

Richmond
Valley
Council



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 16 July 2024

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.

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

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

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 25 JUNE 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25 June 2024.

REPORT

Refer attached Minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Ordinary Meeting minutes 25 June 2024 (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 16 JUNE 2024 - 8 JULY 2024****Author: Robert Mustow****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 16 June – 8 July 2024.

June

- 17th Northern Rivers Community Leaders Forum
- 18th Bunker Distillery visit
- 19th Rous Water Ordinary Council meeting
- 21st Westpac Charity Golf Day
- 22nd 41st Battalion Right of Entry Parade
- 25th Crawford Square funding announcement Richie Williamson MP
- 25th NBN Interview – Feature story Brenda Armfield
- 25th Regional Crime Roundtable with members of the Shadow Cabinet and Richie Williamson MP
- 25th Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
- 26th State Development Committee - Inquiry into ability of local government to fund infrastructure and services.
- 26th Reconstruction Authority - Future of Coraki Temporary Housing Village
- 26th Lions Changeover dinner
- 29th Cycling without Age – donation presentation by Casino Lions and Rotary
- 29th Casino Stars – Dance for Cancer
- 30th Casino Pony Club Gymkhana

July

- 3rd Wiangaree School Students Visit – talk on local government
- 4th St Mary's Primary School Casino - NAIDOC Week celebration
- 6th Save Broadwater School Launch and community dinner
- 8th NAIDOC Celebrations March and Fun Day Casino

ATTACHMENT(S)**Nil**

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT JULY 2024 - ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report – Rous County Council for July 2024.

REPORT

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

Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Sandra Humphrys have provided the following summary of the main items of business for the Rous County Council Ordinary Meeting held on 19 June 2024.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Rous County Council Ordinary Meeting Summary - 19 June 2024**

Rous Council Meeting 19 June 2024

Summary of main items of business



1. Final draft Operational Plan (incorporating the 2024/25 Budget and 'Revenue' policy)

Council adopted the Operational Plan (incorporating the 2024/25 Budget and 'Revenue' policy). No submissions were lodged by members of the public during the exhibition period.

2. 2024 Local Government NSW Annual Conference motion

Council received a recommendation from the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee to submit a motion for the 2024 Local Government NSW Annual Conference. The financial performance ratios introduced under the NSW Government's Fit for the Future program in 2014 were designed for general purpose councils but were applied universally to County Councils despite their different operational needs, particularly in managing long-lived water infrastructure and expanding water supply. It is proposed that different benchmarks should apply for County Councils.

Council resolved that the motion below be submitted for the 2024 Local Government NSW Annual Conference:-

'That Local Government NSW lobby the NSW Government to amend the Office of Local Government's protocols for the calculation of the Operating performance ratio and the Debt service ratio to include capital revenue from Section 64 contributions when assessing the financial performance of County Councils. The proposed change is not intended to include revenue from capital grants.'

3. Retail Water Bad Debt Write-off

Council approved the write-off of \$7,922.94 in water charges from Oats' account (10625-10000-2).

4. Woodburn Flood Recovery and Water Quality Improvement program – tender award

Rous's Woodburn Groundwater Treatment Plant Site has been approved for funding under the North Coast Water and Wastewater Repair and Recovery Program. Some assets were non-operational before the 2022 flood making them ineligible for funding. The program allows replacement of damaged infrastructure with a requirement for new assets to be flood resilient. The site includes chemical dosing assets crucial for maintaining water quality, necessitating their reactivation as part of Rous's Drinking Water Quality Management program, given its distance from the Nightcap Water Treatment Plant. To manage complexities, Rous aimed to self-fund additional works for a future Groundwater Treatment Plant alongside flood-funded repairs, agreed upon with NSW Public Works.

Rous awarded the contract for this work to Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd, valued at \$1,580,623.30 (including GST).

5. Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative

The Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative (NRWI) was initiated by Rous in 2019 to address community concerns about river health and interest in natural flood management techniques in the Northern Rivers region. It is a comprehensive program designed for the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) area, focusing on restoring ecosystem health, enhancing water security, and managing flood risks across the Tweed, Brunswick, Richmond, and Evans River systems.

Preliminary assessments indicated that implementing the necessary landscape-scale changes under the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative (NRWI) would require a budget of approximately \$150 million over 10 to 15 years. However, ahead of the 2023 NSW State election, Hon Janelle Saffin secured an initial funding commitment of \$5 million for the initiative. This funding is designated for four headline projects valued at \$5 million, based on a submitted proposal. A detailed project plan has been submitted to DRNSW (Department of Regional NSW), and it is expected that a funding agreement will be formalized with DRNSW early in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Council resolved to receive and note the proposed arrangements for Stage 1 implementation of the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative.

6. Mullumbimby connection to the Rous bulk water supply

Byron Shire Council is currently gathering community feedback on its Mullumbimby Water Supply Strategy. This includes a proposal to establish a permanent connection to the Rous bulk water supply to achieve enhanced water supply security in Mullumbimby.

Council resolved that:

1. Byron Shire Council will not be required to make capital connection contributions, should they request to permanently connect the Mullumbimby local water supply area to the Rous County Council bulk water supply.
2. Any requests to permanently connect to the Rous bulk water network will be reviewed on a case – by - case basis utilising the methodology within the report.

7. Policy review – Pensioner Concession policy, Retail Water customer Account Assistance policy

As part of the routine review and update of Policy, Council resolved to revoke the Pensioner Concession policy. The basis for this decision was that the details in the Policy are already catered for in legislation and other guidance materials developed by Rous.

Also reviewed recently was the Retail Water Customer Account Assistance policy. No changes are proposed to this policy however a 28 day period of public exhibition will be undertaken. More information is available on Rous' website.

8. Information reports

- i) Water production and consumption – May 2024

Council	May 2022 (kL)	May 2023 (kL)	May 2024 (kL)	% of Total Sales
Ballina Shire Council	284,140	305,501	285,144	39.08%
Byron Shire Council	171,100	216,971	160,762	22.03%
Lismore City Council	232,026	236,930	244,790	33.55%
Richmond Valley Council	39,627	48,881	39,031	5.35%
TOTAL MONTHLY CONSUMPTION BY CONSTITUENT COUNCILS	726,893	808,283	729,727	

ii) Investments

- The RBA cash rate is 4.37%. The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) is also 4.35%.
- Total funds invested is \$32,875,401 This includes term investments and cheque account balance.
- Weighted Average Return is 4.95%. This represents an increase of 18 basis point compared to the April 2024 result (4.54%) and is 60 basis points above Council's benchmark.
- Interest earned is \$145,990. Interest earned compared to the original budget is \$395,487 above the pro-rata budget.
- Cheque account balance is \$794,094.
- 'Weel' (credit card) account balance \$35,563.
- Ethical holdings is \$4,50,000 (13.69% of current holdings)

iii) Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – update

Council received and noted the minutes from the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting of 30 April 2024. The next meeting of the Committee is 22 July 2024.

iv) Councillor Ndiaye's Delegate Report: Myall Creek Massacre Commemoration Trip with Rous County Council

The journey to the Myall Creek Massacre commemoration was deeply impactful and enlightening, emphasising the critical need for reconciliation within Australian society. Councillor Ndiaye strongly encourage others to take part in such events and actively engage in dialogue with Indigenous communities. By recognising historical injustices, respecting Indigenous viewpoints, and striving for a fairer and more inclusive future, we can actively contribute to Australia's ongoing reconciliation process.

v) Councillor Ndiaye's Delegate Report: Rainforest Connections 2024 Conference

The Rainforest Connections 2024 conference served as a crucial platform for promoting dialogue, exchanging knowledge, and cultivating partnerships in the field of rainforest conservation. Key themes included species recovery programs, innovative environmental research, and effective weed management strategies. These discussions highlighted the diverse range of initiatives aimed at preserving and restoring rainforest ecosystems.

Councillor Ndiaye expressed thanks for the opportunity to have been part of this event and strongly encourage councillors and staff to attend future editions if they are scheduled.

9. Confidential Matters

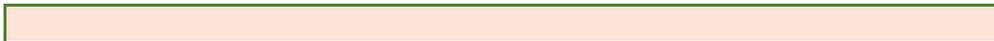
Workplace consolidation – property disposal

Consistent with Rous' business objective to consolidate workplaces, Council received a report regarding the disposal of property. It was agreed as follows:

1. Approve the sale methodology outlined in this report for the following properties:
 - (a) 131 Kyogle Street, South Lismore,
 - (b) 320 Wyrallah Road, Monaltrie, and
 - (c) 20 Conway Street, Lismore.
2. In relation to the sale of the above properties, for a period of 24 months from the date of this resolution:
 - (a) Authorise the General Manager to do and sign all things necessary to appoint a selling agent/s.
 - (b) Approve an annual advertising budget of \$15,000.
 - (c) Authorise the Chair and General Manager to sign the necessary documentation underseal to affect the sale/s in accordance with (1) above.
3. Endorse the exit strategy for 218-232 Molesworth Street and approve the make good budget identified in this report including the disposal of surplus furniture, fittings or chattels by the methods identified in this report.

Chairs Minute – Annual Performance Review – General Manager

Council received a report regarding the General Manager's annual performance review. The review was conducted on 15 May 2024 and resulted in a performance rating of 'More than Satisfactory'. Council unanimously supported an adjustment to the General Manager's total remuneration package.



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 WATER FOR LIFE STRATEGY 2050

General Manager: Vaughan Macdonald

Responsible Officer: Jenna Hazelwood

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past four years, Council has been exploring key directions for future water supply and sewerage management to ensure it can meet the needs of the Richmond Valley's growing community. The Richmond Valley Water for Life 2050 strategy brings these directions together to deliver more than \$200m in essential water and sewerage infrastructure over the next 25 years. This will include regionally significant projects, such as the \$65m replacement of the Casino Sewage Treatment Plant, which will support activation of the Regional Jobs Precinct and open the way for up to 1600 new homes in Casino. The strategy also secures the long-term needs of the Mid-Richmond communities, with completion of Stage 2 of the Evans Head STP and development of Rous County Council's groundwater project. The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition for 28 days and four written submissions were received. As a result of the feedback, a number of amendments are proposed to provide further clarification. The revised strategy is now presented for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the outcomes of the public exhibition of the draft Richmond Valley Water for Life Strategy 2050 and the subsequent amendments to the draft plan in response to public feedback.
2. Adopts the revised Richmond Valley Water for Life Strategy 2050, as presented.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 8: Maintain healthy rivers, beaches and waterways

8A Deliver a long-term sustainable water supply for the Richmond Valley

8A1 Secure Casino's water supply

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The strategy includes capital investment of more than \$200m over a 25-year period, with some \$100m in works planned for 2025-29. This includes Council's three signature projects for water and sewer: Replacement of the Casino Sewage Treatment Plant (STP); completion of Stage 2 of Evans Head STP and Casino water security and Water Treatment Plant upgrade works. Part funding for the Evans Head STP and Casino water projects has been received from the NSW Government's Safe and Secure Water Program, with the remaining funds to be sourced from Council reserves. Replacement of the Casino STP is not yet fully funded, with Council including borrowings of \$20m in its Long-Term Financial Plan for this project and continuing to pursue options for Federal and State Government assistance. Other proposed works within the strategy will be funded through a combination of developer contributions, water and sewer charges and government grants.

REPORT

The Richmond Valley Water for Life 2050 strategy sets a path to deliver the essential water and sewerage infrastructure that the community will need over the next 25 years. This includes responding to accelerated growth through activation of the Regional Jobs Precinct, increased housing development on flood-safe land and emerging tourism opportunities.

The strategy will see more than \$200m invested in capital works, supported by water/sewer network improvements, environmental protection and community education programs. More than half of the planned capital expenditure will be required in the next five years as Council rolls out major projects such as the Casino STP replacement, Evans Head STP Stage 2, Casino Water Treatment Plant upgrade and water security works, as well as the Rappville Sewerage Scheme.

The strategy considers current challenges and opportunities in meeting the community's future water and sewerage needs and identifies key objectives, strategies and actions to help address these challenges and effectively manage risks. The strategy is designed to connect with Council's IP&R framework, so that key directions and projects can be included in each new Council's Delivery Program over the coming years.

The strategy's 12 objectives include:

- Securing our town water supplies
- Improving water supply networks
- Promoting responsible water usage
- Upgrading water treatment systems
- Ensuring our water is always safe to drink
- Protecting the water catchment
- Upgrading sewage treatment systems
- Improving sewerage networks
- Protecting the environment
- Managing resources responsibly
- Delivering value for money services, and
- Working effectively with water management partners

The Casino water and sewerage works included in the strategy will support activation of the Regional Jobs Precinct, creating 1900 additional jobs for the community, as well as enabling major housing development at South Fairy Hill, with up to 1600 new homes in Stage One. These works will help to secure the town's long-term water supply, provide consistent high quality drinking water and improve the environmental performance of Casino's sewerage network.

Completion of Stage 2 of the Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant will provide sufficient capacity for the three Mid-Richmond communities it serves, as well as catering for increased tourism for the next 25 years and improving the environmental performance of the plant. Improved long-term water security for Evans Head, Broadwater and Woodburn is also being addressed through Rous County Council's current development of the Mid Richmond Groundwater Project, providing a reliable second source for dry periods, and additional water treatment. Improvements are also planned for Coraki's water and sewerage network, including an upgrade of the sewage treatment plant and replacement of the existing water reservoirs.

The strategy's scope extends for 25 years, as it is important to provide sufficient lead-time for major water and sewer assets, which can take up to 10 years to design, construct and commission. These assets can remain in service for up to 100 years, so detailed planning is required. The strategy takes an adaptive planning approach, recognising that Council will need to keep reviewing its water and sewer plans on a regular basis to respond to changes and opportunities that arise over the next 25 years. The next review is scheduled for 2028.

CONSULTATION

The draft strategy document was placed on public exhibition for 28 days, from 23 May to 19 June 2024, with four written submissions being received. This included three submissions from individuals and one submission from the Water Northern Rivers Alliance. While the submissions supported many of the key directions in the strategy, a number of suggested amendments were proposed. Key issues highlighted in the submissions included:

- Calls to give greater emphasis to demand management strategies, such as water efficiency and leak reduction.
- Concerns that a future Casino connection to the Rous system may source water from the proposed Dunoon Dam.
- Calls to explore other rainfall independent water sources, such as desalination and indirect potable reuse.
- Concern that the option of sourcing Casino's water from Toonumbar Dam (identified in the Regional Water Strategy) was not included in the draft strategy.
- Calls to include more specific reference to indigenous water rights, knowledge and opportunities.

Copies of the submissions have been provided to all Councillors for information, and it is proposed to address the issues raised via the following amendments.

Demand management strategies

Objective 3 of the strategy focuses on promoting responsible water usage for residential and commercial customers, to reduce the demand on local water supplies. Objective 2 of the strategy focuses on improving the efficiency of our water supply networks, which includes managing issues such as leak reduction. Although water saving strategies, such as rainwater tanks and water efficient appliances can help to reduce demand, Council's water security studies have shown that these measures will not be sufficient in times of extended drought and both RVC and Rous will need to invest in new infrastructure to ensure long-term water security for the Richmond Valley. Accordingly, securing town water supplies remains a high priority in the strategy. However, Council will continue to work with its major water users to help reduce their consumption and limit the impacts on the town water supply. It is proposed to include a minor amendment to Objective 2 in the strategy to clarify that the medium-term action of implementing water network performance standards and design improvements includes leak reduction programs.

Future Casino connection to Rous

The strategy includes a long-term option to consider connecting Casino to the Rous network. This would provide Casino's growing population with the security of a second water supply source. The strategy notes that this would depend upon Rous' capacity to source sufficient water for the Casino supply, through the implementation of its Future Water Strategy options. The submissions raised concerns that this could include sourcing water from a future dam at Dunoon. Council's current policy position includes an 'all options on the table' approach to future supply, including the proposed Dunoon Dam. It is a matter for Rous County Council to determine whether this project should proceed, in consultation with the community. It should be noted that RVC is already connected to the Rous system, serving the Mid Richmond communities and this supply will also rely on implementation of the Future Water Strategy. A minor amendment is proposed to the plan to make it clear that any future Casino connection to Rous could be supplied from a variety of sources, including surface water (dams) desalination or groundwater.

Rainfall independent water sources

The Casino water supply has limited options for rainfall independent sources, such as desalination, given its distance from the coast. However, options such as indirect potable reuse may become more viable in the future. Indirect potable reuse has not been specifically included in the current iteration of the water strategy as Council's largest sewage treatment plant at Casino is nearing the end of its asset life and is currently unable to treat water to an appropriate standard for this purpose. However, once the replacement Casino STP is completed, further options for potable

reuse could be explored. Other water reuse options for the new STP include irrigation of agricultural enterprises, or reuse for industrial purposes. It is proposed to develop these concepts further for the 2028 review of the strategy. The option of connecting the Casino supply to the Rous network also offers more opportunities for accessing rainfall independent water sources, such as desalination.

Toonumbar Dam source

The Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy includes an action to further explore the option of accessing additional water for Casino from the Toonumbar Dam, 55 km north west of the town. The dam is currently owned and operated by Water NSW and serves local irrigators. Submissions expressed concern that this option was not included in the draft strategy. As part of its water security investigations, Council explored two short-medium term water security options for Casino: Accessing more of the Jabour Weirpool storage area through deep extraction and accessing water from Toonumbar Dam. The Toonumbar Dam investigations revealed a number of constraints including:

- The comparatively small catchment serving the dam (98 km² as opposed to 1790 km² for the Richmond River catchment) limiting its drought resilience. The Regional Water Strategy estimates that climate change impacts would see a future reduction in flow to the dam of up to 18%.
- Potential impacts on irrigators. The dam's extraction capacity is currently fully allocated. Although farmers generally don't use their full allocation in a wet season, they rely on this water source during drought. Adding extraction for a priority town water supply could reduce water availability for irrigators.
- The complexity of governance arrangements to implement this option. The regulated section of the Richmond River would need to be extended to include Casino, involving consultation with four NSW Government regulators and potential transfer of the Jabour weir to Water NSW
- The significant distance between the dam and the Casino intake (with water releases travelling down Iron Pot Creek and into the Richmond River) creates a high risk of water loss through evaporation or diversion.

Having considered these constraints, Council concluded that, while the Toonumbar Dam option remains on the table as part of the Regional Water Strategy investigation work, the Jabour weirpool deep extraction project is Council's preferred short-medium term solution for improved water security. It is proposed to amend Option 1 of the strategy to provide a brief explanation as to why the Toonumbar option is not Council's preferred strategy.

Indigenous water knowledge

The draft water strategy includes further consultation and participation for all members of the Richmond Valley community. However, submissions expressed concern that the strategy did not specifically reference indigenous water rights, knowledge or opportunities. It is proposed to further clarify this issue by:

- Including an additional action in Objective 12: *Explore opportunities to work with traditional custodians to share water management knowledge.*
- Amending the community consultation section of Objective 12, to specifically reference consultation with traditional custodians, exploring opportunities through the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy engagement framework and Rous Water's partnership model.

CONCLUSION

Council's draft Water for Life 2050 strategy builds on the foundation work undertaken in the 2021-24 Council term to plan for long-term growth and investment in the Richmond Valley. It sets a pathway to deliver more than \$200m in essential water and sewerage infrastructure over the next 25 years, while also improving environmental performance and efficiency of operations. The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition for 28 days, with four submissions being received. A number of amendments are proposed to the final draft in response to the feedback, as outlined in the report. The revised strategy is now presented for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

14.2 INFRASTRUCTURE RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Author: Vaughan Macdonald

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The natural disaster flood events of March 2022 caused damage to approximately 75% of the Richmond Valley's 1065km road network. Following the event, under the Federal and NSW Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, emergency and immediate reconstruction works were undertaken to restore road access for the community at a cost of \$15.36 million.

Council has now submitted all Essential Public Asset Restoration claims to Transport for NSW which were due by 30 June 2024 and continues to liaise with them to secure approvals which are required prior to the commencement of work.

It is anticipated that Council's initial estimate of \$100 million worth of damage to the Richmond Valley road network (see Richmond Valley Flood 2022 – Response [Richmond Valley Flood 2022](#)) will be very close to the final result by the time all road network related works are completed, which is expected to take until 30 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the status of the work that has been completed to date and that the estimated cost to restore the road network to its pre-2022 Flood events condition will be close to the initially estimated \$100 million;
2. Notes that works are progressing well with a series of significant tenders being approved in recent months with more to be resolved at this Council meeting and an Extraordinary meeting planned for 6 August 2024;
3. Writes to the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Transport for NSW to thank them for their ongoing support and funding approvals which will enable the Richmond Valley community to recover from the impacts of the 2022 natural disaster events.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 1: Rebuild and reconnect our communities

1B Complete repairs to flood-damaged roads and assets

1B1 Deliver Disaster Recovery roadworks and water/sewer repairs

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Disaster recovery works are added to our annual capital and operating budgets as they are approved and received. The Tri-partite agreement between the Reconstruction Authority, Transport for NSW and Council, has enabled upfront payments to be made to Council to provide sufficient cash flow in advance to fund works on the ground.

REPORT

Funding is provided to Council for expenses incurred to complete works considered urgent, and essential to support immediate recovery of a community. The table below provides the expenditure for the initial recovery works on the road network.

	Emergency (EW)	Works	Immediate Works (IRW)	Reconstruction
Local Roads	\$ 5,668,077		\$ 8,180,420	
Urban Roads	\$ 185,972		\$ 40,748	
Regional Roads	\$ 819,851		\$ 123,681	
Crown Roads	\$ 83,693		\$ 258,344	
Total Spent	\$ 6,757,592		\$ 8,603,192	

The natural disaster restoration program transitioned to the essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR) phase commencing 1 April 2023. This process involves activities to fully reconstruct an essential public asset to pre-disaster capacity and condition. This requires Council to submit detailed estimated reconstruction costs for approval prior to the commencement of any physical works.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) appointed industry consulting firm Indras in August 2023 to assess and evaluate existing disaster management processes performed by Council and to embed new processes to be followed for all future disaster events. This was a pilot program that is now being implemented at other Northern Rivers Councils.

Managed under the Asset Systems and Planning team at Council, the pilot program has dedicated a team of seven staff, to work on a range of duties ensuring all repairs from natural disaster impacts are claimed. Administration processes are now in place that can be activated for all future events which help ensure the funding claimed is approved and we receive the best outcome for the Richmond Valley community.

Key Dates and Timelines relating to Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA):

- Emergency Works were extended from 30 September 2022 to 31 December 2022.
- Infrastructure Reconstruction Works expired on 31 December 2022.
- All IRW's were converted to EPARs by mid November 2023.
- The deadline for submission of EPARs has been extended from 31 December 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Council met the 30 June 2024 deadline to have all EPAR claims submitted with TfNSW.

Funds spent to date

The table below identifies funds spent to date (as of 30 June 2024) on the reconstruction effort:

Emergency Works (EW)	Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW)	Essential Public Asset Restoration (EPAR)	TOTAL
\$ 6,757,592	\$ 8,603,192	\$ 10,625,850	\$ 25,986,634

Transport for NSW Applications and Claims

Application Status	EPAR Projects
Total Claims Submitted	90
Number of claims in preparation phase	NIL
Number claims under assessment by TfNSW	40
Number of assessed claims under review by Council	10
Approved claims by TfNSW	40
Approved total value to date	\$ 30,675,600

The Infrastructure Recovery team is working on reviewing initial assessments made by TfNSW of our submitted claims and negotiating to achieve the best value outcome for Council. The team is also meeting regularly with TfNSW to ensure the remaining claims are being assessed expediently. These approvals are critical to the overall reconstruction effort to ensure there is sufficient time for project planning and design and to ensure there is a pipeline of works for Council to proceed with. It is anticipated, the total value of the final DRFA approvals to restore our road network will be approximately \$90 million made up of EW, IRW, EPAR's and Betterment funding.

Approved Projects Scheduling:

Project	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naughtons Gap Road 	Claim approved, tender finalised, preferred contractor appointed, and works have commenced. Project due for completion December 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bentley Road Landslip, 	Scope of works is approved, Tender submission process complete. Report being presented to Council July 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Cherry Tree Road Landslip • Upper Mongogarie Road Landslip • MR 145 Road Landslip 	Scope of works is approved, Tender submission process complete. Reports presented to Council June 2024. Project start up meetings programmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR145 Shoulder Repair, • James Lane, Rappville • Pickapene Slip, • Ocean Street, Evans Head Footpath • Ainsworth Road • Oak Lane, Casino 	Projects completed, pending project closure for whole of life costings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Grove Road • Manifold Road • Bentley Road • Rappville Road 	Claims approved, pavement works component completed; drainage works to be programmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hare Street, Casino 	Works commenced in June, due for completion in

Project	Details
	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sextonville Road • McDonalds Bridge Road 	Claims approved, pavement works to commence July/August 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Grove Road land slip • Mongogarie Road • Marks Lane Causeway • Old Tenterfield Road Causeway • Myall Creek Road Embankment • Woodburn Town Streets • Evans Head Town Streets • Coraki Town Streets 	Claims approved; planning and programming delivery of works

Council is continually programming works and procuring contracts to enable the efficient delivery of all projects within the resources it has available. Opportunities to use local contractors and suppliers are being maximised while also attracting specialist contractors to the region to complete works where the capacity is not available locally. It is anticipated that delivery of all EPAR projects will continue across our road network through until June 2026.

Council is also identifying opportunities to achieve efficiencies and improve the resilience of the road network by incorporating capital program, grant funding, and EPAR works delivery where possible. The delivery of works will be completed using approved qualified suitable contractors along with Council's internal roads and drainage teams where they have available capacity outside of Council's regular road maintenance and reconstruction programs.

CONSULTATION

Council is a member of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Steering Committee and works closely with the Reconstruction Authority, its Infrastructure Coordination Office and Transport for NSW to administer approvals in line with the DRFA requirements.

CONCLUSION

Following the 2022 Floods events, Council estimated that the damage bill to fully restore the road network would be \$100 million. The assessments that have now been completed, the approvals that are in place and the applications submitted, indicate that total works to restore the our road network in its entirety will reach \$100 million by the time all projects are completed including the Naughtons Gap landslip, Bentley rockfall, Tatham Bridges replacement, the Dairy Flat and Thearles Canal culverts, along with the upgrade of the Broadwater Bridge are included.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

15.1 MID-RICHMOND PLACE PLANS - POST EXHIBITION

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Tony McAteer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has been working with the Mid Richmond communities of Coraki, Woodburn, Evans Head, Broadwater and Rileys Hill over the past eight months to prepare combined Place and Adaptation Plans for each village. The project, supported by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, explored opportunities to build a more resilient future for these communities in the wake of the 2022 floods. Council endorsed exhibition of the draft Mid Richmond Place Plans at its May ordinary meeting and the draft plans were placed on public display from 24 May 2024 to 23 June 2024, supported by a number of Community Information Sessions at Coraki, Woodburn, Broadwater, and Evans Head.

Twenty written submissions were received in response to the exhibition and a number of amendments are proposed to the draft plans in response to the feedback. An engagement report has been prepared by Council's consultancy team, which includes an overview of all community engagement undertaken throughout the project, as well as comments and recommended changes to the plans in response to the written submissions.

The revised Mid Richmond Place Plans are now presented to Council for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the community consultation process for the draft Mid Richmond Place Plans and the detailed feedback received in response to the public exhibition;
2. Acknowledges the support of the NSW Reconstruction Authority in the Place Plan development process, which includes Disaster Adaption Planning options for the future of these communities;
3. Adopts the Coraki Place Plan; and
4. Adopts the Mid Richmond Place Plan (including the communities of Woodburn, Broadwater, Rileys Hill and Evans Head).

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 1: Rebuild and reconnect our communities

1A Revitalise flood-affected towns and villages

1A2 Prepare long-term plans for Mid-Richmond villages

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Actions from the Place Plans will be incorporated in future iterations of the Community Strategic Plan, Local Strategic Planning Statement, and Council's Delivery Program with projects to be funded from budget allocations, development contributions and grants.

REPORT

Consultancy firm Place Design Group, in partnership with Meridian Urban, commenced preparation of the Mid Richmond Place Plans in November 2023. Through a range of initial engagement exercises, working with Council and the Reconstruction Authority, five Place Plan Principles were developed to guide the future direction of the plans. The five principles establish a framework to develop strategies and implementation actions, addressing the opportunities and challenges identified for each settlement. They include:

- **Shaping our village’s future** – Valuing the unique identity of each place, including people, culture, physical assets and the environment, and embracing opportunities to strengthen communities and the local economy in a well-considered and sustainable way.
- **Living with the landscape** – Protecting the region’s natural qualities, anticipating and preparing towns and villages for more natural hazard events in the future, and living sustainably and protecting the environment.
- **Revitalising our local economy** – Strengthening economic ties between the Mid Richmond communities to support a prosperous regional economy. Ensuring everyone has access to the goods and services they need through a connected network of regional centres. Recognising the importance of tourism in strengthening the local economy.
- **Enhancing village places and spaces** – Balancing well-considered growth and investment in infrastructure with the risks of living in a changing climate. Supporting place-driven design for the built environment and public spaces which reflects local identity, meets community needs and provides economic benefits.
- **Supporting our community and lifestyles** – Creating great places to live, encouraging community connection and wellbeing. Encouraging ‘risk-smart’ living in the river towns and villages, to build resilience and support continued flood recovery. Strengthening cultural understanding and reflecting Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives in planning and design.

The project also piloted a combined approach to place planning and adaptation planning, which considered the potential impacts of natural hazards and explored ways to ensure the long-term sustainability and safety of these communities.

The **resilience and adaptation pathways** approach has been applied to each settlement under the Mid Richmond Place Plans to inform decision-making and support a more resilient settlement pattern and built form over time. This pathways approach has been adapted from the CSIRO’s resilience planning tool, known as the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA), to provide simple pathways for action in uncertain decision-making contexts – like flood recovery or climate adaptation.



Figure 1 – Resilience and adaptation pathways from the CSIRO RAPTA process

The pathways are referred to as resilience and adaptation pathways which Maintain, Modify or Transform a situation dependent on risk levels, local values, rules, and suitability (see Figure 1). Some are simpler solutions in accordance with the ‘Maintain’ pathway – which supports reinvesting in existing urban areas where this is compatible with the risk but building back better to properly reflect that level of risk.

Others are more complex – such as following a ‘Transform’ pathway, where new, sustainable development can be provided in new locations over the longer term beyond the floodplain extent, bushfire or coastal hazard risk areas, and areas of environmental value. Based on this model, and following consultation with the community, an implementation plan, identifying what the community, Council and other levels of government could do to improve future resilience in the short, medium and longer term, has been included in each plan.

In developing long-term adaptation strategies for the Mid Richmond, the project faced a number of challenges, as many of the key State and regional elements of disaster adaptation are yet to be finalised. Key inputs such as the Regional Disaster Adaptation Plan (RDAP) and the CSIRO flood study are still under development and there are ongoing uncertainties with a number of flood recovery initiatives, such as the resilient homes program and future management of buy-back lands. Council’s new Floodplain Risk Management plan is about to commence. Despite these unknown elements, the Plans seek to establish a strong foundation for future adaptation and economic renewal and, as new policies, programs and plans become available, the place plans can be updated to reflect these new directions, in consultation with the community.

CONSULTATION

Place Design Group and Meridian Urban conducted an integrated program of targeted consultation with stakeholders to support development of the plans. This included an on-line survey and ideas board as well as wishing trees, trader door knocks, stalls at community pop-up events, workshops, workshops with members of the Aboriginal community, as well as meetings, workshops & interviews with Council, State agencies and business operators. Figure 2 shows the timeline of engagement activities completed.

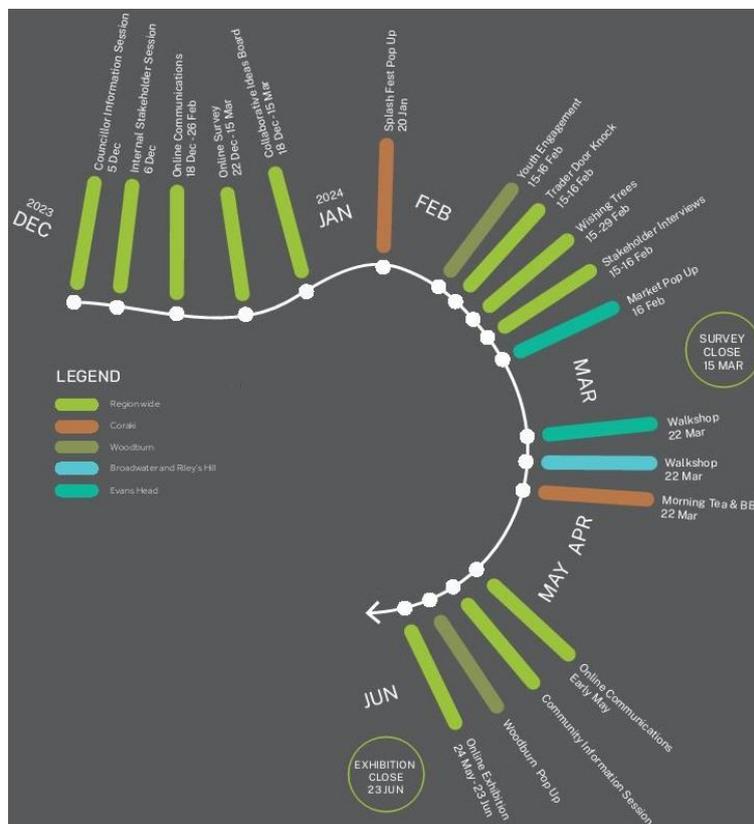


Figure 2 – Place Plan engagement timeline

Engagement Report

Attached to this report is an Engagement Report prepared by the consultant team which outlines the range of engagement activities undertaken and summarises the results.

Highlights of the engagement process include:

On-line Survey—Received 81 responses with good representation from across the Mid Richmond and inclusive of visitors to the region.

Examples of key responses are shown below:

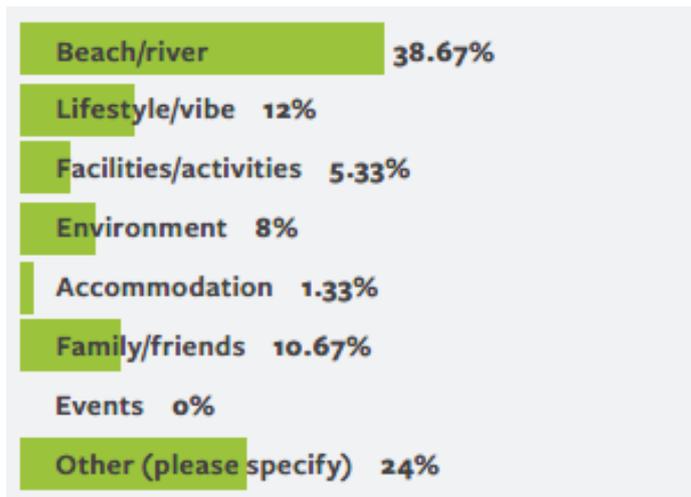
What things make you town/village unique and a great place to live/visit?



What most concerns you about your town/village at the moment?



What do you think attracts tourists and visitors to your town/village?



Ideas Board—40 ideas were generated through the board with 186 ‘likes’ in support of those ideas. The most popular ideas included improving community access to rivers, including a riverfront park in Broadwater; upgrading street lighting, particularly in Coraki; developing new bike and walking tracks, and improving mobility access in Coraki, particularly between Health One and the Mid Richmond Aged Care facility.

Public exhibition

Council endorsed the Draft Place Plans for public exhibition at its May Ordinary Meeting. The draft plans were exhibited from Friday, 24 May 2024 to Sunday, 23 June 2024 in accordance with the Richmond Valley Council Community Participation Plan, with the following engagement methods employed-

- Published electronic notices –
 - Website—Public Notice detailing the exhibition and how to make a submission, including a digital copy of the draft plans, was published on Council’s “On Exhibition” as well as on a dedicated “Mid Richmond Place Plans” page.
 - Social Media—posts were made on Richmond Valley Council’s Facebook page throughout the exhibition to promote the exhibition, along with venues, dates and times for Community Information Sessions.
 - Newsletter—An article was published within Council’s “Valley Views” Community Newsletter (delivered to all LGA letterboxes).
 - E Newsletter—Articles were published within the “Community Connections” electronic newsletter.
- Printed notices were displayed at each of –
 - Council’s Casino & Evans Head Customer Service Centres,
 - the Casino, Evans Head & Coraki Libraries, and
 - onboard the Richmond-Upper Clarence Mobile Library.

These notices were accompanied by printed copies of the Draft Place Plans

- Community drop-in Information Sessions were conducted at–
 - Woodburn Riverside Park—Tuesday 11 June 2024 from 9am to 3pm – this included a key stakeholders workshop similar to that previously held in other towns and villages,
 - Coraki Youth Hall—Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 9am to 12 noon,
 - Broadwater Tennis Club—Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 9am to 12 noon, and
 - Evans Head Library meeting room—Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 1pm to 4pm.

Each of the Community Information Sessions was attended by representatives from Place Design Group, Meridian Urban and Council officers.

There were 20 written submissions received during the exhibition period. This included feedback from individuals, local community groups and businesses, including the Woodburn Chamber of Commerce and the Coraki Golf Club. The submissions were generally supportive of the draft place plans, providing detailed feedback on identified actions or proposing new ideas. Some matters raised were outside the scope of the plans and, where appropriate, these have been referred to Council's asset maintenance teams. Some submissions addressed land use planning issues, or future development proposals for specific sites. These matters have been considered in finalising the draft documents. A detailed summary of submissions is included within the attached Engagement Report.

Following the feedback, a number of amendments have been made to the draft documents to correct mis-labelling and other minor errors. More substantial amendments include:

- Evans Head – Part B
 - Environmental constraints to future development - clarifying that existing urban areas will be subject to appropriate site and environmental constraints assessment.
 - Extending the enhanced walking and cycling connections along the Evans River foreshore.
 - Adding an action to advocate to NPWS to improve visitor facilities and access
- Broadwater / Rileys Hill – Part B
 - Removing actions relating to a 4WD beach access
 - Adding actions relating to provision of infrastructure to access the river (jetties, boat ramps); and advocate to the NPWS to improve visitor facilities and access
- Woodburn – Part B
 - Including a new action to investigate with the Department of Education the potential use of the Woodburn General School as a local community place of refuge
 - Including a reference to rural residential growth areas at Swan Bay providing positive growth for the Woodburn community

The most substantial change to the draft documents, in response to community feedback, is to include specific implementation plans at the end of each of the documents for both the disaster adaptation and place planning actions. The disaster adaptation implementation plans identify what members of the community, Council and other levels of government can do to improve resilience in the future. This includes implementing many of the actions and programs proposed in the NSW Disaster Mitigation Plan. The Place Plan implementation plans identify responsibilities and recommended timeframes for key actions.

NEXT STEPS

The Mid Richmond Place Plans are part of Council’s strategic planning framework which informs long-term planning for towns and villages within the Richmond Valley. The plans address a 20-year planning horizon and will support continued flood recovery by identifying key priorities for future growth, economic development, and signature projects.



Figure 3 - Richmond Valley Council planning policy framework

The implementation plans included within the documents will help to inform future iterations of the Richmond Valley Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program. They will also guide amendments to the Richmond Valley Council Local Strategic Planning Statement, which will be delivered in 2025.

Some of the higher-level strategic actions will require additional bodies of work and community engagement to complete master planning for sub-precincts of towns and villages; develop more detailed place design; identify improvements to infrastructure and service delivery; and potential amendments to the LEP and DCP. Actions to support this additional work will be included in the Delivery Program, as appropriate.

CONCLUSION

The Place Plan project has provided members of the Mid Richmond communities with the opportunity to design the future of their towns and villages and address the ongoing challenge of living in a changing climate. While there are still many unknowns regarding future government policy and programs, the plans provide a strong foundation for continued adaptation and economic renewal for these communities in the wake of the 2022 flood. As more key elements are completed, such as the CSIRO flood study, the Regional Disaster Adaptation Plan and Council’s new Floodplain Risk Management Plan, the plans will be updated to reflect new opportunities and directions.

The exhibition process has attracted strong community feedback, with many well-considered submissions and responses. As a result, a number of amendments have been made to the draft documents in response to community feedback. The revised Place Plans are now presented for Council’s consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Engagement report (under separate cover)

15.2 WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS UPDATE

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: David Timms

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's 2023-2025 Delivery Program included a commitment to commence the planning and design works for a new sewage treatment plant (STP) at Casino and to seek further funding for the construction phase. The Casino STP has reached the end of its design life and suffered further damage in the 2022 floods. It currently struggles to treat effluent effectively for its design loading of 12,000 equivalent persons (EP). With Casino's population expected to reach 16,700 by 2041, replacing and expanding the sewage treatment plant is a high priority. The new facility, estimated to cost up to \$65 million, will allow full activation of the Regional Jobs Precinct and open the way for up to 2000 additional family homes in Casino and improve environmental performance.

To support further planning, design and development work on the project, Council is pursuing a \$5 million funding opportunity under the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (RPPP). Initial advice was that projects would be announced by July 2024 however recent advice is that the next round of successful projects will not be announced until December 2024.

To continue the planning, design and development of this critical infrastructure project, it is recommended that Council continues to use approved budget allocations from its Sewer Fund Reserve, while also continuing to pursue all available funding opportunities. Our aim is to have the project 'shovel ready' by the end of 2025, which will also place the project at an advantage when seeking funding support.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the progress on planning and design work for the new Casino Sewage Treatment Plant and the Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant Stage 2.
2. Approves the continuation of the planning, design and development works associated with the replacement of the Casino STP being funded from existing budget allocations for 2024/25 using Council's Sewer Fund reserves.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

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

2E Deliver regionally significant projects

2E3 Upgrade regionally significant infrastructure

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Sewer Fund has a current balance (1 July 2024) of \$11,055,390 with a projected balance as at 30 June 2025 of \$8,499,439. Current 2024/25 budget allocations for the planning, design and development work for the Casino STP have been funded from Council's Sewer Fund.

REPORT

In February 2024, Council passed a resolution (200224/9) approving ‘...the budget transfer of \$1,100,000 from the Sewer Fund to the Sewer Operational Budget to continue funding the planning, design and development works associated with the replacement of the Casino STP and enabling infrastructure for the Regional Jobs Precinct and future housing development.’ The unspent portion of the budget transfer as at 30 June 2024 has been requested to be carried over to the 2024/25 financial year.

In June 2024, Council passed a resolution (250624/13) adopting the Operational Plan 2024/25 (including Financial Estimates 2024/2028) and as part of this the Capital Works budget for Sewerage Services indicated an allocation of \$3,600,000 for the Casino STP to continue funding the planning, design and development works.

The February 2024 report also noted, ‘In the event that Council is not successful with the Stream One RPPP application it is proposed to pause the project until such time as a report is presented to Council outlining options on how the planning, design and development work can continue to be funded.’

On 16 May 2024, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government announced the first batch of forty successful projects with a total project value of \$207 million. None of these projects were in New South Wales. The Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program website currently states that, ‘Assessment of further applications is underway in line with the process detailed within the published Guidelines.’ The published Guidelines indicate that there are two rounds of assessment and notifications each calendar year, one in the March to June period and another in the September to December period. If successful with its application, Council is unlikely to be notified until December 2024, meaning the funding may not be accessible until early 2025 after allowing for deed preparation and execution.

Until outcomes are announced later this year, it is recommended that Council continue to fund the planning, design and development of the Casino STP from current budget allocations while also maximising efforts to seek appropriate funding or grants to assist with any of the deliverables associated with the project. Recent funding programs related to support housing supply growth have been announced, which Council is investigating our ability to meet the funding criteria. In doing this, Council is not committing to any additional expenditure beyond what has already been approved, but rather it is spending its contribution to the project to ensure that it reaches a ‘shovel ready’ state and is best positioned to obtain funding for the construction phase. It should be noted that Council’s long term financial plan includes a commitment to borrow \$20 million as Council’s contribution to the project.

Casino Sewage Treatment Plant renewal

The development phase for delivery of a new Casino Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is progressing well. Since the last report on the project to Council in February 2024, the following has been achieved and/or been actioned under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee which meets monthly.

- Project Steering Committee meetings held monthly
- Environment and Planning Approval Roadmap finalised
- Project Management Plans finalised
- Preparation and submission of the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Grant for \$5 million (STP and enabling infrastructure shovel ready design funding)
- Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Strategy and Plan completed
- Workshop with Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water, Environment Protection Authority and NSW Health
- Scope Definition and Site Options Assessment documentation completed

- Detailed review of trade waste, leachate, domestic and industrial loadings on the current STP completed
- Preliminary Environmental Assessment completed and report issued
- Casino STP Flood Planning Level Discussion Paper drafted and distributed
- Request for Tender – Casino Sewage Treatment Plant issued 21 June

Expenditure to 24 June 2024 was \$386,788.67 with additional committed expenditure of \$243,406.36.

The activities to be completed in this financial year, that will be funded by Council's contribution as outlined in this report include:

- Funding of Council's project management consultants
- Complete STP concept design
- Detailed project estimate by a quantity surveyor
- Update all project plans based on the concept design
- Undertake full site geotechnical investigation
- Undertake full on ground site survey
- Complete and lodge the Housing Support Program grant application (enabling infrastructure)
- Prepare the Review of Environmental Factors (REF)
- Complete the STP detailed design
- Continue to brief and liaise with Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water to secure Section 60 (Local Government Act) endorsement and approval
- Development of procurement and contract documentation for the construction phase of the project

Reports on progress and expenditure will be provided to Council on a quarterly basis, reflecting the fact the Casino STP project is catalyst infrastructure and a high priority for Council to deliver for the future growth of Casino and the region.

Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant Stage 2 Upgrade

Work is continuing on the planning, design and development of the Stage 2 upgrade of the Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant.

The concept design has been completed by NSW Public Works and the Concept Design Report was provided to Council in April 2024. The drafting of tender documentation for the detailed design has taken place and a Request for Tender for the detailed design was issued on 28 June. Tender submissions close on 19 July 2024. The detailed design is to be completed this year to enable a tender for construction to go to the market in the first quarter of 2025.

Council has secured agreement for fifty-percent of the project to be funded by the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water under the NSW Government's Safe and Secure program with the balance to be Council funded.

CONSULTATION

The Casino STP renewal and the Evans Head STP Stage 2 projects are included in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan, which have been through multiple public exhibition processes that indicate the community is supportive of the need for these projects.

The Richmond Valley Water for Life Strategy 2050 also includes these projects and has recently been subject of a public exhibition.

CONCLUSION

Work on the planning, design and development of the Casino STP replacement and enabling infrastructure is well underway and currently moving into the concept design phase. With uncertainty around the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program grant, it is recommended that Council continue to fund the works from existing budget allocations and that reports be provided to Council on progress every three months.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15.3 OVERHEIGHT SHOP TOP HOUSING AT 17 MCDONALD PLACE, EVANS HEAD**Director:** Angela Jones**Responsible Officer:** Tony McAteer**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has received a development application seeking consent for a proposed shop top housing development at 17 McDonald Place, Evans Head. The development involves construction of a three storey building comprising ground floor commercial space, awning and carparking with ten residential units located on the upper two levels and a roof top terrace. The development is inclusive of demolition of all existing buildings and vegetation, kerbside dining on the McDonald Street frontage and Strata Subdivision.

The proposal seeks a variation to the 9.5 metre height of building development standard identified for the land under clause 4.3 of the Richmond Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP).

The development has a proposed maximum building height of 12.0 metres, exceeding the development standard by 2.5 metres, or 29.16%. As the variation to the building height standard is greater than 10%, it must be referred to Council for determination.

The proposed development site is visually prominent in Evans Head and unique, in that it does not immediately adjoin any existing buildings and interfaces with both commercial and residential land uses. Overall, the building complies with the 9.5m building height with the non-conforming elements being limited to the rooftop lift/stair enclosure, services enclosure, glass balustrade and rooftop landscape features.

Council has obtained expert Architectural advice in relation to the proposal which supports the building height variation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves a variation to the maximum building height, pursuant to Clause 4.6 of *Richmond Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012*, to permit part of the development to be up to 12 metres in height.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 6: Provide infrastructure that meets community needs

6A Undertake whole-of life planning for community infrastructure

6A1 Develop and maintain asset management systems

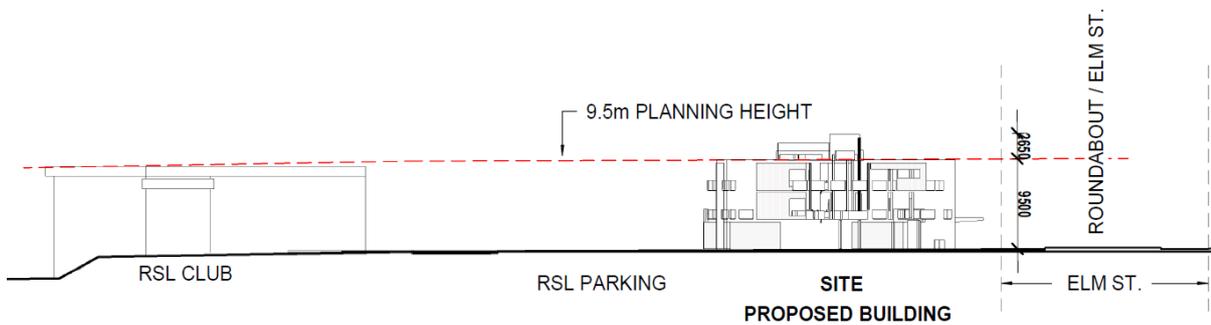
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

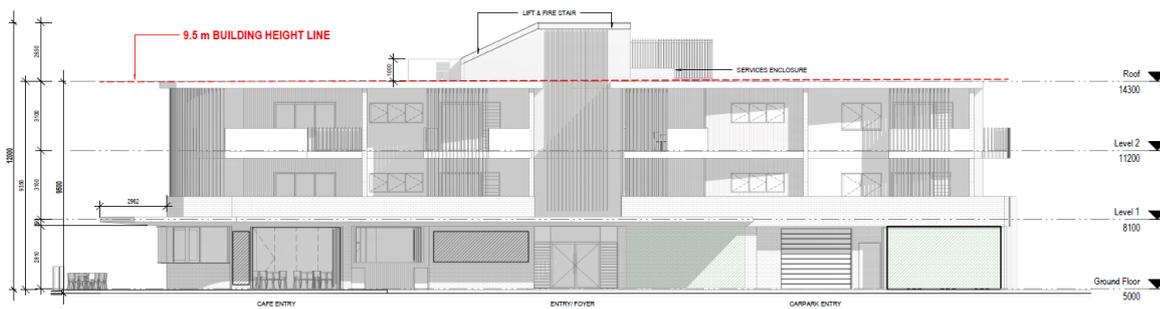
REPORT

Development Application (DA2024/0140) seeks consent for the construction of a three storey Shop Top Housing development, comprising ground floor commercial space and carparking, 10 residential units over the first and second floors (5 on each), a roof top terrace, demolition of existing structures, vegetation removal, kerbside dining and Strata Subdivision at 17 McDonald Place (corner of Elm Street), Evans Head (being Lot 7 DP 14089).

The application proposes a variation to the 9.5 metre height of buildings standard set by Clause 4.3 of the LEP. The proposed development has a maximum building height of 12.0 metres, resulting in an exceedance of 2.5 metres, thus representing a 29.16% variation to the development standard (see diagrams below).



View from McDonald Street.



View from Elm Street

The objective of the Height of Buildings standard is to ensure the building complements the streetscape and character of the area and minimises visual impacts, disruption of views, loss of privacy and loss of solar access to existing development.

Clause 4.6 of the LEP provides a degree of flexibility that enables a consent authority to vary a development standard in certain circumstances where the environmental planning objectives can be satisfied notwithstanding the non-compliance. However, an applicant must formally lodge a written request justifying the variation and the consent authority must consider whether the applicants variation request has adequately demonstrated the provisions of clause 4.6 have been satisfied.

A variation request has been submitted by the applicant on the grounds that strict compliance with the standard is unreasonable or unnecessary in this instance, and demonstrates how the development meets the objectives of the development standards.

Council has engaged John Lynch of Studio153 Design to provide an independent Architectural expert design review. His review recommends the building height variation be supported and includes the following comments:

- The primary building form is compliant, the exceedance relates only to the roof top structures being the lift/stair enclosure, plant room, rooftop balustrading and landscape.
- The roof top is for the purpose of providing an area of communal open space and accommodating building services.
- These components are located centrally, are set back substantially from the building edges and would be largely undetectable from the within the immediate proximity of the site.
- The site does not immediately adjoin any existing buildings and does not result in any overshadowing or overlooking impacts.
- In regard to more distant views the overall prominence of the curved building at the corner are considered not to dominate views from the Woodburn Street approach, noting the stair

and lift enclosure would be more visible is on the western elevation where a recessed part exposes the full height of the building.

- Options to further break down the scale of this particular part of the western elevation, including dark material colours, continuation of part of the roof overhang and landscape have been provided and are being further explored with the applicant. Where feasible these could be included as conditions of consent.

It is proposed to determine DA2024/0140 under delegations, however, in accordance with Department of Planning and Environment Guide to Varying Development Standards (November 2023), where the extent of a Clause 4.3 variation is greater than 10% the elected Council has the function of determining the variation application.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken as part of the assessment process, as a result, the development application was placed on public exhibition from 23 May 2024 to 21 June 2024, the minimum of 28 days in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan 2020.

Council received 24 submissions in support of the development and one submission in support although noting concerns in relation to road safety and pedestrian and cycling safety. No submissions opposed to the development, including the building height variation, were received.

CONCLUSION

DA2024/0140 seeks consent for a Shop Top Housing development at 17 McDonald Place, Evans Head. The development has a proposed building height of 12.0 metres, which exceeds the 9.5 metre height of buildings standard. A clause 4.6 variation request has been submitted with the application which satisfactorily demonstrates that compliance with the standard is unreasonable and unnecessary in this instance and that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to support the variation. This report seeks approval from Council for the building height variation.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15.4 OVERHEIGHT INDUSTRIAL BUILDING AT 7 AND 9 DYRAABA STREET, CASINO**Director:** Angela Jones**Responsible Officer:** Tony McAteer**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has received a development application seeking consent for alterations to an existing general industrial development (staff amenities block, store and plant room), the construction of a warehouse (cold storage) and distribution centre, a car park and signage, at 7 and 9 Dyraaba Street Casino, and 90-94 Colches Street, Casino.

The proposal seeks a variation to the 8.5 metre height of building development standard identified for the land under clause 4.3 of the Richmond Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP).

The development has a proposed maximum building height of 10.854 metres, therefore exceeding the development standard by 2.254 metres, resulting in a 27.7% variation. As the variation to the building development standard is greater than 10%, it must be referred to Council for determination.

The proposed new building (warehouse and distribution centre) on 9 Dyraaba Street Casino is part of the overall development, which is located within an established industrial area, has similar bulk and scale to other modern industrial developments and is therefore considered to be consistent with the established character of land in this zone and locality.

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to Clause 4.6 of *Richmond Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012* a variation in respect of Clause 4.3 height of buildings be granted for DA2024/0176, as outlined in this report.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 6: Provide infrastructure that meets community needs

6A Undertake whole-of life planning for community infrastructure

6A1 Develop and maintain asset management systems

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

REPORT

Development Application DA2024/0176 seeks consent for alterations to an existing general industrial development (staff amenities block, store and plant room), construction of a warehouse (cold storage) and distribution centre, a car park and signage at 7 and 9 Dyraaba Street (Lot 1 DP 1265471 and Lot 50 DP 1269942), and 90-94 Colches Street (Lots 2-3 DP 111679, Lot 1 DP 118459, and Lot 92 DP 1230955).

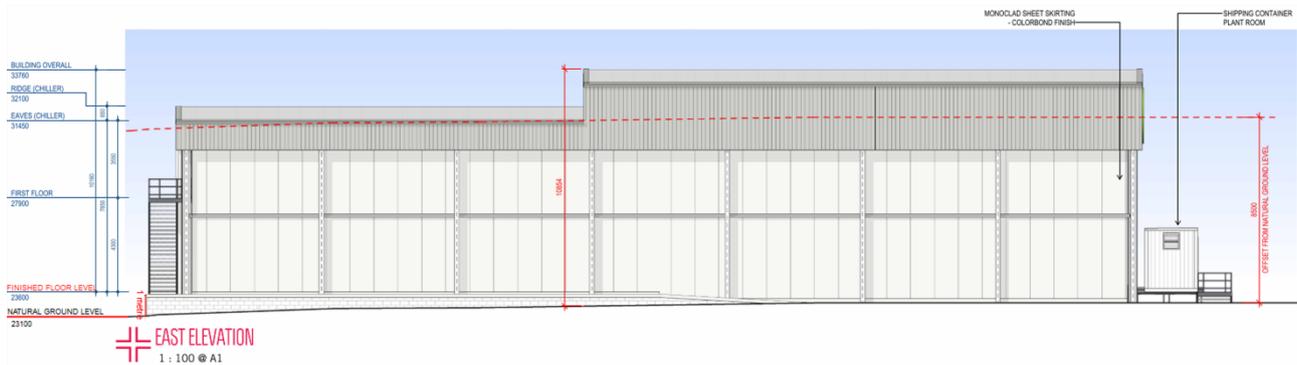
The application proposes a variation to the 8.5 metre height of building standard set by Clause 4.3 of the LEP. The proposed development has a maximum building height of 10.854 metres, resulting in an exceedance of 2.254 metres, thus representing a 27.7% variation to the development standard.

The objective of the Height of Buildings standard is to ensure the building complements the streetscape and character of the area and minimises visual impacts, disruption of views, loss of privacy and loss of solar access to existing developments.

Clause 4.6 of the LEP provides a degree of flexibility that enables a consent authority to vary a development standard in certain circumstances where the environmental planning objectives can

be satisfied notwithstanding the non-compliance. However, an applicant must formally lodge a written request justifying the variation and the consent authority must consider whether the applicants variation request has adequately demonstrated the provisions of clause 4.6 have been satisfied.

A variation request has been submitted by the applicant on the grounds that strict compliance with the standard is unreasonable or unnecessary in this instance, and demonstrates how the development meets the objectives of the development standards (see diagrams below).



Eastern Elevation (Dean St to the left and Dyraaba St to the right of the image)

The proposal is located within an established industrial zoned area but immediately adjoins residential zoned land to its south, in Dean Street, comprising of single storey residential dwelling houses.

Given the context of the surrounding industrial land uses and the zoning of the land, the proposed building reflects an appropriate height for a modern industrial facility that reflects tenant requirement, by incorporating an uninterrupted internal floor area with sufficient clearspan springing height. This is a crucial factor in the design of the building as the internal cold storage area and volume is necessary to meet the proponents projected food/goods storage demand and accommodate forklift manoeuvring requirements. Adhering to the height limit of 8.5m would reduce internal cold storage volumes substantially and, as a result, unreasonably and unnecessarily restrict the viability of the proposal and be counter-productive to the objectives of the zone.

Consideration has been given to the adjoining residential land south of Dean Street, with the design of the building roof line to ensure that there will be minimal unreasonable visual or amenity impacts. Specifically, the built form has been designed so that the tallest part of the building, at a maximum height of 10.854m, being located on the northern side of the building, which fronts Dyraaba Street (being its industrial street and primary frontage), with the southern half of the building facing Dean Street designed to have a maximum height of 9.646m. The taller building ridgeline is ultimately setback over 21.79m from Dean Street.

Due to the ample setbacks provided between the 10.854m high roof line and Dean Street frontage, the proposed increased height is not considered to bring about any issues by way of loss of privacy and solar access. To this end, shadow diagrams demonstrate that there will be no overshadowing of the residential properties during the summer and winter solstice, and spring equinox events.

In addition, the proposal seeks to further minimise perceived impacts through varied material treatment and mixed colour palette to provide appropriate façade articulation and variation that will break up the visual bulk of the proposal. The proposed new building is also softened by landscape screening proposed along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site.

It is considered, the development meets land zone objectives pursuant to cl. 2.3 of the LEP, and the objectives of the height of building pursuant to cl. 4.3 of the LEP. It is considered there will be no unreasonable amenity impacts on the adjoining residential land, and therefore the proposal does not give rise to any unreasonable visual impacts or impacts on views from the public domain given the industrial context of the site.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken as part of the assessment process, as a result, the development application was placed on public exhibition from 11 June 2024 to 9 July 2024, a period of 28 days in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan 2020.

The public exhibition period has now closed with seven (7) submissions received. One is in support of the development, subject to security fencing be provided to the carpark on Colches Street, others are objecting to the carpark due to traffic, noise, and safety concerns and one has concerns for stormwater impacts as Dean Street does encounter localised flooding during storm events. The car park is a permissible activity on the Colches Street site and it proposes improvements to the amenity of the site which has been used for activities of an industrial nature. It should also be noted that the proposed development does not change the amount of impervious area of the site and the stormwater flows from the roof of the new building can be controlled to minimise any impacts on adjoining properties.

The matters raised in the seven submissions will be further assessed as part of the determination process by Council's planning officers prior to a determination being made.

No submissions have been received that directly relate to the over height industrial building which is the approval that is required to be resolved by Council.

CONCLUSION

DA2024/0176 seeks consent for alterations to the existing general industry (staff amenities block, store and plant room), construction of a warehouse (cold storage) and distribution centre, a car park and signage at 7 and 9 Dyraaba Street, and 90-94 Colches Street.

The development has a proposed height of 10.854 metres which exceeds the 8.5 metre height of buildings standard. A clause 4.6 variation request has been submitted with the application which satisfactorily demonstrates that compliance with the standard is unreasonable and unnecessary in this instance and that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to support the variation. This report seeks approval from Council for the building height variation.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

16 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Nil

17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

17.1 MONTHLY BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS REPORT - JULY 2024

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Zakari Witt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details proposed budgeted “Carry Forwards” and “Revotes” for the 2024 Financial Year.

Carry forwards represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were either started or contracted to be started in the 2023/2024 year. Revotes represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were not underway in the 2023/2024 year.

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

The proposed carry forwards total \$12,500,799 comprising \$102,709 in operating expenditure and \$12,398,099 in capital expenditure. This represents only 0.14% of revised budgeted operating expenditure and 17.13% of revised budgeted capital expenditure for 2023/2024.

The proposed revotes total \$2,358,393 comprising \$458,144 in operating expenditure and \$1,900,249 in capital expenditure. This represents only 0.60% of revised budgeted operating expenditure and 2.63% of revised budgeted capital expenditure for 2023/2024.

Council’s annual Financial Statements are currently being prepared for audit and as such, the final carry forward and revote budgets are still subject to change. Any changes will be included in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2024, once unexpended grants and reserve balances have been finalised.

At this stage the proposed changes will have no impact on the projected budget surplus of \$212,574 for 2024/2025 as the carry over works are fully funded from unexpended grants and contributions or previously budgeted from other reserves.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the carry forwards for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 of \$12,500,799 as detailed in the report.
2. Approves the revotes for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 of \$2,358,393 as detailed in the report.
3. Notes the revised budget for 2024/2025, including carry forwards and revotes.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 11: Manage resources responsibly

11A Manage finances responsibly and provide value for money

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As detailed in the report.

REPORT

Carry Forwards

Carry forwards represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were either started or contracted to be started in the 2023/2024 year. Proposed carry forwards totalled \$12,500,799 which includes \$102,709 in operational projects and \$12,398,090 in capital projects. Operational carry forwards represent 0.14% of revised budgeted expenditure, whilst capital carry forwards represent 17.13% of revised budgeted capital expenditure for 2023/2024.

Carry forwards for 2024/2025 include projects with unexpended grants and contributions totalling \$6,934,454, as well as projects not fully completed that are funded from special rate variations of \$60,000, projects funded from reserves of \$2,398,878 and projects funded from general revenues or grants yet to be received of \$3,107,467. Council is obligated to restrict unspent grant funds and carry over to enable the completion of the projects as per the funding agreements.

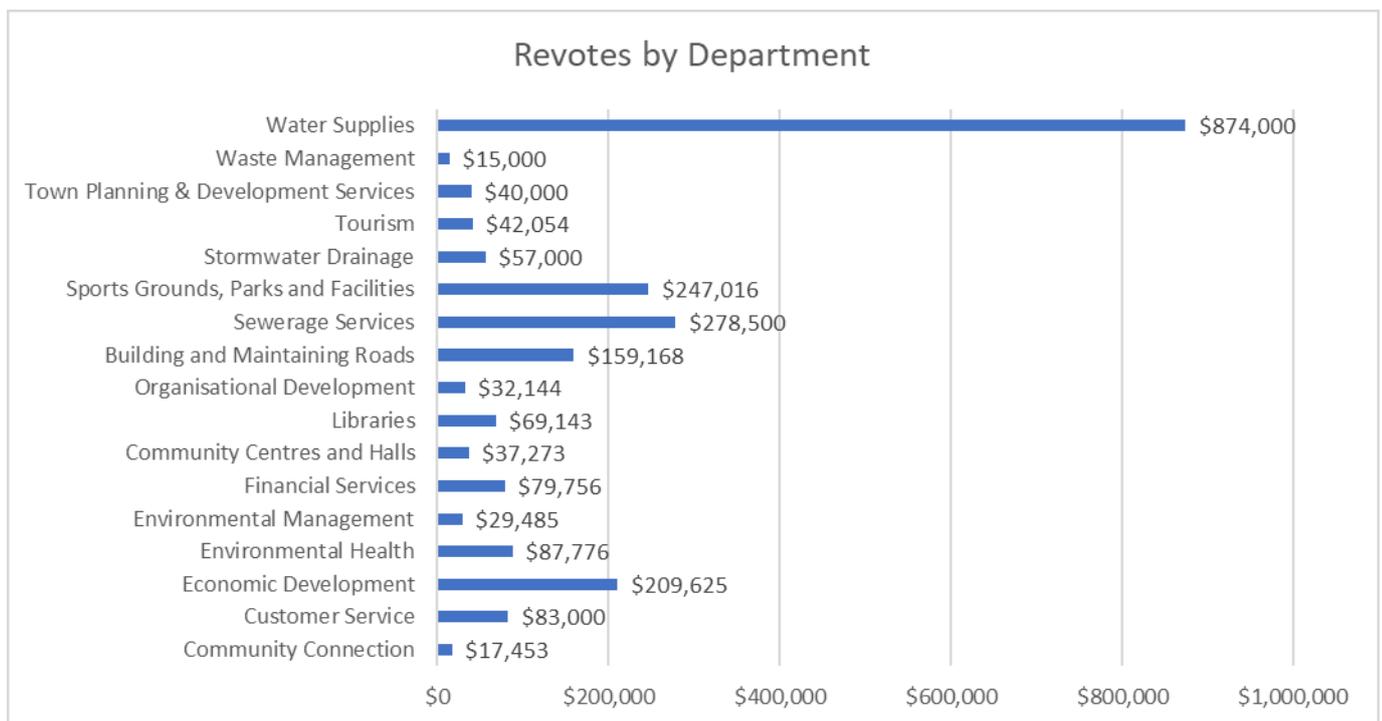
Carry forwards are expected to be slightly inflated this year in comparison to other years as Council and neighbouring Councils are undertaking considerable capital infrastructure recovery projects due to the March 2022 floods. Council has found this has put pressure on contractors with delays being further extended due to unfavourable weather conditions in the first half of the 2024 calendar year.

Revotes

Revotes represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were not underway in the 2023/2024 year. Proposed revotes totalled \$2,358,393 which includes \$1,900,249 in operational projects and \$458,144 in capital projects. Operational Revotes represent 0.60% of revised budgeted expenditure, whilst capital Revotes represent 2.63% of revised budgeted capital expenditure for 2023/2024.

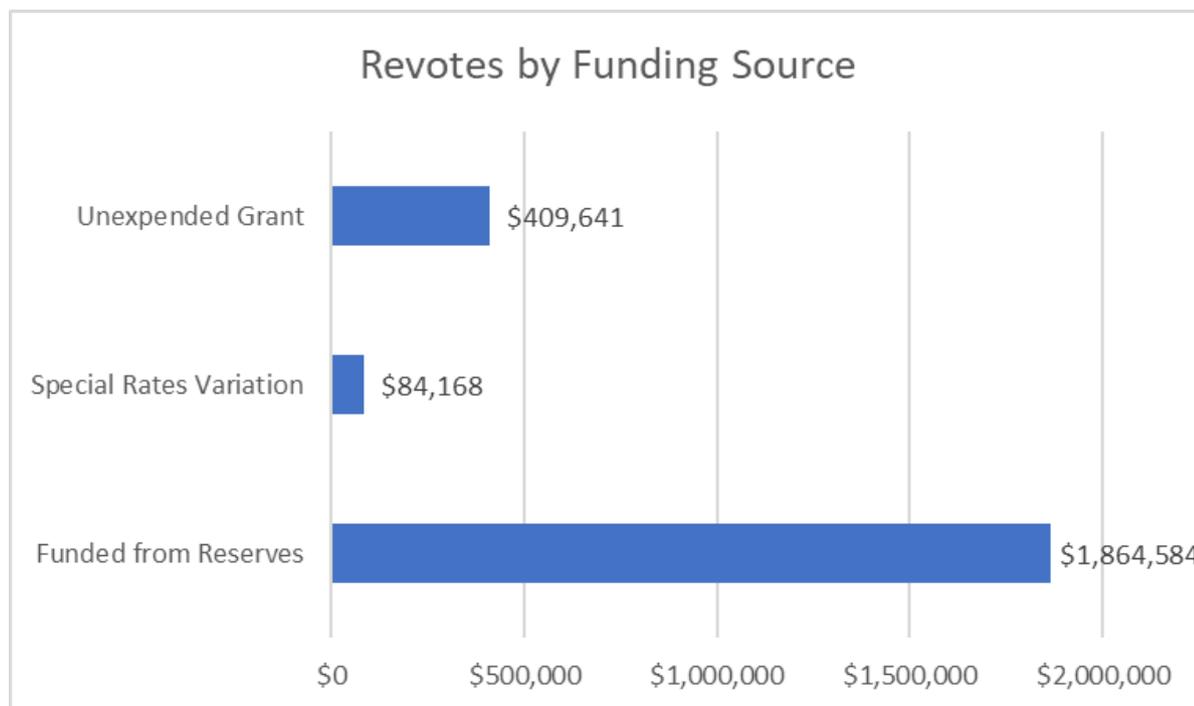
Revotes are an annual occurrence and can be due to several factors including, savings in completion of projects, where those funds can then be utilised on new or additional projects, weather events, contractor availability, material availability, timing of grant funding and the associated expenditure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

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



Significant Revotes include:

- **Water Supplies** – Revotes of \$874,000 due to works being delayed due to staff shortages, contractor delays for flow meters, design finalisations and strategic delay to line projects up with possible grant funding opportunities.
- **Environmental Health** - Revotes of \$113,637 with \$72,962 due to purchase timing of a VMS trailer for the grant funded Koala strike mitigation project.
- **Sewerage Services** – Revotes of \$278,500 with proposed revotes of \$178,500 due to timing of contractors for the North Reservoir telemetry tower and alum dosing upgrade of Evans Head Sewer Treatment Plant.



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

Council's annual Financial Statements are currently being prepared for audit and as such, the final carry forward and revote budgets are still subject to change. Any changes will be included in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2024, once unexpended grants and final reserve balances have been audited.

Total capital carry forwards and revotes will bring the 2024/2025 capital works program to \$79,113,983 from a budgeted capital works program of \$64,815,644. This is a sizeable capital works program and as such, Council staff will undertake a comprehensive review of the capital works program between now and the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2024 to ensure the delivery of projects can still be achieved.

CONCLUSION

The carry forwards and proposed revotes will have no impact on the projected budget surplus for the 2024/2025 year of \$212,574. As the capital carry forwards and proposed revotes total \$14,859,192, Council will continue to monitor and review the capital works program throughout the year to maximise opportunities for the delivery of these projects.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **2023/2024 Budget Revote Listing (under separate cover)**
2. **2023/2024 Budget Carry Forward Listing (under separate cover)**

17.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - JUNE 2024**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 June 2024 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$23,964,310	\$31,000,000	\$6,750,390	\$4,500,000	\$16,446,268	\$82,660,968

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments at 30 June 2024 was 4.94% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for June of 0.36%, 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 June 2024.

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 June 2024, Council has earned \$2,921,217 in interest, \$19,020 in fair value gains from fixed rate bonds and \$1,108,944 in fair value gains from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of \$4,049,181. This equates to 110.79% of the revised annual budget for interest and investment income of \$3,654,861. The budget was increased as part of the Quarterly Budget Review to 31 March 2024. Council currently receives a net return of 4.55% 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 June total \$2,776.

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

REPORT**Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Cash Rate Update**

The RBA held the cash rate at 4.35% per annum at its June meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in June was 4.94%, a decrease in 75 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 458 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 0.36% which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of \$76,155 during the month of June. The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a gain of \$42,359 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a gain of \$33,796.

During June, bond yields in most developed economies declined and equity markets had mixed responses due to influences of region-specific developments. The Australian economy remains weak, which should continue to push inflation towards target, however, the RBA still has not ruled out another rate increase and continues to describe its policy stance as neutral.

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 \$82,660,968 at 30 June 2024. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$15,410,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$2,007,118), Term Deposits (\$31,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$6,750,390), Bonds (\$4,500,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$16,446,268) and other bank accounts (\$6,547,192).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$42,250,390 represented 51% of the total portfolio as at 30 June 2024.

Council made the following new investments during June 2024:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
ING Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$2,000,000	12 months	5.31%
Move Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	6 months	5.30%
Total			\$4,000,000		

Council had the following investment maturities during the month of June 2024:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Southern Cross Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$25,458
Illawarra Credit Union	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$25,710
Total			\$4,000,000	\$51,167

Council had \$16,446,268 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 30 June 2024. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 30 June 24	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 30 June 24	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$13,027,454	\$42,359	\$780,437	\$2,022,424
Long Term Growth Fund	\$3,418,814	\$33,796	\$328,507	\$418,814
Total	\$16,446,268	\$76,155	\$1,108,944	\$2,441,238

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$82,660,968 at 30 June 2024 includes \$42,696,268 or 51.7% 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 June 2024, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 30 June 2024 Council's cash and investments totalled \$82,660,968 with \$23,964,310 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 4.94% and total investment revenue equals 110.79% of revised budgeted revenue for the year to 30 June 2024.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- RVC Investment Pack - June 2024 (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 WRITE OFF OF MONIES UNDER DELEGATION

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Kate Flynn

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the write-off of monies totalling \$12,740.71 under the General Manager's delegation.

REPORT

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 21 April 2015, it was resolved that where the General Manager exercises his delegation regarding write-offs that exceed \$1,000, an information summary report be submitted to Council on a bi-annual basis.

This summary report covers the period commencing 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2024. The General Manager has exercised his delegation to write off monies over \$1,000 seven (7) times due to concealed water leak applications.

- Property 114955 \$1,194.32 – this write off was due to a concealed water leak. The meter is situated in the middle of a paddock so was not immediately noticed; the owners have requested the meter be relocated. A plumber was engaged to undertake repairs to the leak.
- Property 115750 \$1,245.02 – this write off was due to a concealed water leak. The leak was situated under the owner's home and identified by a gurgling sound from under the house. Main was turned off until repairs were completed by plumber.
- Property 120550 \$1,653.12 – this write off was due to a concealed water leak. The owner had no water pressure, she contacted a plumber who found a broken galvanised pipe under the garden bed. Repairs were undertaken.
- Property 120880 \$3,113.77 – this write off was due to a concealed water leak. Owner had excessive consumption and the plumber found a leaking pipe. Plumber bypassed leak and reconnected pipes to complete the repairs.
- Property 130320 \$1,548.84 – this write off was due to a concealed water leak. Owner had excessive consumption and his neighbour completed the repairs to the broken pipes.
- Property 147835 \$2,381.50 – this write off was due to a concealed water leak. Owner found a leak and the plumber found a broken poly pipe and completed repairs.
- Property 174340 \$1,604.14 – this write off was due to a concealed water leak. Blaze Aid identified property owner had a leak near trough. Plumber repaired broken pipes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.2 CASINO SHOWGROUND AND RACECOURSE PROJECT UPDATE**Director: Ben Zeller****Responsible Officer: Daniel Rowlands****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the status of finalising the Casino Showground and Racecourse Project.

REPORT

Council has been working on its vision to upgrade and revitalise the Casino Showground since 2018, with the project receiving a major funding boost from the NSW and Federal Governments in November 2020. A total of \$8.2 million was provided under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to help transform the site into a regional centre for equestrian activities and major community events. This was followed by a further \$4.6 million allocated in 2023 towards the project from the same funding source due to its advanced progress in comparison to other projects funded in this program. Combined with additional funding from the NSW Showground Stimulus Program, Drought Communities Funding, Crown Lands programs, Flood Recovery program and Council, this brought the total investment in the redevelopment to \$14.4 million.

The Casino Showground and Racecourse Master Plan, adopted by Council in 2018 following consultation with showground user groups and the community, aims to position the facility as the premier equestrian centre in the Northern Rivers, opening the way for new major events and attracting visitors from throughout the region and interstate. The site has huge potential for a range of activities centred around the Richmond Valley's agricultural heritage and combined with the opportunity for the Casino Race Club to expand its operations, it is set to become a major drawcard.

The Showground upgrade is now open for public use and Council looks forward to the many benefits it will bring to the community and the local economy.

Key project deliverables include:

- A 40m x 80m undercover multipurpose arena
- An outdoor turf equestrian warm up/pony club area
- 40m x 40m outdoor sand warm up arena
- 40 undercover event day horse stalls
- 80 racehorse training stables
- Replacement and upgrade of sand track and install new irrigation system
- Centre Arena improvements including surface, lighting and stock yard improvements
- Racetrack upgrades and new irrigation and a 50m equine exercise pool
- Amenities, truck and float accesses and associated carparking
- Power upgrades including overnight camping
- Fire safety improvements
- Internal road, landscaping and signage upgrades.

The additional \$4.6 million received from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund has allowed Council to enhance a number of facilities including increasing the seating capacity of the covered multi-purpose events arena to 2,500 people, improving access arrangements and internal roads and car parking, as well as building an equine pool to support the racehorse training facilities.

Other works completed, such as the powered event camping area, will increase the facility's ability to host additional events including, country music festivals, car shows, trade shows and markets. These events are expected to boost the local economy by attracting visitors from across NSW to stay in the Northern Rivers and spend money at businesses in the region. Council has also resumed the free camping at Casino Showground to encourage more travelers to stay overnight and aims to benefit the local economy through the purchasing of local goods and services.

In mid-March 2024, Council received official notification that the head contractor for the project, AGS Commercial, had entered into voluntary administration, leaving Council with around 10% of work to complete. Since then, Council staff have been establishing a pathway forward taking on legal advice and feedback from the administrator to enable negotiations with sub-contractors for the remaining scope of work. Completion of the high voltage power upgrade is the main factor in delaying the ability to open some of the facilities, in particular the racehorse training stables, as power would be required 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This is a frustrating finish to the project for Council and key stakeholders, given Council's project team has managed the project effectively, which led to securing the additional funding. The patience of key stakeholders should be acknowledged, and Council can be assured our team is doing everything it can to get the project completed as soon as possible and within the budget allocation.

A summary of the remaining deliverable items includes:

Scope	Timeframe
High Voltage Power Upgrade	Commencement date is yet to be confirmed. Council is awaiting further advice from the administrator prior to engaging contractors. Once engaged, there is a 28-day outage notification window and a four-week work program.
Equine Pool	Council has negotiated a good result with the pool contractor which will see the final stages of the pool to be completed. This includes, water proofing, pumps and filtration system and compliant pool fencing. It is expected work will re-commence in mid-July and will take approximately four weeks to complete. The negotiation result was within the budgeted value for this project item.
Storage Sheds	Negotiations are ongoing with sub-contractors to complete.
Compliance & Defect repairs	95% complete. Final sign-off item (Fire Booster Pump) requires High Voltage Power connection.
Final electrical connections to new switchboard & change over from old transformer	Subject to High Voltage power connection.
Racetrack irrigation	Council has engaged a local contractor for the installation of an irrigation system for the turf track and construction will work around the upcoming racing program.

The official opening of the Casino Showground and Racecourse Project was held on Saturday, 20 April 2024 which had a successful community response and a positive outcome for the community. The opening event had been scheduled at the time of the voluntary administration of AGS Commercial being notified to Council, with Ministers and other guests invited as many of the facilities were available for use and continue to be. The day featured several equestrian activities throughout the day including cross country, show jumping and jackpot barrel races with an official ceremony taking place. Live music, BBQ and canteen were also provided on the day.

Following the opening event, several other events have been held at the facility including:

- Country Music Muster,
- 2024 Beef Week Rodeo,
- Poultry Show,
- Pony Club rally days, and
- Casual hire of the undercover arena.

The Casino Showgrounds and Racecourse is shaping up to be an exciting event centre with the ability to host a diverse range of events and casual bookings with the second half of 2024 revealing a busy event schedule. Events such as Pony Club Gymkhana, Little Ranch Holiday Camp, Heritage Weekend, NSW Dog Trial Championships, Pony Club Zone sporting events, Casino Gold Cup race meeting, Casino Truck Show Rodeo, Casino Camp Draft, Bos Indicus Youth Camp, Northern NSW Show Horse event, Annual Casino Show and the Richmond Valley Cup race meeting.

The facility has attracted a State level Working Dog Trial in July 2024 and a State level Equestrian event in August 2024, with additional Regional and State event enquiries coming in, setting up an exciting 2025 that will boost the visitor economy.



Image – Site Aerial of the Casino Showground and Racecourse Upgrade

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.3 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2024

Director: Angela Jones
Responsible Officer: Sharon Banning

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 April – 30 June 2024.

REPORT

Customer Service Contact Centre Data - Key Statistics

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

Call Statistics

A total of 8901 calls were handled by the contact centre team during the reporting period, which is a 5.09 percent decrease for the same period of the previous year, and a 1.9 percent increase on the previous quarter's volumes. The contact centre has exceeded all service targets for the reporting period, including 81.12 percent of calls answered within industry standard of 20 seconds, average time each caller spends in the queue is 20 seconds and the percentage rate for calls abandoned is less than one percent and average call time 3.15 minutes.

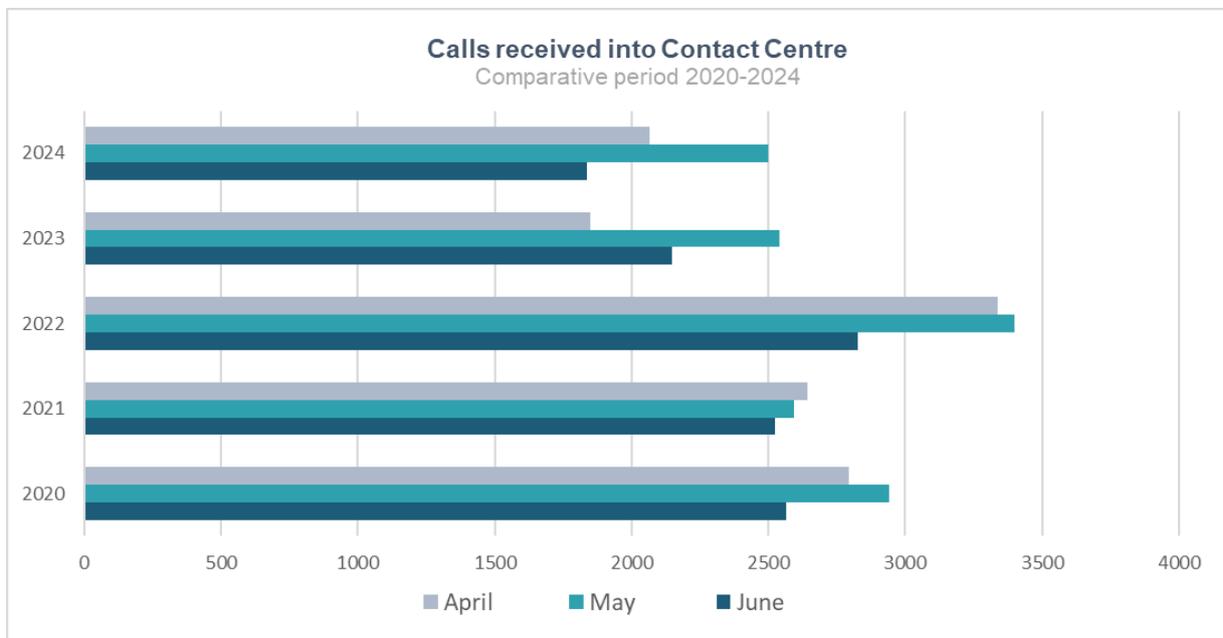


Figure 1: Calls received into the call centre, comparison year on year

Receipt and Administration Statistics

A total of 2872 receipts were processed for the reporting period, a 5.05 percent decrease for the same period the previous year. The month of May saw an increase in the number of receipts processed, which can be attributed to the rates instalment period. Data indicates customers are utilising alternative payment options as face-to-face receipting has declined from previous years.

Customer preferred payment methods are as follows: 57 percent EFTPOS, 26 percent as cash payments, 7 percent by cheque, and the remaining 10 percent were paid via direct bank transfer.

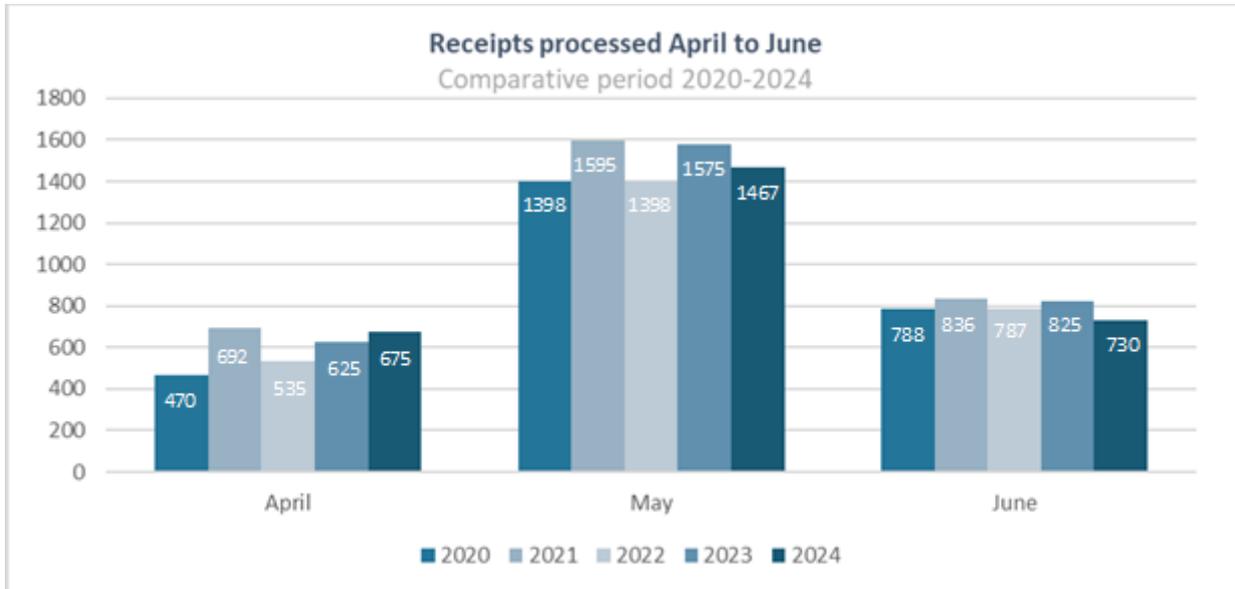


Figure 2: Total number of receipts

Administration support, inspection schedule management and compliance notice processing is provided by a dedicated team of Customer Experience officers ensuring Environmental Health and Compliance Teams achieve their annual regulatory inspection obligations of swimming pool barriers, food shops, on-site sewage management systems (OSMS) and liquid trade waste services.

Swimming Pools

During the financial year 444 swimming pool inspections were carried out. 161 required re-inspections. 36 swimming pools were noted to have been decommissioned.

57 of these inspections were carried out on flood affected properties, noting 20 pools had been removed as part of the property’s cleanup.

61 compliance letters were compiled and issued due to on-going pool barrier fencing non-compliance issues.

Food

93 food shops inspected, and 83 temporary food (food vans and food stalls) approvals issued. Leading up to Beef Week and Primex the administration officer issued 44 temporary food permits vendors wanting to attend these community events.

OSMS

546 routine inspections undertaken, processed 45 new OSMS installations via the planning portal and issued 39 orders on failing systems.

The statistics highlight the large number of inspections and approvals completed by our regulatory/compliance teams and acknowledges the workloads our administration officers manage to support the field officers achieving these figures.

Certificates and Customer Requests

99.5 percent of Section 735A, 10.7 and 603 certificates were completed within set timeframes in accordance with Council’s service standards. Of the certificate applications received, 56.5 percent were 10.7 planning certificates, 33 percent 603 rates certificates and 10.4 percent were outstanding notice searches. Property search enquiries decreased by 30 percent for 10.7 certificate searches compared to this quarter in 2023, with an 8.7 percent increase in 603 certificate enquiries.

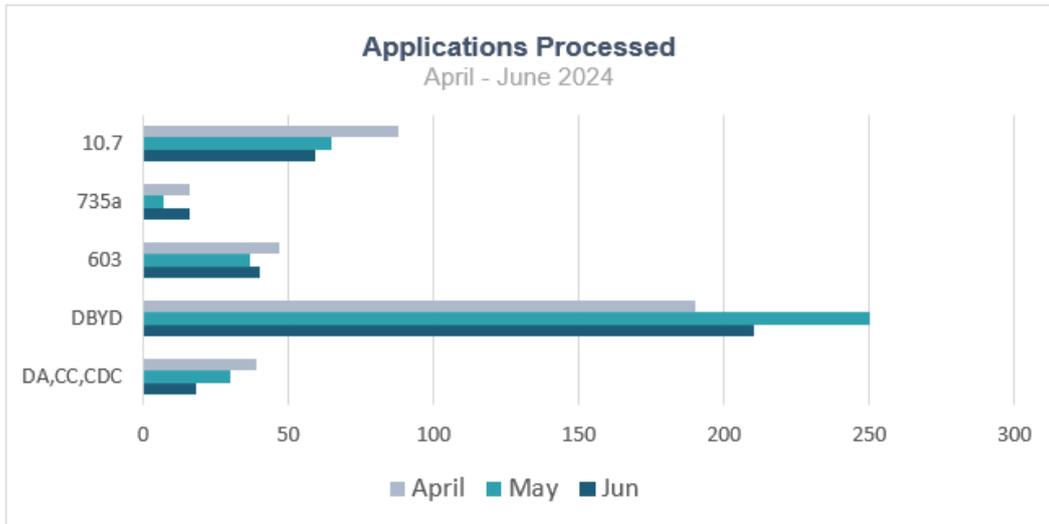


Figure 3. Applications received

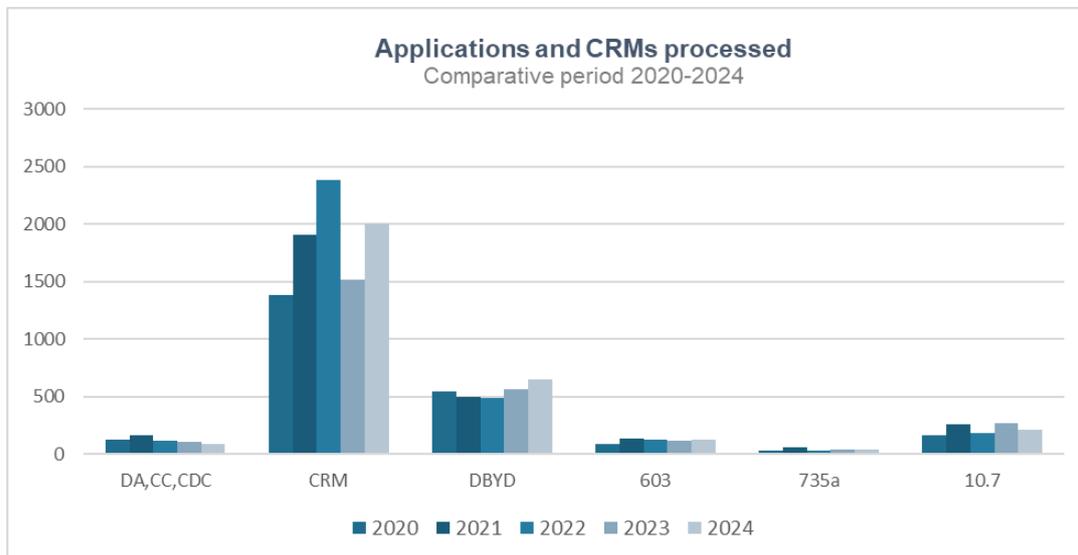


Figure 4. Applications comparison

Customer Request Management System - Key Statistics

During the reporting period, 2001 new requests were logged, a decrease of 7 percent compared to the previous quarter and 32 percent increase on the same reporting period of the previous year.

23 percent of the total new requests received during the review period related to Roads and Drainage. The rise can be directly attributed to continuous wet weather delaying maintenance programs on the rural road network and contributes to hastening the deterioration of road surfaces.

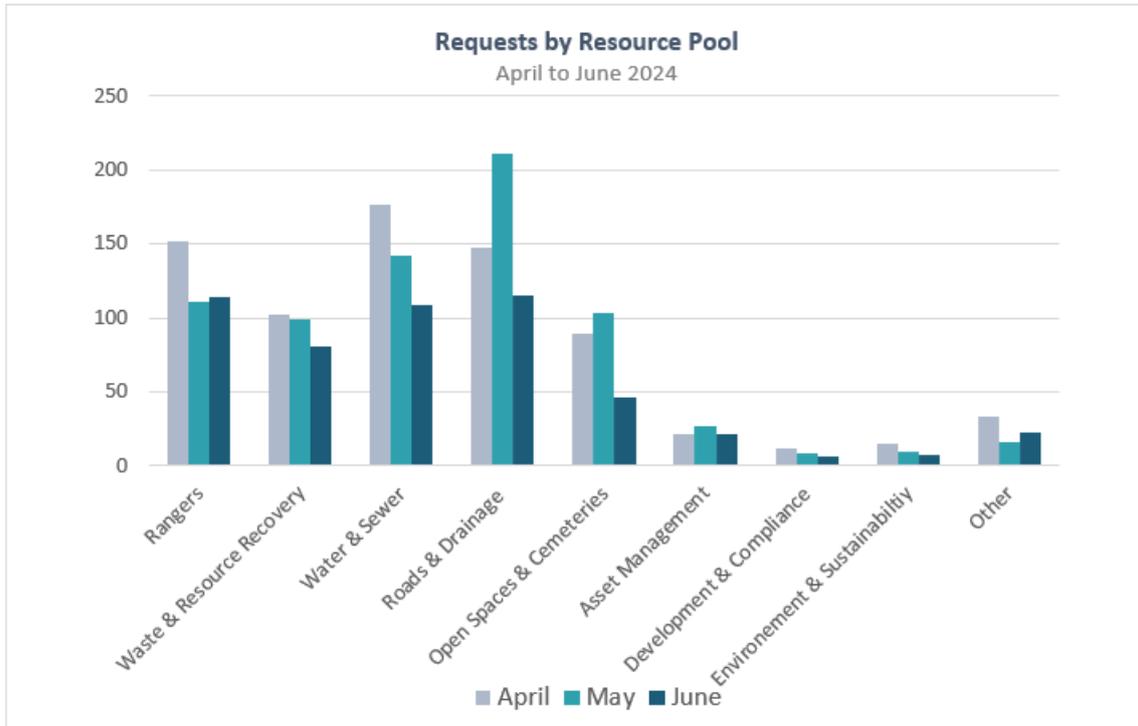


Figure 5: Number of requests

Development Concierge

The Development Concierge fielded 617 enquiries during the reporting period, the majority of the enquiries in relation to residential alterations and additions, including swimming pools and sheds. An enquiry type gaining popularity is “Can I subdivide my property?” Increased land and property values have owners considering subdivision as a pathway for their family members to the enter the real estate market and own their first home.

The rise in enquiries can be partly attributed to the Concierge being the first point for all development related enquiries into the section. The Development Concierge remains committed to customer response service levels, by end of next business day. Complex enquiries are researched in consultation with technical staff and the customer followed up with verbal and email correspondence.

Our website library of development information and resources is under continuous review with the addition of thirty-one revised factsheets for public referencing. To support Council certifiers requirement for the inclusion of a waste management and construction management plan to accompany a DA application, templates and factsheets are being prepared to assist applicants in their preparation and will be available on the website.

The First Responders continue to offer a Portal Assist service to applicants, providing full case management throughout the assessment process. The Teams pre-assessment timeframes are the most competitive compared against our neighbouring LGAs and currently comparable with the Ministers for Planning and Public Spaces, revised Statement of Expectations.

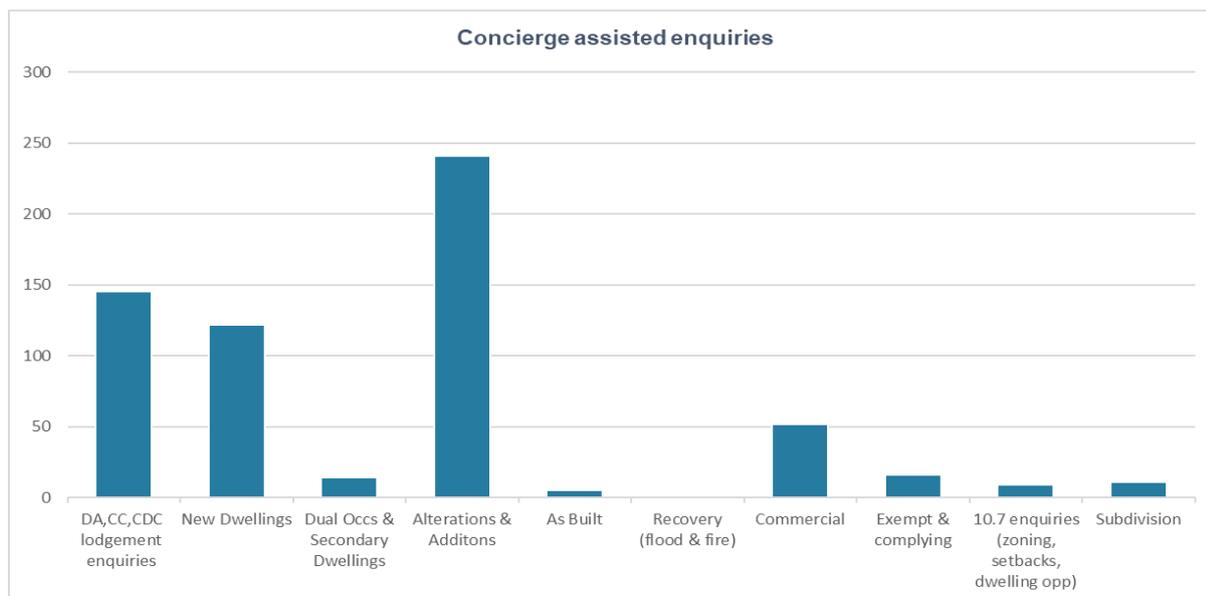


Figure 6: Concierge enquiries by type

e-Planning Portal – Key Statistics

Council Summary												Last Refreshed Date
Development Applications (DAs, Mods & Reviews)												30/06/2024
48	41	49	14	81	46	\$12M	11	38				
Submitted	Lodged	Determined	Avg Days to Lodge	Avg Days to Determine	Approved	Cost of Dev Approved	Dwellings* Approved	Under Assessment (*)				
OLG Classification	Submitted	Lodged	Avg Days to Lodge	Determined	Avg Days to Determine	Median Days to Determine	Approved	Cost of Development Approved	Dwellings* Approved	Applications Under Assessment	Dwellings* Under Assessment	
Regional City Councils	48	41	14	49	81	48	46	\$12,017,636	11	38	45	
RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL	48	41	14	49	81	48	46	\$12,017,636	11	38	45	
Total	48	41	14	49	81	48	46	\$12,017,636	11	38	45	

Figure 7: RVC planning portal summary

Application Type	Totals	April	May	June
Total DA Received	48	27	15	6
Total CC Received	35	12	13	10
Complying Development	4	0	2	2
Subdivision Certificate	4	0	2	2
S138 - Road Reserve Activities	20	6	7	7
S68 - Plumbing Permits & Events	112	40	45	27
PC Appointment	19	3	9	7
Occupation Certificate	29	11	8	10
Building Certificate	11	6	3	2
Private Certificate	27	7	14	6

Figure 8: Applications received via the NSW Planning Portal

OneRoad – Key Statistics

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

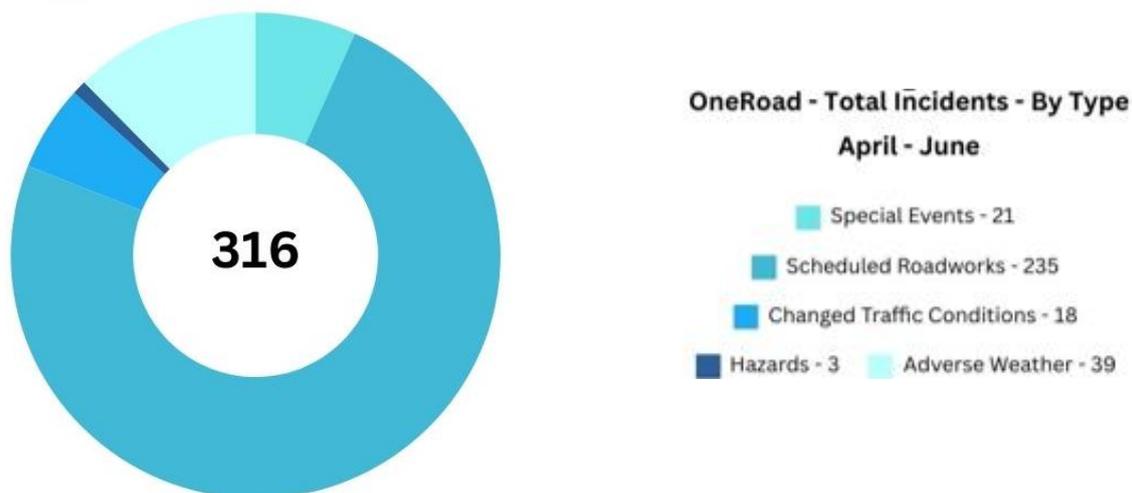


Figure 9: Total planned and unplanned road incidents recorded

Opportunities for Improvement

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

- Continue to work closely with customers lodging applications via the e-planning portal to ensure submission to lodgement timeframes are maintained to required standards.
- Work with operational teams to review service level targets and monitor outcomes and adjust as required.
- Continue to provide ongoing training and support to our new staff members to increase their knowledge base enabling them to achieve 80 percent first contact resolution whilst maintaining and exceeding our quarterly call centre targets.

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.4 NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

Director: Ben Zeller
Responsible Officer: Daniel Rowlands

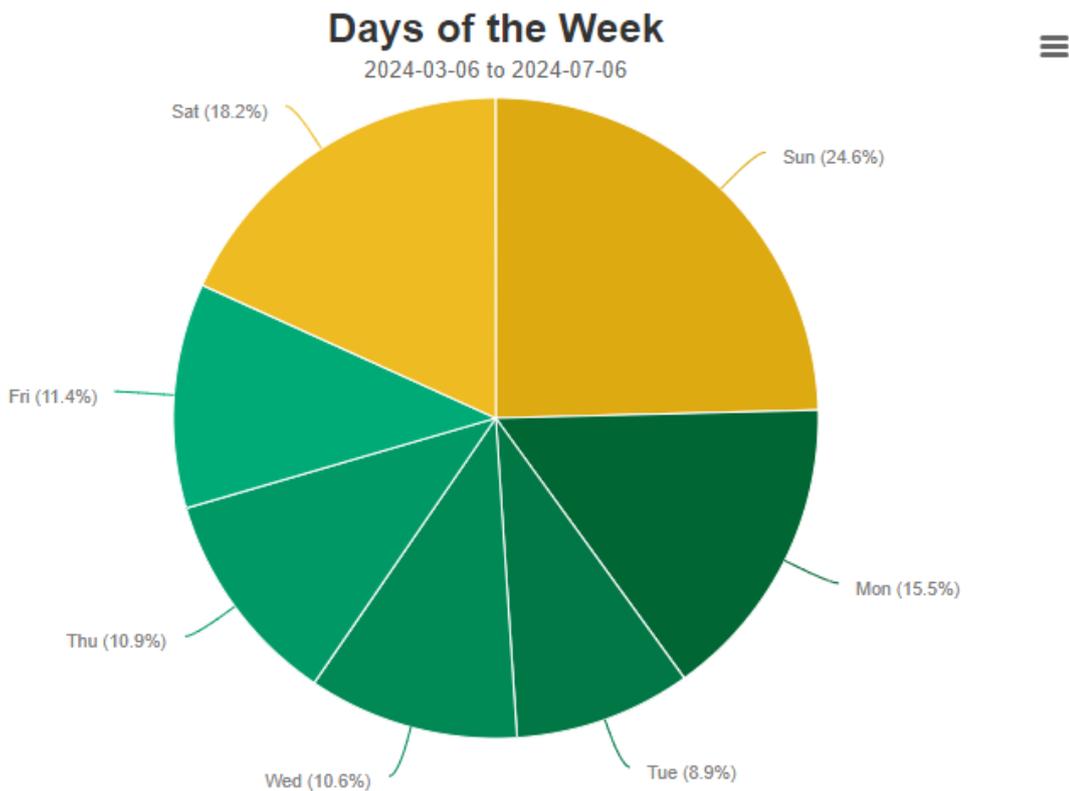
RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the update on the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Project.

REPORT

The Casino-Bentley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail has now completed its first four months of operation, with 42,000 trips undertaken so far. The Trail is proving a popular destination for cyclists, walkers, runners and horse-riders, with both locals and visitors keen to use the new facility. Plans to include more attractions, such as events, mobile food vans and pop-up bike hire are currently underway and patronage is expected to increase as the Bentley-Lismore connection nears completion.

The most popular days for Rail Trail usage so far are Sunday, Saturday and Monday, with steady usage on the other weekdays. The graph below shows usage patterns for the first four months.



Funding and Construction

The Casino-Murwillumbah rail line was closed in 2004, with regional planning and advocacy for the rail trail project commencing in 2013. In 2019 Council received \$7.5 million from the Federal Government’s National Tourism Icons Program to design and construct the Casino to Bentley section of the Trail, with a trail length of 13.4km. This section will be the ‘Southern Trail Head’ for the entire Casino to Murwillumbah trail with a total length of 130km.

Funding for the Casino project was delivered in two phases. Phase One was \$1 million and included works such as:

- Masterplan
- Concept Design
- Detailed Survey
- Bridge Assessment and 30% Concept Design
- Concept Landscape Treatment
- Heritage Impact Statement
- Biodiversity Assessment
- Preliminary Review of Environment (REF)
- Asbestos Management Plan.

These works were completed by March 2021. Additionally, as part of Phase One, Council conducted extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders including adjacent landholders and Galibal Elders.

Phase Two of the funding was \$6.5m to complete the final detailed design and construction of the Casino to Bentley section of the Trail. With an escalation of construction costs since the funding was secured, additional funding is now being sought through NSW Government agencies to complete the Back Creek bridge at Bentley to complete the connection with the Lismore section of the Rail Trail.

The official opening was held on Saturday, 23 March 2024, with an emphasis on all ages and abilities enjoying the new facility. Activities at the opening included entertainment by the Byron Taiko drummers, information stalls by Transport for NSW, Northern Rivers Rail Trail Supporters' Group, and the Discover Richmond Valley team. Casino Lions held a free BBQ on behalf of Council and numerous other stall holders were set up including a microbat expert giving talkson the endangered microbat species in the tunnel.



The official opening of the Casino-Bentley section of the Trail

A longer-term strategy for Rail Trail opportunities is to design and develop a designated commercial precinct at the Old Casino Station Trail Head carpark.

This will involve acquiring additional land from ARTC and providing commercial amenity to rail trail users, such as a café, bike hire and servicing, permanent amenities, and enhanced rest stop opportunities for all ages.

Ongoing trail enhancement opportunities are also being explored such as a trail head entry statement, adjoining landowner activations, and increased amenity and marketing opportunities along the trail.

There is an exciting opportunity to develop the Old Casino Station into a designated tourism destination, by restoring building structure to its former glory, preserving the rail museum history and making it more accessible for visitors. Council will continue to pursue funding opportunities for this project.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.5 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - JUNE 2024

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Rylee Vidler

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of June 2024.

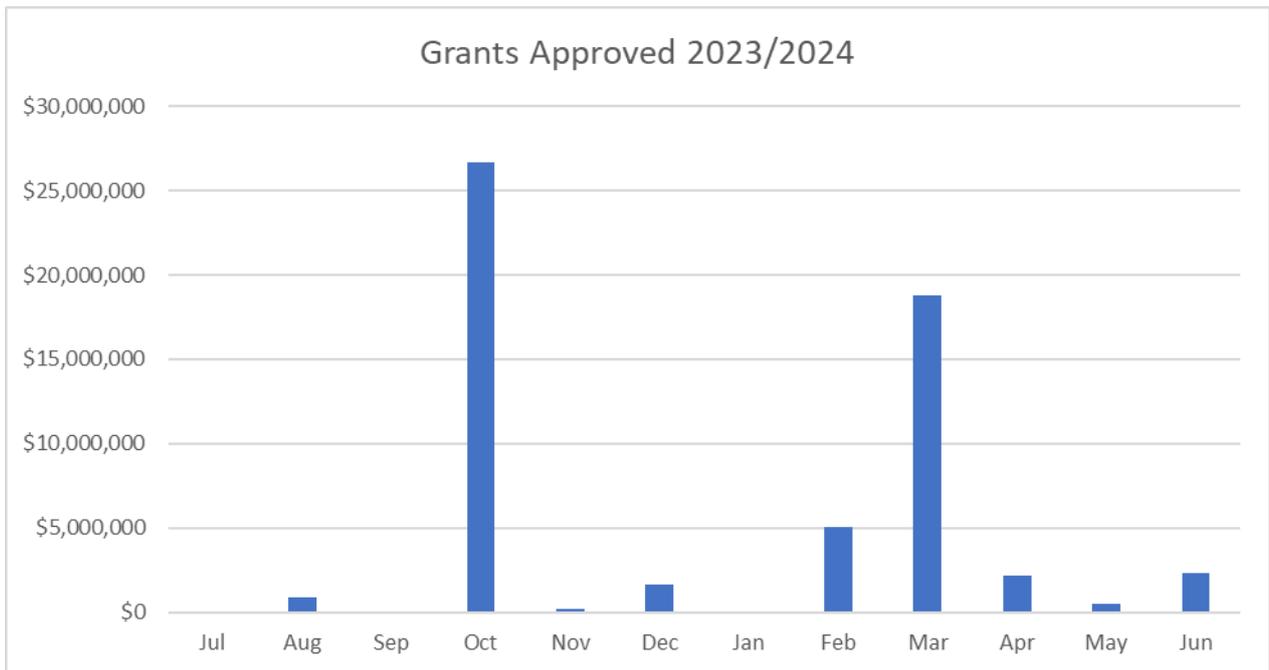
REPORT

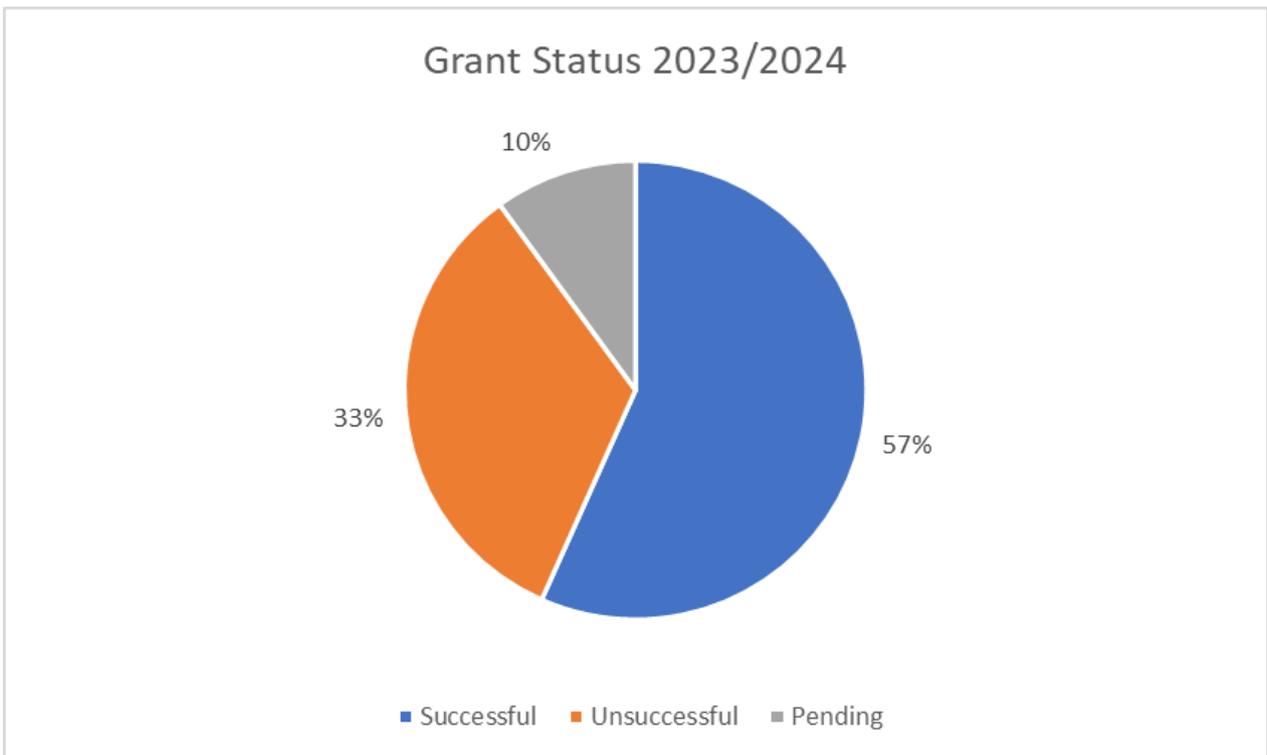
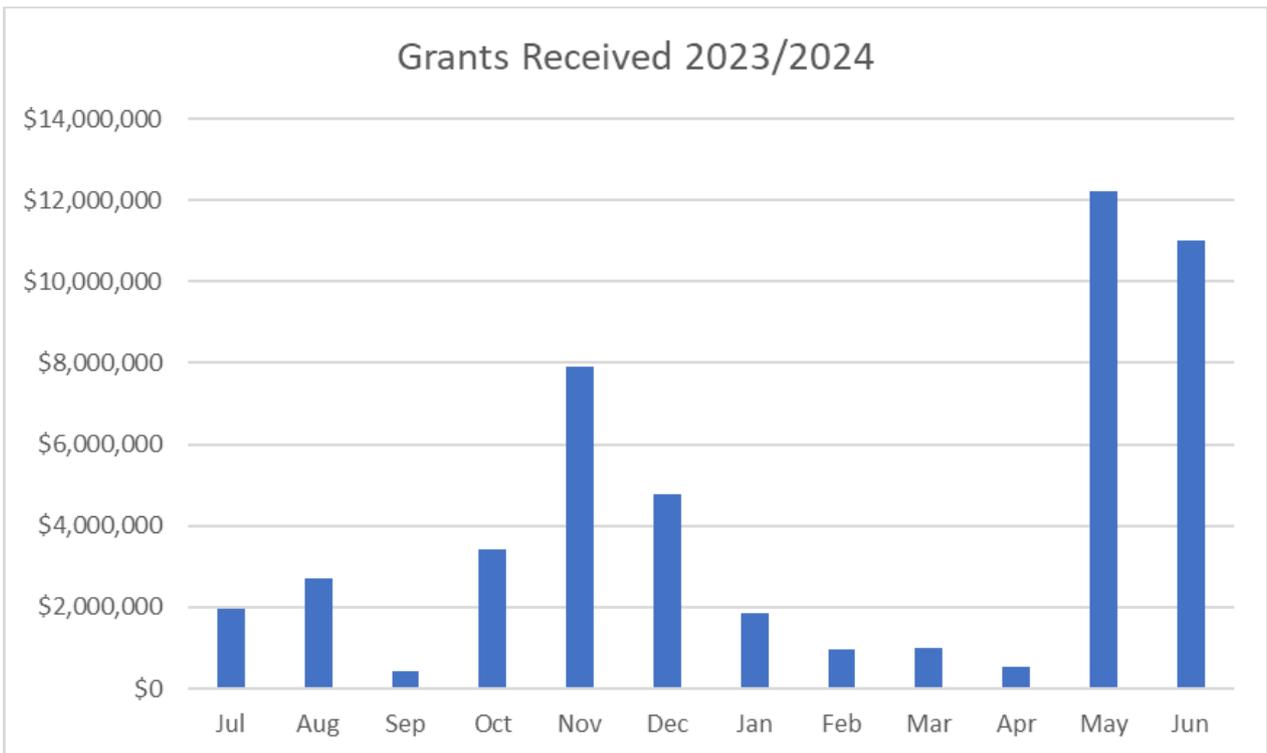
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of June 2024.

During the reporting period, there were four grants approved and no new submissions made. Council was notified of four unsuccessful grant applications.

Council received funding for 13 grants totalling \$11,023,856.

A summary of grants approved and received, as well as the status of applications for the current financial year to 30 June 2024 is shown below:





Grants that have been approved

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Approved
NSW Severe Weather and Flooding from 22 February onwards - AGRN 1012 EPAR Works	Transport for NSW (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	\$ 25,482,504	\$25,482,504	\$ -	N/A	Various
<p>Comment: Council has been approved for the following new EPAR projects: Casino Town Unsealed Roads, Grading, Evans Head Town Roads, Coraki Town Roads & Woodburn Town Roads.</p> <p>Note: This is a cumulative total for all EPAR projects approved, previously reported \$23,303,324. There are currently 38 EPAR submissions approved.</p>							
Shade Sails for Crawford Square	Department of Community & Justice (State)	Community Building Partnerships	\$ 128,778	\$ 30,000	\$ 98,778	27 October 2023	13 June 2024
<p>Comment: This funding will be used to install shade sails above the play equipment at Crawford Square, Casino.</p>							
Upgrade West Street Footpath	Transport for NSW (State)	Get NSW Active	\$ 78,196	\$ 78,196	\$ -	12 December 2023	25 June 2024
<p>Comment: This funding will be used to replace 120 metres of footpath and construct a further 62 metres of new footpath on West Street, Casino.</p>							
Casino Truck Show	Destination NSW (State)	Regional Event Flagship Stream	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	9 April 2024	26 June 2024
<p>Comment: This funding will be used to provide more marketing activities to further promote the Casino Truck Show.</p>							

Grants that have been received

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Queen Elizabeth Park Recreational Upgrade	NSW Office of Sport (State)	Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund	\$ 1,643,749	\$ 1,643,749	\$ -	2 September 2022	\$ 493,125 6 June 2024	\$ 1,314,999
Comment: Progress payment for works completed at Queen Elizabeth Park.								
Leak Reduction	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (State)	Regional Leakage Reduction Program - Infrastructure Grants	\$ 250,305	\$ 125,153	\$ 125,152	N/A	\$ 62,576 20 June 2024	\$ 62,576
Comment: 50% payment received.								
Northern Rivers Rail Trail NSW Phase 2	Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources (Federal)	National Tourism Icons Program	\$ 6,800,000	\$ 6,800,000	\$ -	14 September 2021	\$ 680,000 20 June 2024	\$ 6,800,000
Comment: Final payment received for completion of works.								
Roads to Recovery 2019/20 to 2023/24	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Federal)	Roads to Recovery Program	\$ 5,011,072	\$ 5,011,072	\$ -	N/A - annual allocation of \$1,002,214	\$ 501,106 21 June 2024	\$ 5,011,072
Comment: Final instalment for 2023/2024 financial year.								
Security Initiatives at Casino Indoor Sports Stadium	Civic Risk Mutual (Other)	Risk Enhance Funding	\$ 27,626	\$ 27,626	\$ -	23 June 2023	\$ 27,626 24 June 2024	\$ 27,626
Comment: Funding received for completion of works.								
Betterment of Casino Footbridge	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	\$ 3,505,767	\$ 3,505,767	\$ -	27 March 2023	\$ 1,051,730 24 June 2024	\$ 1,051,730
Comment: First milestone payment received for executing agreement.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Betterment of NRLX Effluent Management	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Infrastructure Betterment Fund	\$ 5,750,000	\$ 5,750,000	\$ -	15 December 2022	\$ 1,437,500 24 June 2024	\$ 1,437,500
Comment: First milestone payment received for executing agreement.								
Connecting and Healing Richmond Valley Communities	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Reconnecting Regional NSW - Community Events Program	\$ 301,708	\$ 301,708	\$ -	24 June 2022	\$ 60,342 24 June 2024	\$ 301,708
Comment: Final payment received following grant acquittal.								
Dairy Flat Road Improvements	National Emergency Management Agency (Federal)	Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative Phase 1	\$ 4,160,679	\$ 4,160,679	\$ -	N/A	\$ 735,044 24 June 2024	\$ 2,952,665
Comment: Progress payment for works completed.								
Tatham Bridge Raising	NSW Reconstruction Authority (State)	Emergency Response Fund - Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program 2022-23	\$ 18,000,000	\$18,000,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 100,000 24 June 2024	\$ 100,000
Comment: First milestone payment received for executing agreement.								
Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy 2023/24	Transport for NSW (State)	Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy 2023/24	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ -	N/A	\$ 96,000 26 June 2024	\$ 96,000
Comment: Annual payment to subsidise street lighting								
Indigenous Youth Cricket Program	Australian Sports Commission (Federal)	Play Well Participation Grant	\$ 12,330	\$ 11,580	\$ 750	22 February 2024	\$ 11,580 28 June 2024	\$ 11,580
Comment: Full funding allocation received to allow program to commence.								
Financial Assistance Grant 2024/25	NSW Local Government Grants Commission (Federal)	Financial Assistance Grant	\$ 6,784,973	\$ 6,784,973	\$ -	N/A - Annual Allocation	\$ 5,767,227 28 June 2024	\$ 5,767,227
Comment: Approximately 85% of 2024/25 funding allocation received per Office of Local Government Circular.								

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Advised Unsuccessful
Broadwater to Evans Head Shared Pathway	Transport for NSW (State)	Get NSW Active	\$ 4,350,823	\$ 4,350,823	\$ -	12 December 2023	25 June 2024
Comment: Number of applications exceeded the funding allocation. This application was deemed a lower priority relative to other applications.							
Woodburn to Evans Head Shared Pathway	Transport for NSW (State)	Get NSW Active	\$ 4,951,985	\$ 4,951,985	\$ -	12 December 2023	25 June 2024
Comment: Number of applications exceeded the funding allocation. This application was deemed a lower priority relative to other applications.							
New Shared Pathway Hickey Street, Casino	Transport for NSW (State)	Get NSW Active	\$ 214,935	\$ 214,935	\$ -	12 December 2023	25 June 2024
Comment: Number of applications exceeded the funding allocation. This application was deemed a lower priority relative to other applications.							
New Footpath Martin and Minto Street, Coraki	Transport for NSW (State)	Get NSW Active	\$ 112,312	\$ 112,312	\$ -	12 December 2023	25 June 2024
Comment: Number of applications exceeded the funding allocation. This application was deemed a lower priority relative to other applications.							

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

19.6 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JUNE 2024 - 30 JUNE 2024

Director: Angela Jones

Responsible Officer: Tony McAteer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024.

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 June 2024 to 30 June 2024 was nineteen (19) including one (1) Council approved Complying Development with a total value of \$6,037,993.00.

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

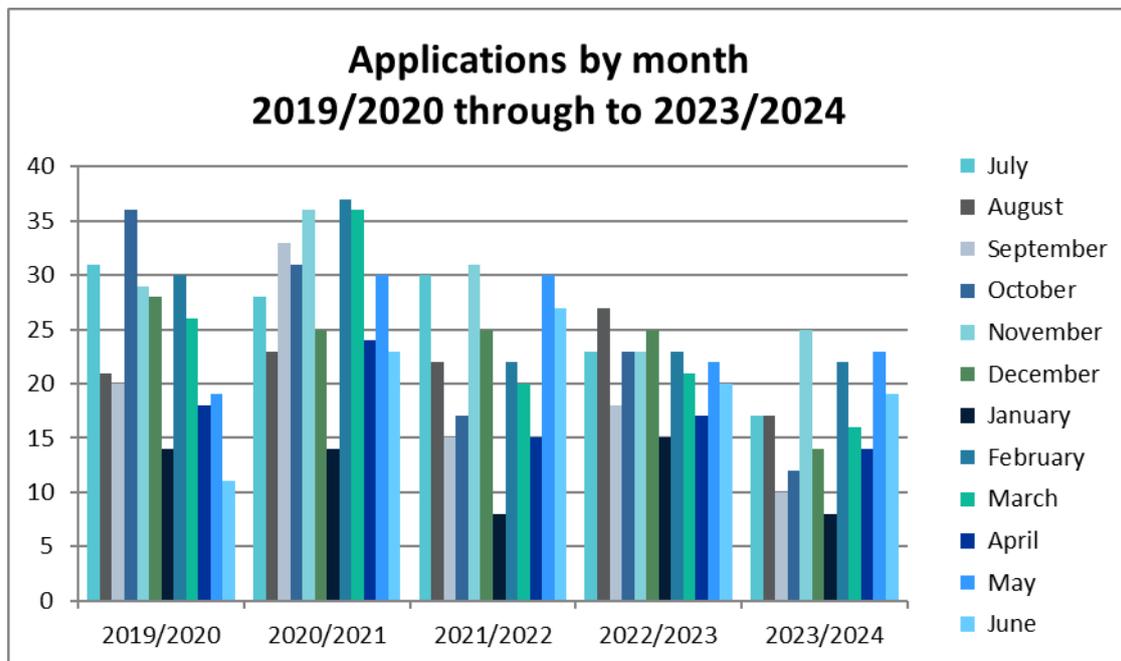


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications and CDC's processed by Council over five financial years.

Figure 2 provides the annual value of Development Consents including CDCs issued by Council over five financial years and Figure 3 provides a detailed review of the value for the reporting month of June 2024.

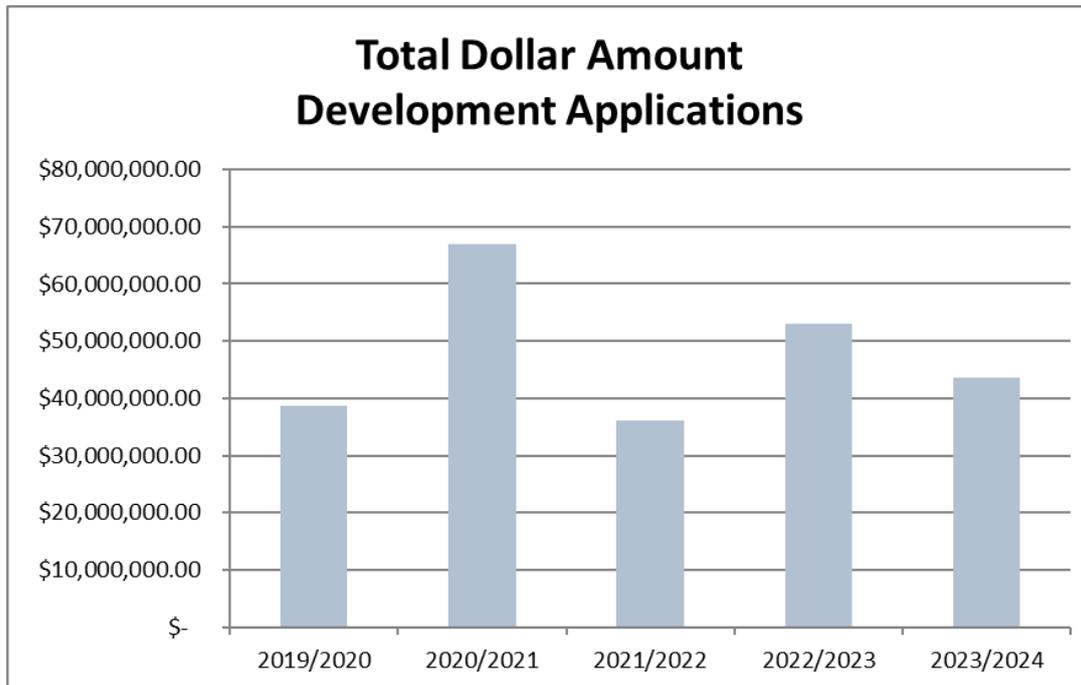


Figure 2: Annual value of development

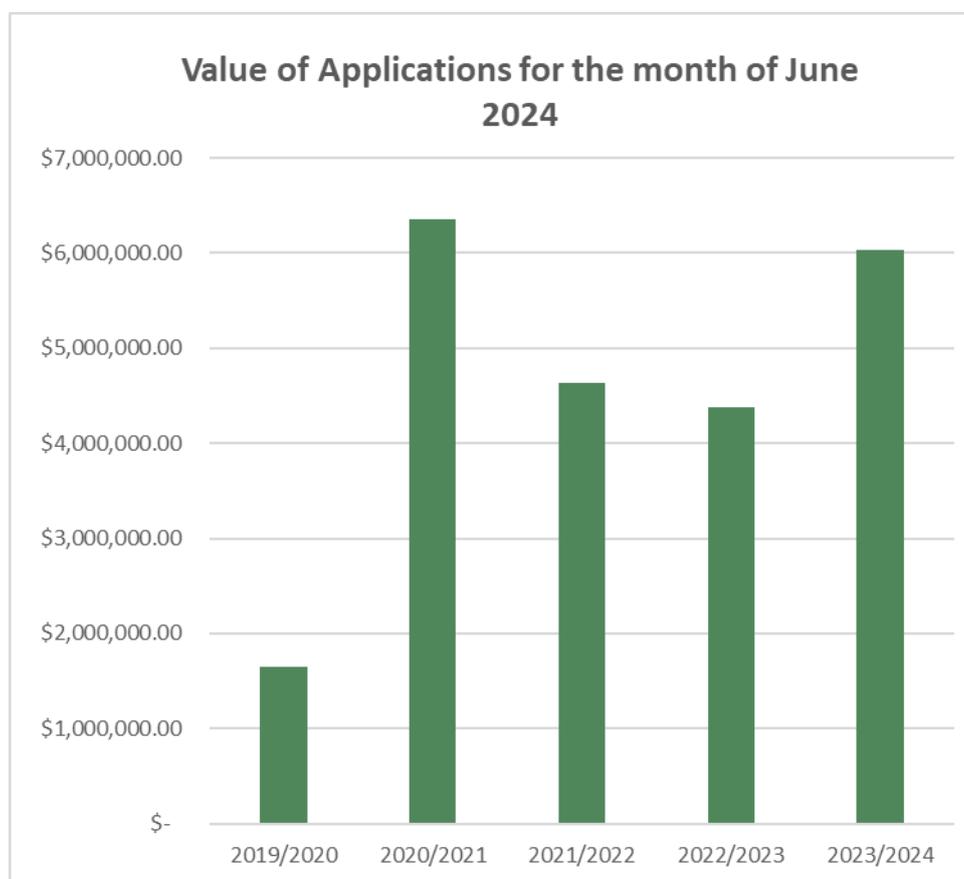


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of June 2024

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.

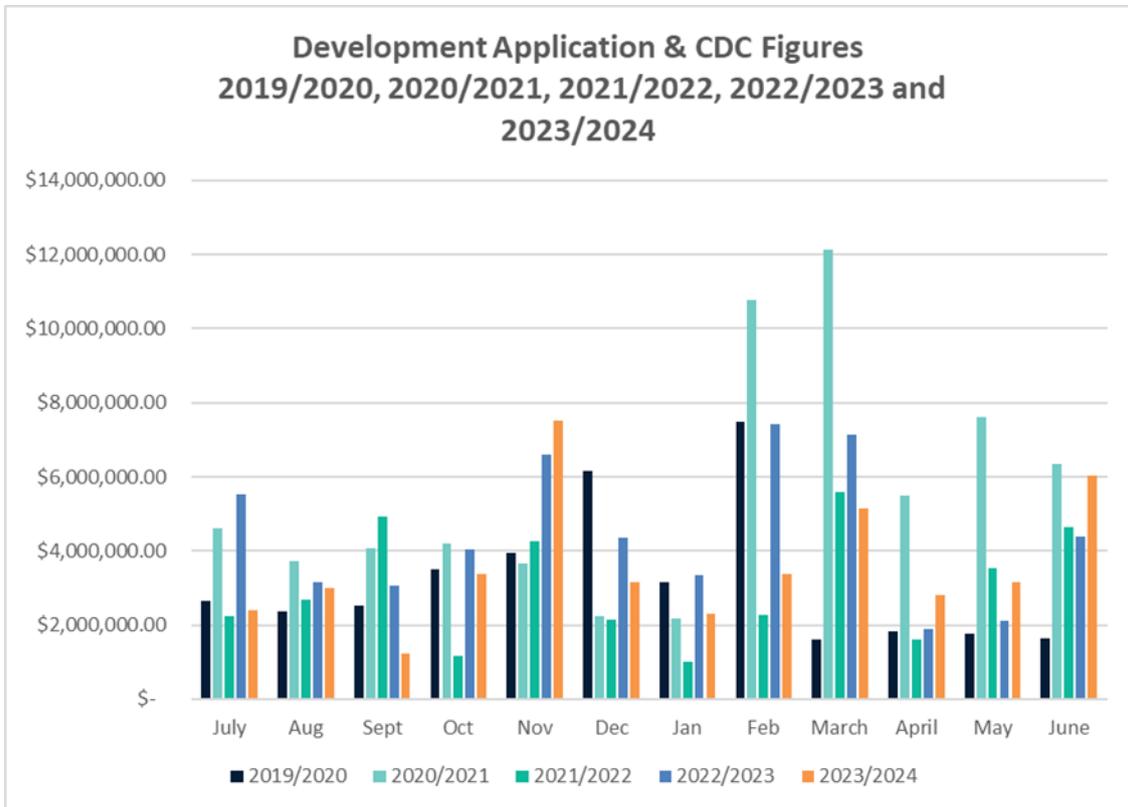


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

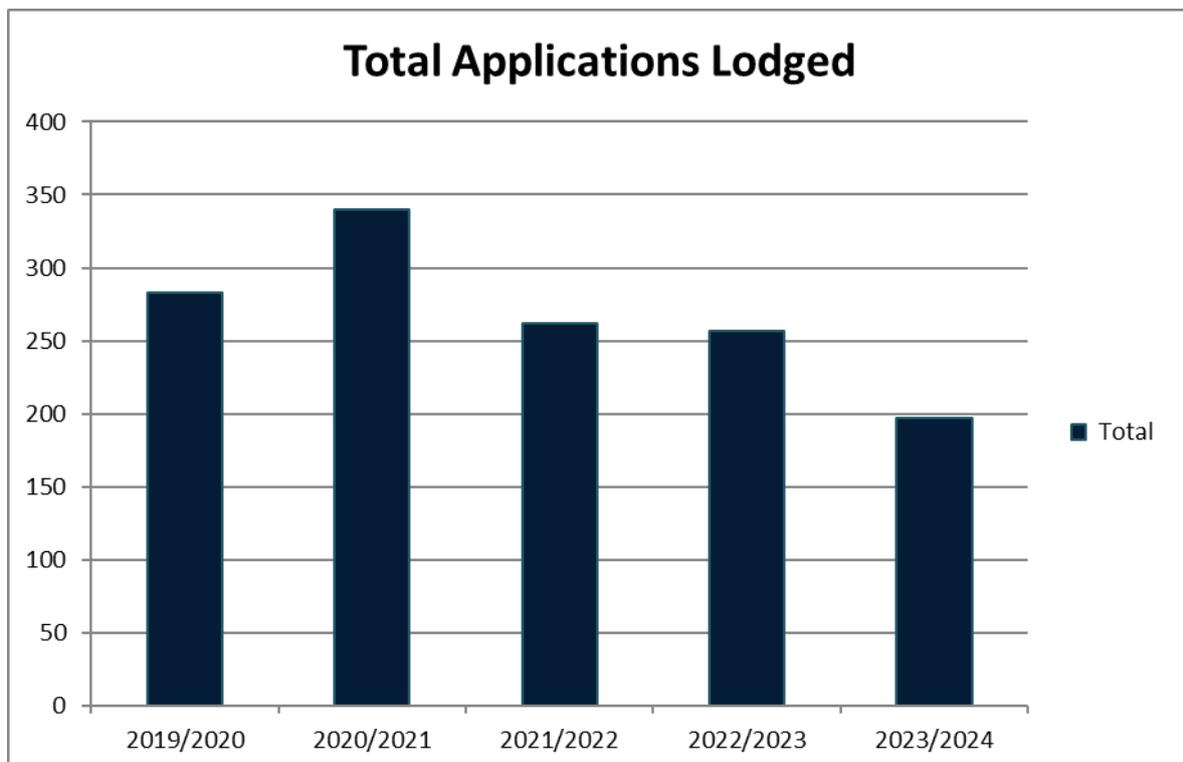


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications & CDCs per annum over five financial years

Activity for the month of June 2024

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	16
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	1
Operational Consent	0
Subdivision	1
Refused	0
Rejected	0
Withdrawn	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED (Excluding withdrawn applications)	18
Complying Development (Council Approved)	1
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	0
Amended Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	0
Average assessment days for applications determined in June 2024 (Planning & Building Combined)	28
No. of Integrated development applications determined in June 2024	1
No. of Designated development applications determined in June 2024	0

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (In Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2022/0240	D J Bowles	J A Bowles & D J Bowles	20 Parkes Street, Coraki	Resited dwelling	14/06/2024	16/06/2022	27/06/2024	\$149,800.00
DA2024/0053	Newton Denny Chapelle	North Coast Community Church Inc	159 Walker Street, Casino	Change of use from pub to a Place of Public Worship	30/05/2024	30/05/2024	18/06/2024	\$0.00
DA2024/0099	J R Burley	J R Burley & K A Burley	28 River Street, Broadwater	Construction of retaining wall and boundary fence with a request to vary the side boundary setback	31/01/2024	2/02/2024	7/06/2024	\$30,117.00
DA2024/0112	R J Hayes	Rod N Reel Pty Ltd	99-103 River Street, Woodburn	Installation of a micro-brewery into the existing hotel and associated works	16/02/2024	4/03/2024	27/06/2024	\$273,286.00
DA2024/0123	Artisan Pools Pty Ltd	Wickham Group Pty Ltd	50 Park Street, Evans Head	Installation of an in ground fibreglass swimming pool, its associated equipment & fencing + approx 35sqm of concrete surrounds.	5/03/2024	21/03/2024	4/06/2024	\$67,995.00
DA2024/0130	Ardill Payne & Partners	B L Aleckson	51 Beech Street, Evans Head	Construction of a new dwelling to create a detached dual occupancy, an in-ground swimming pool, demolition of 2 x sheds, Strata Subdivision and associated works	13/03/2024	4/04/2024	4/06/2024	\$599,500.00
DA2024/0139	G T Culbertson	L M Sullivan & G T Culbertson	15 Paddon Street, Broadwater	Construction of a new two storey residential dwelling including a proposed inground concrete swimming pool and associated fencing	2/04/2024	9/04/2024	14/06/2024	\$481,793.00
MA2024/0007	R J Hayes	M W Robson & J L Robson	126 Langs Way, Woodburn	S4.55(1A) Modification - Amendment to the location of the approved dwelling	15/05/2024	15/05/2024	27/06/2024	\$0.00
DA2024/0156	Newton Denny Chapelle	RSM Properties Pty Ltd	130 Walker Street, Casino	Proposed alterations and additions to 'The Royal Hotel', incorporating the provision of additional on-site parking spaces	23/04/2024	8/05/2024	25/06/2024	\$2,722,138.00
DA2024/0157	A Aleckson	K M Aleckson & T G Aleckson	810 Coraki Ellangowan Road, West Coraki	As Built' dwelling to create dual occupancy and associated works	24/04/2024	10/05/2024	7/06/2024	\$140,000.00
DA2024/0159	S D Henderson	D Holzhauser	14 McAuliffe Street, Casino	Proposed new rear deck and shed attached to existing carport including internal alterations	24/04/2024	2/05/2024	21/06/2024	\$84,000.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (In Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2024/0160	C Crook	H J McPaul & J M McPaul	115 Hotham Street, Casino	10m x 3.66m shed joined to the rear of existing garage	24/04/2024	2/05/2024	7/06/2024	\$31,600.00
DA2024/0164	Profile Pools and Landscaping	B J Dyki & A E Dyki	35 Bells Road, Rileys Hill	Installation of an inground fibreglass swimming pool and spa with associated pool fencing in accordance with the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and A.S 1926.1	3/05/2024	10/05/2024	7/06/2024	\$72,533.00
DA2024/0165	DRA Architects	Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Lismore	116 Centre Street, Casino	Demolition of existing toilet block and alterations to existing building to construct new toilet facilities within an existing school facility	6/05/2024	21/05/2024	20/06/2024	\$552,750.00
DA2024/0166	The Shed Company	D J McNeill & J M McNeill	35 Duchess Close, West Bungawalbin	9m x 21m Colorbond Gable Roof Shed	7/05/2024	21/05/2024	26/06/2024	\$66,730.00
DA2024/0172	Newton Denny Chapelle	H C Eveleigh	2 Forest Grove, Fairy Hill	Proposed Torrens Title Subdivision	24/05/2024	31/05/2024	27/06/2024	\$5,500.00
DA2024/0173	C A Wiggins	C A Wiggins	188 Baraang Drive, Broadwater	Detached colorbond shed with a request to vary the maximum building footprint	27/05/2024	31/05/2024	28/06/2024	\$45,800.00
DA2024/0174	Approved Pty Ltd	S D Hearn & R P Hearn	53 Marigold Drive, Fairy Hill	Construction of a new dwelling	29/05/2024	4/06/2024	26/06/2024	\$703,561.00
Summary of Council Certified Complying Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (In Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2024/0025	Mid-Richmond Plumbers & Suppliers Pty Ltd	Mid-Richmond Plumbers & Suppliers Pty Ltd	14-16 Oak Street, Evans Head	Alterations to internal commercial premises. Repainted walls, flooring, installation of new wall panelling in some areas.	31/05/2024		3/06/2024	\$10,890.00
Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (In Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								

Summary of Privately Certified Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Submitted to Council for Registration	Date Accepted	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								
Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act with a Clause 4.6 Variation for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (in Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								
Summary of Development Applications Refused under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (in Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								
Summary of Development Applications issued an Operation Consent under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (in Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								
Summary of Development Applications Withdrawn under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2024								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (in Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								

19.7 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE 25 JUNE 2024

Director: Ben Zeller

Responsible Officer: Graeme Robertson

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Local Traffic Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2024.

REPORT

Refer to the attached.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Minutes of the Local Traffic Committee held on 25 June 2024 (under separate cover)

19.8 CORRESPONDENCE: MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS ORDER - NATIONAL HOUSING ACCORD**Author: Vaughan Macdonald****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the correspondence from Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Hon Paul Scully MP, providing the Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of the statement follows;

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order**

The Hon Paul Scully MP

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces



Ref: IRF24/1443

Cr Robert Mustow**Mayor**

Richmond Valley Council

10 Graham Place

Casino NSW 2470

rmustow@rvc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor

As you are aware, the NSW Government is taking immediate action to meet our commitment under the National Housing Accord to build 377,000 new well-located homes by June 2029 to help address the housing crisis.

Local government are a critical enabler of housing, assessing about 85 per cent of housing development applications (DA) in NSW. However, over the past two years, average council DA timeframes have increased by 37 per cent, from 83 in FY21/22 to 114 days in FY23/24, which is contributing to the delays in housing completions and costing the NSW economy at least \$89 million each year.

In line with the beginning of the National Housing Accord, and our shared commitment to addressing the housing crisis, I am providing an updated Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order planning.nsw.gov.au/statement-of-expectations-order.

This new Statement of Expectations sets out expectations for council performance in the areas of development assessment, planning proposals and strategic planning. The performance of councils in meeting this Statement of Expectations will be monitored and reported publicly, as will the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's timeframes for approval of planning proposals and state significant development.

Addressing the housing crisis is a shared responsibility, and all levels of government must do more.

The Government is also developing a program to support councils achieve local housing targets, reduce average DA timeframes and deliver more homes. We have started this through initiatives funding cadetships for planners in councils and opening a new TAFE course for para-planning. We've completed substantial work on the NSW Planning Portal and are introducing artificial intelligence to support further efficiencies in the local DA process and timely decision-making.

The attached document outlines the key performance metrics within the Statement of Expectations and the associated infrastructure grant funding program. Additional initiatives to support councils achieve faster assessments will be announced in the coming months to help local and State government deliver approvals and particularly homes more effectively.

With these measures, I am confident that councils in NSW can achieve a significant reduction in average DA timeframes and meet our Housing Accord commitments.

I appreciate your leadership and support for this critical work in the spirit of shared responsibility that underpins the National Housing Accord and I look forward to working with you and all councils across New South Wales to deliver more housing for our communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Scully". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Scully MP

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

03/07/2024

Attachment A

This Attachment provides an overview of the initial programs the NSW Government is proposing to support councils in determining more housing-related planning matters during the period of the National Housing Accord. More details of these programs and initiatives will be released in the coming months.

Updated Statement of Ministerial Expectations

- The Ministerial Statement of Expectations establishes the planning-related expectations of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in terms of planning assessment performance. The updated Statement includes the expectation for councils to:
 - lodge DAs as soon as practical and within an average of:
 - 14 days from submission, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
 - 7 days from submission, from 1 July 2025 onwards
 - determine DAs as soon as practical and whichever is the lesser of council's previous financial year average, or an average of:
 - 115 days from lodgement, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
 - 105 days from lodgement, from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
 - 95 days from lodgement, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027
 - 85 days from lodgement, from 1 July 2027 onwards
 - assess Regionally Significant DAs and refer them to the relevant planning panel for determination as soon as practical and within an average of 250 days from lodgement.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Performance

- To assist with delivering major housing projects, the Department will be required to determine State Significant DAs for infill affordable housing and housing in transport-oriented development precincts within an average of 275 days from lodgement.
- As per the LEP Making Guidelines (August 2023) the Department must collaborate with councils to finalise planning proposals in 140 business days for basic proposals, 225 business days for standard proposals, 300 business days for complex proposals, and 380 business days for principal proposals.

Resourcing and financial incentives

- The Department will establish a new \$200 million grant program that provides milestone payments to councils based on their performance in meeting the Statement of Expectations. These grants will be for use in improving critical local infrastructure.

- The Department has made \$5.6 million worth of funding for grants to councils to integrate AI and other digital solutions into the development assessment process.
- The Department is working with industry, local government and the private sector to support a skilled planning workforce through the Strong Start mentoring program as well as a new TAFE pathway into the planning profession.

19.9 CORRESPONDENCE: MINISTER FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS, HON JENNY AITKINSON MP**Author: Vaughan Macdonald****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the correspondence provided to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Hon Jenny Aitkinson MP following Cr Stephen Morrissey's Notice of Motion.

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

Council resolved following Councillor Stephen Morrissey's Notice of Motion presented to Council's 25 June Ordinary meeting.

That Council writes to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads the Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, State Member Richie Williamson MP and Federal Member Kevin Hogan MP to reiterate the community's ongoing serious concerns with traffic and pedestrian safety along Centre Street (Bruxner Highway) at the Richmond and Canterbury Street intersections, and request that roundabouts and/or traffic lights be provided at these two intersections, and a safer pedestrian crossing facility at the Centre/Barker Street intersection, as a matter of urgency.

A copy of the correspondence forwarded to the Minister follows;

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Letter to Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Hon Jenny Aitchison MP**



8 July 2024

The Hon. Jenny Aitchison, MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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

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

ABN 54 145 907 009

Dear Minister

I write, once again, to raise our community's serious concern with the safety of three intersections, along the Bruxner Highway in the town of Casino. Over the past 10 years, Richmond Valley Council has advocated to all levels of government to highlight this ongoing safety issue and, at its June 2024 meeting Council resolved the following:

That Council writes to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads the Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, State Member Richie Williamson MP and Federal Member Kevin Hogan MP to reiterate the community's ongoing serious concerns with traffic and pedestrian safety along Centre Street (Bruxner Highway) at the Richmond and Canterbury Street intersections, and request that roundabouts and/or traffic lights be provided at these two intersections, and a safer pedestrian crossing facility at the Centre/Barker Street intersection, as a matter of urgency.

The area referenced in the resolution is a 1,445m section of road, adjacent to the Casino CBD, containing three critical intersections. Two of the intersections are give way intersections, with the third having a roundabout, with a pedestrian crossing immediately south of the exit. This section of the highway has a high traffic and pedestrian movements, as it serves local schools, the Casino CBD, a number of fast-food outlets and the Casino Memorial Swimming Pool.

This road marks the convergence of two major regional freight routes – the Bruxner Highway and the Summerland Way – and at peak periods it is heavily congested with local traffic, including school buses, and through-traffic, including heavy vehicles and B doubles. There have been multiple low-speed crashes on this section of the highway and numerous pedestrian safety incidents over the past 10 years.

However, repeated attempts to have intersection improvements funded through the Federal Government's Black Spot program have consistently failed to meet the funding criteria, because no-one has been seriously or fatally injured in these traffic incidents, as yet. Council believes this should not be the benchmark for road safety improvements and seeks your urgent support to proactively address these issues before serious injury occurs to the many children and elderly pedestrians who utilise this area on a daily basis.

Council has approached the former RMS and now TfNSW on a number of occasions to address the concerns at these intersections, however we have been unable to advance any commitment from these agencies to provide a long-term solution. Over the past 10 years, traffic numbers on this road have continued to increase, and a further increase is expected in the coming years, as the NSW Government's Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct initiative is activated at Casino.

Love where we live and work



While Casino welcomes this growth, it is important that we should plan for the long-term safety of key traffic routes within the town and proactively address these issues. We again request that these intersections be considered for roundabout and/or traffic lights and pedestrian upgrades to reduce the risk to our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information, please contact Council's General Manager, Vaughan Macdonald, at vaughan.macdonald@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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

Clr Robert Mustow
Mayor

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 VP408588 - Bentley Landslip and Road Remediation

This matter relates to (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22.2 Tender VP402530 - Construction of Tatham Twin Bridges Replacement

This matter relates to (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22.3 Tender VP416434 - Netball Clubhouse Facility - Colley Park Casino (Detailed Report)

This matter relates to (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22.4 Tender VP413558 - Halsteads Drive Stage 3 Access Restoration

This matter relates to (d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

The above matters are 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