

Richmond  
Valley  
Council



# **AGENDA**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting**

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

**Date: Tuesday, 19 December 2023**

**Time: 6pm**

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

**Vaughan Macdonald  
General Manager**

## **Statement of Ethical Obligations**

In accordance with Clause 3.23 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

### **Oath or affirmation of office**

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to:

*Undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Richmond Valley and Richmond Valley Council, and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.*

### **Conflicts of interest**

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council meetings in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

<b>1</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>MAYORAL MINUTES</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	Nil	
<b>6</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	6.1 Minutes Ordinary Meeting held 21 November 2023.....	6
<b>7</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	Nil	
<b>10</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	Nil	
<b>11</b>	<b>MAYOR'S REPORT</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	11.1 Mayoral Attendance Report 15 November - 12th December 2023.....	7
<b>12</b>	<b>DELEGATES' REPORTS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
	12.1 Delegates' Report December 2023 - LGNSW Conference .....	8
<b>13</b>	<b>MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	13.1 Matters to be Determined Without Debate.....	9
<b>14</b>	<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b> .....	<b>10</b>
	14.1 Richmond Valley Council - Key Directions 2024.....	10
	14.2 Council Meetings - Ordinary Meeting Day and Time .....	14
	14.3 Richmond Valley Council - Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-25.....	15
<b>15</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY</b> .....	<b>18</b>
	15.1 Northern Regional Planning Panel - Council appointed delegates.....	18
<b>16</b>	<b>PROJECTS &amp; BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>20</b>
	16.1 Country Lane Land Acquisition for Public Road Widening.....	20
<b>17</b>	<b>ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES</b> .....	<b>22</b>
	17.1 Section 7.11, 7.12 and Section 64 Development Contributions and Expenditure Update .....	22
	17.2 Review of Council's Investments Policy.....	25
	17.3 Financial Analysis Report - November 2023.....	28
<b>18</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> .....	<b>30</b>
	Nil	
<b>19</b>	<b>MATTERS FOR INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>31</b>
	19.1 Outcome of Negotiations of Tender VP374503 - Old Casino Station Landscape & Construction Works .....	31

19.2	Grant Application Information Report - November 2023 .....	33
19.3	Development Applications Determined Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the Period 1 November 2023 - 30 November 2023 .....	38
19.4	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes .....	45
19.5	Outcome of Negotiations: Tender VP367264 - South Casino Sewage Transfer Station (Pumping Station) .....	46
19.6	Correspondence - Minister for Planning and Public Spaces - Impacts of the Resilient Homes Program on Woodburn .....	48
<b>20</b>	<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE .....</b>	<b>52</b>
	Nil	
<b>21</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING).....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>53</b>
22.1	Tender VP384760 - Woodburn Coraki Road - Thearles Canal Culvert Upgrade ....	53
22.2	Tender VP384759 - Dairy Flat Culvert Construction - Woodburn-Coraki Road.....	53
22.3	Tender VP387562 - Albert Park Carpark Construction .....	53
22.4	Tender VP378549 - Plant Hire Services.....	53
22.5	Tender VP379059 - Trade Services .....	53
22.6	Tender VP389461 Supply and Maintenance of Multi-function Print Devices.....	53
22.7	Write Off Bad Debt: Hardship - D502789.....	53
22.8	Write Off Bad Debt: Hardship - P138240 .....	54
22.9	Tender for Lease - Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange - Update .....	54
<b>23</b>	<b>RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>54</b>

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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

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

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

Nil

**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 21 NOVEMBER 2023****Director:** Vaughan Macdonald**Responsible Officer:** Julie Clark**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**REPORT**

Refer attached Minutes.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Minutes 21 November 2023 (under separate cover)

**7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES****8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

(Councillors to specify details of item and nature of interest)

**9 PETITIONS**

Nil

**10 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

## **11 MAYOR'S REPORT**

### **11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 15 NOVEMBER - 12TH DECEMBER 2023**

**Author: Robert Mustow**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 15 November – 12 December 2023.

#### **November**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Rous County Council Information Session meeting
- 21<sup>st</sup> Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Northern Rivers Recovery Community Leaders Forum
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Casino High School Presentation Dinner
- 24<sup>th</sup> Norco Lismore Ice Cream factory opening
- 24<sup>th</sup> The Hon Tara Moriarty - Casino Development Roundtable
- 24<sup>th</sup> Casino Christian School Formal
- 27<sup>th</sup> Casino Christian School - Year 6 Graduation Assembly
- 30<sup>th</sup> Richmond Valley Against Violence Committee Walk Coraki
- 30<sup>th</sup> Casino Christian School Year K-6 Celebration Evening

#### **December**

- 1<sup>st</sup> School of Dance Concert
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Casino & District Historical Society Inc - Annual Christmas Luncheon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cassino Gallery – Casino TAFE Art Students Exhibition
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Broadwater Christmas Tree Light up
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Muzza's Milk Bar Celebration/Community event
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tourist Information Volunteer Christmas Party
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Casino Lions Christmas Carols
- 5<sup>th</sup> Casino West Public School - Annual presentation morning
- 5<sup>th</sup> Richmond Valley Councillor Information Session
- 7<sup>th</sup> Northern Rivers Recovery Community Leaders Forum
- 7<sup>th</sup> Richmond Valley Christmas Street Party Casino
- 8<sup>th</sup> Neighbourhood Centre event - recognising and reflecting on the impact of domestic and family violence
- 9<sup>th</sup> Official opening of Coraki Pool splash pad - free family fun day
- 9<sup>th</sup> Evans Head Christmas Carols and Tree Light up
- 10<sup>th</sup> Woodburn/Evans Head Orchid Society Christmas Party
- 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Light Judging Rappville
- 11<sup>th</sup> Evans River RSL Day Club Christmas Party
- 11<sup>th</sup> Richmond Valley Council Extraordinary meeting
- 12<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Celebration Evening

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## **12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**

### **12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT DECEMBER 2023 - LGNSW CONFERENCE**

**Responsible Officer: Vaughan Macdonald**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report – LGNSW Conference, November 2023.

#### **REPORT**

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

Mayor Robert Mustow and General Manager Vaughan Macdonald attended the 2023 Local Government Annual Conference held from Sunday 12 November – 14 November 2023 at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, Sydney.

The Conference provides an opportunity to join peers and colleagues from across NSW to share ideas and debate the key issues impacting councils and communities. More than 100 motions were debated, with the outcomes informing the LGNSW advocacy agenda for the year ahead. The Motions and Resolutions can be found on the LGNSW website at [Annual Conference 2023-Resolutions.pdf \(lgnsw.org.au\)](#)

LGNSW's current Policy Platform document dated May 2023 is available at [LGNSW 2023 Policy Platform.pdf](#) with the resolutions from the conference informing the next update of the Policy Platform.

Key speakers included:

- Minister Rose Jackson, MLC, Minister for Homelessness and Minister for Housing, Water and Mental Health, North Coast;
- Minister Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government.

Presentation of Local Government NSW Service Awards with Cr Darriea Turley AM, President LGNSW, and Troy Green PSM, General Manager Tweed Shire Council were conducted at the Conference dinner. It was also announced that next year's conference will be held in Tamworth.

#### **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 RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL - KEY DIRECTIONS 2024**

**Author:** Vaughan Macdonald

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2021-24 Council term has been one of the shortest on record for local government in NSW, and one of the most challenging for the Richmond Valley community, with the ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic, catastrophic regional flooding and global economic unrest.

This report provides an outline of the key directions for Council as we move into 2024 with a number of positive initiatives to be rolled out early in the new year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Notes the progress on supporting continued flood recovery and growth in the Richmond Valley in 2023;
2. Supports the continued development of its signature projects, which are scheduled for completion in 2024;
3. Continues to advocate strongly for further government investment across the whole of the Richmond Valley.

#### **DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS**

Objective 2: Establish the Richmond Valley as a regional growth centre

2A Plan for long-term sustainable growth

2A3 Deliver the Community Strategic Plan

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The key directions are in line with Council's budget and long term financial plan.

#### **REPORT**

The 2021-24 Council term has been one of the shortest on record for local government in NSW, and one of the most challenging for the Richmond Valley community, with the ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic, catastrophic regional flooding and global economic unrest. Council has been working throughout 2023 to lay the foundations for a stronger future for the Richmond Valley and, as the first quarter of the new year unfolds, we will begin to see the benefits of this continued advocacy, planning and project development. Over the past year, we have made major progress in flood recovery – with significant funding secured for local projects, essential infrastructure repairs completed, community buildings and sporting facilities restored and works underway on major challenges, such as the Naughtons Gap landslip restoration. We have also taken the first steps towards securing the Richmond Valley's place as an emerging regional growth centre, with more housing, jobs and opportunities for the future.

Council's Community Strategic Plan, adopted in June this year, sets an ambitious growth agenda through to 2040, including increasing our population by 4000, opening the way for 2000 additional homes and jobs, and improving public green spaces throughout the community.

This vision will be delivered through a combination of strategic government investment, progressive local leadership, and a focus on attracting willing investors to our Valley. We are

already welcoming new manufacturing and recycling industries to Precinct One of the Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct and this interest will continue to grow as the Masterplan is finalised, early next year. Other regionally significant projects will also come on-line, with the official opening of the Casino-Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail and completion of the Casino Showground redevelopment project. These projects are a direct result of Council's strong advocacy to attract direct government investment in our community.

We are also continuing to pursue opportunities for new housing on flood-safe lands, with a major residential development proposal on the horizon and more detailed investigation of future growth options in the Mid Richmond underway. Negotiations with our governments and private investors will continue in the coming year.

Other highlights of the first half of the 2023/24 financial year include:

- The opening of the \$6.5m Casino Memorial Swimming Pool upgrade in September
- The opening of Coraki Swimming Pool's new Splash Pad, with a family fun day earlier this month
- Commencement of the Naughtons Gap Road restoration, following the landslips in 2021 and 2022.
- Completion of the long-awaited upgrade of the Coraki Ellangowan Road under the Fixing Local Roads program
- Successful delivery of the biggest truck show in the southern hemisphere, with the Council managed Casino Truck Show attracting more than 600 entrants.
- Securing funding to replace the aging Tatham Bridges with new flood-resilient structures, and upgrade flood-affected sites on the Woodburn-Coraki Road at Thearles Canal and Dairy Flat
- Major progress on the new Nammoona landfill cell which will provide over ten years of landfill capacity for the residual waste that is generated by our community
- Completion of 90% of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, with car parks, bridges, signage and safety devices to be completed early in 2024.

The first quarter of 2024 will see further progress in achieving the four Key Directions of our Community Strategic Plan:

- Strengthening our role in the region – including continued flood recovery, establishing our regional growth centre and strengthening our economy
- Creating great places to live – including celebrating our local identity and lifestyle, living sustainably in a changing climate and providing infrastructure that meets community needs
- Protecting our unique environment – preserving native bushland and biodiversity, maintaining healthy rivers, beaches and waterways and transitioning to a circular economy
- Delivering for our community- including Council's leadership and advocacy, managing resources responsibly and providing quality services.

### **Strengthening our role in the region**

Work has already commenced on the next major step in flood recovery for the Mid Richmond communities, with the appointment of a specialist team of consultants to guide combined Place and Adaptation planning for Coraki, Woodburn, Broadwater/Rileys Hill and Evans Head. The NSW Reconstruction Authority is partnering with Council on this project, to provide local communities with the opportunity to design their own future and identify their key priorities for local projects, increased employment and growth opportunities. Community consultation events are scheduled from January through to March to inform the plans and on-line consultation is currently open on Council's website.

We are also looking forward to the NSW Government's public exhibition of the Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct (RJP) Masterplan, early in the new year. This plan will help to unlock an additional 187 ha of industrial land, creating an estimated 600 direct new jobs for the Richmond Valley, as well as associated opportunities in service and support industries. Council has already completed its new industrial subdivision in Precinct 1 of the RJP and has been actively marketing the land to job-creating enterprises.

Work will also continue on regionally significant projects to support more growth in the Valley, including planning the replacement of the Casino sewage treatment plant (STP) and improving the long-term security of Casino's water supply.

Planning and design work for the replacement Casino STP is already underway, to ensure this \$65m project is shovel ready for government funding opportunities. Council will be exploring all options to secure the necessary funding over the next 12 months.

Consultation on future options for Casino's water supply will also begin in the first quarter of 2024. With funding support from the NSW Government, Council has completed a number of technical studies to identify future water supply demand for Casino's growing community, and consider options for improved water security. This could include raising Jabour Weir, constructing an off-stream water storage, or considering a future connection to the Rous Water system.

The Richmond Valley will also see a significant boost to local tourism with the official opening of the Casino to Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail scheduled for March 2024, and the start of works by Lismore City Council on the Bentley–Lismore section planned for later in the year. Council has been working with local landowners and businesses to explore opportunities for value-add activities on the Rail Trail, such as farm-stay accommodation, bike hire and special events.

Completion of the Casino Showground and Racecourse project is also on track for an April opening date. This project will establish the showground precinct as a high quality regional equine facility, attracting new events and economic opportunities.

Council will be establishing a new Live and Invest Richmond Valley team to drive economic development and enhance community lifestyles across the Valley. The team will initially focus on activating the Regional Jobs Precinct, harnessing the opportunities from the Rail Trail and Showground developments, and implementing key priorities from the Mid Richmond Place Plans.

### **Creating great places to live**

Work will continue on implementing the recommendations from the Casino Place Plan in the coming year, with Council currently seeking funding to prepare a CBD Masterplan for Casino's retail precinct. This will help to connect the CBD with the river foreshore and the head of the Rail Trail and identify new opportunities for residential development, outdoor dining and entertainment in the town centre. Council has received a \$3m grant towards replacing the old low-level river crossing at McAuliffe Park with a new suspension bridge to access the foreshore areas in Queen Elizabeth Park and this new river crossing will be a key feature of the Masterplan.

We will also continue our three-year program to repair, replace and improve flood damaged infrastructure throughout the Richmond Valley. The floods have left an infrastructure damage bill in excess of \$150m for our community and Council has spent the past year completing essential road repairs and preparing funding applications for Disaster Relief Funding for local roads, bridges and culverts. The repair works will continue over the next two years, including work on the long-awaited Naughton's Gap landslip restoration, after Council secured government funding for this project.

We are also progressing with much-needed infrastructure upgrades, such as the detailed design and procurement for Stage 2 of the Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant. This upgrade will complete the staged development originally planned for this facility, catering for growth in residential development and tourism for the next 20 years and improving the environmental performance of the plant.

## **Protecting our unique environment**

Work continues on our flying fox habitat restoration programs next year and we will also see the start of community consultation on the Community Greening Program. Council will be encouraging local neighbourhoods who are keen to take part in street tree planting to participate in a pilot program.

Further analysis of water consumption across Council's water network is also underway to identify high water users and potential water losses within the system. This data will help to inform future water saving programs.

Work will also continue on identifying more community facilities for solar installations, following successful completion of the Casino Administration Building solar project. This project provided a new 99.6-kilowatt roof mounted solar power system, aimed at substantially reducing the building's dependence on non-renewable energy sources and cutting Council's emissions by an estimated 113 tonnes of CO2 equivalent. The system will pay for itself in less than four years and provide ongoing savings to fund further solar installations.

## **Delivering for our community**

In line with Council's Delivery Program, we will continue our focus on 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 Richmond Valley community. Our advocacy to governments will continue, especially as we continue our disaster recovery efforts and support our community to ensure their issues and concerns are considered in the support programs that are available.

We will finalise the lease arrangements for the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange early in the new year and then support the new Lessee to re-commence sales at the facility. We look forward to the next phase of operations and growth for our community owned facility.

With the current Council town entry signs in need of renewal with some damaged during the Floods, we will finalise the new design and install new Richmond Valley signage based on our tourism brand. The designs will be about the Valley, moving away from the Council brand approach with the existing signs. The designs will also include indigenous recognition of Bundjalung country, as funding was secured to have that included, with signs to be installed at the town and village entries and at key local government area boundary entrances to the Richmond Valley.

Our focus on providing prompt and friendly customer service and support for development assessment will continue along with providing high quality services across the more than thirty functional services we provide for our community. To support our resourcing requirements our next intake of our Youth Employment Program recruits will commence during January, continuing our commitment to investing in local employment opportunities for our youth.

## **CONSULTATION**

Council continues to provide regular opportunities for consultation on many of its initiatives in line with its Community Engagement Strategy which is currently being reviewed and will be updated early in 2024.

## **CONCLUSION**

We will continue to support our community to recover and get their lives back to normal following the impacts of the floods in 2022. 2024 will no doubt bring more challenges our way, however the organisation is well placed to meet the needs of our community and continue to support the Richmond Valley as a thriving place to live, work and play.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## **14.2 COUNCIL MEETINGS - ORDINARY MEETING DAY AND TIME**

**Author:** Vaughan Macdonald

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, a council is required to meet at least ten times each year, each time in a different month. Council resolved in January 2022 to hold its meetings on the third Tuesday of the month, with no meeting in January, except by resolution. Proposed meeting dates for the remainder of the Council term are recommended in this report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirms that its ordinary meetings for the 2024 calendar year will be held on the following dates, with the meetings commencing at 6.00 pm:

- 20 February
- 19 March
- 16 April
- 21 May
- 25 June (Budget Meeting)
- 16 July
- 20 August

### **DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS**

Objective 10: Lead and advocate for our community

10C Lead with integrity

10C1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **REPORT**

Section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires each Council to meet at least ten times each year, each time in a different month. At present, Council's Ordinary Meetings are held at 6.00pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

Council does not normally conduct an Ordinary Meeting in January, unless a resolution is passed to the contrary. It is proposed that this practice continues.

It is further proposed that Council meetings for the remainder of the Council term continue to be held on the third Tuesday of the month commencing at 6.00pm, with the exception of the June Ordinary Meeting, which occurs on the fourth Tuesday of the month, due to the timing of budgetary requirements. Following election of the new Council, on 14 September 2024, meeting dates for the remainder of the year will be established.

### **CONCLUSION**

This report proposes a meeting schedule for the remainder of the Council term, with a later meeting in June to accommodate budgetary requirements.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## **14.3 RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL - DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2023-25**

**Author: Vaughan Macdonald**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has been working with key stakeholders over the past few months to remake its Disability Inclusion Action Plan, in accordance with legislative requirements. The draft Plan was presented to Council's November Ordinary meeting and endorsed for public exhibition.

The Plan includes 25 proposed actions, across four key areas, to help improve awareness, open more employment opportunities at Council and support local people living with disability to participate more fully in community life.

The draft plan was exhibited for 21 days, with two community submissions being received. Both submissions provided valuable suggestions on how Council might apply the key recommendations of the Plan to its ongoing operations. This feedback will help to inform future planning for programs and projects, including the design or modification of Council facilities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the Richmond Valley Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-25 as presented, noting the results of the public exhibition period and the community feedback received.

### **DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS**

Objective 4: Celebrate our local identity and lifestyle

4A Provide opportunities to learn, create, share and celebrate

4A1 Celebrate our diverse community and increase inclusion and understanding

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Actions arising from the Plan will be funded through existing and future budget allocations and Council will pursue opportunities for additional funding through government grants.

### **REPORT**

In 2022-23 Council worked with the community to create the Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic Plan. The Plan includes a long-term vision for the Richmond Valley as a growing sustainable community, with a relaxed lifestyle, beautiful environment and thriving economy.

The vision is supported by six key principles, reflecting our community's shared values:

- Everyone in our community should feel safe, valued and respected.
- People should be proud of where they live.
- Everyone should be treated fairly and have the same opportunities in life.
- Everyone should have a home.
- People should be able to live here all their life – they shouldn't have to move away to get an education, find a home, or get a job.
- All of us should leave this place better than we found it for the generations to come.

Achieving these goals for every member of our community, including the 4000+ residents who currently live with disability, will be challenging and requires a strong commitment to change and inclusion. Council has developed a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) to outline the key directions it will undertake to support local people living with disability to participate more fully in

community life. The Plan will connect with other Council strategies, programs and processes to deliver specific actions and outcomes.

Council's DIAP is based around four key areas and includes 25 actions for improved inclusion and participation. This includes promoting and participating in community awareness days, providing disability awareness training for Council staff, improving accessibility in Council's processes, continuing to implement Council's Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan, and providing opportunities to consult with local disability groups on the design of key assets and public spaces.

Improving opportunities for people living with disability to gain employment at Council is another key focus of the Plan. This includes consulting with local disability employment agencies on options to make it easier to engage with Council's recruitment processes, actively promoting job opportunities to people of all abilities and providing ongoing support to employees with workplace adjustments and options to advance their careers.

## **CONSULTATION**

To support development of the Draft Plan, Council consulted with local people living with disability, as well as local groups and service providers. The consultation sessions provided some important insights into the barriers that people with disability face on a daily basis in navigating local streets and community assets and gaining access to employment opportunities. It also highlighted the need to establish ongoing consultation links with local groups and services to better understand the needs of those living with disability and identify emerging issues.

### **Public submissions**

The draft Plan was placed on public exhibition for a period of 21 days and attracted two submissions from community members.

Submission One provided valuable feedback on how Council might better configure its employment arrangements for people living with disability, to address their particular needs and skills. This included appointing a good advocate for staff with disability, to support their progress and help build understanding within the wider workforce. The submission further suggested that Council could lead by example by working with other local employers to promote improved employment opportunities and workplace conditions for people with disability. These issues have been addressed in Focus Area 3 of the DIAP and the feedback will be incorporated in the upcoming review of Council's Workforce Strategy.

Submission Two sought further information on specific actions that would result from the Plan and specific timeframes for delivery. It also raised concerns that the key directions of the Plan may be too general to achieve particular outcomes. However, it is important to remember that the DIAP is linked to other Council plans, programs and processes, such as the Delivery Program, Operational Plan, Workforce Strategy, Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan, Community Place Plans, Masterplans and Council's annual maintenance and upgrade programs. It is in these supporting instruments that the directions and commitments established in the DIAP will be translated into specific actions, allocated an appropriate budget and assigned to relevant departments for action and reporting.

The DIAP has also been designed to provide flexibility and opportunities for further consultation on specific improvement issues and programs. For example, as Council continues its program to upgrade public toilets and facilities to be more accessible, it will use direct consultation with disability groups, including client surveys, to better understand priorities for investment and preferred designs at key locations. The key focus of the Plan is to provide more opportunities to listen to the disability community's guidance and respond flexibly with appropriate solutions.

Council will consider the valuable feedback provided in the submissions during the implementation phase of the DIAP and continue to build relationships with local groups and services to support improved inclusion and participation for those living with disability in our community.



## **CONCLUSION**

Council has reviewed its Disability Inclusion Action Plan, in accordance with legislative requirements. The Plan includes 25 proposed actions, across four key areas, to help improve Council's processes and services and support local people living with disability to participate more fully in community life. The draft document was placed on public exhibition and two community submissions were received. This feedback will help to guide the implementation of the adopted Plan over the next two years.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 1. Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-25 (under separate cover)**

## **15 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **15.1 NORTHERN REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL - COUNCIL APPOINTED DELEGATES**

**Director:** Angela Jones

**Responsible Officer:** Tony McAteer

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment's *Sydney and Regional Planning Panel Operational Procedures* require Council to appoint two members to appear on behalf of Council at Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) hearings. At least one member must have expertise in one or more of the following areas: Planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, or tourism.

Council previously resolved to nominate Councillor Hayes as one of Council's representatives, with Councillor Cornish as his alternate. These nominations are valid for up to three years which would serve for the remainder of this term of Council.

Council also established a reciprocal arrangement with Lismore City Council (LCC) for the second NRPP appointment. A Lismore City Council representative was appointed to represent RVC, however this person has now taken up other employment and LCC has nominated a replacement representative, and an alternate, for Council's consideration.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Reaffirms the appointment of Councillor Hayes as one of Council's delegates on the Northern Regional Planning Panel, along with Councillor Cornish as his alternate; and
2. Appoints Mr Eber Butron as Council's second delegate to the Panel, along with Mr Brendan Logan as his alternate.

#### **DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS**

Objective 10: Lead and advocate for our community

10C Lead with integrity

10C1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) would normally meet for RVC hearings no more than two or three times a year, so it is expected that the budget implications to Council should be less than \$1,000 per annum. The reciprocal arrangement with Lismore City Council potentially offers savings to both councils, as each council's only expenditure would be for their respective staff wages.

#### **REPORT**

Section 4.4 of the *Sydney and Regional Planning Panel Operational Procedures* requires Council to appoint two members to appear on its behalf at Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) hearings. At least one of these members must have expertise in one or more of the following areas: Planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, or tourism.

On 19 July 2022, Council resolved to nominate Councillor Hayes as one of Council's representatives on the NRPP, with Councillor Cornish as his alternate. These nominations are valid for up to 3 years and, unless there is need to change the appointments, will serve for the remainder of this term of Council.

Council also established a reciprocal arrangement with Lismore City Council (LCC) for the second NRPP representative. Richmond Valley Council's (RVC's) Ms Angela Jones was appointed to represent LCC on its Panel, while a member of Lismore's planning team was appointed to represent RVC on its Panel. This arrangement has worked well for both councils. However, the LCC representative has now moved to other employment and the council has nominated a new representative, Mr Eber Butron, as the primary appointment with Mr Brendan Logan as his alternative.

### **CONSULTATION**

Nil

### **CONCLUSION**

Council needs to appoint a new representative for the Northern Regional Planning Panel following changes to its existing reciprocal arrangement with Lismore City Council. LCC has nominated Mr Butron and Mr Logan for Council's consideration as replacement representatives.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## **16 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

### **16.1 COUNTRY LANE LAND ACQUISITION FOR PUBLIC ROAD WIDENING**

**Director:** Ben Zeller

**Responsible Officer:** Kim Anderson

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council is planning road upgrades within Foy Street, Country Lane, and Kent Street in Casino to improve road access and drainage to support a safer road network. It is proposed to acquire 3 metres of land fronting property numbers 2-10 Country Lane to widen the road, supporting a 6m wide carriageway and the relocation of water pipeline infrastructure into the road reserve.

Preliminary onsite consultation has been undertaken with the affected properties, and the owners have indicated that they are willing to enter into an agreement with Council regarding the land acquisition and are supportive of the road improvements adjoining their property.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. negotiates by agreement with the affected property owners to acquire a 3-metre-wide frontage of 2-10 Country Lane (Lot 16,17,18,19, 20 Deposited Plan 1170);
2. dedicates the required land as public road in accordance with the *Roads Act 1993*;
3. authorises the General Manager to negotiate the terms of the acquisition, signing of contracts and other documents, and affixing the Council seal as necessary.

#### **DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS**

Objective 6: Provide infrastructure that meets community needs

6C Provide a network of safe, well-constructed local roads, bridges, footpaths and cycleways

6C1 Deliver local infrastructure maintenance and renewal programs

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of the acquisition will be funded by the Fixing Local Roads grant for improving Country Lane rehabilitation.

#### **REPORT**

Council was successful in receiving a Fixing Local Roads NSW State Government Grant for Country Lane rehabilitation. This project involves reconstruction and sealing 250m of unsealed road, improving drainage, upgrading access for residential and heavy vehicles, installing kerb and guttering, line marking and signage, at a total value of \$750,000.

Country Lane is a narrow, unsealed road in an urban fringe area. It is a heavy vehicle route being a vital link for industries including food production manufacturing, warehousing, retail and industry supplies, and residential homes.

Council has been unsuccessful in acquiring parts of the Crown Land adjoining Country Lane for road widening due to a determined Aboriginal Land Claim. The proposed land acquisition provides the ability to construct a 6-metre-wide pavement, and the relocation of the water main into the road reserve.



Map1: Showing the 3m wide acquisition for public road.

## **CONSULTATION**

Council has consulted with the affected landholders including discussions held onsite. The residents are willing to enter into an agreement regarding land acquisition. The affected residents support the sealing of Country Lane.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council acquires the 3-metre-wide frontage of 2-10 Country Lane for the construction of a sealed 6 metre pavement, and the relocation of water pipeline infrastructure.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 1. Country Lane Concept Plan Boundaries (under separate cover)**

## 17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

### 17.1 SECTION 7.11, 7.12 AND SECTION 64 DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Hayley Martin

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council receives contributions, raises levies and enters into planning agreements on development works that are subject to a development consent issued by Council. This report provides an update on developer contributions income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Council collected a total of \$2,092,487 in developer contributions during the 2022/2023 financial year and expended \$993,683. Unexpended developer contributions held in cash reserves totalled \$12,281,126 as at 30 June 2023.

Details of the different types of contributions are provided in the report.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the update on Section 7.11, Section 7.12 and Section 64 developer contributions for the 2022/2023 financial year.

#### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 11: Manage resources responsibly

11A Manage finances responsibly and provide value for money

11A3 Maintain efficient rating and revenue systems

#### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

These funds are managed within Council's financial reserves.

#### REPORT

Developer contributions are charged by councils when new development occurs. These contributions enable local councils or other consent authorities to provide public amenities and services required as a consequence of the increased demand caused by development. They are used to provide infrastructure such as open space, parks, community facilities, local roads and footpaths and water and sewerage infrastructure. Developer contributions are essential in maintaining access to the facilities and services that support community wellbeing.

#### **Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 Contributions**

S7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* allow Council to collect monetary contributions from development to help meet the additional demand for roads and traffic, community, cultural, open space and recreational facilities generated by development associated with population growth and employment generation. Council's adopted contribution plans were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Council has a specialised s7.11 Heavy Haulage levy that is applied where the anticipated development will, or is likely to, generate additional heavy haulage vehicle movements e.g. quarries. As a consequence of this development, there is likely to be an accelerated decline in the life of the road network due to increased heavy haulage, a cost which would otherwise be borne by the wider community. The rate is typically based on the tonnages and the distance covered on

local roads to reach the classified road network. The levy is spent on roads that are impacted by the development itself, typically any road back to a main road. Council's road engineers do an annual condition assessment of Council's road network, and if roads that are covered by an s7.11 Heavy Haulage levy are considered to be in a state where funding is required to be spent, s7.11 contributions are used to fund the repairs.

Council's Section s7.12 levy is triggered by all development over \$100,000 at the percentage set by the legislation. There are legislated exemptions that developments triggering the levy are assessed against. The levy is collected across the entire Council area and is spent on the list of projects detailed in Council's adopted s7.12 Contributions Plan.

### **Section 64 Contributions**

S64 contributions are levied under the *Local Government Act 1993* towards water and sewerage infrastructure and in accordance with Council's Development Servicing Plan. Contributions are generally levied where the anticipated development will or is likely to increase the demand for water or sewerage supply services. Funds are generally held for future utilisation when additional capacity is required to accommodate the increased demand, for example, future upgrades of Council's water and sewerage treatment plants. These works are factored into Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and require significant levels of funding, which is why these reserve balances have built up over time to provide for these works.

### **Developer Contributions 2022/2023 Financial Year**

The following table shows the annual budget (as at 31 March 2023 Quarterly Review) and actual amounts received in s7.11, s7.12 and s64 contributions during the 2022/2023 financial year.

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Budgeted Income 2022/2023</b>	<b>Actual Income 2022/2023</b>
S7.11 Quarry Road Contributions	\$17,911	\$0
S7.11 Heavy Haulage	\$175,000	\$224,886
S7.12 Development Contributions	\$750,000	\$794,462
S64 Sewerage Contributions	\$920,000	\$749,852
S64 Water Contributions	\$660,000	\$323,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,522,911</b>	<b>\$2,092,487</b>

The following table shows expenditure of s7.11, s7.12 and s64 contributions during the 2022/2023 financial year.

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Budgeted Expenditure 2022/2023</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure 2022/2023</b>
S7.11 Pooled Contributions	\$103,798	\$107,483
S7.11 Quarry Road Contributions	\$11,703	\$205
S7.11 Heavy Haulage	\$30,000	\$862,597
S7.12 Development Contributions	\$63,456	\$23,398
S64 Sewerage Contributions	\$0	\$0
S64 Water Contributions	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$208,957</b>	<b>\$993,683</b>

The major works that were funded from pooled s7.11 contributions included funding of \$17,541 towards the Evans Head foreshore lighting, \$76,585 towards Crawford Square Playground and \$13,357 towards the Woodburn Pool Shade Structure. Major works funded from s7.11 Heavy Haulage included \$855,658 towards the finalisation of MR145 Woodburn-Coraki major upgrade and funding from s7.12 contributions included various footpath renewals in Casino, Evans Head, Broadwater and Woodburn.

As at 30 June 2023, Council held \$1,901,949 in s7.11 reserves, \$1,788,663 in s7.12 reserves and \$8,590,514 in s64 reserves, or \$12,281,126 in total.

## **CONSULTATION**

Nil.

## **CONCLUSION**

Council collected \$2,092,487 in developer contributions in the last financial year 2022/2023 and expended \$993,683. Council held unexpended developer contribution cash reserves of \$12,281,126 as at 30 June 2023.

Council will have the opportunity to determine the allocation of developer contribution funding during the draft budget process for the 2024/2025 financial year, whilst also taking into consideration commitments in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil



## 17.2 REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S INVESTMENTS POLICY

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Rylee Vidler

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council reviews its Investments Policy on an annual basis to ensure it remains appropriate in changing economic, investment and legislative environments. Following a major review in 2020 and some refinements to the policy last year, it is recommended that no further changes be made to the policy, as there have been no legislative or gazetted changes requiring the policy to be amended, with the policy supporting positive investment portfolio results.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the 2024 Investments Policy.
2. Continues to utilise Laminar Capital as its financial advisory service provider and the Treasury Direct online investment platform for another 12 months.

### 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

Interest rate yields on cash accounts, term deposit and floating rate notes have continued to increase during the 2023/2024 financial year as the official cash rate remains elevated. NSW Treasury Corporation Funds still experience periods of volatility but year to date has performed well, despite looming concerns of a US and global recession. During the 2023/2024 financial year to date, \$1,523,234 has been received in interest and investment revenue on a cash basis (this result is 120.32% of the budget of \$1,266,010).

The interest revenue budget has been increased for the 2023/2024 financial year to \$1,266,010 from the original budget of \$906,782 in 2022/2023, due to the increased returns on offer. The average return on Council's term deposits and floating rate notes held at 30 June 2023 was 4.96%. By comparison the average return on Council's term deposits and floating rate notes held as at 30 November 2023 is 5.14%.

### REPORT

Council has taken a conservative approach to its investments since the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2007/2008, which is consistent with the industry wide response to the impact of the GFC and the tightening of the Ministerial Investment Order requirements. The lasting economic impacts of the COVID-pandemic are still being felt in the market, however, the increasing official cash rate has improved the rates of returns offered to investors.

#### ***Investment Options***

The NSW local government sector is required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to limit investments to those outlined in the Ministerial Investment Order. The types of investments allowed are:

- Any public funds or securities issued by or guaranteed by, the Commonwealth, any State of the Commonwealth or a Territory.
- Any debentures or securities issued by a council.
- Interest bearing deposits with, or any debentures or bonds issued by, an authorised deposit-taking institution (excluding subordinated debt obligations).
- Any bill of exchange with a maturity date of less than 200 days; and if purchased for value confers on the holder in due course a right of recourse against a bank which has been designated as an authorised deposit-taking institution by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA)
- A deposit with the New South Wales Treasury Corporation or investments in an Hour-Glass Investment facility of the New South Wales Treasury Corporation (now called TCorpIM Funds).

Council maintains a diversified investment portfolio to achieve the best possible rates of return while maintaining capital.

Council also considers many risk management guidelines when deciding on which products to invest in, consideration is given to credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk and maturity risk. Council also has a preference for environmentally sustainable investment, these investments are considered if and when the environmentally sustainable investment returns are equal to or better than other investments being considered.

### ***Investment Performance***

Council's investment performance for the last five years is shown in the table below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average Portfolio</b>	<b>Interest Revenue</b>	<b>Variance from Previous Year</b>
2019/2020	\$48,624,071.13	\$896,599.23 (includes TCorp fair value gains)	(\$496,879.87)
2020/2021	\$57,375,334.97	\$1,348,337.00 (includes TCorp fair value gains)	\$451,737.77
2021/2022	\$67,742,261.14	(\$673,302.53) (includes TCorp fair value losses)	(\$2,021,639.53)
2022/2023	\$78,401,128.60	\$3,168,410.89 (includes TCorp fair value gains)	\$3,841,713.42
2023/2024 At 30 Nov 23	\$83,507,552.03	\$1,523,233.50 (includes TCorp fair value gains)	(\$1,645,177.39)

Note: The significant variance shown in the 2021/2022 year was due to the investment market taking a considerable downturn due to market volatility and a time of economic uncertainty.

### ***TCorpIM Investments***

Council continues to invest with NSW Treasury Corporation via its Medium Term and Long-Term Growth Funds. The objective of these investments is to attain higher yields than those offered by cash balances, term deposits and floating rate notes in the long term.

The performance of these investments over the 2023/2024 financial year to 30 November 2023 has varied from the previous year with the funds achieving the following returns:

- TCorpIM Medium Term Fund – 1.49% (a decrease from 6.09% at 30 June 2023)
- TCorpIM Long Term Fund – 1.42% (a decrease from 10.97% at 30 June 2023)

Council's investments in NSW Treasury Corporation Funds have experienced volatility in the market, however, advice from Council's financial advisors Laminar Direct in July 2022 was to keep the money invested, as the products are long term investments and need to be treated as such, the benefits will only be realised at the end of the investment.

### ***Financial Advisors***

Council continues to use the investment platform and financial advisory services of Laminar Capital which began in July 2020. The platform has proven to be efficient, and the other benefits obtained by Council staff regarding market insights, economic commentary and Council specific advice have proven valuable. The annual cost to Council has remained at \$7,800 per annum (excl GST).

### ***Investment Holdings***

There have been no changes to Council's Investments Policy for the minimum and maximum investment holdings.

### ***Policy Updates***

There are no proposed changes to the Investments Policy.

## **CONCLUSION**

A review of Council's Investments Policy has been undertaken as required annually. There have been no changes to the policy. A copy of the Investments Policy is included as an attachment to this report.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 1. Draft Investments Policy (under separate cover)**

**17.3 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - NOVEMBER 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 30 November 2023 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$26,693,148	\$30,000,000	\$6,750,390	\$4,500,000	\$15,564,014	\$83,507,552

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments at 30 November 2023 was 9.70% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for November of 0.35%, 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 November 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 30 November 2023, Council has earned \$1,277,523 in interest, \$19,020 in fair value gains from fixed rate bonds and \$226,691 in fair value gains from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of \$1,523,234. This equates to 120.32% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$1,266,010. Council currently receives a net return of 4.70% on its Macquarie CMA Account after Council's financial advisors receive their commission of 0.05%. Commissions for the 2023/2024 financial year to 30 November 2023 total \$723.

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 increased the cash rate to 4.35% per annum at its November meeting.

**Rate of Return**

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in November was 9.70%, an increase in 804 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 935 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.35% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of \$397,685 during the month of November. The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a gain of \$283,876 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a gain of \$113,809.

During November, global equity markets rose, largely offsetting the falls experienced in the past two months. The RBA increased the cash rate following the higher-than-expected inflation rate in the September quarter.

The MTGF has a recommended investment timeframe of seven 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 \$83,507,552 at 30 November 2023. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$8,140,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,037,946), Term Deposits (\$30,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$6,750,390), Bonds (\$4,500,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$15,564,014) and other bank accounts (\$8,515,202).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$41,250,390 represented 49.40% of the total portfolio as at 30 November 2023.

Council made the following new investments during November 2023:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
ING Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	12 months	5.41%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	3 months	5.10%
Auswide Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	4 months	5.20%
Judo Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	3 months	5.10%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$6,000,000</b>		

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

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Auswide Bank	Floating Rate Note	Y	\$750,000	\$53,709*
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$1,000,000	\$25,458
Transport Mutual Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$73,299
Auswide Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$11,973
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$2,000,000	\$51,923
AMP Ltd	Term Deposit	N	\$2,000,000	\$51,923
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$8,750,000</b>	<b>\$268,285</b>

\*Total interest earned across the life of the investment. Interest was paid quarterly whilst held.

Council had \$15,564,014 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 30 November 2023. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 30 November 23	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 30 November 23	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$12,429,818	\$283,876	\$182,801	\$1,424,788
Long Term Growth Fund	\$3,134,197	\$113,809	\$43,890	\$134,197
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,564,015</b>	<b>\$397,685</b>	<b>\$226,691</b>	<b>\$1,558,985</b>

The performance of the NSW Treasury Corporation Investments for November is pleasing; however, it follows a disappointing October, highlighting the ups and downs of long-term investments in volatile markets.

### Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$83,507,552, at 30 November 2023 includes \$44,814,014 or 53.7% 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 November 2023, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 30 November 2023 Council's cash and investments totalled \$83,507,552 with \$26,693,148 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 9.70% and total investment revenue equals 120.32% of budgeted revenue for the year to 30 November 2023.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

1. RVC Investment Pack - November 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 OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS OF TENDER VP374503 - OLD CASINO STATION LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION WORKS**

**Director:** Ben Zeller

**Responsible Officer:** Lani Hancock

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives the report on the Outcome of Negotiations of Tender VP374503 – Old Casino Station Landscape & Construction Works, noting that the contract for the revised works has been awarded to Boyds Bay Landscaping for \$359,637.93 (ex GST).

### **REPORT**

At Council's Ordinary Meeting on 19 September 2023, Council resolved to decline all tenders for VP374503 – Old Casino Station Landscape and Construction Works, as all submitted prices were above Council's available budget, and authorised the General Manager to negotiate directly with suitable contractors.

Council's total budget for Phase two of the Casino to Bentley section of the Rail Trail is \$6,800,000, with \$500,000 of this amount being set aside to complete the works at the Old Casino Station and car park precinct.

The project included preservation of key heritage infrastructure to reflect the historical significance of the State Heritage Listed Old Casino Station building and surrounding precinct. It also included formalisation of the existing access road (connecting the old Casino Station to Dyraaba Street), a new car parking area and landscaping works.

Tenders for the works were called on 11 August 2023 and closed on 5 September 2023, with three submissions being received. One submission was partially compliant, and two submissions were fully compliant with the tender specifications. However, the pricing returned from all three tender submissions was more than the available budget to execute the works. Council subsequently resolved to decline all tenders and authorised the General Manager to negotiate directly with suitable contractors.

To support these negotiations, the Asset Delivery team reviewed the proposed scope of works to determine if parts of the project could be reduced or rescheduled to allow for staged construction. As a result, some of the proposed works for the access road, concrete pavements and landscaping were scaled back and the landscape works associated with the Old Casino Station Building will be carried out as a future stage. It was also identified that Council could reduce costs by carrying out the carpark construction using its own resources, with support from local contractors. The balance of funds required for the carpark construction have been sourced from the overall Rail Trail budget. Following these revisions, Council entered negotiations with Boyds Bay Landscaping Pty Ltd to deliver the revised landscaping scope within the available budget. The negotiations have resulted in a deliverable project valued at \$359,637.93 excluding GST. Boyds Bay Landscaping has advised that the revised scope of works can be delivered to meet Council's objective of mid-March 2024.

**CONCLUSION**

Council resolved to decline all tenders for the Old Casino Station precinct works at the head of the Casino-Bentley section of the Rail Trail, as all submissions were above the available budget. Since then, the project has been revised and rescheduled to ensure that the works can be completed within the available budget and on time for the proposed opening. A contract is being prepared for execution with Boyds Bay Landscaping Pty Ltd to complete the construction works.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil



## 19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - NOVEMBER 2023

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Rylee Vidler

### RECOMMENDATION

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

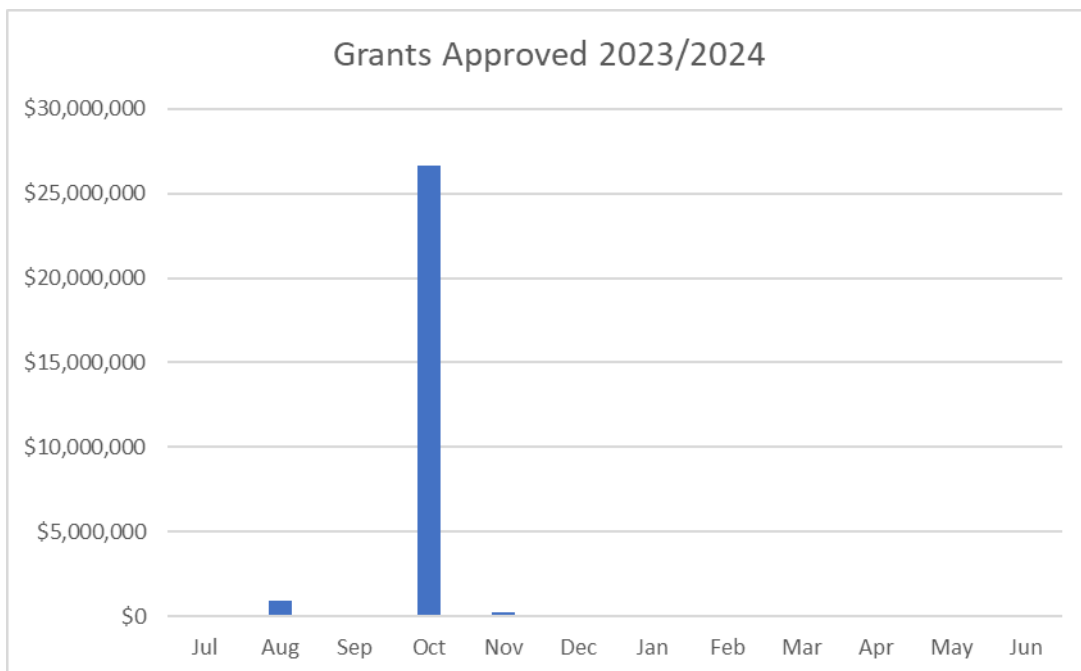
### REPORT

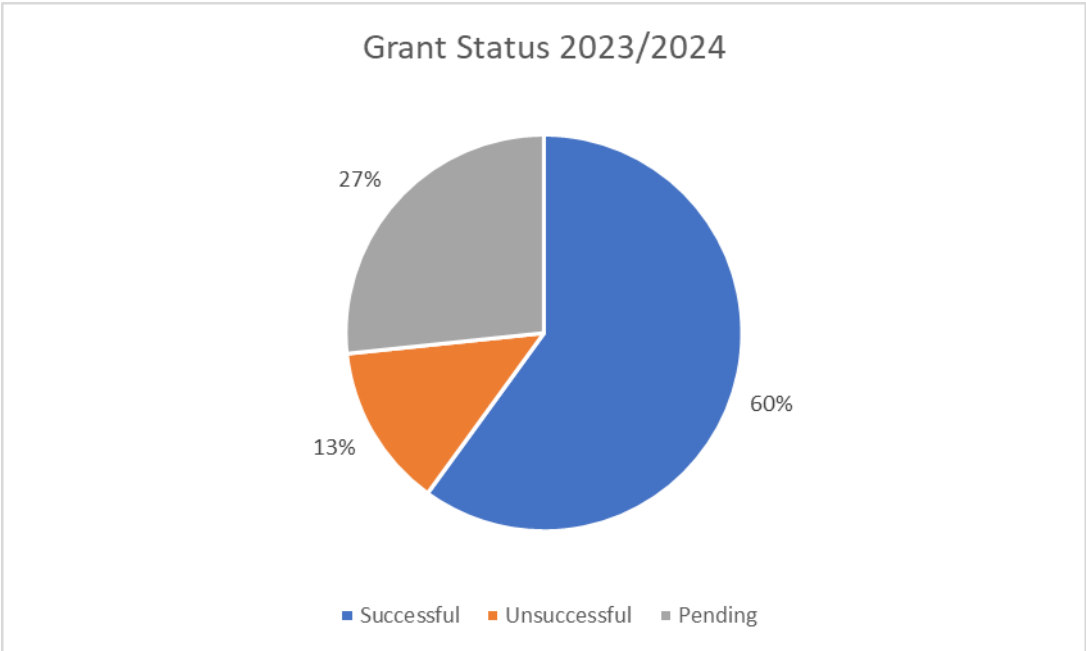
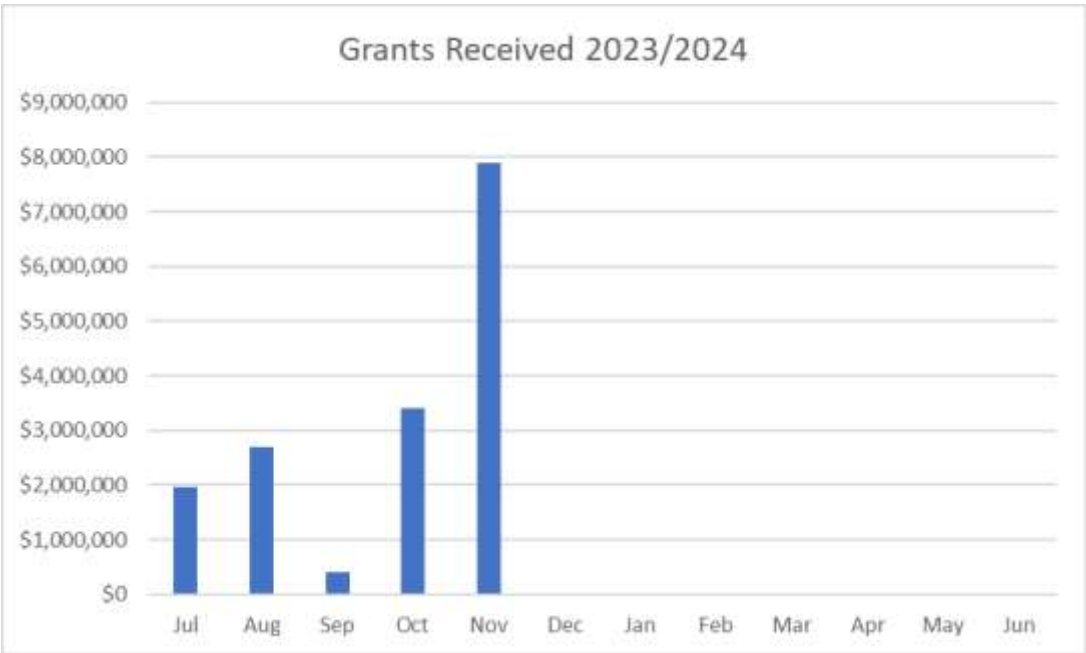
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of November 2023.

During the reporting period, there were four grants approved and one submitted. Council was not notified of any unsuccessful grant applications.

Council received funding for eight grants totalling \$7,901,567, and there are two pending applications from the previous financial year outstanding.

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





### Grants that have been approved

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Approved
Richmond Valley Australia Day Celebrations	National Australia Day Council (Federal)	Australia Day 2024 Community Grants	\$ 16,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,500	9 October 2023	1 November 2023
Comment: This funding will be used to deliver activities and entertainment for the Richmond Valley on Australia Day.							
Rappville Hall Accessibility Chair Lift	Community Rebuilding Trust (Other)	Rappville Community Hall	\$ 42,500	\$ 27,273	\$ 15,227	22 February 2023	9 November 2023
Comment: This funding will allow Council to install an accessibility chair lift to the stage at Rappville Community Hall.							
Broadwater SES Painting and Kitchenette	NSW State Emergency Services (Other)	Unit Building Grant	\$ 15,909	\$ 15,909	\$ -	N/A	20 November 2023
Comment: This funding will be used to install new flooring and paint the Broadwater SES Unit.							
Place and Adaptation Plans and Options Study for the Mid Richmond Communities	NSW Reconstruction Authority (State)	Place and Adaptation Plans	\$ 349,800	\$ 174,900	\$ 174,900	N/A	27 November 2023
Comment: This funding will allow Council to engage a contractor to develop place plans for the Mid Richmond Communities.							

### Grants that have been received

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Richmond Valley Australia Day Celebrations	National Australia Day Council (Federal)	Australia Day 2024 Community Grants	\$ 16,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,500	9 October 2023	\$ 8,000 15 November 2023	\$ 8,000
Comment: 80% funding received.								
Financial Assistance Grant 2023/2024	NSW Local Government Grants Commission (Federal)	Financial Assistance Grant	\$ 6,746,876	\$ 6,746,876	\$ -	N/A - Annual Allocation	\$ 87,539 16 November 2023	\$ 6,571,798
Comment: Quarter 2 instalment of the 2023/2024 FAG Grant.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Creation of Water Playspace at Coraki Swimming Pool	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4	\$ 212,500	\$ 212,500	\$ -	24 June 2021	\$ 42,500 23 November 2023	\$ 212,500
Comment: Milestone 2 payment								
NSW Bushfires 31 August 2019 Onwards - EPAR Works - AGRN871	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 1,116,361	\$ 1,116,361	\$ -	N/A	\$ 94,982 29 November 2023	\$ 988,206
Comment: Payment received for works completed on Mt Marsh Bridge								
NSW Storms and Floods 15 January 2020 Onwards - EPAR Works - AGRN898	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 50,055	\$ 50,055	\$ -	N/A	\$ 22,750 29 November 2023	\$ 37,305
Comment: Payment received for works completed on Ainsworth Road								
NSW Storms and Floods 10 March 2021 Onwards - EPAR Works - AGRN960	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 4,397,531	\$ 4,397,531	\$ -	N/A	\$ 426,312 29 November 2023	\$ 3,209,290
Comment: Payment received for works completed on Works Package 1 - Bungawalbin								
RERRF Richmond Valley Council	Transport for NSW (State)	Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) - Was FLR - Regional and Local Roads Repair Fund	\$ 4,659,104	\$ 4,659,104	\$ -	19 January 2023	\$ 2,719,484 29 November 2023	\$ 4,659,104
Comment: This grant was extended by TfNSW with further funds allocated to RVC to carry out priority repair and maintenance activities.								
Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse Upgrade	Regional NSW (State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	\$12,880,868	\$12,880,868	\$ -	N/A	\$ 4,500,000 30 November 2023	\$11,700,000
Comment: Milestones 7a and 7b of funding received.								

**Grant Applications Submitted**

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Shade Sails for Crawford Square	Department of Community and Justice (State)	Community Building Partnerships	\$ 128,778	\$ 30,000	\$ 98,778	1 November 2023
Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to install seven shade sails across play equipment in Crawford Square.						

**19.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2023 - 30 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Director:** Angela Jones

**Responsible Officer:** Andy Edwards

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 November to 30 November 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 November 2023 to 30 November 2023 was twenty-five (25), with a total value of \$7,522,487

During November, Council determined one (1) application being a flood affected, Clause 4.6 Variation modification - DA2023/0076.01 – 305 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Woodburn.

Also in November, one (1) deferred commencement application was determined being DA2024/0001 – Victory Camp Road, Casino.

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

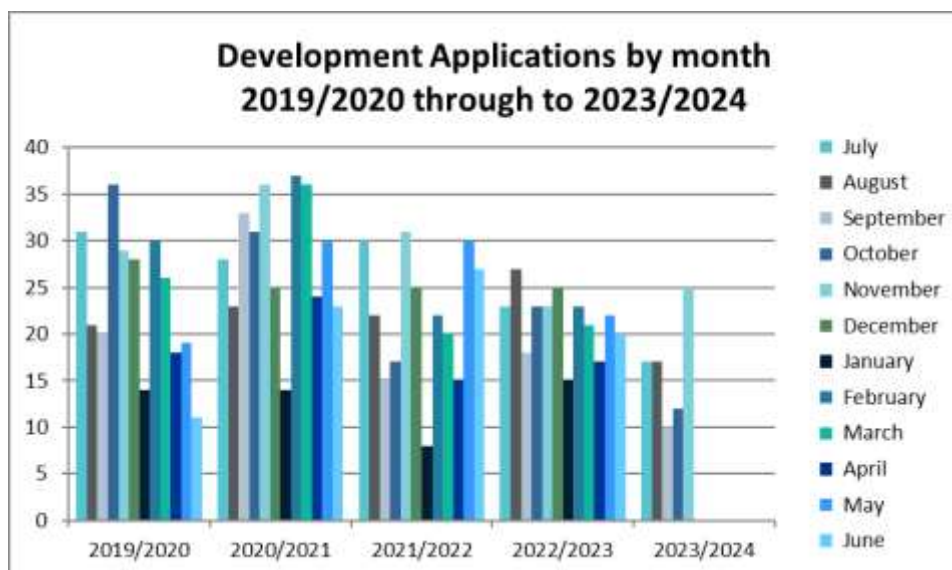


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications processed by Council over five financial years.

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

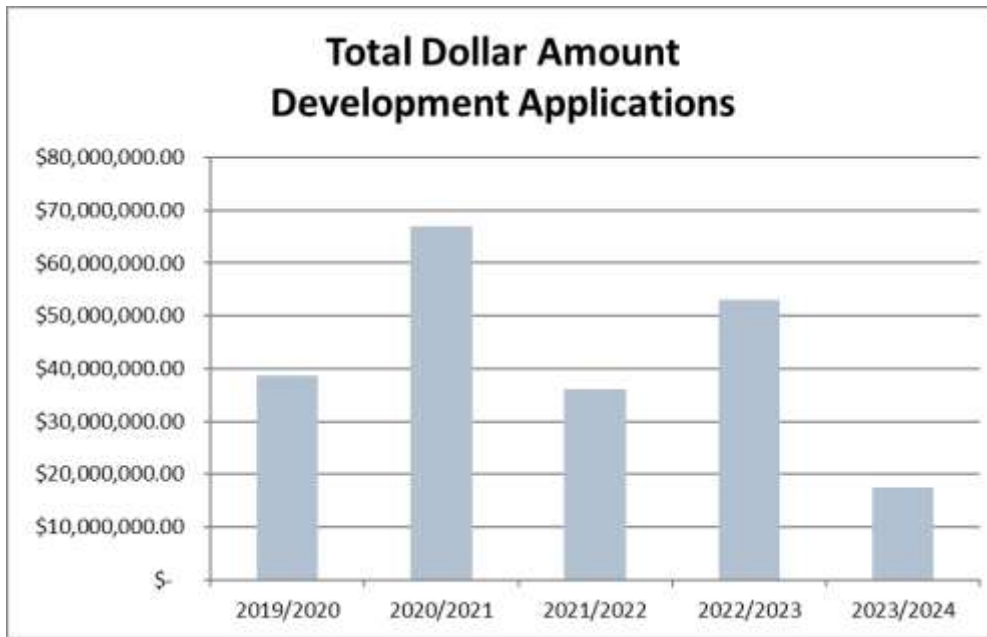


Figure 2: Annual value of development

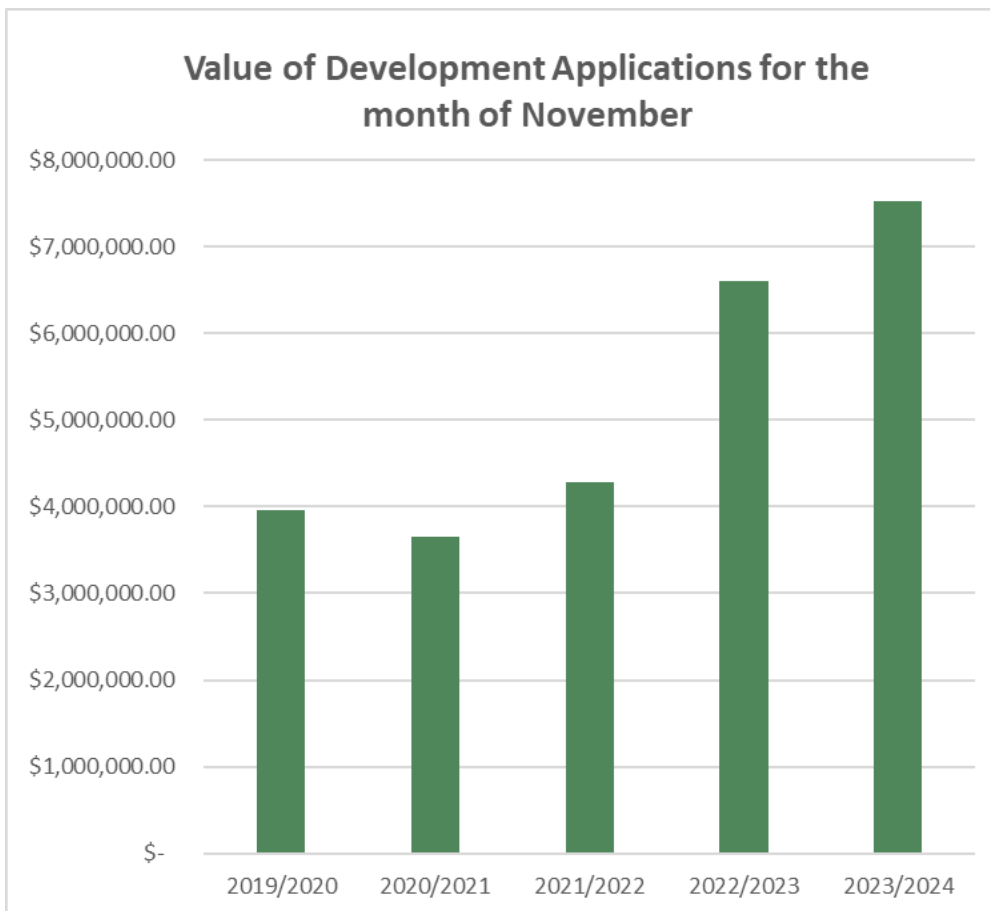


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of November 2023

## 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.

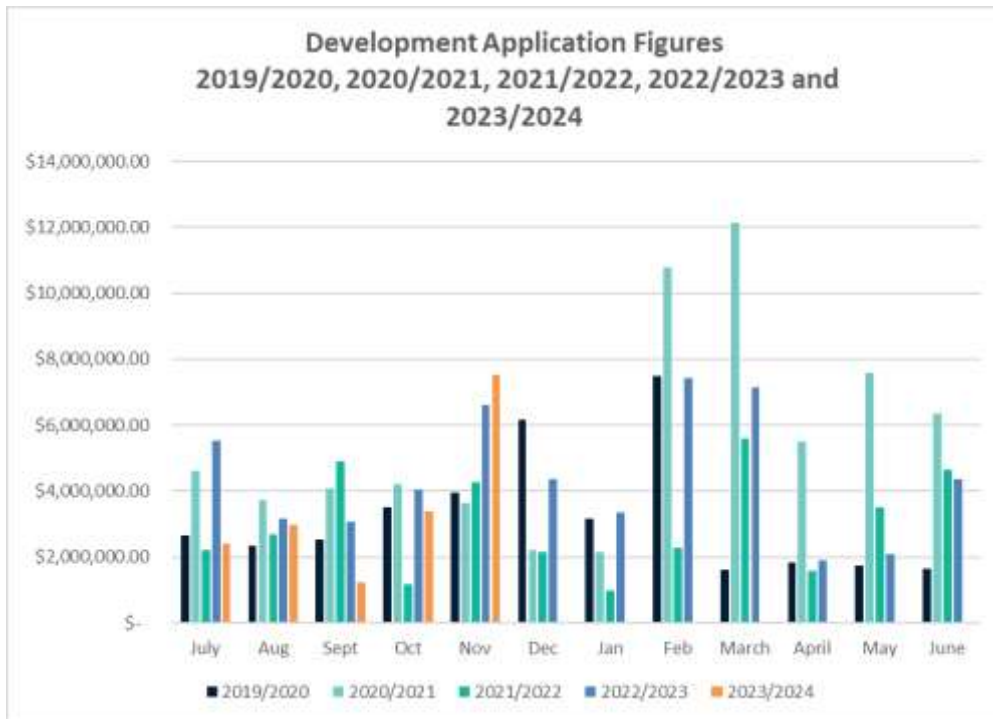


Figure 5: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

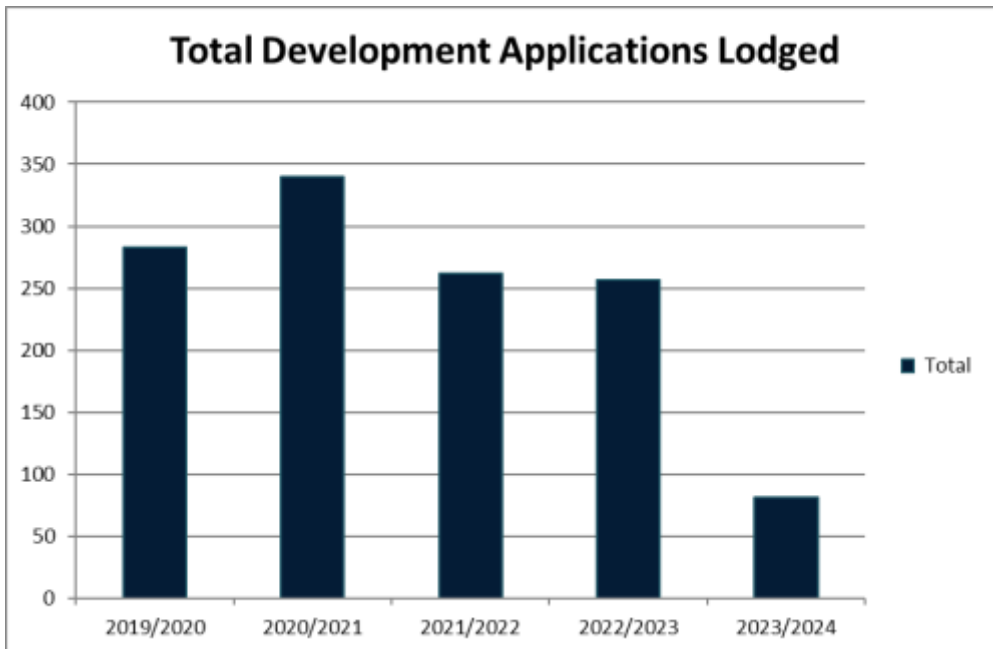


Figure 6: Number of Development Applications per annum over five financial years



**Activity for the month of November 2023**

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	19
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	5
Subdivision	0
Refused	0
Rejected	0
Withdrawn	0
Complying Development (Council Approved)	0
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	1
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS DETERMINED (Excluding withdrawn applications)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Average assessment days for applications determined in November 2023</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>No. of Integrated development applications determined in November 2023</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>No. of Designated development applications determined in November 2023</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>No. of building/ compliance inspections undertaken in November 2023</b>	<b>145</b>

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

**Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act  
for the period 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023**

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2024/0008	Newton Denny Chapelle	Logalex Pty Ltd	158 Walker Street, Casino	Construction of awning to existing commercial premises	18/07/2023	2/11/2023	\$100,000.00
DA2024/0011	Hayes Building Consultancy	Irod Investments Pty Ltd	25 Paddon Street, Broadwater	Attached Dual Occupancy	20/07/2023	23/11/2023	\$649,000.00
DA2024/0012	Hayes Building Consultancy	Irod Investments Pty Ltd	27 Paddon Street, Broadwater	Attached Dual Occupancy	20/07/2023	23/11/2023	\$649,000.00
DA2024/0013	Hayes Building Consultancy	L J Daley	29 Paddon Street, Broadwater	Attached Dual Occupancy	20/07/2023	23/11/2023	\$649,000.00
DA2024/0019	Koinonia Ministries Limited	Koinonia Ministries Limited	29-41 Terrace Street, Evans Head	Proposed steel framed canopy over existing shed and concrete area	1/08/2023	21/11/2023	\$52,360.00
DA2024/0026	A B Presbury	A B Presbury & A J Presbury	53 Centre Street, Casino	Construction of 6x10m shed	22/08/2023	7/11/2023	\$19,200.00
DA2024/0030	J & C Zerk Pty Ltd	S J Posselt & L B Thomson	65 Eucalypt Drive, Swan Bay	As built - conversion of an existing farm shed to a dwelling	28/08/2023	14/11/2023	\$210,000.00
DA2024/0031	W O Lollback	K L Hayward, W O Lollback, G Hancock, J J Hancock	9 Cypress Street, Evans Head	Installation of plunge pool and deck extension adjoining front and side of the house	7/09/2023	8/11/2023	\$36,620.00
DA2024/0034	The Shed Company	B J George & V J George	8 Nowlan Place, North Casino	Construction of a 19.5m x 9m colorbond shed with a request to vary the northern side setback to 4m	19/09/2023	7/11/2023	\$72,870.00
DA2024/0036	The Shed Company	I R Walmsley & J N Wheatley	52 Centre Street, Casino	5m x 6m colorbond shed	20/09/2023	7/11/2023	\$19,620.00
DA2024/0038	N D Greber	N D Greber & E J Greber	35 Simpson Parade, Casino	Demolition of existing shed for construction of new shed	26/09/2023	8/11/2023	\$38,000.00
DA2024/0039	C L Whitney	C L Whitney	74 Stapleton Avenue, Casino	Remove existing garden shed and install 7m x 7m shed with roller door for storage	27/09/2023	17/11/2023	\$15,045.00
DA2024/0041	Hayes Building Consultancy	J R W Slade & K J Barker	4 Cashmore Lane, Evans Head	Extension of existing carport, alterations and additions to existing house including front main bedroom with walk in robe and ensuite, new concrete driveway and carparking area	29/09/2023	13/11/2023	\$149,600.00
DA2024/0042	G S Butcher	G S Butcher, S G Butcher, K M Butcher	655 Reynolds Road, Backmede	As-built above ground swimming pool & associated fencing	4/10/2023	21/11/2023	\$15,820.00
DA2024/0047	Whitebait Capital Pty Ltd	Whitebait Capital Pty Ltd	43 Park Street, Evans Head	Installation of prefabricated secondary dwelling and deck, use of as built lap pool and installation of pool fencing and associated works	10/10/2023	30/11/2023	\$245,337.00

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2024/0052	The Shed Company	G R McLean & G McLean	4 Sunset Place, Casino	Construction of a colorbond shed	12/10/2023	17/11/2023	\$26,785.00
DA2024/0055	BRS Northern Rivers Pty Limited	Department of Education & Communities	9375 Summerland Way, Shannon Brook	Demolition of an existing COLA and the construction of a new COLA and new covered walkways to buildings	18/10/2023	30/11/2023	\$378,481.00
DA2024/0058	L I J Stuart	L I J Stuart	41 Sullivans Road, Stratheden	Construction of a new colorbond steel farm shed	26/10/2023	24/11/2023	\$176,500.00
DA2024/0033.01	Certifiers2U	S J Carr	198 Bundocks Road, Casino	S4.55(1) - Modification to correct applicant details	27/10/2023	3/11/2023	
DA2023/0133.01	Newton Denny Chapelle	One Funds Management Limited	31A Richmond Street, Casino	S4.55(1A) Modification - to remove the staging from the development as originally proposed, and provide an updated subdivision plan to rectify an issue with the inconsistency between the approved subdivision plan and approved architectural plans	30/10/2023	23/11/2023	\$2,580,000.00
DA2024/0033.02	Certifiers2U	S J Carr	198 Bundocks Road, Casino	S4.55(1) - Modification to correct application details and amend Condition 2	10/11/2023	23/11/2023	
DA2017/0054.06	Manage-Design-Engineer Pty Ltd	Serenitas Communities Holdings Pty Ltd	74 Currajong Street, Evans Head	S4.55(2) Modification application to provide construction and use details for the approved sheds and car wash bay	25/05/2023	2/11/2023	\$0.00

**Summary of Council Certified Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023**

Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil							

**Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 November 2023 to 30 November 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 November 2023 to 30 November 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2024/0012	The Trustee for THE BSG UNIT TRUST	JP Benson Pty Ltd	169 Canterbury Street, Casino	Internal alteration to existing retail premises (installation of a new security gate to an existing Woolworths tenancy)	10/11/2023	9/11/2023	\$14,249.00
Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act with a Clause 4.6 Variation for the period 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2023/0076.01	Hayes Building Consultancy	K E L Thomson & B J Thomson	305 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Woodburn	***FLOOD AFFECTED*** - S4.55(1A) Modification to further raise the flood affected house above the maximum building height plane bringing the habitable floor level to 8m AHD	18/10/2023	21/11/2023	\$0.00
Summary of Development Applications Refused under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil							
Summary of Development Applications Deferred Commencement under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023							
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Lodged	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2024/0001	Beveridge Williams & Co Pty Ltd	Richmond Valley Council	Victory Camp Road, Casino	Resource Transfer Station	3/07/2023	9/11/2023	\$1,425,000.00

#### **19.4 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Director: Ryan Gaiter**

**Responsible Officer: Hayley Martin**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 29 November 2023.

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 1. Minutes Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting 29 November 2023 (under separate cover)**

## 19.5 OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS: TENDER VP367264 - SOUTH CASINO SEWAGE TRANSFER STATION (PUMPING STATION)

**Director:** Angela Jones

**Responsible Officer:** David Timms

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the report of the outcome of negotiations for Tender VP367264 – South Casino Sewage Transfer Station (Pumping Station), noting that the contract for the works has been awarded to Newlands Civil Construction for \$1,525,198.07 (exc. GST).

### REPORT

At Council's Ordinary Meeting on 15 August 2023, it was resolved:

*That Council:*

- 1. Declines the submissions received for Tender VP367264 – South Casino Sewage Transfer Station (Pumping Station) due to the single submission prices being higher than the budget allocated for the works.*
- 2. Applies Clause 178 (3)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to authorise the General Manager to enter direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors with a view to procure 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.*

Richmond Valley Council called for tenders from appropriately qualified and experienced contractors for the construction of civil works associated with the sewage transfer station to replace the current comminutor located in Queen Elizabeth Park, Casino. Two tender submissions were received from one contractor and Council resolved that both submissions be declined due to the prices being higher than the budget allocated for the works.

Council further resolved to enter direct negotiations with suitably qualified contractors and post tender discussions were undertaken with two contractors: Newlands Civil Construction, which submitted the tender response, and Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd, a respected local contractor that has delivered many projects for Council and agreed to price the works. The submission from Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd, was substantially higher than the revised Option 2 submission from Newlands Civil Construction of \$1,525,198.07 (exc. GST), which was based on a more detailed understanding of the project risks than its previous bid.

The offer received from Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd was ruled out on the basis of the price being substantially higher than the budget. Further negotiations then took place with Newlands Civil Construction regarding the terms of the contract.

Based on the post tender negotiations the revised Option 2 from Newlands Civil Construction was accepted by the General Manager as the best value proposal to deliver the project for Council and the Contract with Newlands Civil Construction was executed on 20 November 2023.

The 2023/24 Budget includes an amount of \$1,200,000 for this project obtained through grant funding from the NSW Regional Housing Fund. A further \$200,000 was obtained from the same fund for contingencies that may be encountered given the current construction environment, bringing the total grant funding to \$1.4 million. An additional \$125,199 has been transferred from Sewer Capital Works savings in the 2023/24 sewer relining program, so the project is fully funded.

The grant funding requires the works to be completed by March 2024 and Council has requested an extension to July 2024 for the completion of the works.

### **CONCLUSION**

Council has entered a contract with Newlands Civil Construction for \$1,525,198.07 (exc. GST) to construct the South Casino Sewage Transfer Station. The works align with Council's scope and specification and will be funded by the revised budget.

The negotiation outcomes with Newlands Civil Construction have provided Council with the best outcome from a financial and delivery perspective to replace the comminutor that was significantly damaged during the 2022 floods.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## **19.6 CORRESPONDENCE - MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES - IMPACTS OF THE RESILIENT HOMES PROGRAM ON WOODBURN**

**Director:** Vaughan Macdonald

**Responsible Officer:** Jenna Hazelwood

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the response from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces regarding Woodburn village and the impacts of the Resilient Homes buy-back scheme.

### **SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Council resolved the following at its October Ordinary meeting, in response to a Notice of Motion from Cr Hayes:

*“That Council writes to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority expressing its concern for the potential impacts of large-scale housing buy backs on the future of Woodburn and seeking alternative solutions that support flood-affected residents of the village to remain connected with their community.”*

The letter was forwarded in November and a copy is attached for Council’s reference.

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP has responded to Council’s correspondence, with the response also on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jihad Dib and the CEP of the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Mr Simon Draper.

A copy is attached for information.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 1. Letter to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces - Woodburn - Resilient Homes Program**
- 2. Response from the Minister - Woodburn - Resilient Homes Program**





**Richmond**  
**Valley**  
**Council**

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ABN 54 145 907 009

6 November 2023

The Hon. Paul Scully MP  
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Via: online portal

Dear Minister Scully

### **Woodburn Village: Impacts of Resilient Homes buy-back scheme**

Richmond Valley Council resolved at its 17 October 2023 Council Meeting to write to you, as well as the CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority, expressing its concern for the potential impacts of large-scale housing buy backs on the future of Woodburn and seeking alternative solutions that support flood-affected residents of the village to remain connected with their community.

As you know from your recent visits to our region, the village of Woodburn was severely impacted in the catastrophic flooding of 2022. Many will recall the distressing media images of residents huddled in the middle of the Woodburn bridge, waiting for rescue. Since that time Richmond Valley Council has been working closely with the community and Government representatives to support Woodburn's long-term recovery. This work has occurred against the backdrop of the formation of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation and its subsequent integration with the NSW Reconstruction Authority, and the implementation of the Resilient Homes program.

Although Council was concerned with the initial roll-out of the Resilient Homes program, I am pleased that we are now working in a positive partnership with the Reconstruction Authority to address the long-term concerns of this community. Specifically, Richmond Valley Council was able to finalise arrangements last week for a partnership with the Reconstruction Authority to develop a pilot project, combining Place Planning and Adaptation Planning principles for our four Mid Richmond communities of Woodburn, Broadwater, Coraki and Evans Head. This is an exciting opportunity to develop appropriate long-term solutions for these communities and Council would like to acknowledge the Reconstruction Authority's support and proactive approach in this matter.

As our Council's October resolution notes, flood-affected communities such as Woodburn are deeply concerned for their future and the long-term connections to place and family that have been established over many generations in this village and surrounding areas. The residents of Woodburn are keen to explore all possible

*Love where we live and work*



alternatives in terms of addressing the on-going flood risks to their community and providing for long-term sustainability.

In this regard, we would welcome continued conversations with the Reconstruction Authority as to how best any future Resilient Homes funding may be applied in communities such as Woodburn, to support community cohesion and continued connection to place. While it is acknowledged that housing buy backs may be the most appropriate solution in some high-risk situations, flood-affected communities are eager to explore as many risk-mitigation options as possible to provide a range of adaptation choices. Council looks forward to exploring these matters further with the Woodburn community through the combined Place Planning/Adaptation Planning pilot in partnership with the Authority.

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 again, at a suitable time, to view our progress on flood recovery and the pilot project, and further discuss our community's needs and priorities.

Yours sincerely,

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

Cr Robert Mustow  
**Mayor**

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



D23/90497  
MIN23-44

**Cr Robert Mustow**  
Mayor  
Richmond Valley Council  
Locked Bag 10  
Casino NSW 2470  
[Council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mayor *Robert*

Thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of the Richmond Valley Council in relation to Woodburn Village and the impacts of the Resilient Homes Program buyback scheme. Please also accept this response on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jihad Dib, and the CEO of the Reconstruction Authority, Mr Simon Draper.

I appreciate the Council's acknowledgement of the progress made with the relationship with the Reconstruction Authority, including the development of the pilot project to combine Place and Adaptation Planning principles for Richmond Valley communities.

I understand the Woodburn community's interest in exploring all possible alternatives to address the on-going flood risk and providing for long term sustainability. You may also be aware that the NSW Government recently allocated \$100 million for a *Community Restoration Flood Fund* (CRFF) to Northern Rivers Local Government Areas. This is additional support for social recovery and priority investment in disaster adaptation and is based on the advice of the Northern Rivers Community Leaders Forum.

I have also requested Simon Draper, CEO of NSW Reconstruction Authority, make sure the Northern Rivers Adaptation Division continues to engage with the Woodburn community to consider social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors across all reconstruction programs and initiatives.

Thank you for the invitation to visit the Richmond Valley. I look forward to doing so to review the progress of the flood recovery, the pilot project, and to better understand the challenges and opportunities facing the Woodburn community. I also encourage Council's continued engagement with the Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery and Member for Lismore, Ms Janelle Saffin MP.

Should you have any questions Kieron Hendicott, Executive Director, Northern Rivers Adaptation Division at the NSW Reconstruction Authority can be contacted at [kieron.hendicott@nrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kieron.hendicott@nrcc.nsw.gov.au).

Thank you for bringing this important issue to the NSW Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Scully".

**Paul Scully MP**  
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

CC: Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Jihad Dib MP  
Parliamentary Secretary Disaster Recovery, Ms Janelle Saffin MP  
CEO NSW Reconstruction Authority, Mr Simon Draper

*14/12/23*

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

02 7225 6080  
[nsw.gov.au/ministerscully](http://nsw.gov.au/ministerscully)

**20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Nil

**21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)**

## **22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

#### **22.1 Tender VP384760 - Woodburn Coraki Road - Thearles Canal Culvert Upgrade**

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 VP384759 - Dairy Flat Culvert Construction - Woodburn-Coraki Road**

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).

#### **22.3 Tender VP387562 - Albert Park Carpark Construction**

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.

#### **22.4 Tender VP378549 - Plant Hire Services**

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.

#### **22.5 Tender VP379059 - Trade Services**

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.

#### **22.6 Tender VP389461 Supply and Maintenance of Multi-function Print Devices**

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).

#### **22.7 Write Off Bad Debt: Hardship - D502789**

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

**22.8 Write Off Bad Debt: Hardship - P138240**

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

**22.9 Tender for Lease - Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange - Update**

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**