

WATER CONSERVATION

With the Bureau of Meteorology announcing an El Niño, Richmond Valley Council and Rous County Council are asking the Northern Rivers community to use less water now to help delay the onset of more severe water restrictions.

Water levels at Rous's primary water source, Rocky Creek Dam, have steadily dropped due to low inflows and people using more water. The dam is currently at 84 percent capacity – and updates on the level is available to view on Rous's website.

Council is asking the community to think twice, especially before using water outdoors.

Indoors, replacing a shower head with a water-efficient model is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to reduce water use. An inefficient shower head can use between 15 and 25 litres of water every minute, whereas an efficient WELS 5 star rated one uses as little as 4.5 litres every minute.

Taking a shorter shower, between one to four minutes, can also help stop unnecessary water usage.

Outside you can also take steps to save water, by washing vehicles and boats on your lawn using a hose fitted with on/off nozzles, and fitting a trigger nozzle to all hoses.

Every little bit counts and can delay the onset of enforced water restrictions. Our water is not limitless. Practicing water efficient habits and behaviours is important now.

More information on water efficiency is available on the Rous County Council website and Facebook @RousCountyCouncil.

COUNCIL MATTERS

At September's Council meeting, the Richmond Valley Flood Study 2023 was adopted.

The scope of the project was to replace a number of historic flood studies with a single, consistent, up-to-date, and higher resolution flood model and expand modelling to a larger part of the area's floodplains.

It also incorporated significant floodplain terrain modifications into the model, such as the inclusion of the Pacific Motorway upgrade, and was calibrated to several historic flood events and data from the 2022 flood.

This study will form the basis of a flood risk management study and plan and will help inform future planning decisions throughout the area.

The plan is available on the Floods page on our website.

Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 November starting at 6pm.

The meetings are live streamed through Council's Facebook page, and available for viewing on Council's website.

Those who wish to address Council on any listed matter must download and fill out the public access application form from Council's website. The form should be returned to council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au by 4.30pm on the Monday prior to the public access request date.

Second Hand Saturday **SAVE THE DATE**

4th NOV 2023

Garage Sale

The **Biggest Garage Sale Day** on the North Coast

secondhandsaturday.com.au

Hey sellers! REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

secondhandsaturday.com.au



VALLEY VIEWS

Richmond Valley Council

Richmond Valley Council News
Issue 64 | October 2023

APPLICATION DETERMINATIONS 1 SEPTEMBER - 25 SEPTEMBER

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4.59, notice is given that the undermentioned developments have been granted consent, a complying development certificate, or refused as labelled. Details of the application and a copy of the determination may be inspected without charge at Council's customer service centres in Casino and Evans Head from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Application ID	Property Address	Full Details
DA2024/0006	218 Baraang Drive, Broadwater	Construction of a new two storey dwelling
DA2021/0316.02	57 Forest Street, Coraki	S4.55(1A) Modification - Rotate the approved proposed dwelling 90 degrees clockwise
DA2024/0015	655 Gores Road, Spring Grove	Proposed subdivision to create four (4) lots
DA2024/0017	69 East Coraki Road, East Coraki	Proposed raising of existing dwelling with additions of 2 bedrooms and en-suite
DA2024/0020	210 Old Dyraaba Road, Woodview	Above ground swimming pool & associated fencing
DA2024/0024	4A Wills Place, Casino	8m x 5m shed, 5m x 4m enclosed the remaining open bay

JACKY BULBIN BRIDGE FIX

Council has recently completed work to replace the Jacky Bulbin Bridge on Bungawalbin-Whiporie Road.

The bridge was extensively damaged by flooding, and was load limited to five tonnes. The bridge is a vital link for the Bungawalbin community, and provides a critical detour when closures of the Summerland Way or Casino-Coraki Road occur.

Council created a temporary bridge site for traffic while the new bridge and approaches were restored.

The repairs were funded by the NSW Government through the NSW Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements program.



TATHAM BRIDGE UPDATE

Council has further advanced the replacement of the two bridges at Tatham, currently speed and load limited following extensive flood damage.

Council secured funding of \$18.7 million from the Australian Government's Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program - Emergency Response Fund and has approved a suitable design for the replacement of these bridges.

At the September meeting, Council resolved to acquire land surrounding the bridges, which will be needed for the existing road footprint and the new alignment.



Mayor Robert Mustow was delighted to conduct a citizenship ceremony in Casino last month.



CONTACT US

(02) 6660 0300
council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au
www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

IN BRIEF

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY ON OUR WEBSITE

Council now has a comprehensive guide to our essential community services throughout the Richmond Valley.

The Community Directory, listed under the Community tab on Council's website, provides easy contact and location details for many services, including emergency services, health, support, arts, community groups and other organisations.

The site will be regularly maintained and additions and feedback can be made on the website, or by contacting Council.

KEEP INFORMED ON EMERGENCY INFORMATION

As we approach the summer season, Richmond Valley Council's Disaster Dashboard provides a place where you can go to get accurate information on all incidents within our area.

Covering fire, flood and weather warnings, road closures and other incident reports, the site also provides general preparedness information and support services needed in an emergency.

The site can be found from the Richmond Valley Council homepage, or at richmondvalley.disasterdashboards.com

KEEP OUR PIPES CLEAR

Keeping the Richmond Valley's sewage system and environment clean and functional is a shared responsibility. One small but crucial step you can take is to stop flushing wet wipes down the toilet. While wet wipes may seem convenient, they can cause significant problems which affect us all.

Wet wipes do not disintegrate like toilet paper. Instead, they clump together, causing blockages in your home's plumbing and the public sewage system. This leads to costly repairs and inconveniences for everyone.

Setting an example by not flushing wet wipes teaches responsible waste disposal habits to your family, friends, and community members. Small actions collectively make a big difference.



CASINO POOL RE-OPENING MAKES A BIG SPLASH

There were hundreds of smiling faces and gasps of delight when the Casino Memorial Pool re-opened last month.

Mayor Robert Mustow unveiled the plaque honouring the upgrade as the sounds of children splashing in the \$6.8 million project could be heard in the air.

The upgrade was jointly funded by the Australian Government's Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream Program and Council.

Work on the upgrade included the construction of a new concrete and tiled, eight-lane 50m heated pool with an all-ability access ramp and stairs, new concrete and tiled, multi-purpose toddlers' splash pool, refurbishment of the show facilities and change rooms, and upgrades to plant and filtration infrastructure.



TENDER AWARDED FOR NAUGHTONS GAP REBUILD

In a major step forward to reopen the road at Naughtons Gap, Council resolved to award a tender for the rebuilding work at its last meeting.

Council voted to accept the tender from Civil Mining & Construction Pty Ltd to design and construct the Naughtons Gap Road landslip reconstruction at \$9,932,342. Work is expected to start next month.

Council has conducted significant work and advocacy for the reconstruction of this vital transport route, working with the NSW Government to secure the funds to repair the road twice severely impacted by landslips and flooding.

It also received more than \$3 million in additional recovery funding to conduct work which will provide further resilience to the route from future events following its reconstruction.



COUNCIL VOTES TO PROGRESS NRLX LEASE

In a bid to ensure cattle sales can resume as soon as possible at the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange (NRLX), Richmond Valley Council unanimously voted to lease the facility for a long-term period at its September meeting.

In a report prepared by General Manager Vaughan Macdonald, it was recommended Council transitioned out of direct management of the facility and proceed to an open-market tender, seeking applications from suitably qualified and experienced entities to manage future activities.

The report says a lease could be structured, offered and negotiated to remove any financial burden on Council and its ratepayers, and provide a return on the asset to the community. Council has successfully leased its Peterson and Woodview quarries along similar lines, ensuring a positive return to ratepayers.

Mr Macdonald said with Council approving the lease option, an independent evaluation process would be established to ensure the required levels of probity and integrity were built into the process.

He said following completion of the independent assessment, a report would be brought to Council to consider the recommendations and determine an outcome.

"With Council resolving to proceed in this direction, a lease offer document and draft lease contract will be prepared without delay, with appropriate commercial advice sought to determine the best lease structure and time frames to maximise producer and ratepayer benefits, and then be put to the open market," Mr Macdonald said.

Mr Macdonald said it was important efforts continued to restore sales at the facility and reduce the impacts on local producers.

He said Council had received interest from other agencies who wished to establish operations at the facility and these negotiations would continue with a view to achieving a short-term solution.

"The door remains open for any of the four individual agencies who were successful in the EOI process to engage in meaningful discussions on an interim solution, but details of what that could look like need to be provided in good faith," Mr Macdonald said.

"Any agency which previously applied unsuccessfully can also reapply under the ongoing open EOI process."

