULY 2023

14 GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 RICHMOND VALLEY FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Richmond Valley Council continues to advocate for more funding and support for flood affected communities in the Mid-Richmond and Casino. At its June Ordinary meeting Council resolved to write to the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation expressing its disappointment at the outcomes of the Resilient Home Program for the Richmond Valley community. The letter has been sent, but, as yet, no response has been received.

Council representatives have also attended the recent community rally at Woodburn to listen to residents' concerns and raise awareness of the need for Woodburn and surrounding communities to receive the same attentions as other communities impacted across the Northern Rivers. The Mayor and General Manager have also participated in meetings with the NSW Premier and Northern Rivers Reconstruction Authority representatives to further progress the flood recovery program.

An update on other recovery initiatives is included in the report.

RESOLUTION 180723/8

Moved: Cr Robert Hayes

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Notes the letter that was sent to the NSW Reconstruction Authority regarding the Resilient Homes Program, and that Council is still awaiting a reply; and
2. Acknowledges the ongoing efforts since the onset of the 2022 floods, including preparation of a comprehensive three year recovery plan, "Rebuilding the Richmond Valley", with the first year having been implemented.
3. Continues to advocate for our community to ensure the Richmond Valley gets its fair share of the Northern Rivers Flood Recovery funding.

CARRIED

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18 JULY 2023

15 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY**15.1 CASINO FLOOD STUDY, STORMWATER STUDY AND INFLOW AND INFILTRATION STRATEGY UPDATE****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Richmond Valley Council has been working on four major flood and stormwater studies to determine how Casino and surrounds are impacted by flooding issues.

The four studies include:

- The draft Richmond Valley Flood Study, which includes updates of the 2022 flood levels (currently on public exhibition);
- Additional flood modelling work to support the Regional Jobs Precinct master planning process;
- The Casino Stormwater Study, which identifies current challenges with the stormwater network, and;
- The Casino Inflow and Infiltration Strategy, which focuses on how stormwater issues are impacting on the sewerage network

These studies are currently being finalised and Council will shortly begin the next stage of developing a long-term program of works to improve flood and stormwater management in Casino. The program will require sustained investment over the next 10 years to improve flooding outcomes and Council will be seeking additional funding and support to deliver these works.

RESOLUTION 180723/9

Moved: Cr Robert Hayes

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council

1. Receives and notes the report on progress with flood, stormwater and inflow & infiltration studies for Casino.
2. Notes that a further report will be provided by November 2023, updating progress on developing long-term stormwater and flood management solutions.

CARRIED

16 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Nil

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18 JULY 2023

17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES**17.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - JUNE 2023****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

The value of Council's cash and investments at 30 June 2023 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$24,580,397	\$43,000,000	\$5,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$15,337,324	\$90,668,111

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 30 June 2023 was 4.75% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for June of 0.30%, which is Council's benchmark.

RESOLUTION 180723/10

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing the performance of its cash and investments for the month of June 2023.

CARRIED

17.2 DRAFT INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER AND DRAFT AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has developed a Draft Internal Audit Charter and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference, in accordance with legislative requirements. These documents have been endorsed by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee and are now presented for Council's consideration. The documents were developed in line with the Office of Local Government's update on the *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW* to comply with the amendments being made to the Local Government Regulation.

The Terms of Reference explain how committee members will be remunerated. This includes aligning members' annual fee increases with those determined by the Local Government Remunerational Tribunal and paying the required superannuation guarantee.

RESOLUTION 180723/11

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council

- (a) approves the Draft Internal Audit Charter and the Draft Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference
- (b) approves an increase in the remuneration of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee members, in accordance with the Terms of Reference, commencing on completion of the first year, being October 2023.

CARRIED

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RESOLUTION 180723/12**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

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

CARRIED

19.1 MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE - 2023/24 EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY CONTRIBUTIONS**RESOLUTION 180723/13**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the response from the Minister for Local Government the Hon Ron Hoenig MP, regarding the 2023/24 Emergency Services Levy.

CARRIED

19.2 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2023**RESOLUTION 180723/14**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 April – 30 June 2023.

CARRIED

19.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JUNE 2023 - 30 JUNE 2023**RESOLUTION 180723/15**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 June 2023 to 30 June 2023.

CARRIED

19.4 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - JUNE 2023**RESOLUTION 180723/16**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

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

CARRIED

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

Nil

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

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

22.1 VP362381 - Cleaning Contract

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

22.2 VP362383 - Security Contract

This matter relates to (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) - (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).

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18 JULY 2023

RESOLUTION 180723/17

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That:

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

CARRIED

Council closed its meeting at 6.55 pm.

The Open Council meeting resumed at 7.00 pm.

The resolutions of the Closed Council meeting were read by the Director Organisational Services.

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL**22.1 VP362381 - Cleaning Contract**

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender from Cleaning Neways for the Cleaning of Council Offices and Buildings for a three-year period, with optional extensions, as it represents the best value for money at an annual price \$341,857 (ex GST).
2. Authorises the General Manager to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

22.2 VP362383 - Security Contract

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender from Herne's Security for provision of security patrols and related services for a three-year period, with optional extensions, as it represents the best value for money, at a monthly price of \$24,612 (ex GST).
2. Authorises the General Manager to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

The Meeting closed at 7.02 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 August 2023.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

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REBUILDING THE RICHMOND VALLEY

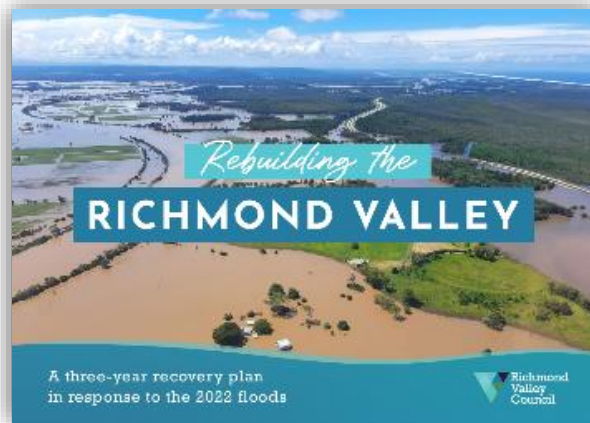
PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY - JUNE 2023



Integrated Planning & Reporting

This Progress Report details action taken against the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan (Plan), adopted by Council in June 2022. This report relates to the third and fourth quarters of the 2022/2023 year.



Following the flood event of February-March 2022, Council implemented a revised Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) framework. The Plan detailed Council's vision to help restore the Richmond Valley and to 'build back better'.

The Plan replaces the Delivery Program for the 2022/2023 year, and is structured into three parts:

RECOVER

Council's direct response to the flood is detailed within the 'Recover' actions. This includes actions relating to rebuilding of homes, reconnection of communities and repairs to damaged roads and infrastructure.

Strategies include:

- Working with the community to revitalise towns and villages
- Leading local resilience and recovery programs
- Supporting temporary housing options that keep people connected to their community
- Supporting recovery of key industries
- Documenting the extent of infrastructure damage and identifying funding sources
- Restoring critical regional transport corridors and freight links
- Repairing water and sewerage supply networks
- Restoring riparian habitat zones and managing river water quality risks.

PREVENT & PREPARE

This section focuses on actions that will help to reduce the impact of floods in the future and assist communities with natural disaster preparation. Such as, finalisation of Council's flood studies and redesign of stormwater systems.

Strategies include:

- Restoring and strengthening emergency response infrastructure
- Improving stormwater and drainage networks
- Advocating for improved telecommunication networks
- Improving long-term flood planning and risk management
- Supporting local food production
- Reducing demand on natural resources.

SUSTAIN

The focus within the 'Sustain' actions, is on maintenance of "business as usual" activities, together with continued work on long-term strategies such as the Regional Jobs Precinct.

Strategies include:

- Developing the Northern Rivers Rail Trail and other signature projects for economic stimulus
- Supporting local businesses to recover and prosper
- Attracting new businesses to the Richmond Valley to support a diverse economy
- Providing a range of housing choices for the community
- Identifying, purchasing and developing suitable residential land to support growth
- Strengthening engagement between Council and the community
- Leading with integrity
- Managing resources responsibly and strengthening Council's role as a leading local employer.

Council has now completed the first year of the Recovery Plan and the remaining actions of the three-year program have been incorporated into the new 2023-25 Delivery Program, endorsed at Council's 29 June 2023 meeting.

RECOVER

OBJECTIVE 1: Help communities to recover and reconnect

1A: Work with the community to revitalise our towns and villages
Principal Activity 1A1: Prepare Place Plans for towns and villages
<i>Work has commenced on Place Plans for Woodburn, Broadwater, Evans Head and Coraki. Requests for quotations will be issued in August 2023. The Place Plan project will involve extensive community consultation over the next six months.</i>
On Schedule
Principal Activity 1A2: Help community groups to recommence activities
<i>All clubhouses throughout the Valley have been repaired. Regular communication is happening with Clubs sending through any grant opportunities available to restock equipment and upgrade facilities. Rappville Hall and the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium are examples of community assets that have been re-established to assist community groups in recovery. Upcoming works on the Woodburn Oval, Colley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, Windsor Park, and Stan Payne Oval will also enable sporting and community groups to build on their membership bases.</i>
<i>Further rounds of the RVC Community Grants Program were offered where Council allocated \$75,000 in the 2022/23 budget for this program. Two equal funding rounds of \$37,500 were provided with 42 eligible applications receiving partial or full funding for their requests.</i>
<i>Council also ran its Event Support Program which supported 18 events with \$120,773. RVC supported events included; Evans Head Fishing Classic, Casino Show, Evans Head Malibu Classic, Evans Head Casino Surf Life Saving Club 10 Years, Peach Festival, Woodburn Riverside Festival, Casino West Art Show, Coraki Art Prize, March Against Violence, Woodburn Spring Orchid Show, Breast Comp Ever, Casino All Blacks, Evans Head Rodeo, Casino Beef Week, Primex Field Days, Evans Head Christmas, Broadwater Christmas, Coraki Christmas and Casino Fun Run</i>
On schedule
1B: Lead local resilience and recovery programs
Principal Activity 1B1: Establish Local Recovery Advisory Groups
<i>Woodburn, Broadwater, Coraki and Rappville advisory groups are ongoing. Depending on location, they meet every 6-8 weeks. The advisory groups provide Council with an opportunity to keep the community informed of support services, grant programs and recovery initiatives. These groups continue to provide valuable insights and information on each community's needs during the recovery journey. Council acts as a conduit by ensuring these insights are shared with Federal and NSW Government MPs and agencies.</i>
Completed

1C: Deliver community events to encourage reconnection
Principal Activity 1C1: Support the Richmond Valley's Signature Events program
<p><i>Council's Events team continues to work with organisers to build business and event capability to ensure there is strong community involvement and support. Our signature events - Beef Week and Primex - are closely linked to our lifestyle, culture and history.</i></p> <p><i>Primex 2023 saw 370 exhibitors, 795 companies and 1850 industry group representatives, attracting 24,000 visitors over three days.</i></p> <p><i>The economic impact from visitors and exhibitors to the region was \$3.8 million.</i></p> <p><i>79% of visitors came from the Northern Rivers; 8% from interstate.</i></p> <p><i>76% of visitors are planning to attend the 40th anniversary in 2024.</i></p> <p><i>48% of visitors were primary producers</i></p> <p><i>16% of visitors bought major purchases at the event averaging \$18,517</i></p> <p><i>Beef Week 2023 saw an estimated 25,000 people attend the event over the 11 days. 85% of attendees were from the North Coast, with Queenslanders being the next biggest group. The two biggest days were Breakfast with the Butchers and Main Saturday.</i></p> <p><i>New three-year sponsorship agreements have been signed between Council, Primex and Beef Week. The agreements are set down as cash sponsorship to the annual value of \$30,000 (ex GST) for Beef Week and \$25,000 (ex GST) for Primex. We also commit to continuing to provide in-kind support, such as waiving of some fees, and the expertise of our Events team. As per previous years, all other expenses (plant, waste fees and field staff wages) will be invoiced in line with agreed resourcing levels</i></p> <p>On schedule</p>
Principal Activity 1C2: Work with communities to develop recovery events
<p><i>Through the advisory groups across the local government area (LGA) and also working with the recovery hubs, recovery events have been held across the LGA. Future events are being planned such as a DIEP (Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning) forum, health and wellbeing sessions, nutrition demonstrations and Auslan training.</i></p> <p><i>A Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning forum was held on the 26th June which was attended by community members, first responders, community groups and government agency staff. Hosting this forum in partnership with the University of Sydney, means that support can be provided for everyone in our community, regardless of age or ability and can assist in equipping them with the skills we all need to better prepare, respond and recover from disaster. At the forum participants learnt about:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- People-centred approaches to emergency management</i> <i>- Factors that increase risk for people with disability in emergencies</i> <i>- Strategies to reduce risk and increase the resilience of people with disability to disaster</i> <i>- Local community resources that can be shared before, during and after an emergency to keep people safe</i> <p>On schedule</p>

<p>1D: Strengthen the role of local libraries in community recovery</p>
<p>Principal Activity 1D1: Increase technology support and digital resources at libraries</p>
<p><i>The library continues to provide access to a great eResource collection as well as online databases which is assisting communities to recover and reconnect. These resources are available 24/7 and are especially important to those who are isolated. In 2022/23 there were 22,987 loans of eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines. The library is also part of 3 consortiums which greatly increases the number of items available. Other resources available are film and music streaming. The library also has an online computer database where people can practice or improve their IT skills.</i></p> <p>On schedule</p>
<p>Principal Activity 1D2: Provide access to recovery and assistance information</p>
<p><i>Assistance is still being provided, however, there has been a decrease in requests. The libraries are serving members who have relocated to our communities. Libraries continue to provide safe and welcoming spaces.</i></p> <p>On schedule</p>
<p>Principal Activity 1D3: Develop library-based programs for social connection and wellbeing</p>
<p><i>The library provided programs both within the library and Outreach. Programs targeted members of the community from Baby Bounce to Seniors with Tech Savvy programs. During 2022/23, 872 programs were conducted, including 404 children’s programs with 6,078 children attending. These were held both in the libraries and as part of the outreach program and play an important role in early literacy. There were 329 one-on-one tech savvy programs which helped people improve their IT skills, and 614 attended 112 Adult education craft sessions. These play an important role in easing social isolation and assisting with mental health.</i></p> <p>On schedule</p>
<div data-bbox="438 1227 1149 1702" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="438 1702 1149 1736"><i>The new library courtyard, Casino was officially opened in February 2023.</i></p>

Rappville Hall opening

Council completed another milestone in its recovery from the 2019 bushfires with the opening of the new Rappville Hall Mayor Robert Mustow, former Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan officially opened the new facility on 27 February 2023.

The construction of a new hall was one of Council's key priorities in the wake of the devastating bushfire of October 2019, which destroyed many homes in Rappville, as well as the original hall.

In developing the plans for the new hall, located on what is now called the Rappville Common, Council was fortunate to work with BizRebuild, a bushfire-recovery initiative of the Business Council of Australia.



Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan, former Governor General and BizRebuild Chair Sir Peter Cosgrove, Rappville Hall Committee president Dave Newby and Richmond Valley Council Mayor Robert Mustow.


The \$1.5 million project was funded by BizRebuild's Community Rebuilding Trust, the Australian Government's National Bushfire Recovery Agency and Richmond Valley Council, resulting in a much-improved space for the community to use.

The new hall includes a generous sized hall and outdoor deck, a separate building housing a communal kitchen and supper room, along with a covered outdoor dining area, as well as storage and amenities areas.

As part of the project, Council purchased Rappville's St John's Anglican Church and surrounding land from the Anglican Diocese of Grafton. The historic church will remain available for services.

RECOVER


OBJECTIVE 2: Support families and businesses to rebuild

2A: Support temporary housing options that keep people connected to their community	
Principal Activity 2A1: Support Resilience NSW to establish temporary housing sites	
<p><i>Significant support has been provided to Resilience NSW Housing Taskforce to identify suitable sites to establish temporary housing solutions for the community who have been impacted by the 2022 flood events. Two temporary housing sites have now been established and are now operational. The Coraki site has been established on NSW Health land which was formally the Coraki Hospital site. This site supports pod dwellings and includes site/security office, amenities buildings, open spaces and playground. The site in Evans Head is on Crown Land and adjacent to the Reflections Holiday Park. This site has been established with caravan sites which are homing flood impacted people.</i></p>	
Completed	
Principal Activity 2A2: Support rehoming and fostering of pets for displaced families	
<p><i>Following the 2022 flood events, Council Rangers were engaged with assisting flood impacted residents and their animals. This need has declined; however, support is always available. Council Officers have built strong relationships with rehoming organisations and charities which significantly contributed to the successful rehoming and arranging foster care for companion animals following the flood.</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Regulatory staff raising Adopt-a-Pet awareness</i></p>	
Completed	
2B: Support flood-affected residents and businesses through the development approval process	
Principal Activity 2B1: Provide development concierge services to support flood affected properties	
<p><i>Council's Development Concierge has been working directly with owners of flood affected properties to help them explore options to restore their homes and access Council's hardship provisions, as appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>Fact sheets have been prepared to assist owners with key issues, such as house raising options and use of relocatable homes for temporary accommodation, emergency works and repairs, rebuilding after floods and options for tiny homes.</i></p> <p><i>Further work is underway on a full range of updated development fact sheets to be made available on Council's website in the near future.</i></p>	
On schedule	

Principal Activity 2B2: Explore options to improve flood resilience through building design and location
<i>Council has been actively supporting flood-affected residents to improve the resilience of their homes through house raising and redevelopment options. In the past six months, 10 development applications for flood-affected properties have been determined. This included six house-raising proposals, one replacement home and three applications relating to flood-affected businesses. Completion of the new Richmond Valley flood study will provide Council with improved flood data to support development decisions. Council plans to commence its Floodplain Risk Management Plan in early 2024, subject to funding being available.</i>
On schedule
2C: Restore central business districts and town centres
Principal Activity 2C1: Ensure CBD precincts in Casino and the Mid-Richmond are well maintained
<i>CBD precincts in all locations are subject to regular inspections and maintenance as per established service levels in accordance with budget allocations.</i>
On schedule
2D: Support recovery of key industries
Principal Activity 2D1: Advocate for government assistance for local businesses and employees
<i>This is ongoing, working with Service NSW and Office of Regional Economic Development to provide input and feedback on development of grant programs and issues arising from the roll out of programs. Council has been at the forefront in an advocacy role, to highlight the shortcomings and timeliness of support programs. In the initial flood response, Council was active in contacting our register of businesses, both from an immediate support perspective, but also in terms of leveraging the opportunity for some businesses who experienced a significant uplift in trade activity as the impacts of the event became obvious in Lismore and the wider Northern Rivers. Council continues to work with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation to assist where relevant in their charter to rebuild the Northern Rivers and has recently made introductions for new businesses to establish in the RV which would complement and strengthen existing businesses. These new businesses are from the recycling, mechanical and building supply industries.</i>
On schedule
Principal Activity 2D2: Partner with Regional NSW, Regional Development Australia (RDA) and local business organisations to support business recovery
<i>The Department of Regional NSW has developed a regional business, industry and tourism flood recovery reference group that Council actively participates in. This forum has been utilised to gain information and provide feedback regarding business recovery initiatives. Council has provided support in resolving issues with these programs.</i>
On schedule

RECOVER

OBJECTIVE 3: Restore the Richmond Valley’s road network

3A: Document the extent of infrastructure damage and identify funding sources
Principal Activity 3A1: Complete asset inspection programs and secure funding commitments through Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and other options
<p><i>Inspections of all road infrastructure have been completed. The Reconstruction team is actively submitting claims for Essential Public Asset Restoration (EPAR) works. Other grant funding opportunities are being explored and applied for as they arise. Most of the unsealed road network has been made safe and gravel replacement and grading works are complete. EPAR submissions are being assessed by Transport for New South Wales and the lack of approvals is constraining works on the ground and the ability to plan for projects. At 30 June, 29 EPAR’s had been submitted to the value of \$133million while 15 EPAR’s were being prepared for submission valued at \$12million. Council has received formal approval for 2 EPAR’s being Naughtons Gap Road and Busby’s Flat Road, Pickapene landslips.</i></p> <p>On Schedule</p>
3B: Restore critical regional transport corridors and freight links
Principal Activity 3B1: Support restoration works for Summerland Way and Bruxner Highway
<p><i>We continue to liaise with TfNSW, which controls State roads, and to undertake works on behalf of the State to restore these important road networks. Council is playing a key role in advocating for funding to upgrade regionally important transport/freight corridors and make them more resilient. Access issues on the Summerland Way and Bruxner Highway were all resolved expediently in the aftermath of the floods, with further works recently completed.</i></p> <p>On Schedule</p>



<i>Council has secured federal funding for the replacement and raising of the Tatham Bridges and this project will progress later in 2023.</i>
Principal Activity 3B2: Advocate to upgrade Woodburn-Casino Rd (MR145) as a key regional link road and complete restoration works
<i>After completion of the recent four year \$10million plus program of work on MR145, future funding has been secured for the replacement of the Tatham Bridges (\$18m), The Dip (Dairy Flat) and Thearles Culvert. For the full future restoration of this critical transport route, further funding of over \$40million will need to be sourced.</i>
On schedule
Principal Activity 3B3: Restore essential freight links and community access roads
<i>There has been significant effort by staff to ensure essential freight links and community access roads are all passable to traffic post the 2022 flood events. Additional works are scheduled to be undertaken on several key freight links to further add to the initial restoration works. For example, MR145 (Casino to Woodburn) is one of the most significant transport corridors through the Richmond Valley and is often subjected to inundation from flood water. Council Officers are exploring opportunities to improve the resilience of MR145 by identifying key risk areas and determining appropriate measures for betterment. Council will be strongly advocating for additional funding to undertake betterment works. Funding has recently been secured for the Tatham Bridges, The Dip (Dairy Flat) and Thearles Culvert which will complement the already completed 16km of upgraded sections on this road.</i>
<i>Another key transport link which will be restored as a result of over \$15million in funding is the Naughtons Gap Road.</i>
On schedule
3C: Remediate landslips and develop long-term solutions for North Casino link roads
Principal Activity 3C1: Complete Naughtons Gap Road realignment
<i>Council staff have been very active in advocating to all levels of government for a solution to this significant transport link issue. Council's own funds were invested in investigation and options reports to identify the best solution possible to reopen the Naughtons Gap Road. Officers from Transport for NSW have clearly stated the government's preference for a repair solution, and not a realignment. The issue was escalated to the Minister for Transport. Meanwhile, Council had followed the recommendation of TfNSW and lodged a disaster claim for damage, but also an application to the significant road asset betterment grant fund. Council was successful for the betterment funding for the retaining wall component and additional disaster claim funding was awarded for the road repair component. A Tender is currently out to the open market for the reconstruction works which will be provided to a future Council meeting for approval.</i>
Behind Schedule
Principal Activity 3C2: Complete Bentley Road landslip restoration
<i>The Infrastructure Reconstruction team is actively engaged with TfNSW to progress this project. While negotiations continue, interim works have been completed to improve safety and reopen the road to two lanes of traffic. Negotiations to finalise the scope of works have taken some time to resolve. A revised scope is currently pending on the outcomes of an assessment by a geotechnical engineer, following which a revised EPAR application will be submitted to TfNSW.</i>
On Schedule

3D: Rebuild and repair damaged roads, bridges and culverts
Principal Activity 3D1: Develop & deliver a three-year capital works program for road, bridge & culvert restoration across road network
<i>The Infrastructure Recovery team and Roads and Drainage team has been actively working on drafting a three-year program for restoration works across the road network now that road inspections have been completed. EPAR funding approvals and the speed at which these are happening will result in changes to the program on an ongoing basis. Recent structural adjustments will see the Assets team be active in setting future capital works programs and providing direction for delivery teams.</i>
On Schedule
Principal Activity 3D2: Develop & deliver three-year maintenance and inspection program for roads, bridges & culverts
<i>Council recently adopted the new set of Asset Management Plans which include the Roads Asset Management Plan. These plans provide strategic direction, and recent resource additions to the asset team will own the development and actioning of future inspection programs. Work on these programs is underway.</i>
On schedule

RECOVER

OBJECTIVE 4: Restore essential infrastructure

4A: Repair/rebuild water supply networks
Principal Activity 4A1: Complete urgent repair works to water supply assets
<i>All water supply assets are functioning normally with emergency repair works completed.</i>
Completed
Principal Activity 4A2: Design, secure approvals & funding for Casino Water Treatment Plant upgrade
<i>The intent of this project is to improve drinking water production in the short and long term through process improvements to the plant, which will increase its reliability and better allow it to treat the variable quality of raw river water. An Options Assessment proposal by City Water Technologies, to conduct a process review and recommend optimisation and potential upgrades, has been accepted by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and a funding deed has been issued to Council for the project. The catchment has a high-risk score for pathogens, resulting in an overall Risk Score of 5 being awarded to the plant. As a result, DPE has agreed to 50% fund any works through the Safe and Secure Water Program. Work can now proceed on the detailed process and optimisation review of the plant.</i>
On schedule
Principal Activity 4A3: Deliver quality water supply services
<i>Council continues to deliver water supply services to our community that meets the required service standards and are NSW Health compliant.</i>
On schedule
4B: Repair/rebuild sewerage networks
Principal Activity 4B1: Complete urgent repair works to sewerage system assets
<i>All sewerage assets are functioning normally with emergency repairs completed.</i>
Completed
Principal Activity 4B2: Complete Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Stage 2
<i>The Evans Head STP Stage 2 funding application through the Safe and Secure Pathway was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment in December 2022. The Stage 2 concept design is on schedule to be issued to Council for comment and consideration in early September so it can be finalised in late September.</i>
<i>The detailed design will commence once the concept design has been approved and deemed to be satisfactory. NSW Public Works has been engaged to complete the Review of Environmental Factors and the Business Case for the project, the latter of which is required for the Safe and Secure Funding.</i>
On Schedule

Principal Activity 4B3: Construct Rappville Sewerage Scheme
<i>This project is funded under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund and has progressed toward the conclusion of the planning and design stage. Land acquisition for the site of the main infrastructure is almost concluded and is located South of Rappville. Procurement for the construction of the project is imminent. With most projects, cost indications are higher when tested by the market than when first scoped several years ago.</i>
On schedule
Principal Activity 4B4: Design, secure approvals & funding for Casino STP upgrade
<i>A procurement process for the assembly of a panel of consultants to assist with the delivery of the STP project is due to conclude in July. A primary project management consultant will be appointed from the panel with the aim of assisting Council to deliver the project over the next five years. An application for funding from the Regional Growth Fund (Growing Regional Economies Fund) was submitted in May and the Stage 1 result was expected to be announced in early July. GHD has provided the final draft report of the Casino STP Options and Costing and the final Condition Assessment Report. The Balmoral Group is on schedule to deliver the Business Case for replacement of the plant in September.</i>
On Schedule
Principal Activity 4B5: Deliver efficient sewerage services
<i>Council continues to deliver sewerage services to the community that meet the required service standard while being efficient and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) compliant under normal operating conditions.</i>
On schedule
4C: Restore and maintain community facilities and assets
Principal Activity 4C1: Restore damaged assets, including sporting facilities, parks, recreation areas, cemeteries, footpaths and cycleways
<i>Multiple grant funding commitments, along with insurance funding, has allowed Council teams to restore and upgrade community facilities and assets. Priority has been given to asset restoration from a safety perspective, for example, with Queen Elizabeth Park which was used as a temporary waste transfer station at the height of the flood cleanup effort. These works were completed and open to the public in April 2023.</i>
 <p><i>Community halls, parks, sporting fields and cycleways across the Richmond Valley have all been assessed and repairs have been completed. A highlight of the repair program was the re-opening of the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium in March. Council has also been awarded funding for the top soiling of all sports fields which is scheduled to be completed by December 2023.</i></p>
<i>Reopening of the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium</i>
On Schedule

