

Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
15 April 2025**

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**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 2025 AT 6PM**

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

PRESENT: Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Lyndall Murray, Cr John Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Ryan Gaiter (Director Organisational Services), Ben Zeller (Director Projects & Business Development), Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor), Latoya Cooper (Executive Assistant to Organisational Services) and Simon Breeze (IT Support Coordinator).

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

2 PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

3 PUBLIC ACCESS

Mr Ian Brown supported by Ms Bianca Mavir addressed Council in relation to

- Item 20.1; Cr Lyndall Murray - 2022 Flood Impact Update. Seeking answers to the following questions;
 1. In the event the CSIRO Study does not return a favourable outcome for Coraki, does Richmond Valley Council still intend to invest in flood mitigation for our township?
 2. Have Council determined a timeline for establishment of the Flood Risk Management Committee recommended as part of community consultation for the FRM Plan?
 3. What is the selection process for community representatives?
 4. Is there an opportunity for community advocates to meet with representatives from Rous County Council?

The Mayor thanked Mr Brown and Ms Mavir for their attendance and PowerPoint presentation to the meeting and advised written responses would be provided to Mr Brown in the near future.

A full recording of the public address segment is available at:

<https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/council/council-meetings/council-meeting-videos/>

4 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 150425/1

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That the apology received from Cr Sam Cornish be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

5 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 18 MARCH 2025

RESOLUTION 150425/2

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 March 2025.

CARRIED

7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Nil

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cr Sandra Humphrys declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item 19.1 Key Richmond Valley Events Update, due to being a performer in the CCMMuster and a non-pecuniary insignificant interest as Volunteer Coordinator for the same event.

The General Manager declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Item 22.3 – General Manager's Annual Performance Review 2024/2025, due to his performance review and salary determination and indicated that he would leave the meeting while this matter was being considered and determined.

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - FLYING FOXES ANNUAL VISIT TO CASINO****RESOLUTION 150425/3**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council review the Flying Fox colony visit during the recent summer 2024/25 season to identify the impact, how it was managed, lessons learned, forward program and funding availability to reduce the impact of the 'Little Red' Flying Foxes annual migratory visit to Casino in future years.

CARRIED

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 12 MARCH - 8 APRIL 2025****RESOLUTION 150425/4**

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Stephen Morrissey

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 12 March – 8 April 2025.

CARRIED

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE**13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE****RESOLUTION 150425/5**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That items 14.2 and 17.2 identified be determined without debate.

CARRIED

14 GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 REGIONAL JOBS PRECINCT ACTIVATION****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct is officially open for business, following final approval of the Masterplan by the NSW Minister for Planning. Supported by amendments to Council's Local Environment Plan, the Masterplan opens the way for more industries to be established within the Precinct, creating up to 1900 new jobs. Council has been working with Regional NSW for the past four years to progress the project, which will make it easier, cheaper and faster for new businesses to achieve development approval. The Regional Jobs Precinct will provide 342 ha of employment land, which is sufficient to meet demand for the next 20 years. Council will be actively promoting the Precinct to encourage new businesses to establish and supporting existing businesses to expand.

RESOLUTION 150425/6

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council

1. Notes the approval of the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct Masterplan and LEP amendments, which will help to create up to 1900 new jobs for our community;
2. Writes to the Ministers for Planning, Regional NSW and the North Coast, to acknowledge their support in delivering this project;
3. Notes that a further report on proposed amendments to the Richmond Valley Development Control Plan to support the RJP Masterplan will be presented to a future Council meeting;
4. Continues to actively promote investment opportunities within the Regional Jobs Precinct.

CARRIED

14.2 ORGANISATIONAL FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE REVIEW 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The requirements for approval of the organisation structure have been changed since 2021, as set out in the OLG Circular available at the below link.

[Council Circular 24-09 Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 removing the option for councils to employ senior council executives under statutory contracts. - Office of Local Government NSW](#)

To achieve our priorities and adjust to the feedback and subsequent decisions from our current Community Strategic Plan consultation process, it is timely to review our organisation structure. The current structure was determined by Council in February 2021 and has served us well as the organisation has dealt with some big challenges during this time. A review has been conducted of the current organisation of our key functions across the business and the new proposed structure aims to enhance the way we are organised and remove any issues or barriers to efficient operations.

The requirements for approval of the organisation structure have been changed since 2021, as set out in the OLG Circular available at the below link.

[Council Circular 24-09 Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 removing the option for councils to employ senior council executives under statutory contracts. - Office of Local Government NSW](#)

The key change is that the elected Council no longer approves the senior staff structure, as it was decided by the NSW Government to remove the option of having senior staff on contracts for Directors and require all staff other than the General Manager to be employed under the Local Government Award. The Council now approves the resourcing required for the employment of staff as happens in the annual budget process. The General Manager is then required to determine the positions within the organisation structure after consulting with the Council which is the intent of this report.

We are currently finalising the consultation processes within our RVC team and liaising with Unions as needed to implement the Workplace Change in line with the Local Government Award with the aim to commence the new structure from 5 May 2025.

RESOLUTION 150425/7

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Notes the review of the organisation that has been conducted by the General Manager and that the proposed changes to the Organisational Structure will be achieved within the existing resource allocation of the annual budget;
2. Endorses the new functional Organisational Structure which will commence during May 2025.

CARRIED

14.3 FURTHER RESPONSE TO CR ROBERT HAYES' NOTICE OF MOTION FEBRUARY 2025 – FLOOD BUYBACKS AND NEW HOME APPROVALS FOR FLOOD PRONE LAND IN THE MID-RICHMOND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the February Council meeting a Motion by Cr Hayes, in relation to Flood Buybacks and new home approvals in the Mid-Richmond, was unanimously supported by Councillors. Council subsequently wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Reconstruction Authority, seeking a response to Part 1 of the resolution. This information has now been received from the Authority and the response is outlined in this report.

RESOLUTION 150425/8

Moved: Cr Robert Hayes

Seconded: Cr Robert Mustow

That Council:

1. Notes the further response to Cr Robert Hayes' Notice of Motion, - Flood Buybacks and new home approvals for flood prone land in the Mid-Richmond.
2. Firmly reiterates at every opportunity, when it engages with the NSW Reconstruction Authority that it is of the understanding that the majority of home owners of Woodburn would prefer funded house raises with structural improvements to their existing properties and not buybacks unless they are absolutely necessary, so they can remain where they live.

CARRIED

15 COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

15.1 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is in the initial stages of preparing a Flood Risk Management Study & Plan (the FRM Plan) for the Richmond Valley. The project is being partially funded by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and is required to be prepared under the guidance of the NSW Flood Risk Management Manual 2023.

The Manual requires community engagement throughout the project and strongly recommends the formation of a Flood Risk Management Committee as a key step in the management process to develop the plan.

The role of the FRM Committee is to assist in developing the Plan by contributing ideas, professional expertise, experience, and local knowledge. It is proposed that membership of the Committee should include a Richmond Valley Councillor, community representatives, professional staff representing engineering, planning and sustainability, and representation from Rous, DCCEEW & SES.

RESOLUTION 150425/9

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council:

1. Establishes a Flood Risk Management Committee (FRM Committee) for the purpose of preparing the Richmond Valley Council Flood Risk Management Study and Plan,
2. Adopts the draft Terms of Reference for the FRM Committee,
3. Nominates Councillor/s as representatives to be members of the FRM Committee, and
4. Seeks Expressions of Interest for the community representative roles on the FRM Committee.

CARRIED

15.1.1 NOMINATIONS FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 150425/10

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

Councillor Sandra Humphrys and Councillor Robert Hayes accepted the nominations as Councillor representatives on the Flood Risk Management Committee.

CARRIED

16 PROJECTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Nil

17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

17.1 AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - RE-APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND NOMINATION OF A NON-VOTING COUNCILLOR MEMBER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council (Council) has established an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in compliance with section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW*.

The objective of the ARIC is to provide independent assurance to the Council by monitoring, reviewing and providing advice about the Council governance processes, compliance, risk management and control frameworks, external accountability obligations and overall performance.

The Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee adopted by Council requires the committee to provide an annual assessment to Council each year. This report covers the period of the full calendar year of 2024.

The Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee also outline the requirements for re-appointment of the members to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee which are proposed within this report.

RESOLUTION 150425/11

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That Council

1. Receives and notes the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 2024 Annual Report;
2. Re-appoints the current members as recommended within the report; and
3. Re-considers the appointment of a non-voting councillor member to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

CARRIED

17.1.1 NOMINATION AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 150425/12

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

Councillor John Walker accepted the nomination as Councillor representative to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

CARRIED

17.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MARCH 2025**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

The value of Council's cash and investments at 31 March 2025 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$19,437,590	\$30,000,000	\$6,750,390	\$4,500,000	\$17,284,702	\$77,972,682

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments at 31 March 2025 was 0.71% which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for March of 4.16% (annualised), which is Council's benchmark.

RESOLUTION 150425/13

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

That Council adopts the Financial Analysis Report detailing the performance of its cash and investments for the month of March 2025.

CARRIED

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**MOTION**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Sandra Humphrys

A motion was moved that the following reports submitted for information be received and noted.

Cr Sandra Humphrys withdrew her seconding of the motion, due to declaring a pecuniary interest and non-pecuniary interest in Item 19.1 Key Richmond Valley Events Update.

The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

RESOLUTION 150425/14

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

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

CARRIED

Having declared a pecuniary interest and non-pecuniary interest in Item 19.1 Key Richmond Valley Events Update, Cr Sandra Humphrys left the meeting at 7.17pm.

19.1 KEY RICHMOND VALLEY EVENTS UPDATE**RESOLUTION 150425/15**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

That Council notes the Key Richmond Valley Events update report.

CARRIED

At 7:26 pm, Cr Sandra Humphrys returned to the meeting.

19.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH 2025 - 31 MARCH 2025**RESOLUTION 150425/16**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

That Council receives and notes the Development Application report for the period 1 March 2025 to 31 March 2025

CARRIED

19.3 CIVICRISK MUTUAL EXCELLENCE IN RISK MANAGEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM**RESOLUTION 150425/17**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey
Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

That Council notes the highly commended award received at the Civic Risk Mutual Awards Annual Members Assembly for Risk Innovation in the Naughtons Gap Road landslip project.

CARRIED

19.4 CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE REPORT 1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2025**RESOLUTION 150425/18**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

That Council receives and notes the Customer Experience Report for the period 1 January – 31 March 2025.

CARRIED

19.5 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MARCH 2025**RESOLUTION 150425/19**

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of March 2025.

CARRIED

20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**20.1 CR LYNDALL MURRAY - 2022 FLOOD IMPACT UPDATE****Note:**

Council wrote to the Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) after the February 2025 Council meeting outlining the notice of motion resolved and the questions asked by Cr Murray at that meeting. Additional questions raised by Cr Murray at the March 2025 meeting were also forwarded to NSWRA. Information has been received from the Authority and a confidential briefing provided for Councillors on Tuesday 8 April 2025. The responses below are based on the information provided and the briefing.

The following questions on notice were received from Councillor Lyndall Murray at the 18 March Ordinary meeting.

Questions (March 2025 mtg)

Questions for the Reconstruction Authority regarding the \$5,000,000 Repair to Return program and undisclosed funding amounts:

1. If any funds were allocated to the Richmond Valley, what amount was spent and on how many homes?

Response: Partial restoration and essential plumbing repairs have been completed on 102 homes in the Richmond Valley LGA. This represents 41% of the total number of homes repaired through the Repair to Return program to date, across the seven Northern Rivers LGAs. Additional works may be carried out in future as the program will run to 31 December 2025. Funding information was provided to RVC Councillors on Tuesday 8 April during a confidential briefing by the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

2. How much funding was spent on the Living Lab and Lismore City Council's Converge program?

Response: The Living Lab Northern Rivers (LLNR) is a partnership between Southern Cross University, University of Technology Sydney and the NSW Government. It is a research and engagement initiative to support the recovery and resilient rebuilding of the Northern Rivers region. The partnership is funded through the Commonwealth's Disaster Ready Fund (as part of the Northern Rivers Disaster Readiness Program), the NSW Government and Southern Cross University. Funding information was provided to RVC Councillors on Tuesday 8 April during a confidential briefing by the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

The Converge program provides artists from across the Northern Rivers with access to a shared studio space, professional development and entrepreneurial support and the opportunity to exhibit their artworks. Funding of \$145,000 from the NSW Reconstruction Authority helped to transform vacant premises to support the program.

3. Will the Reconstruction Authority's CEO and Executive agree to attend an open meeting in Woodburn, Coraki and Broadwater to discuss the next phase of rolling out the remaining House Raise & Retro Refit grant streams?

Response: RA is working with Councils to plan community engagement sessions in the coming months across the region. These sessions will provide an opportunity for homeowners to meet with builders and Council representatives in an effort to progress resilient measures works.

4. GIVIT was announced as the primary fundraising vehicle by the State Government. How much money has been raised for Cyclone Alfred, and how much has been spent in the Richmond Valley?

Response: The NSW Government has contracted GIVIT to manage donations of goods and services for people impacted by disasters. Supported by the QLD and NSW governments, GIVIT launched a dedicated Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred appeal, which has raised over \$340,000 in total. Since January 2022, Richmond Valley residents impacted by the 2022 flood and recent cyclone event have received \$2,121,433 in donated funds and 29,665 items.

5. What is the total amount of grant or other income received by Richmond Valley Council for the 2022 flood recovery? Please provide a breakdown by grant stream and a report detailing the projects funded by these monies broken down by postcode.

Response: Council has received a total of \$55.8m in Essential Public Asset Reconstruction (EPAR) works approvals across 96 separate EPAR submissions for AGRN 1012 (NSW Severe Weather and Flooding from February 2022 onwards). The Council has received \$5.64m in advanced payments pre-Tripartite Agreement, and \$17.49m in advanced payments under the Tripartite Agreements associated with restoration of essential public assets from Transport for NSW. Council has reported on grant funding data in previous Delivery Program six monthly reports.

Additional questions (March 2025 mtg)

1. Can the council arrange a meeting with concerned community members to discuss why water in the Bungawalbin flats affecting Swan Bay, New Italy, Ellangowan, and surrounding areas, is not draining?

Response: Floodplain management is a function of Rous County Council. Following significant rainfall events such as with the Cyclone Alfred event, moderate to major flood levels the Richmond Valley floodplains serve the purpose of holding water while the river and creek levels subside, with the floodplains then gradually emptying out.

2. Could council staff meet with Coraki residents to collect feedback on stormwater and sewerage issues along Bridge Street, Richmond Street, behind Union Street, and surrounding areas, and then compile a report on the system's effectiveness?

Response: The General Manager has committed to meeting with a group of residents who raised concerns about stormwater management in Coraki.

3. Can council staff investigate or write to the relevant agency regarding the recent fish kills and blackwater incidents, and report whether the blackwater poses a toxic risk to human health?

Response: These matters, while of interest to Council and our community, are not a Council responsibility. Blackwater incidents are unfortunately a regular occurrence following flooding events on floodplains that are used for cropping and other agricultural activities. It is a complex issue that is difficult to resolve.

4. Can council ask the relevant agency for a report on the health of the Richmond River before and after the impacts of the fish kills as a result of Cyclone Alfred?

Response: Council will seek this information once the relevant history and reporting and the responsible agency is confirmed.

5. Can we get back to Deborah Bell's questions as outlined in public access?

Response: See answer to question 2.

6. Where are the new gauges promised for Bungawalbin?

Response: River/creek gauges are not a Council responsibility. We will seek information through the Local Emergency Management Committee to determine where the flood gauges are located and advise our Councillors and communicate in a future community newsletter.

Questions (February 2025 mtg)

The following questions on notice were received from Cllr Murray at the February meeting and now that a response has been received from the Reconstruction Authority and a briefing held with Councillors the answers can be provided and are set out below:

1. Will all priority homes mapped 1-4 receive a grant and what is the timeline to deliver these in full?

Response: The RHP is a voluntary program that provides financial support for eligible homeowners to minimise their impact from future floods. Grants are provided to homeowners through an application process. RA is working with homeowners eligible for the program in the Priority 1-4 areas as mapped and within the \$880m budget for the program. The RHP is scheduled to conclude in 2027.

2. Of the total number of homes affected by the 2022 flood, how many promised grants have been approved and distributed across the three Resilient Homes Grant streams? Additionally, provide a breakdown by grant stream and postcode for Richmond Valley residents.

Response: In the Richmond Valley LGA, a total of 1,256 homeowners registered initially, and 247 of them then applied for the Resilient Homes Program. Of these, 59 buyback offers

have been made to date. Another 47 applications were eligible for the Resilient Measures stream, leading to 37 home assessments being completed and 9 grant offers issued. Several applications are still progressing through eligibility assessments whilst others have been determined to be ineligible or not prioritised under the program guidelines.

3. How much of the \$790 million has been distributed, with a breakdown by postcode, priority level, and the average time taken for approval?

Response: To date, the RHP has made offers to almost 900 homeowners for buybacks across the Northern Rivers, which means more than 60 per cent of funding has been allocated. There have been 59 buyback offers made in the Richmond Valley LGA to date. A breakdown by suburb is not appropriate, to protect confidentiality, however applications were assessed from Casino, Coraki, Woodburn, and Broadwater. The timeframes for approval vary per application as Homeowners engage with RHP on a voluntary basis.

4. Provide clear details about the retreat program, including how people can apply and the timeline for its rollout across properties over five hectares. Will the funding be equivalent to the house raise grant stream? If not, why?

Response: The RHP has a large lot policy found at [Large Lots Policy](#). The Retreat grant is available to homeowners where the residential dwelling is: within a mapped high-risk priority area; or was destroyed or recommended for demolition as a result of the 2022 floods. See this link to apply [Applying for the Resilient Homes Program | NSW Government](#)

5. What is the process for RA agents in connecting applicants to mental health services, and how many individuals have been referred to the police for welfare checks in the Richmond Valley?

Response: Information about Recovery Support Services is available on the NSW Government Website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/floods/recover/support-services>. The Recovery Support Services provide a dedicated support worker and links to other programs and services in the community for affected parties. Where RA staff have concerns for a person's welfare they will contact support services.

6. Can we follow up with the relevant agency to confirm the revised date for the outcome of the Woodburn IGA's business grant application, which was supposed to be yesterday?

Response: We understand that the outcomes of this program are soon to be released and applicants will be informed directly.

RESOLUTION 150425/20

Moved: Cr Lyndall Murray

Seconded: Cr Robert Hayes

That the responses to the questions regarding 2022 Flood Impact Update raised by Councillor Lyndall Murray be received and noted.

CARRIED

20.2 CR ROBERT HAYES - 2022 FLOOD DEPTH AND VELOCITIES

The following questions on notice were received from Councillor Robert Hayes at Council's 18 March Ordinary meeting.

Questions

1. Can Council develop an avenue where you can make an inquiry to get confirmation of what flood depths and velocities are relevant to a property and what type of engineering would be required to accompany a development application to be successful?
2. If the CSIRO flood report due out in June 2025 results in flood mitigation measures that will result in lowering flood levels by 1m or more. What could that do to flood hazard classifications in our villages and surrounding areas moving forward?

Responses

1. Council currently provides a Flood Information Enquiry service for the community. Applicants can access this service by filling out the form on Council's website and lodging it with Council. A small fee applies to cover the time taken for the assessment. These applications are generally turned around within the week. Certain developments in higher hazard categories will require a structural soundness assessment, with a report prepared by a Structural Engineer. Each site has different flood impacts, so each design must be assessed individually. This requirement is set out in Council's adopted Floodplain Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) and will be included as a condition of consent for the development. The condition will detail the specific depth and velocity of water impacting the development and the applicant's structural engineer must assess the proposal against these values. The structural engineering report findings must be accepted by Council prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate.
2. Any flood mitigation measures, either through the CSIRO study or Richmond Valley's future Flood Risk Management Plan, will require afflux assessment on the initial design to ensure there is no/minimal adverse impact to adjoining properties. Following construction of any flood mitigation measures, flood modelling will need to be re-run with the new information overlaid in the model across affected areas (where levels, velocities, hazards etc have changed). The new modelling outputs would then be supplied to Council (and others where necessary) for adoption and use. An amended Flood Study or an addendum to the Flood Study may be required depending on the scale of difference.

RESOLUTION 150425/21

Moved: Cr Robert Hayes
Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

That the responses to the questions regarding 2022 Flood Depth and Velocities raised by Councillor Robert Hayes be received and noted.

CARRIED

21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

Nil

22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

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

22.1 Tender T542425RTC - Supply and Delivery Stationery and Ancillary Items

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 T422425RTC - Supply and Delivery of Ready Mixed Concrete

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 General Manager's Annual Performance Review - 2024/25

This matter relates to (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

These matters are considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

The General Manager reported that no written representations had been received in respect of the items listed for consideration in Closed Council.

The Chair called for representations from the gallery.

There were no verbal representations from the gallery in respect of this item.

The Chair advised that under section 10A Local Government Act 1993, the media and public are to be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be discussed is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10(2) as outlined above.

RESOLUTION 150425/22

Moved: Cr Stephen Morrissey

Seconded: Cr Lyndall Murray

That:

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

CARRIED

Council closed its meeting at 7.54pm

The open Council meeting resumed at 8pm

23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL

The resolutions of the Closed Council meeting were read by the Director Organisational Services (Items 22.1, 22.2) and Mayor Robert Mustow (Item 22.3).

22.1 Tender T542425RTC - Supply and Delivery Stationery and Ancillary Items

That:

1. Council accepts the tender from the following suppliers for T542425RTC Supply and Delivery of Stationery and Ancillary Items, on a Schedule of Rates based contract for a period of three (3) years, with an option for 2 one-year extensions, subject to performance.
 - Winc Australia, and
 - Office Choice
2. The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

22.2 Tender T422425RTC - Supply and Delivery of Ready Mixed Concrete

That

1. Council accepts the tender from the following suppliers for T422425RTC Supply and Delivery of Ready Mixed Concrete, on a schedule of rates based contract for a period of three (3) years, with an option for 2 one-year extensions, subject to performance:
 - Boral Resources
 - Graham's Concrete
 - Holcim
2. The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of any contract or agreement, in line with the content of this report and the available budget and affixing the seal of Council where necessary.

22.3 General Manager's Annual Performance Review - 2024/25

That Council approves:

1. In accordance with Clause 8.3 of the Standard Contract of Employment, General Managers of Local Government in NSW and the Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers, a discretionary increase as outlined in the report be awarded to the General Manager's total remuneration package in recognition of:
 - the results achieved for the period.
 - the high standards set and achieved by the General Manager, and
 - in the absence of any Statutory and Other Offices Tribunal (SOORT) increase this financial year.
2. The discretionary increase to take effect from the General Manager's most recent anniversary date, being 16 February 2025.
3. The Mayor, General Manager and Facilitator are to develop a draft performance agreement for the coming year, taking into account suggestions submitted by councillors. The draft agreement will be provided for review and agreement by Councillors.
4. A mid-term review is to be conducted in August 2025.

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 May 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON