

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 15 August 2023

Time: 6pm

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

**Vaughan Macdonald
General Manager**

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

2 PRAYER**3 PUBLIC ACCESS****4 APOLOGIES**

5 MAYORAL MINUTES

5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK AWARDS 2023

Author: Cr Robert Mustow

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Acknowledges receipt of the RH Dougherty Award for its Rebuilding the Richmond Valley recovery plan
- 2 Extends its congratulations to all Council staff involved in preparing and delivering the plan to support our community's continued flood recovery.

REPORT

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of representing Richmond Valley Council at the Local Government NSW Awards in Sydney. The awards celebrate councils who demonstrate excellence across a range of categories such as arts and culture, events, communications and planning.

Council entered its Rebuilding the Richmond Valley recovery plan in the RH Dougherty Awards Reporting to Your Community category, and I was honoured to accept the Highly Commended award for this project.

The Reporting to Your Community category recognises and encourages greater understanding and communication by councils with their local communities, with entries judged by leading experts in the communications field.

The RH Dougherty Awards are named after former Local Government Association President Robert Henry (Bob) Dougherty, whose life was one of local and community involvement. He worked for more than 20 years in local government and served on more than 20 local cultural, sporting and community organisations. Cr Dougherty had a vision for local government to develop real means of communication between councils and their ratepayers, an aim the awards serve to encourage, promote and recognise.

Council's Rebuilding the Richmond Valley recovery plan was designed to provide clear direction and reassurance to our community as it commenced its recovery from the catastrophic floods of 2022. This was one of the most difficult times that our community had faced, with more than 450 local homes rendered uninhabitable, 1000 people displaced and a massive \$150 million plus community infrastructure repair.

At this difficult time, Council wanted to act quickly to support flood-affected towns and villages with clear strategies and timeframes for recovery. We also wanted to provide a space for our community to tell the story of its flood experience and to raise awareness of the Richmond Valley's needs with other levels of government.

The document was prepared in a time of constant change, with new flood recovery initiatives being announced daily. The stories and images in this plan are powerful and its simple message of courage and hope has served as an important advocate for our community, bringing the human face of the Richmond Valley flood disaster into funding negotiations.

The document has been circulated to all levels of government to raise awareness of the Richmond Valley's recovery journey and seek support. As a result of this advocacy, Council has attracted significant direct funding support for our flood-affected communities.

Although the Richmond Valley still has a long way to go in its recovery journey, we have made great progress in the first year of our Recovery Plan. Council would like to thank the community for its continued courage and persistence during this difficult time. We are immensely proud of how

many people stepped up and worked hard to support and protect our community during and after these flood events.

I would also like to congratulate all staff involved in not only preparing the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley recovery plan, but also those who each day continue to deliver on our flood-recovery programs.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

5.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - CASINO TRUCK SHOW

Author: Cr Robert Mustow

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Notes the outstanding success of the 2023 North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show and its well-deserved title as the biggest truck show in the southern hemisphere.
- 2 Extends its congratulations to the Organising Committee, volunteers and council staff led by our Community Connection team for delivering a high quality event for our community.

REPORT

The 2023 North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show has claimed the title of the biggest truck show in the southern hemisphere, with a record number of entrants. The title was previously held by TMC Trailers Trucking Industry Show in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The official number of trucks judged for this year's show was 580, however, around 40 missed the registration deadline so all up 620 trucks of all shapes and sizes filled the streets of Casino. This equates to more than \$300 million in value.

The 2023 NCP Casino Truck Show has also eclipsed all records for attendance at a Richmond Valley single-day event, attracting record turnout of an estimated 14,000 people. The estimated economic benefit of the show is \$1.7 million, proving the value of well-run events to the local community, particularly when the draw is from outside the region.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service was named as the charity partner for the 2023 Casino Truck Show and I'm pleased to announce that Council will be making a donation of \$5000 to this vital service. Jumbunna Community Preschool and Early Intervention Centre and the Casino Community Kitchen will also each receive \$2500 to assist their good work supporting our community.

Since Council took over the running of this popular industry event in 2021, with the support of a dedicated volunteer organising committee, it has grown in stature. The inaugural show was held in the Primex grounds and remained there for three years before moving to the town centre. Once the show moved into the CBD it has gone from strength to strength. In 2022 the number of entries hit 375 trucks, up from 251 in 2019 and 207 in 2018. There were no shows in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.

The event's success has proved its economic value, not only for Casino and the Richmond Valley, but the wider Northern Rivers region with local accommodation providers booked out months in advance, and many attendees staying overnight in Kyogle, Lismore and Ballina.

For some local community groups it was their biggest fundraiser of the year and a boon for local tourism. The Truck Show has certainly helped to raise Casino's profile, with feedback being overwhelmingly positive. Many drivers are already planning their 2024 rosters to make sure they don't miss what could be another history-making event.

Congratulations to Luke Wilson, Bulmer's Transport, for being our 2023 Tiny Lollback Rig of the Show. Greg "Tiny" Lollback was an inaugural member of the Casino Truck Show. Tiny passed away in 2017.

It takes a small army to run an event of this scale and my congratulations go to Organising Committee Coordinator Darren Goodwin and his team of volunteers, as well as the many Council staff involved, particularly the Community Connection team of Sharon Davidson, Tiarn Stenner, Kendra Lynch and Adam Hourigan

Thank you to everyone who attended 2023 NCP Casino Truck Show this year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 18 JULY 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 July 2023.

REPORT

Refer attached Minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Minutes 18 July 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**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - RATE REBATE EXTENSION****Author: Cr Robert Hayes**

I, Councillor Robert Hayes, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2023, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council writes to the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Chris Minns MP, seeking further rate relief for flood-affected residents across the Richmond Valley area for the 2023/24 financial year.

RATIONALE

In March 2022 Council wrote to the then Premier Dominic Perrottet and was successful in gaining Rate Relief for the flood-affected residents across the Richmond Valley area for the 2022/23 Financial year, under the expectation that the NSW government would have recovery programs on the ground over this period.

Eighteen months on due to the snail pace roll out of all state and federal government recovery programs and the fact that 90% of our flood affected residents who have had to wait until now to be informed they were unsuccessful and will receive no further assistance from the Resilient Homes Program.

This has been devastating news for families who are now spending their second winter in makeshift accommodation, living in sheds, tents, and caravans. They have not been able to enjoy the benefits as other Ratepayers have, due to the inability of the governments of this time progressing the recovery programs in a timely manner.

Another 12-month extension would go a long way to rebuilding our community's confidence in the roll out of further government programs over the next 12 months.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 12 JULY - 8 AUGUST 2023**

Author: Cr Robert Mustow

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 12 July – 8 August 2023.

July

- 12th Bentley Art Prize launch
- 14th Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting
- 17th Disability Inclusion Action Plan Community Consultation morning tea
- 18th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 19th Rous County Council Information Session.
- 22nd Heritage Weekend event Casino
- 24th Rous County Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.
- 25th Truck Show Westpac Helicopter Promotion
- 25th 2023 Agrinous AusSaleyards Expo
- 26th 2023 Agrinous AusSaleyards Expo
- 27th 2023 Agrinous AusSaleyards Expo
- 27th Northern Rivers Recovery Community Leaders
- 28th Ministers Dib and Scully visit to Woodburn and Coraki
- 28th Mid-Richmond Historical Society AGM
- 29th All Breeds Sale NRLX
- 29th Tradies thank you BBQ Coraki
- 29th Rappville Public School trivia night

August

- 1st Richmond Valley Council Information Session
- 3rd Local Government Week Awards Dinner Sydney
- 4th Country Mayors Meeting Sydney
- 5th Casino Truck Show
- 5th Bentley Art Prize exhibition
- 5th Tinnie Heroes Memorial Plaque unveiling
- 7th Bentley Art Prize acquisition
- 8th Meeting with Leader of NSW National Party Dugald Saunders and Member for Clarence Richie Williamson.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS

12.1 DELEGATES REPORT - NATIONAL SALEYARDS EXPO JULY 2023

Author: Cr Robert Mustow

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report for the month of July 2023.

REPORT

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

The National Saleyards Expo was held on 25-27 July 2023, hosted by the Australian Livestock Markets Association (ALMA) at Surfers Paradise.

A summary of the Expo follows.

Attendees

- Cr Robert Mustow
- Cr Sandra Humphrys
- General Manager
- NRLX Redevelopment & Operations Manager and
- NRLX Business Administration Coordinator.

ALMA is the peak national body for the saleyard industry, representing and promoting the interests of saleyard owners and operators. ALMA's purpose is to be the industry's voice at all levels of government and stakeholder engagement. ALMA addresses key issues that have the potential to impact on the viability of the saleyard and lairage industry. It does this with the support of the industry and is recognised by government and industry as the united single national voice that speaks for and on behalf of the industry.

At this year's conference there were approximately 100 attendees representing a broad spectrum of industry at all levels. Following is a summary of the main presentations and key messages at the conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | MAKING ENERGY FOR YOUR INDUSTRY

Julie Cross

- Julie Cross was an excellent start to the conference with a heartbreaking story that has led to her professional speaking journey
- She spoke on bringing a positive energy into our industry and workplaces and the way in which that improves our own mental capacity as well as the culture of the workplace we are in.

INDUSTRY PANEL | WHAT IS CRITICAL FOR THE SALEYARDS INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

Nolan Meats – Terry Nolan

- Animal welfare is core to processors.
- Livestock clearly not 'fit to load' still regularly arriving at processing plants from saleyards. Interesting that buyers are buying these cattle.

- NRLX Takeaway Message | Oversight of receivals is required for every sale to ensure livestock are in a satisfactory condition to enter a saleyard. Need to select a suitable quarantine/hospital pen and sign it appropriately.

ANIMAL ANGELS – Dawn Lowe

- Discussed the responsibility of saleyards on animal welfare.
- Important to have suitable facilities, clean pens, water, food and low stress stock handling
- Animal Angels regularly do saleyard visits and audits to assess compliance.
- Training of staff is key.
- NRLX Takeaway Message | Having operational control to meet animal welfare and training requirements is key, including suitable training on euthanasia for any staff required to do this.

ALPA – Peter Baldwin

- Encouraged youth to work in saleyards
- Agents and saleyards operators need to work together
- Aware that some Agents need to work on their attitude
- Saleyards are core to the livestock industry
- Agents dream would be for all saleyards to employ an animal welfare officer
- NRLX Takeaway Message | Need to assign an animal welfare officer (required as part of NSQA)

GDL – Jeff Garland

- Pace and efficiency of sales is a core concern for buyers
- NRLX Takeaway Message | The current operational changes are important in improving processes and efficiency.

BIOSECURITY AND EAD UPDATE - Animal Health Australia

- AHA are the core body for preparedness and procedures for Emergency Animal Disease situations.
- Lumpy Skin Disease & Foot and Mouth are still a concern.
- Saleyards are required to have an EAD Action Plan as part of their Biosecurity Plan (including Livestock Standstills)
- The AHA website has a wealth of information including training modules.
- NRLX Takeaway Message | Review existing plans and train staff on processes. Encourage staff to complete the online AHA training modules.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | THE IMPORTANCE OF TELLING OUR INDUSTRY STORY**Humans of Agriculture**

- Education of the community is key including taking responsibility for issues within the industry.
- Society is disconnected with agriculture – 83% of community have no or little connection
- Social media presence is important in sharing the agriculture story.

- NRLX Takeaway Message | Improve our social media presence with interesting positive content, humour, conversation starters, people photos and videos of what we do.

ARLTA & NVR | EFFLUENT CODE OF PRACTICE

- Effluent management within the transport industry continues to be a problem. Most trucks don't have the tank capacity to store all effluent created on the vehicle.
- NVHR has registered a new national code of practice to reduce the hazards and risks associated with effluent spillage during the transport of livestock.
- Saleyards play a part in this by providing suitable truck wash facilities including effluent disposal, ensuring facilities are designed for efficient loading and unloading of vehicles, considering the safety and wellbeing of site users and providing the necessary information around the facility opening hours and contacts.
- Discussion around the Chain of Responsibility in terms of saleyards includes consigning goods, receiving goods, packing and assembling goods, managing premises with a loading manager, loading and unloading heavy vehicles.
- NRLX Takeaway Message | Efficient loading and unloading of vehicles has previously been an issue due to the lack of delivery staff. Need to review the new Code of Practice to ensure compliance. The delivery team including the Livestock Coordinator are essential to meeting the Chain of Responsibility legislation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO INCREASED BIOSECURITY THREATS WITHIN THE REGION

Dr Chris Parker

- Lumpy Skin Disease may not cause the same devastation as Foot and Mouth but it is much more likely to arrive in Australia due to its method of travel being by insect.
- Foot and Mouth disease has much more dire consequences but is less likely to be brought into Australia.
- The government has a range of responses in place including trained dogs, foot baths, education and assisting foreign countries with managing diseases.
- Vaccinating would remove Australia's disease-free status and limit market opportunities so will only be used as a last resort.
- Low chance of either disease arriving but we need to be prepared.

ASMA AGM

- Limited discussion, other than voting in a new board. The NRLX Operations Manager remains secretary.

ISC – THE NEW ENVD APP: NO SERVICE? NO PROBLEM!

Peter Quigley

- Good uptake of the new eNVD app although the older generation are struggling with using technology.
- Ensures clarity of information and reduces the number of incomplete NVD's.
- Environmentally friendly although there continues to be a need for paper based NVD's.

- NRLX Takeaway Message | Need to create a written process for NVD's via the app and how that integrates with out livestock software Agrinous.

ALMA AGM

- Presidents Report
 - o The Social Value of Saleyards report has been well received across the industry.
 - o Grant funding to produce a Chain of Responsibility Handbook along with the development of a Code of Practice for Livestock Loading will be key in educating stakeholders in the industry on their responsibilities around heavy vehicle transport.
 - o ALMA is working to develop an Australian National Saleyards Accreditation System that will replace the outdated and underutilised NSQA scheme.

MEMBER FEEDBACK SESSION | WHAT WILL SHAPE THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS IN OUR INDUSTRY AND ALMA**Bluewren Connections**

- Interactive session with remaining attendees
- Worked in groups to discuss current issues within the industry and room for improvement
- Improving animal welfare is a goal most saleyards want to see along with recognised training courses and modules and consistency where possible across the industry.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

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

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

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

That items identified be determined without debate.

14 GENERAL MANAGER

14.1 REBUILDING THE RICHMOND VALLEY DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Author: Vaughan Macdonald

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council has completed the first 12 months of its Rebuilding the Richmond Valley interim Delivery Program, with substantial progress in all areas of flood recovery.

The recovery journey from the catastrophic 2022 floods is expected to take at least three years, with activity during the first year focused on:

- Understanding the scale of the damage and how long it will take to fix
- Completing emergency repairs to essential infrastructure, such as water supply, sewerage services and road networks
- Getting people back into their homes wherever possible
- Fixing essential facilities, such as halls and sports grounds, so that communities can come together again
- Supporting the long-term recovery of our environment
- Advocating for support and funding from state and federal governments to complete the recovery process.

At the end of Year One, we have seen positive progress in these areas. Council has now completed its emergency infrastructure repairs and the majority of restoration works for community buildings and sporting facilities. More than \$36m has been secured in government funding to support recovery works. However, continued delays with regional buy-backs, relocation and house resilience programs remain a major concern for the community and Council will continue to advocate strongly for further assistance.

Actions for the remaining two years of the program have been incorporated into Council's 2023-25 Delivery Program. This will concentrate on continued repairs and reconstruction of flood damaged roads and bridges, major infrastructure upgrades, improving preparedness for natural disasters and supporting long-term economic growth and prosperity for the Valley.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the progress report for the January-July 2023 period of the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Delivery Program;
2. Acknowledges the outstanding efforts of the community in its continued journey towards recovery from the 2022 floods;
3. Continues to advocate strongly for:
 - a) urgent progress in implementing regional housing solutions, and
 - b) accelerated approvals for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) claims for essential infrastructure repairs.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 1: Rebuild and reconnect our communities

1A Revitalise flood-affected towns and villages

1A1 Restore and reconnect social infrastructure

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan is being delivered via a number of funding sources including: Council's own resources, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, insurance payments and government grants and assistance programs.

REPORT

The 2022 floods changed the face of the Northern Rivers and left a trail of destruction across the Richmond Valley that will take many years to repair. After the immediate emergency response to the floods, Council set about preparing a long-term plan that would guide it through the next three years of recovery. It adopted the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan in June 2022, with the first year of the plan serving as its Delivery Program for 2022-2023. This approach has proved highly successful for Council in the first year of recovery. Having a clear plan, with allocated responsibilities and priority actions has helped us to engage with funding providers and secure much-needed support for our community. In the first year, more than \$36m in government funding has been secured through Council's advocacy and its proven capacity to deliver major works. Remaining actions for Years 2 and 3 of the Plan have been incorporated into Council's new 2023-25 Delivery Program, adopted in June 2023. This will ensure that we continue to build back better after the floods and secure the Richmond Valley's place as an growing regional centre.

In preparing the Recovery Plan, Council focused on short, medium and long-term goals. The immediate focus was on fixing essential services and helping people to recover and get back on their feet. This included advocating for government support and ensuring that the day-to-day services Council provides for the community continued to be available. The plan also concentrated on building back better, improving our preparedness for future natural disasters and ensuring that, over the longer term, the Valley would have the extra housing, jobs and investment it needed to complete its recovery and continue to move forward.

The Plan is divided into three Key Focus Areas – Recover, Prevent/Prepare and Sustain - with 11 Strategic Objectives and 88 Principal Activities.

The attached Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Update details progress across these areas in Year One.

Of the 88 Principal Activities:

9 have now been completed

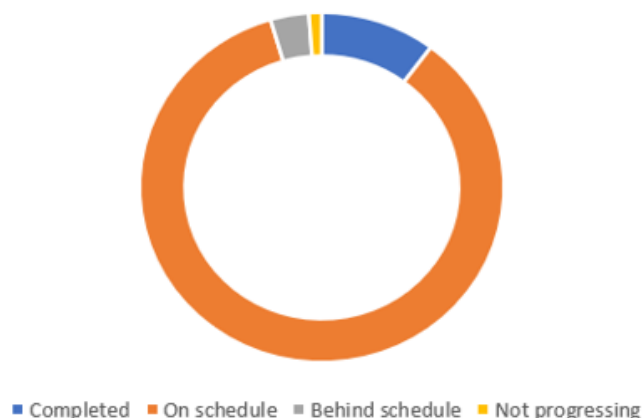
75 are currently on schedule,

3 are running behind schedule, and

1 is not progressing at this stage

The "on schedule" activities include projects and recovery programs, as well as Council's ongoing activities, such as development assessment, governance, regulatory functions and maintenance of community assets and services.

Year One Progress



Completing priorities

The 10 Principal Activities successfully completed were high priorities for Council. These included:

- Working with the NSW Government to successfully secure and establish temporary housing sites and options
- Establishing Local Recovery Advisory Groups to ensure that Council remained connected with flood-affected communities
- Supporting rehoming and fostering of pets for displaced families
- Completing urgent flood damage repairs to Council's water and sewerage networks.
- Finalising inspections of flood-affected underground petroleum storage systems and partnering with the EPA to address flood-related chemical and biological hazard incidents
- Completing repairs to flood damaged Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service buildings
- Completing the Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy – which identifies future housing development sites
- Completing the updated Richmond Valley Flood Study, incorporating levels from the 2022 flood.
- Developing the new Community Strategic Plan to guide the Richmond Valley's future for the next 20 years.

Re-opening community sports facilities

A key focus for Council over the past six months has been to complete repairs and upgrades to local sporting facilities. This has helped flood-affected communities to come together again and return to their regular social and sporting activities. In Woodburn, repairs have been completed to the swimming pool plant room and the pool has received a fresh coat of paint. At Woodburn Oval, the amenities, change rooms and lighting have also been restored, with a full ground surface rehabilitation to commence shortly.

Significant works have also been undertaken at Stan Payne Oval, Evans Head, with completion of a masterplan, improved drainage, repairs to damaged footpaths and ground surface works. A masterplan has also been completed for Colley Park, Casino, as well as upgrades to lighting and drainage. Work on a new amenities facility is scheduled to commence within the coming months.

Queen Elizabeth Park in Casino has also seen major restoration. This site was used as a temporary holding site for flood waste in the immediate recovery phase. The area now boasts a new carpark, improved drainage and replacement cricket nets.



From this . . .



To this! The QE Park restoration is now complete.

Council has also provided community grants to assist local sporting and community groups to replace flood damaged equipment. Over the past 12 months, a total of \$75,000 has been provided to 42 local projects.

A further highlight of the past six months was completion of long-awaited repairs to the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium in March 2023. The facility is now offering a wide range of activities for local young people. This building was impacted twice by flood events and Council has now installed more water-tolerant materials to reduce the likelihood of future damage.

Rebuilding roads and infrastructure

Another major focus of the Recovery Plan has been to assess, repair and restore the Richmond Valley's flood-damaged roads, bridges, culverts and other key infrastructure. Early estimates of the repair bill were up to \$150m, however more detailed assessment over the past six months has confirmed that this figure is closer to \$200m. Council has lodged claims for nearly \$134m in Disaster Recovery funding, for some 821 repair projects. Claims for a further \$12m worth of projects are currently being finalised and work will shortly commence on another raft of claims, valued at \$30m.

However, continued slow assessment times for government funding approval has meant that Council cannot progress major restoration works and risks losing contractors to other jobs in the region. So far only four of the projects, valued at \$17m have been approved. This includes long-awaited funding for the Naughtons Gap landslip repairs and repairs to landslips at Pikapene. Despite the delays, Council has progressed with other priority works, completing road reconstruction of sections of the Woodburn-Coraki Rd from Bungawalbin Bridge to Dairy Flat, reconstruction of Hartley St and Benns Rd at Casino, as well as heavy patching of Lagoon Rd at Coraki. A further highlight was completion of interim restoration work for Richmond Terrace Coraki. Council is committed to long-term restoration of this road and is currently preparing detailed designs and actively seeking further funding for the works.



Installing culverts as part of the Benns Rd upgrade

Helping people to return to their homes

Council has also been advocating strongly for government programs to help flood affected families restore their homes, and has written to the Premier, voicing its concerns with the Resilient Homes program and the lack of further support for the 500+ local residents who were unsuccessful in

receiving a buy-back offer, assistance with house raising or flood resilience works. We will continue to advocate for further funding and assistance.

Council has also been supporting those residents undertaking their own house raising or flood resilience works to ensure their development applications are processed quickly. In the past six months, 10 DAs for works on flood affected properties in Broadwater, Woodburn, Coraki and surrounding areas have been approved. This included house raising for six properties, one house replacement and three applications for flood-affected businesses. Four construction certificates for house raising projects were also determined.

Restoring the environment

The 2022 floods also caused significant damage to the environment, including major riverbank erosion, loss of native habitat and contamination of land and waterways. Council has so-far been successful in securing some \$300,000 in habitat restoration funding for riverbank areas in Casino and partnered with Rous County Council and NSW Fisheries on habitat restoration at Coraki. Council has also actively supported the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) with its clean-up and remediation programs following the flood. This included monitoring underground petroleum storage systems and reporting flood-related chemical and biological hazards. Work also continues on monitoring river water quality after the flood, in partnership with State Agencies and Rous County Council. The Richmond River continues to experience water quality issues with high nutrient loadings and turbidity. As part of its long-term planning for the Valley, Council has prepared a Sustainable Communities Strategy, which includes ongoing programs to improve biodiversity and waterway health. The strategy was adopted at Council's March 2023 meeting.

Building resilience

Another key focus of the Recovery Plan has been the need to build long-term resilience to natural disasters, by improving community preparedness and strengthening our long-term flood planning. Council's revised flood study (completed in early 2022) has now been updated to include the levels recorded in the February-March 2022 event. This provides up-to-date modelling for future flood events and will allow Council to complete its new Floodplain Risk Management Plans.

Improving resilience in the design and operation of community assets, such as water supply, sewerage and drainage networks is also progressing as part of the Plan. This includes designing long-term improvements to town drainage systems and sewerage networks and taking the first steps towards replacing the aging Casino Sewage Treatment Plant (which was damaged in the flood) and progressing stage 2 of the Evans Head Treatment Plant upgrade.

Advocating for the community

Council has been a strong advocate for community recovery since the 2022 flood. This has helped to secure more than \$36m in government funding and raised awareness of community flood recovery priorities. Key activities over the past six months have included:

Representations to the NSW Government for restoration of the Bungawalbin Levee

Representations to the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation for further support for flood-affected businesses in Woodburn

Representations to the Attorney General to expedite flood repairs to the Casino Courthouse

Letters to the Premier and Minister for Emergency Services highlighting local flood recovery priorities

Regular meetings with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Authority Steering Committee and Transport for NSW to expedite flood repair approvals

Working directly with the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative to secure \$26m in funding from the National Emergency Management Authority for flood resilience works on the Woodburn-Casino Rd, including repair and raising of the Tatham Bridges.

Securing our future

While much of the last six months has been focussed on flood recovery, Council continues to work on its long-term vision to attract more investment to the Richmond Valley and provide more jobs and housing for our community. Completion of the draft Richmond Valley Growth Management Strategy and Casino Place Plan was a major step forward in mapping out the vision for future housing and commercial development throughout the Valley. Further place plans are scheduled for Evans Head, Woodburn, Broadwater and Coraki, to guide future development and improvements. These plans will be finalised in Year Two of the Recovery program.

Council also completed its new Community Strategic Plan – Richmond Valley 2040, outlining its long-term vision to grow the population by 4000, provide 2000 new homes and 2000 new job opportunities over the next 20 years. The Community Strategic plan continues to focus on flood recovery and sets an objective to establish the Richmond Valley as an emerging employment centre in the Northern Rivers. The new 2023-25 Delivery Program, adopted by Council in June, also continues a focus on flood recovery and incorporates all the remaining actions from the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan.

Principal Activities behind schedule or not progressing

Of the 88 Principal Activities within the Recovery Plan, three are currently behind schedule for the January-July 2023 period. These include:

The Naughton's Gap Road realignment project, where Council undertook lengthy negotiations with the NSW Government to agree on the scope of the project and determine the level of funding assistance to be provided. Although Council's preference was for realignment of the road, government assistance is only available for repair work along the existing alignment. Funding for these works was finally secured in July, along with \$3m in betterment funding to help reduce the risk of future damage to the road. Council has now called for tenders to repair the road and hopes to see the work commence before the end of the year.

Finalising the Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct Masterplan. This project is being led by Regional NSW with support from Council. The delays are due to further investigation works to finalise technical studies. The NSW Government plans to exhibit the draft Masterplan in November 2023. Meanwhile Council continues to receive positive interest in opportunities to invest in the Jobs Precinct.

Completion of Casino Memorial Pool upgrade. The project has repeatedly been impacted by weather events, including the 2022 floods. The upgrade of the Casino Memorial Public Pool in line with Stage 1 of the Master Plan is now almost complete, with it expected to be open by the end of September 2023.

Over the next reporting period, Council will work to bring these projects back on schedule and ensure they meet their target completion dates.

The only activity not progressing at this stage relates to Council's future plans to develop residential land. An action was included in the 2022-23 plan to explore options for future investment in housing. However now that the Reconstruction Authority has announced its Resilient Lands priorities this program should provide sufficient residential sites for the next 20 years of anticipated growth. Council continues to work with the NSW Government to encourage the release of Crown Lands for affordable and social housing.

CONSULTATION

The Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan was placed on public exhibition for 28 days, prior to Council adopting the plan in June 2022. Remaining actions from the plan were incorporated into the 2023-25 Delivery Program, which was placed on public exhibition in May 2023.

CONCLUSION

The Richmond Valley community has experienced significant natural disasters and disruption since the drought and bushfires of 2019. This report highlights that Council has many challenges ahead

to restore some normality to its planning and budgeting and ensure the Richmond Valley is set up better to deal with future challenges.

Council has a positive vision for the future, one with growth, improved prosperity and opportunities. These plans will not only contribute to the betterment of the Richmond Valley, but also the broader Northern Rivers region. We will continue to pursue opportunities to work with the Federal and NSW Governments, as building positive partnerships with them helps to raise awareness of local needs and priorities and deliver great outcomes for our community.

The attached detailed report provides further information on the progress that has been delivered on the principal activities in the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley Recovery Plan.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rebuilding the Richmond Valley - Progress report (under separate cover)**

15 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

Nil

16 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Nil

17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

17.1 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - JULY 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 July 2023 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$15,405,218	\$47,000,000	\$5,750,390	\$2,000,000	\$15,506,502	\$85,662,110

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments as at 31 July 2023 was 6.28% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for July of 0.37%, 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 July 2023.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 11: Manage resources responsibly

11A Manage finances responsibly and provide value for money

11A1 Undertake long-term financial planning and ensure compliance with financial regulation

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As at 31 July 2023, Council has earned \$139,302 in interest and \$169,178 in fair value gains from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of \$308,480. This equates to 24.37% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$1,266,010.

Future fair value gains or losses will continue to be monitored and reported to Council.

REPORT

Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Cash Rate Update

The RBA held the cash rate at 4.10% per annum at its July meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in July was 6.28%, an increase in 153 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 591 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.37% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of \$169,178 during the month of July. The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a gain of \$114,696 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a gain of \$54,482.

During July, bond yields and equity markets rose as risk sentiment improved following encouraging signs that inflation is falling. The RBA has maintained that further rate rises may be necessary to return inflation to target in a reasonable timeframe, however left the cash rate unchanged to give it time to assess the impact of the previous increases.

The MTGF has a recommended investment timeframe of 7 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 \$85,662,110 at 31 July 2023. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$14,125,000), Term Deposits (\$47,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$5,750,390), Bonds (\$2,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$15,506,502) and other bank accounts (\$1,280,218).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$50,750,390 represented 63.91% of the total portfolio as at 31 July 2023.

Council made the following new investment during July 2023:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Auswide Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	3 months	5.40%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	3 months	5.40%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	3 months	5.40%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$2,000,000	3 months	5.20%
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	3 months	5.15%
Total			\$9,000,000		

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

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Auswide Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$22,937
Bank of QLD	Term Deposit	N	\$2,000,000	\$36,575
Bank of QLD	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$18,532
Total			\$5,000,000	\$78,044

Council had \$15,506,502 longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 July 2023. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31 July 23	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 31 July 23	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$12,361,713	\$114,696	\$114,696	\$1,356,684
Long Term Growth Fund	\$3,144,789	\$54,482	\$54,482	\$144,788
Total	\$15,506,502	\$169,178	\$169,178	\$1,501,472

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$85,662,110 at 31 July 2023 includes \$52,256,502 or 61% with no direct investment in the fossil fuel industry. These percentages include Council's investments with NSW Treasury Corporation and Northern Territory Treasury Corporation.

NSW Treasury Corporation has a stewardship approach to ESIs which focuses on managing environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities, particularly climate change which is expected to impact portfolios over the long term. The stewardship policy states NSW Treasury Corporation believes incorporating these principles into investment decisions results in better risk-adjusted financial outcomes. Even though NSW Treasury Corporation takes this stewardship approach, its monthly reporting only highlights the different asset classes, not individual investments, and the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry.

Northern Territory Treasury Corporation utilises funds to assist with its infrastructure requirements such as housing, transport, health, and education services. While no statement has been provided on its investment strategy, it has been assumed that providing funding towards its own infrastructure will not involve direct investment in the fossil fuel industry.

CONCLUSION

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

As at 31 July 2023 Council's cash and investments totalled \$85,662,110 with \$15,405,218 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 6.28% and total investment revenue equals 24.37% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 July 2023.

ATTACHMENT(S)

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

17.2 MONTHLY BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS REPORT - JULY 2023

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Zakari Witt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details proposed budgeted “Carry Forwards” and “Revotes” for the 2023 Financial Year.

Carry forwards represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were either started or contracted to be started in the 2022/2023 year. Revotes represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were not underway in the 2022/2023 year.

Both carry forwards and revotes are an annual occurrence and can be due to several factors including, savings in completion of projects, where those funds can then be utilised on new or additional projects, weather events, contractor availability, material availability, timing of grant funding and the associated expenditure of those funds.

The proposed carry forwards total \$7,331,606 comprising \$170,342 in operating expenditure and \$7,161,264 in capital expenditure. This represents only 0.21% of budgeted operating expenditure and 13.56% of budgeted capital expenditure for 2022/2023.

The proposed revotes total \$852,140 comprising \$624,386 in operating expenditure and \$227,754 in capital expenditure. This represents only 0.77% of budgeted operating expenditure and 0.43% of budgeted capital expenditure for 2022/2023.

Council’s annual Financial Statements are currently being prepared for audit and as such, the final carry forward and revote budgets are still subject to change. At this stage the proposed changes will have no impact on the projected budget surplus of \$212,574 for 2023/2024 as the carry over works are fully funded from unexpended grants and contributions or previously budgeted from other reserves.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes carry forwards for the financial year ended 30 June 2023
2. Approves revotes for the financial year ended 30 June 2023
3. Notes the revised budget for 2023/2024, including carry forward and revotes.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 11: Manage resources responsibly

11A Manage finances responsibly and provide value for money

11A1 Undertake long-term financial planning and ensure compliance with financial regulation

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As detailed in the report.

REPORT

Carry Forwards

Carry forwards represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were either started or contracted to be started in the 2022/2023 year. Proposed carry forwards totalled \$7,331,606 which includes \$170,342 in operational projects and \$7,161,264 in capital projects. Operational carry forwards represent 0.21% of budgeted expenditure, whilst capital carry forwards represent 13.56% of budgeted capital expenditure for 2022/2023.

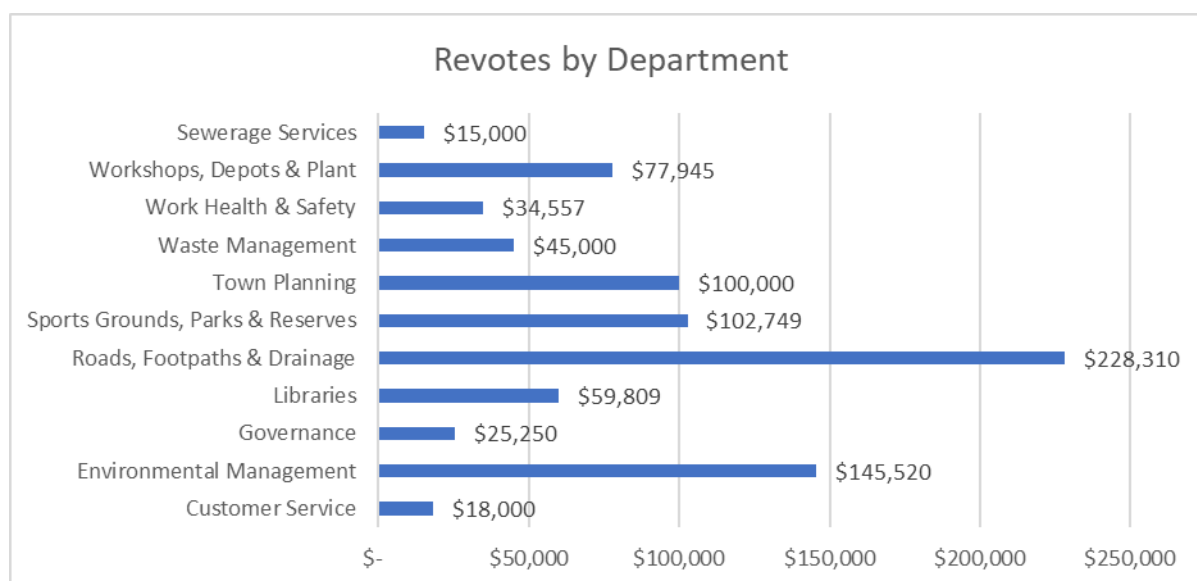
Carry forwards include projects with unexpended grants and contributions totalling \$3,302,810, as well as projects not fully completed that are funded from special rate variations of \$80,278, projects funded from reserves of \$3,189,593 and projects funded from general revenues or grants yet to be received of \$758,925. Council is obligated to restrict unspent grant funds and carry over to enable the completion of the projects as per the funding agreements.

Revotes

Revotes represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were not underway in the 2022/2023 year. Proposed revotes totalled \$852,140 which includes \$624,386 in operational projects and \$227,754 in capital projects. Operational Revotes represent 0.77% of budgeted expenditure, whilst capital Revotes represent 0.43% of budgeted capital expenditure for 2022/2023.

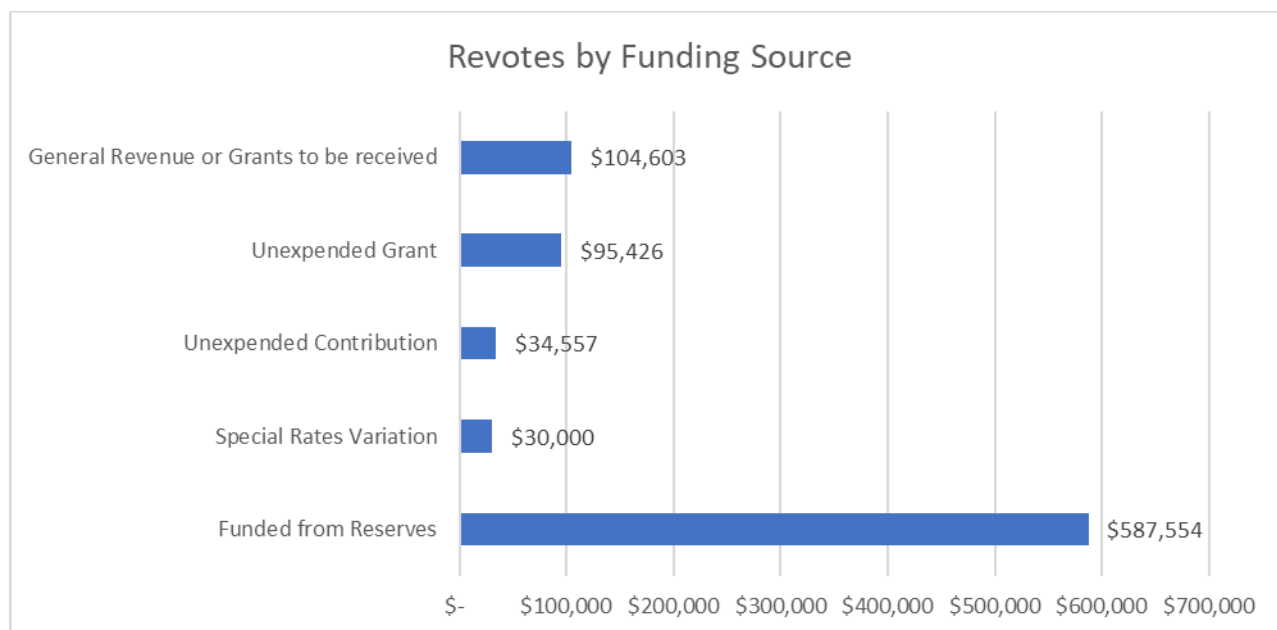
Revotes are an annual occurrence and can be due to several factors including, savings in completion of projects, where those funds can then be utilised on new or additional projects, weather events, contractor availability, material availability, timing of grant funding and the associated expenditure of those funds.

The following tables outline revotes by department and illustrate the funding sources for the proposed revotes.



Significant Revotes include:

- **Roads, Footpaths and Drainage** – Revotes of \$228,310 due to works being delayed as flood recovery works were undertaken as a priority.
- **Environmental Management** - Revotes of \$145,520 in grant funded projects for restoration of riparian areas.
- **Sports Grounds, Parks & Reserves** – Revotes of \$102,749 with \$49,749 being proposed to be allocated to additional maintenance at the Casino Indoor Sports Stadium along with \$53,000 in unspent grant funds required for riparian and regeneration works in McDonald Park and the Jabiru Wetlands.



As illustrated in the graph above, revotes are fully funded from unexpended grants, contributions, or reserves and as such, there will be no impact on the projected budget result for the 2023/2024 year.

Council's annual Financial Statements are currently being prepared for audit and as such, the final Carry Forward and Revote budgets are still subject to change. Any changes will be included in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2023, once unexpended grants and final reserve balances have been audited.

Total capital carry forwards and revotes will bring the 2023/2024 capital works program to \$51,267,672 from a budgeted capital works program of \$43,878,654. This is a sizeable capital works program and as such, Council staff will undertake a comprehensive review of the capital works program between now and the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2023 to ensure the delivery of projects can still be achieved.

CONCLUSION

The carry forwards and proposed revotes will have no impact on the projected budget surplus for the 2023/2024 year of \$212,574. As the capital carry forwards and proposed revotes total \$7,389,018, Council will continue to monitor and review the capital works program throughout the year to ensure delivery of projects is achieved.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Carry Forward & Revotes - 2022/2023 (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 30 JUNE 2023

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Bradley Willis

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Statistics as at 30 June 2023.

REPORT

This report provides a financial year to date update on the key statistics and financial performance of the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange as at 30 June 2023.

Key Statistics

	2022/23	2021/22
Cattle throughput	117,131	123,713
Gross sales revenue	\$142,204,732	\$210,437,317
Estimated Producers' revenue share	\$133,367,078	\$198,057,429
Producer Fees to Council	\$1,567,145	\$1,699,781
Estimated Agencies revenue share at indicative 5% commission	\$7,110,236	\$10,521,865
Agent Licence Fees to council (Ex GST)	\$47,727	\$47,727
Agent Business Usage Fee to Council (Ex GST)	\$112,546	\$110,515
NRLX Program deficit	\$647,303	\$250,800

NRLX Income and Expenditure to 30 June 2023

Subject to accounting adjustments during the end of financial year process, the NRLX returned a whole program deficit of \$647,303 (LY \$250,800). Revenue received from operations was \$1,877,542 (LY \$1,977,230), lower due to a throughput reduction of about 6,000 contributed to by lower livestock prices in the second half of the year and the reopening of the Lismore Saleyards following the 2022 flood events. Operating expenditure for the year was \$2,346,824 (LY \$2,006,559) an increase of about \$300,000.

In the past financial year, the NRLX facilitated a higher number of sales compared with previous years, which is the significant contributor to higher operational costs. 103 sales were undertaken compared to 99, 93, 85, and 84 in the previous four financial years. Increased sales demand increased preparations, additional curfew nights and weekends, reliance on contractors and the participation in livestock management in the facility to ensure an efficient start to end sale process.

The increased number of sales which essentially equate to 2 sales per week over 48 weeks, have heightened the pressure on the NRLX staff to adequately maintain and clean the facility in preparation for the next sale, necessitating a reliance on contracted staff, and overtime costs. The intensity and frequency of sales is higher in February and March of the year due to the weaner cattle sales, where significant numbers of livestock are sold.

Compared to last year, materials and contracts have seen a significant uplift of \$200,000 in expenditure. Included in this figure are contract operations staff costs, repairs and maintenance on grounds, buildings and equipment, effluent and environmental management, soft floor maintenance and replacement, truck wash expenses, weed control and vegetation management. This category of expenditure also includes purchases and sustenance of NRLX livestock, so the expenditure figure listed also contains the capital value of 38 head owned which at 30 June was valued at \$57,630. Having a permanent herd of livestock at the NRLX assists in controlling maintenance expenditure across the 44 hectare site.

Depreciation and borrowing costs continue to have a significant impact on the program result, totalling \$502,507 and \$419,603 (\$42,239 interest \$377,364 repayments) respectively.

Several expenditure items were incurred in preparation for the Livestock Management function including feed purchases of \$14,000, and the implementation and changeover to a new software provider of \$15,000. Other outliers in expenditure from previous years include legal fees of \$78,640 to engage the appropriate probity support for the agent's licence expression of interest process, and to also prepare a licence agreement befitting a multimillion-dollar modern business enterprise.

Total throughput value reduced to \$142,204,732 at an average price per head sold of \$1,214 overall for the year which remains as the third highest average recorded. In context however the average per head price by quarter has significantly reduced with Q1 at \$1,338, Q2 \$1,532, Q3 \$1,189 and the last quarter \$859 per head.

The below four images are historical YTD throughput numbers and average.



Image 1 – Historical data for average price per head

Combined Yearly Sale Total AU\$ (Gross)



Image 2 – Historical data for combined yearly sale total









Throughput per Financial Year



Image 3 – Historical data for throughput numbers per Financial Year

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	7,485	12,313	9,069	8,580	11,578	7,335	8,674	11,916	10,993	13,031	9,130	10,009
May	8,492	10,313	8,194	8,379	13,649	8,166	13,024	11,908	4,979	10,196	7,608	9,537
June	9,198	9,331	9,738	12,725	11,007	7,849	10,043	12,212	11,025	18,264	11,103	11,136
	96,806	90,724	102,255	103,320	119,463	92,608	99,119	131,538	103,436	123,713	117,131	107,283

Image 4 – Historical data for throughput numbers per month

NRLX Income and Expenditure (excludes committed orders)	Actual 30-Jun-23 (\$)	Current Budget (\$)	Percentage %	Actual 30-Jun-22 (\$)
Operating Income				
Fees & Rent	1,770,010	1,744,609	101.46%	1,899,920
Biosolids Project	41,146	160,000	25.72%	75,881
LIRS Subsidy	28,435	28,435	100.00%	1,428
Other Contributions	37,951	0	0.00%	0
Total Operating Income	1,877,542	1,933,044 	97.13%	1,977,230
Operating Expenses				
Salaries and On costs	606,932	650,923	93.24%	583,825
Materials and Contracts	533,820	370,084	144.24%	333,103
Interest on Loans	42,239	47,524	88.88%	56,055
Depreciation	502,507	515,616	97.46%	534,649
Electricity Charges	70,752	37,044	191.00%	52,348
Telephone Charges	4,704	6,493	72.45%	5,340
Insurance Charges	24,898	20,000	124.49%	15,605
Advertising Costs	19,175	15,375	124.72%	16,902
Software Licences	55,802	62,150	89.79%	46,332
Other General Expenses	18,976	15,524	122.24%	20,628
Biosolids Project	106,233	75,000	141.64%	62,993
Internal Charges	265,177	289,102	91.72%	245,227
Legal Costs	78,640	0	0.00%	13,744
Subscriptions	595	2,000	29.75%	6,150
Printing and Stationery	8,721	8,000	109.01%	8,622
Security Charges	7,653	5,125	149.33%	5,037
Total Operating Expenses	2,346,824	2,119,960 	110.70%	2,006,559
Operating Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	(469,282)	(186,916) 	251.07%	(29,330)
Operating Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	33,224	328,700 	10.11%	505,320
Capital Income				
Capital Grants & Contributions/Loan Funding				
Capital Works Levy	218,642	214,318	102.02%	226,719
Total Capital Income	218,642	214,318 	102.02%	226,719
Capital Expenditure				
Plant Purchases	19,299	16,731	115.35%	76,081
Shed	0	0	0.00%	8,683
Loan Principal Repayments	377,364	377,364	100.00%	363,425
Total Capital Expenditure	396,663	394,095 	100.65%	448,189
Program Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	(647,303)	(366,693) 	176.52%	(250,800)
Program Cash Result - Surplus/(Deficit)	(144,797)	148,923 	-97.23%	283,850

The NRLX continues to run at both an operating deficit and the whole program in deficit. The combination of increased sales, less throughput, lower cattle prices, and generally higher expenditure across all categories, has seen an increase in the deficit this year. Future reductions in depreciation and the settlement of borrowing obligations in the next 2 years, will improve these results. Without the approved revenue and operational changes, this improvement is still unlikely to result in a program surplus for the NRLX in the foreseeable future.

The commitment made to our community in 2016 to run this community asset as a financially sustainable business and to pursue significant infrastructure upgrades with a focus on animal welfare and work health and safety improvements should remain a priority. The adopted Revenue Policy for 2023/24, an improved licence agreement, a transparent and competitive agent licence procurement process and necessary operational adjustments will provide the base with which to fulfil that commitment.

19.2 RICHMOND-UPPER CLARENCE REGIONAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Gary Ellem

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library Annual Report 2022/2023.

REPORT

In accordance with Clause 4.7 of the Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library Agreement authorised in 2022, between Richmond Valley Council (the administering council) and Kyogle Council (the delegating council), an Annual Report is required to be prepared for the Regional Library Service.

In accordance with the agreement and as the administering council, Richmond Valley Council has prepared a report and provided a copy to Kyogle Council as the delegating council.

The report includes details of the Regional Library Service and a report outlining the services provided throughout the 2022/2023 financial year.

A copy of the audited statement of accounts will be consolidated into the Richmond Valley Council Financial Statements which will be available at a future Council meeting.

The report outlines the highlights during the 2022/2023 period as summarised below:

- A quality library service returning to pre-covid service levels
- The opening of the new Casino Library Courtyard
- Visit and inspection of our libraries by the NSW State Librarian and Members of the Library Council of NSW
- Another successful Public Library Infrastructure Grant Application
- Kyogle Library hosting Byron Writers Festival Roadshow
- 117,924 members and guests used the library's facilities
- 16,544 registered members of the Regional Library
- 1,162 new members joined the library during the period
- The library ran 872 programs during the year
- 6,078 children attended 401 children/youth events held across the region
- 470 successful adult programs including Tech Savvy for Seniors, craft for flood victims, adult colouring-in, book clubs and book launches
- 51,844 information and customer service request, and
- 9,374 internet bookings and 9,849 Wi-Fi connections.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library Annual Report 2022 - 2023 (under separate cover)**

19.3 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - JULY 2023**Director:** Ryan Gaiter**Responsible Officer:** Rylee Vidler**RECOMMENDATION**

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

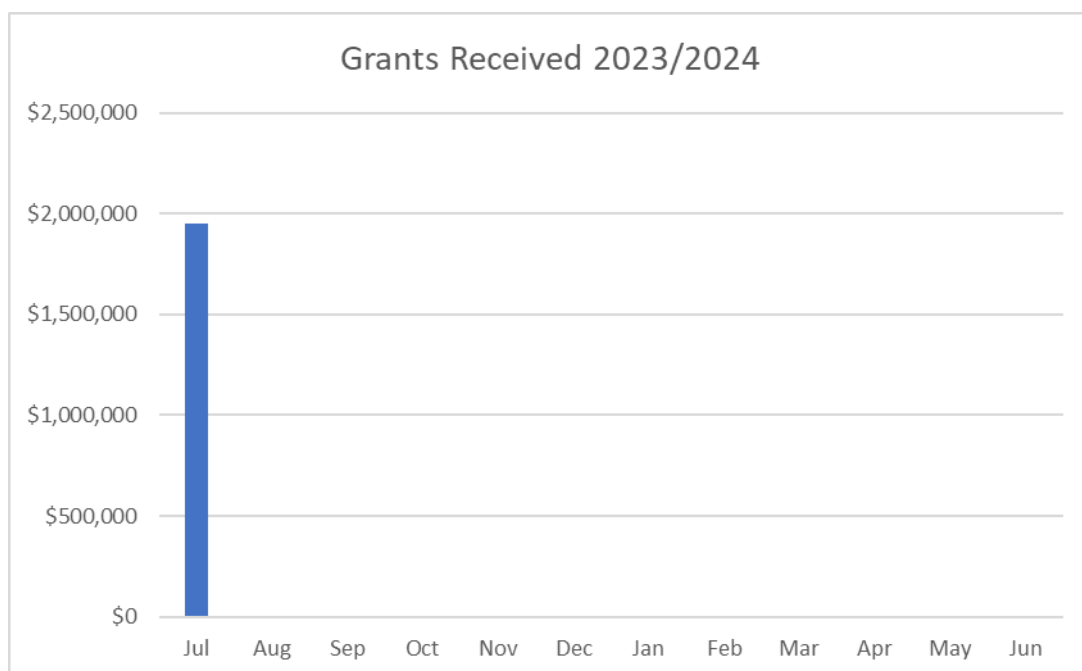
REPORT

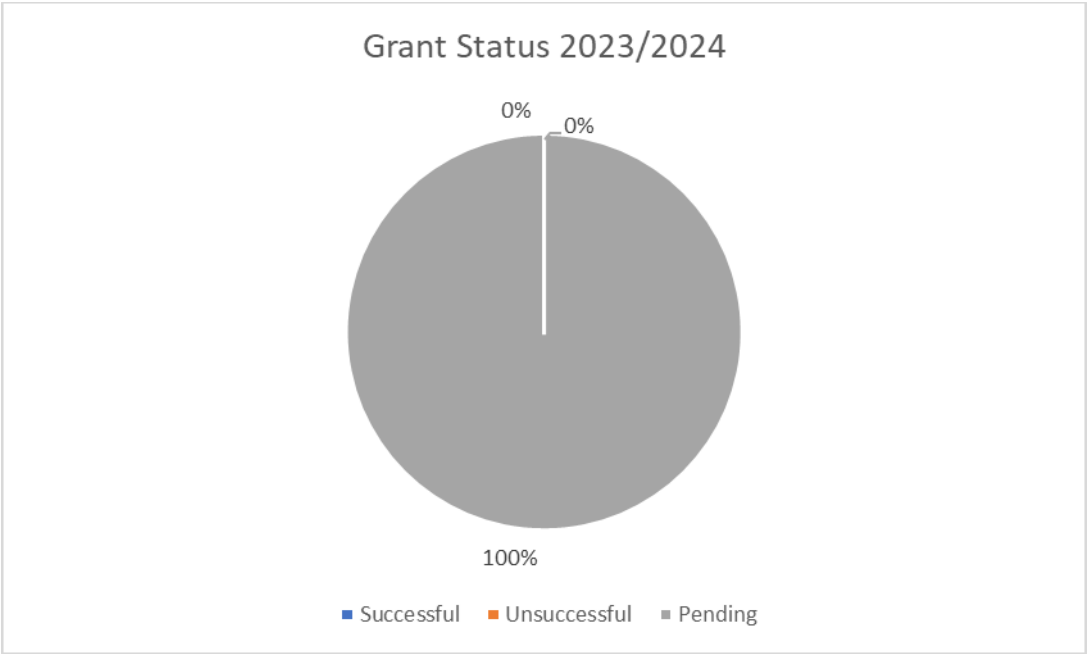
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of July 2023.

During the reporting period, there were no grants approved or submitted. Council was not notified of any unsuccessful grant applications.

Council received funding for 7 grants totalling \$1,950,517, and there are 11 pending applications from the previous financial year outstanding.

A summary of grants received, as well as the status of applications for the current financial year to 30 June 2023 is shown below:





The above graph shows all of Councils current applications are pending approval.

Grants that have been received

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Local Government Heritage Grant 23-25	Department of Planning and Environment (State)	2023-2025 Local Government Heritage Grant	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	2 November 2022	\$ 12,500 17 July 2023	\$ 12,500
Comment: First year funding allocation received.								
Richmond River Flood Model Study	Department of Planning and Environment (State)	Coastal Estuary and Floodplain Management Program 2020	\$ 201,000	\$ 133,999	\$ 67,001	30 April 2020	\$ 43,253 17 July 2023	\$ 153,390
Comment: Progress payment for works completed on the Richmond River Flood Model Study.								
Casino Industrial Precincts	Public Works Advisory (Joint Federal and State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	\$13,333,000	\$ 9,969,000	\$3,364,000	N/A	\$ 4,000 19 July 2023	\$ 104,475
Comment: Progress payment for works completed at Reynolds Road.								
Rappville Community Hall	Business Council of Australia (Other)	BizRebuild - Rebuilding for a Stronger Australia	\$ 1,454,545	\$ 454,545	\$1,000,000	13 November 2020	\$ 90,909 19 July 2023	\$ 454,545
Comment: Final payment upon completion of the Rappville Community Hall								
MR145 Woodburn-Coraki Road Major Upgrade	Transport for NSW (Federal)	N/A - Election Promise	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 1,662,355 26 July 2023	\$10,000,000
Comment: Final payment for works completed on MR145 - Woodburn-Coraki Road.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Casino Water Security Project	Department of Planning and Environment (State)	Safe and Secure Water Program	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	N/A	\$ 50,000 27 July 2023	\$ 50,000
Comment: 25% of funding received upon completion of Milestone 1 (execute funding deed)								
Evans Head Sewage Treatment Project (Stage 2 Concept Design)	Department of Planning and Environment (State)	Safe and Secure Water Program	\$ 700,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	N/A	\$ 87,500 31 July 2023	\$ 87,500
Comment: 25% of funding received upon completion of Milestone 1 (execute funding deed)								

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 - 31 JULY 2023

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Andy Edwards

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 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 July 2023 to 31 July 2023 was 17 (which includes 1 privately certified application), with a total value of \$2,404,595.65.

In July, we had one flood affected application determined being DA2023/0183 – 40 Carltons Road, Irvington.

Last month, the Northern Regional Planning Panel determined DA2022/0250 - Petersons Quarry Petersons Quarry Road, Coraki, for the proposed Extractive Industry being an expansion of Petersons Quarry to a maximum of 350,000 tonnes per annum and a maximum of 4,900,000 tonnes over the life of the quarry, including extension of the quarry footprint to incorporate the disturbance area of the Coraki Quarry.

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

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

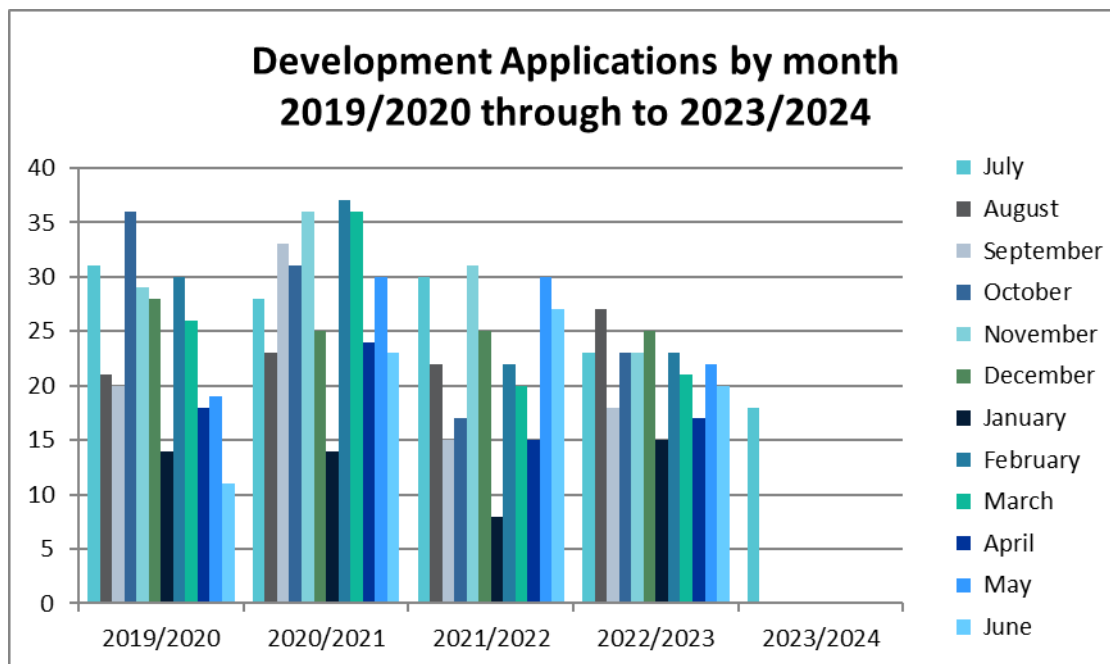


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

Figure 2 graph provides the annual value of Development Consents issued by Council over five financial years and Figure 3 provides a detailed review of the value for the reporting month of July 2023.

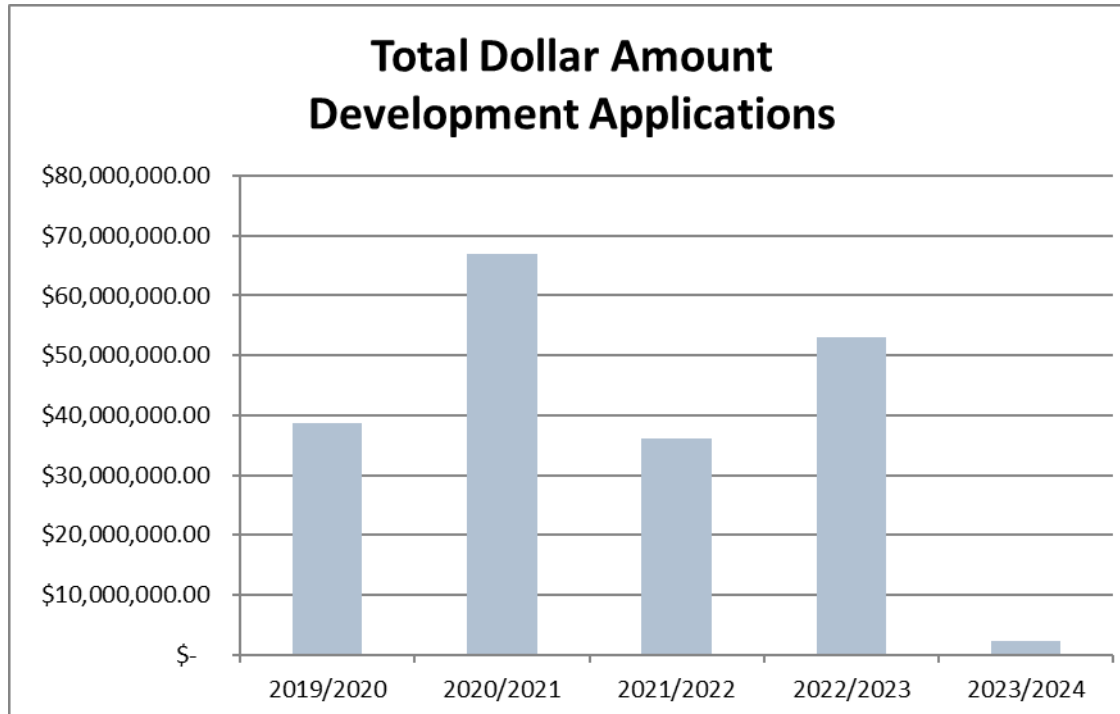


Figure 2: Annual value of development.

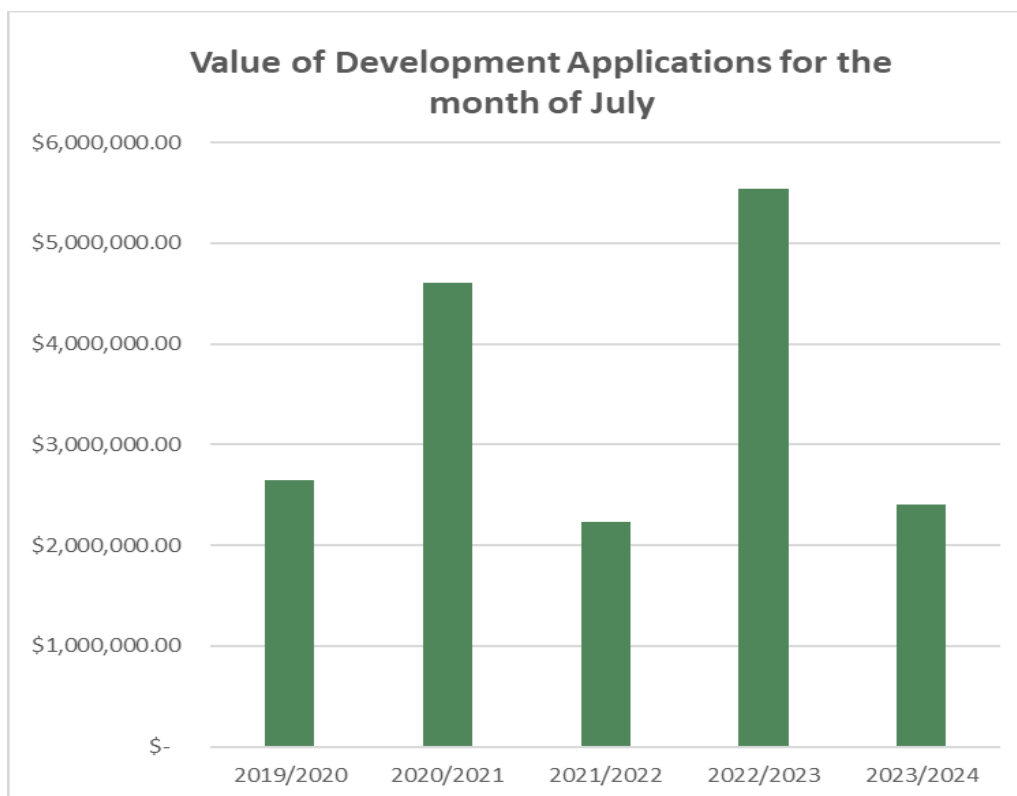


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of July 2023

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

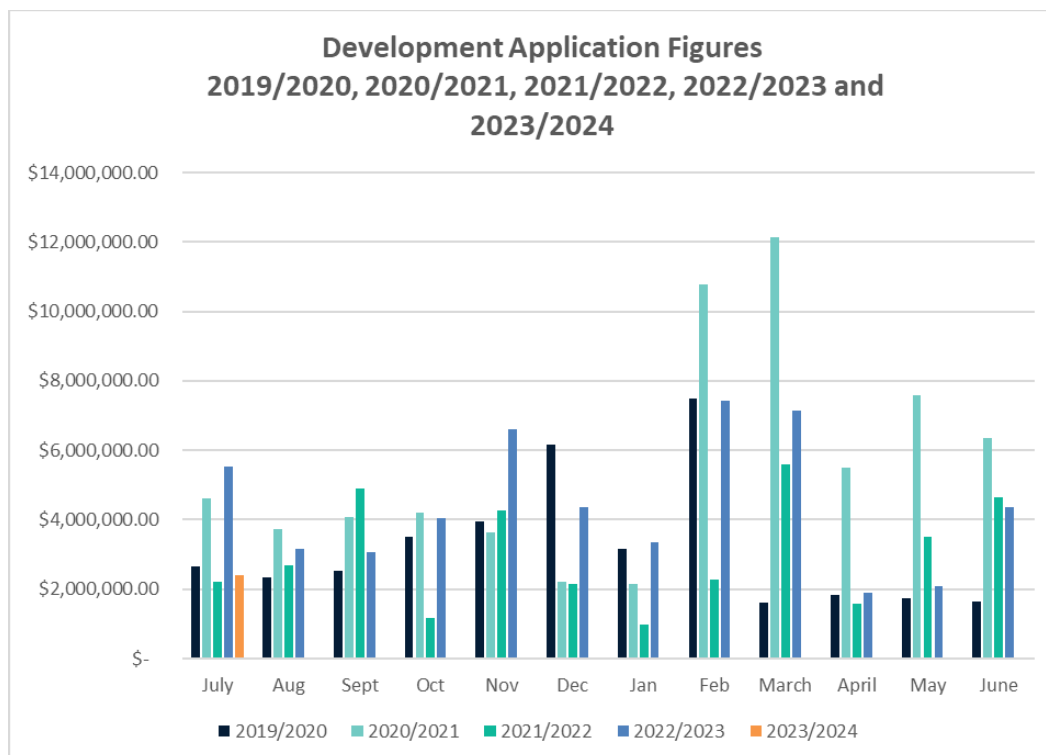


Figure 5: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

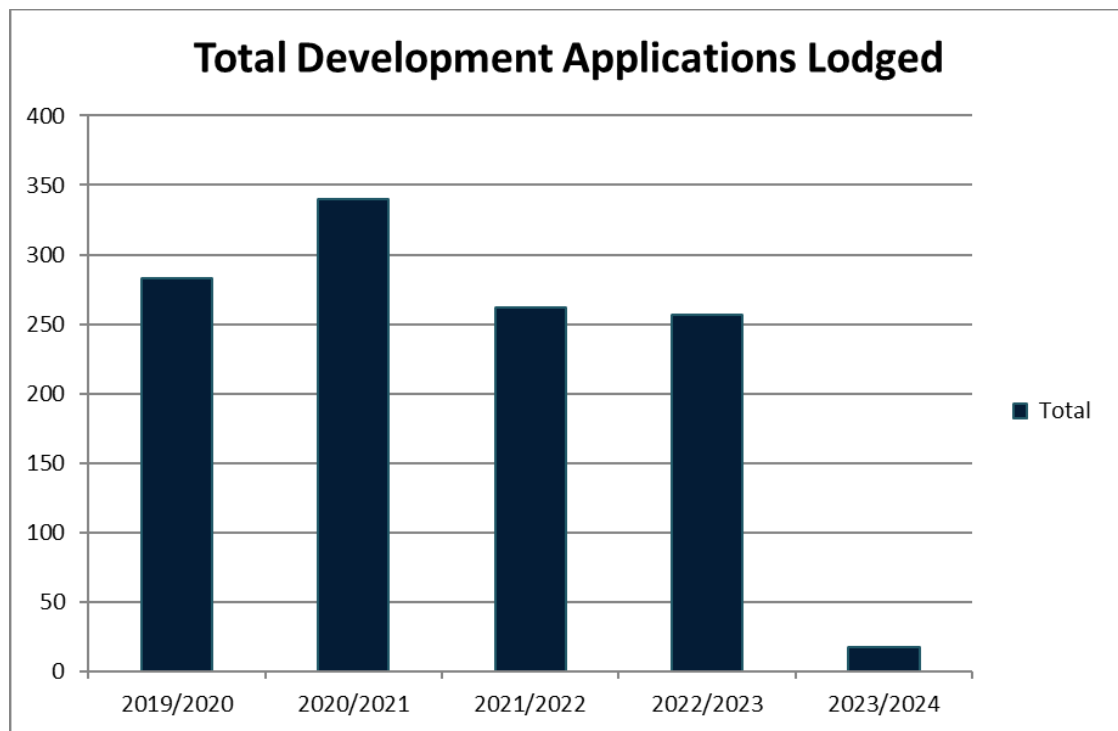


Figure 6: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years.

Activity for the month of July 2023

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	15
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	0
Subdivision	0
Refused	0
Rejected	0
Withdrawn	0
Complying Development (Council Approved)	1
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINED (Excluding withdrawn applications)	17
Average assessment days for applications determined in July 2023	50
No. of Integrated development applications determined in July 2023	1
No. of Designated development applications determined in July 2023	1
No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in July 2023	115

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0239	D J Bowles	J A Bowles & D J Bowles	20 Parkes Street, Coraki	Resited dwelling	14/06/2022	10/07/2023	\$149,800.00
DA2022/0250	Groundwork Plus Pty Ltd	Richmond Valley Council	Petersons Quarry Petersons Quarry Road, Coraki	Proposed Extractive Industry being an expansion of Petersons Quarry to a maximum of 350,000 tonnes per annum and a maximum of 4,900,000 tonnes over the life of the quarry, including extension of the quarry footprint to incorporate the disturbance area of the Coraki Quarry.	24/06/2022	4/07/2023	\$200,000.00
DA2023/0120	North Coast Sheds & Garages Pty Ltd	P S Wylie & N L Mikkelsen	46 Uralba Street, Woodburn	Demolition of ancillary structures and replacement with a new shed	3/01/2023	10/07/2023	\$43,652.00
DA2023/0170	North Coast Sheds & Garages Pty Ltd	L S Webster & E K Newby	34 Convent Parade, Casino	Shed with attached carport	26/04/2023	11/07/2023	\$33,379.00
DA2023/0179	J Koker	Koker Investments Pty Ltd	7A Bruton Street, Casino	Re-sited dwelling	17/05/2023	14/07/2023	\$130,350.00
DA2023/0180	The Shed Company	E L McCormack & A R McCormack	40 Canterbury Street, Casino	Colorbond shed with awning to be constructed for storage	18/05/2023	11/07/2023	\$30,510.00
DA2023/0181	R J Coulton & M M Coulton	R J Coulton & M M Coulton	3550 Casino Coraki Road, Greenridge	Erection of a 504m² Farm Shed	18/05/2023	12/07/2023	\$99,500.00
DA2023/0182	C L Godfrey	C L Godfrey & J R Godfrey	95 Emu Park Road, Ellangowan	Construction of a 400m² farm machinery shed, 20m x5m lockup & 20m x15m open	19/05/2023	13/07/2023	\$125,680.00
DA2023/0184	Evoke Pools	M Pontefract & S M Pontefract	205 Sextonville Road, Casino	Inground fibreglass swimming pool with associated fencing	22/05/2023	10/07/2023	\$49,350.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0185	Barker Studio Pty Ltd	M G Brown & T H Brown	Minjehla Road, Swan Bay	Shed with outdoor covered area, toilet, retaining wall and associated earthworks	24/05/2023	13/07/2023	\$80,000.00
DA2023/0187	Mrs C M Tipping	Tipping Pty Ltd	74 Centre Street CASINO NSW 24	Change of use to bulk retail food premises	30/05/2023	6/07/2023	\$14,607.00
DA2023/0188	Hayes Building Consultancy	Rod N Reel Pty Ltd	99-103 River Street, Woodburn	Installation of a new through wall, gas pizza oven, the relocation of an existing hand washing sink, the installation of a second hand washing sink and the relocation of the existing dishwashing sink and dishwasher and associated false walls for separation of these work areas	30/05/2023	6/07/2023	\$31,900.00
DA2023/0191	H S C Crook	H S C Crook	1 Sharon Court, Casino	6.8m x 6.8m shed on western side of property	8/06/2023	13/07/2023	\$15,367.65
DA2023/0192	Hayes Building Consultancy	M C Haynes	20 Casuarina Drive, Swan Bay	30m x 15m x 6.5m shed with a raft concrete floor	15/06/2023	18/07/2023	\$132,000.00
Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0183	D J Coe	R Crowley & O M Crowley	40 Carltons Road, Irvington	New two storey dwelling to replace existing flood affected dwelling	19/05/2023	13/07/2023	\$212,500.00
Summary of Bushfire Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil							

Summary of Privately Certified Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 July 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Submitted to Council for Registration	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2024/0004	Techton Building Services	NSW Land and Housing Corporate	4 McDougall Street, Casino	Dual Occupancy	17/07/2023	14/07/2023	\$960,000.00
Summary of Council Certified Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 July 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2023/0017	W J Johnstone	W J Johnstone	13 Sunderland Street, Evans Head	Additions to an existing dwelling including a bedroom, office and bathroom. Slab on ground with brick veneer and concrete tile construction. Floor area 32sqm.	16/05/2023	14/07/2023	\$96,000.00

19.5 NSW WATER CONFERENCE 26-28 JUNE 2023

Responsible Officer: Sandeep Chugh

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the summary of the LGNSW Water Management Conference held 26-28 June 2023.

REPORT

Councils were invited to attend LGNSW's Water Management Conference 2023 from 26-28 June at Parkes, NSW. The Conference's aim was to provide practical solutions to water and sewerage management and explore issues and challenges facing local water utilities.

A summary of the Conference is provided below.

Attendees

General Manager

Operations Coordinator Water & Sewer

Note: The Mayor and Cllr Humphrys attended as members of Rous County Council.

Key Focus of Conference

- Latest water policy initiatives and government priorities
- Options/Resources to address the critical skills shortage and training opportunities
- Impact of climate volatility on water and sewer industry, and current industry efforts to mitigate these
- Discussions on emerging technical issues

Site Visits to Parkes Shire Council's Water & Sewer Infrastructure

- Water Treatment Plant
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Recycled Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the
- Maturation ponds being rehabilitated as wetland system

Lessons learnt

- Options in addressing critical skills shortage – Operators may be classified as tradesperson; Additional Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) providing certification for water industry operations. RTOs include TAFE NSW, TAFE South Australia, Fusion Training and Simmonds & Bristow
- Multiple sources of raw water are an advantage to mitigate water security risks and managing risks in treating difficult raw water quality – Parkes has bore water, river and dam sources
- Multiple end use options for treated wastewater minimise the operational and regulatory risks – industrial reuse, agricultural reuse, town open spaces irrigation and discharge to creek
- Smart Metering – Berrigan Shire Council experience. A cost-effective solution that also delivers customer satisfaction
- Lessons learnt shared by Parkes Shire Council from the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Recycled Wastewater Treatment Plant construction projects which were completed in 2017/18. Project design and planning are the most critical steps.
- Comparing notes with other water utilities on what worked and what did not work during bushfires and floods. Automation and improving online monitoring of infrastructure are critical
- Networking and discussions with other water utilities and NSW Government agency representatives.

- Meeting with new technology providers, suppliers, and contractors
- Guides and tools discussions for a sustainable council – Needs to start at project inception and not be considered at the end of a project. Juggling cost benefit analysis and lifecycle approach is a constant challenge.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.6 CORRESPONDENCE: RICHMOND VALLEY FLOOD RECOVERY PRIORITIES**Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the correspondence provided to:

- The Hon. Chris John Minns, MP Premier of New South Wales
- The Hon. Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice, and
- The Hon. Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council at the July Ordinary meeting resolved 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.

A copy of the correspondence provided follows:

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Letter to NSW Premier and Ministers**



10 Graham Place Casino NSW 2470
Postal: Locked Bag 10 Casino NSW 2470
t: 02 6660 0300 f: 02 6660 1300

council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au
www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

ABN 54 145 907 009

3 August 2023

The Hon. Chris John Minns, MP
Premier of New South Wales

The Hon. Jihad Dib MP
Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice

The Hon. Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Dear Premier and Ministers

Richmond Valley flood recovery priorities

Richmond Valley Council resolved at its 18 July Council Meeting to write to you, as well as the Ministers for Emergency Services and Planning, to highlight our community's flood recovery priorities, as we continue to rebuild after the catastrophic 2022 floods.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued support for our community and the assistance we have received from NSW Government funding programs and the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation. Council appreciates that the NRRC was a precursor to the NSW Reconstruction Authority and acknowledges the challenges in establishing a new regional entity to address large-scale recovery programs. While we have raised concerns regarding the outcomes of the NRRC's Resilient Homes Program, I want to reiterate our Council's commitment to work in a constructive partnership with the Reconstruction Authority to support the Richmond Valley's long-term flood recovery. Council has developed a three-year recovery plan and continues to consult with our flood affected communities regarding recovery needs. We would like to bring the following flood recovery priorities to your attention.

Further assistance for flood-damaged homes

Although Council appreciates the intent of the Northern Rivers Resilient Homes program announced on 28 October 2022, the outcome for our community has been deeply disappointing. After nine months of waiting and uncertainty, 90% of Richmond Valley applicants have now been informed they were unsuccessful and will receive no further assistance. This was heart-breaking news for families who are enduring their second winter in makeshift accommodation, living in sheds, tents and caravans. They saw Resilient Homes as their last hope to re-establish their homes.

Love where we live and work



Council believes there is an urgent need for additional housing buy-back, house raising and restoration programs that are co-designed in consultation with local government. Local councils understand their communities and have undertaken extensive flood modelling and risk management planning for future events. I believe we are best placed to offer advice on program design and Council would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Reconstruction Authority on future housing programs.

As a starting point, we believe it is important to clearly quantify remaining recovery needs. Although a house-to-house assessment was undertaken immediately after the 2022 floods to establish the extent of local flood impacts, there has been no further detailed assessment of the number of flood-affected homes that remain uninhabitable, nor the level of assistance required to restore, relocate or replace these homes. Councils do not have the resources to conduct assessments on this scale and I believe this work is best led by the Reconstruction Authority, with support from local councils and agencies.

Tailored support for local business

Council believes there is also an urgent need to review the progress of local businesses that were directly impacted by the floods. We are concerned that many small-medium scale businesses have 'slipped through the cracks' in government funding schemes, as they failed to meet the criteria. These businesses are struggling to recover from the financial impacts of the floods and, as a result, many communities still lack basic services. Each business is unique and has its own particular recovery needs. More tailored and flexible business support programs are required for small business, service industries and agricultural enterprises.

Greater clarity on planning requirements

Nearly 18 months after the Northern Rivers floods, local communities remain uncertain regarding the NSW Government's direction on future planning requirements. There is still no clear advice on flood planning standards, nor a consistent approach to Planning Proposal review. A recent example for our community was the Department of Planning's decision not to support a Gateway Determination for the residential rezoning of land at Rileys Hill.

While Council appreciates the need for risk management, we also cannot escape the reality that many North Coast communities are located on a flood plain. Realistic and consistent approaches to low-risk flood environments are required if there is to be any future growth in our region. At a time when the Northern Rivers is facing a major housing crisis, we need to provide clear, consistent and realistic planning solutions that support residential development on low-risk land. Council would welcome further discussion with the Department of Planning on how this may best be achieved for our community.

Faster turn-around of Disaster Recovery funding

As you would be aware, local councils rely heavily on Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to rebuild essential infrastructure and support their community's flood recovery. While Council is grateful for the support received, continued delays in approving projects and processing funding claims are creating significant infrastructure recovery project delays and cash-flow problems for local government. Councils cannot afford to fund major works in the hope that the outlay will be reimbursed at some stage. Neither can we call for tenders nor engage contractors without surety of funding for these repairs.

Additional resourcing for Transport for NSW, and revised procedures are required to ensure these essential works can continue promptly. Regional communities rely heavily on their road networks, and it is disheartening indeed for our residents to see road repairs continually delayed because funding has not been approved. Our Council is facing a \$200 million repair bill for flood-damaged infrastructure and currently has some 821 projects, valued at \$134m still awaiting funding approval, with only two projects approved to date. We trust that this matter will be resolved soon as we continue to work with Transport for NSW to achieve positive outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise these issues with you on behalf of our community. I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to visit the Richmond Valley at a suitable time to view our progress on flood recovery and further discuss our community's needs and priorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Mustow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cr Robert Mustow
Mayor

19.7 TENDER VP333465 - COLLEY PARK FACILITY BUILDING**Director:** Ben Zeller**Responsible Officer:** Daniel Rowlands**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the report Tender VP333465 – Colley Park Facility Building.

REPORT

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 21 March 2023, it was resolved:

"That Council:

1. *Declines the submissions received for Tender VP333465 – Colley Park Facility Building due to three submission prices being higher than the budget allocated for the works and two being non-conforming tenders.*
2. *Applies Clause 178 (3e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to authorise the General Manager to enter direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors with a view to obtaining works that provide council with the best outcome both from a financial and delivery perspective, and to finalise the terms of the contract or agreement and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.*
3. *Notes that the outcome of the negotiations will be reported to Council for information at a future meeting."*

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 19 April 2022, Resolution 190422/18 approved a reallocation of \$1,074,303 (ex GST) from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) to the Colley Park Facility Building. The existing amenities have been identified for replacement and feature prominently in the recently adopted Colley Park Masterplan.

Council preferred a modular type building solution, due to the project funding being time sensitive and the site being in a stormwater basin zone where the structure is to be built above flood levels on a pier and beam system. Included in the scope for delivery, is the delivery of four change rooms, canteen, public toilets, referees' room, all access ramps, and storage facilities with a veranda facing east. The new modular building will replace the ageing and damaged block change room and amenities which has been identified for replacement both due to its condition, but also to satisfy the growing trend to accommodate female players and junior teams.

Tenders were called for on 24 February 2023 and closed on 17 March 2023 under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and the requirements of the Richmond Valley Council Purchasing Policy for the supply and installation of a suitable modular facility building for the Colley Park Sporting Complex.

In the original tender, Council received five submissions for the Colley Park Facility Building. Of the five tenders received, two were non-conforming and the other three were priced above Council's budget.

It was recommended at Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 21 March 2023 that Council decline the tenders and authorise the General Manager to enter direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors with a view to obtaining works that provide Council with the best outcome both from a financial and delivery perspective.

Since that meeting, further negotiations have taken place with Ausco Modular Pty Ltd, Fleetwood NSW Pty Ltd, and Marathon Group Pty Ltd. The outcome of these negotiations has seen Council come to an agreement with Marathon Modular Pty Ltd to supply and install a suitable modular facility building for the Colley Park Sporting Complex for a total price of \$1,068,924.88 (ex GST).

This falls under the allocated budget and meets the design scope and specifications of the original tender.

It is anticipated that the supply and installation of the Colley Park Facility Building will reach practical completion in early 2024 in time for the commencement of the next winter sport cycle.



CONCLUSION

Council has entered a contract with Marathon Modular Pty Ltd for \$1,068,924.88 (ex GST) to supply and install a suitable modular facility building for the Colley Park Sporting Complex which aligns with Council's scope, specifications and is priced within the available budget.

The negotiation outcomes with Marathon Modular Pty Ltd has provided Council with the best outcome from a financial and delivery perspective to replace the ageing and damaged block change rooms and amenities at Colley Park due to its condition and to accommodate the growing trend to attract new players.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Author: Cr Robert Hayes

The following questions on notice were received from Councillor Robert Hayes.

Questions***Background***

We are now nearly 7 weeks into no sales at the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX) due to agents refusing to sign the licence agreements to operate at the facility, leaving doubt over the future of the NRLX as a livestock selling facility. To inform our future decision making around our ongoing involvement in the management of the complex, can the General Manager answer the following questions:

1. What is the current value of the complex?
2. Is Council able to lease the complex and what would that entail?
3. What other business uses could the complex be suited for?
4. If, prior to 30th June 2023 with the previous selling permit and fees in place, a special rate levy was applied across all ratepayers within the Richmond Valley Local Government Area to bring the NRLX business to a break-even operating result, allowing for all expenditure including maintenance, borrowing costs and depreciation, what would that levy amount be?
5. What are the potential impacts for Council if serious Work Health & Safety issues occur at the facility?

Response

A verbal response will be provided to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the response to Councillor Robert Hayes questions regarding the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange be received and noted.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

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

22.1 Tender VP359745 - Design and Construct Package - Reynolds Road Bridge and Lollback Creek Bridge Replacement

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).

22.2 Tender VP367264 - South Casino Sewage Transfer Station (Pumping Station)

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) - (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.

22.3 Write-off of Monies Under Delegation

This matter relates to

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)
- (b) discussion in relation to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) and (b) 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) and discussion in relation to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.

22.4 Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange Agent Licence Procurement Process Update

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

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL