



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, 18 November 2025

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 OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 October 2025.

REPORT

Refer to attached Minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Unconfirmed Ordinary Minutes 21 October 2025 (under separate cover)**

7 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 NOTICE OF MOTION**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL WOODBURN POLICE OFFICER, SENIOR CONSTABLE ADAM BAILEY**

Author: Robert Hayes

I, Councillor Robert Hayes, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 18 November 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the retirement of Woodburn's local police officer, Senior Constable Adam Bailey.
2. Provides a letter of recognition to Mr Bailey and his family, thanking them for their dedicated service to the community, particularly during the 2022 flood rescue operation.

RATIONALE

Senior Constable Adam Bailey and his family have been valued members of the Woodburn community for many years, actively involved in community activities and supporting local families in challenging times. Senior Constable Bailey's courage and commitment during the 2022 flood rescue operation was outstanding, helping to save many lives within this small community.

He was responsible for co-ordinating the rescue of up to 400 people, along with the local SES and approximately 20 locally skippered boats.

This rescue operation continued throughout the night of 28 February, braving dangerous conditions to ensure community members were safe. Snr Constable Bailey then went on to work tirelessly throughout the next seven days to take care of the local community.

The Woodburn community is deeply grateful to Adam and his family for their dedicated service and it is appropriate that Council should recognise their long-standing contribution.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

11 MAYOR'S REPORT**11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 14 OCTOBER - 11 NOVEMBER 2025****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 14 October to 11 November 2025.

October

- 14th Casino River Forum
- 15th Rous County Council Meeting – Ballina
- 16th OLG Webinar: 2025 Model Meeting Code
- 19th Peach Festival – Hogarth Range
- 21st Richmond Valley Council Ordinary Meeting
- 22nd Casino Suspension Bridge Inspection
- 24th Flavourfest – Casino
- 25th Northern Rivers District Rural Fire Service Medal Ceremony – Casino
- 25th Richmond Valley Cup Races – Casino
- 25th Coraki Art Prize 2025 - Coraki

November

- 1st NSW SES Northeastern Zone Awards – Lismore
- 1st Rappville Social Club – Melbourne Cup Calcutta Event
- 3rd Richmond Lodge Function – Casino
- 5th Australia Indonesia Association of NSW online meeting
- 5th Launch of the Casino Library Meeting room
- 5th Richmond Valley Council Information Session
- 8th Casino Art Gallery Exhibition
- 10th Tatham Bridges deck pour
- 11th Remembrance Day Service – Drill Hall, Casino
- 11th Casino High School Year 12 Formal

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

12 DELEGATES' REPORTS**12.1 DELEGATES' REPORT NOVEMBER 2025 - ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Delegates' Report – Rous County Council for November 2025.

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 15 October 2025.

ATTACHMENT(S)**1. Rous Water Meeting 15 October 2025**



Council Meeting, Wednesday 15 October 2025

Summary of main items of business



For a copy of the agenda for the meeting [click here](#).

General Manager Organisational Services

1. Audited Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2025

[View Agenda Item 9.1 \(pages 10 - 92\)](#)

(a) Council received and noted the 2024/25 Audited Financial Reports and "Statement by Councillors and Management" for both the General-Purpose Financial Reports and the Special Purpose Financial Reports, signed by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson as delegated, in compliance with legislative requirements.

(b) Council approved the public advertisement of the draft reports and invited both inspection and submissions (with at least ten days' notice after 15 October 2025), the public presentation set at an extraordinary meeting of Council on 19 November 2025 at 10:00am, and submission of the final audited reports to the Office of Local Government.

(c) In 2024/25, the Audit Office of NSW conducted the external audit directly for the first time, including site visits in May and September 2025.

(d) Financial performance ratios declined slightly from the prior year.

(e) Rous remains financially stable with sufficient cash reserves to meet future business needs.

2. Quarterly Budget Review Statement Quarter ending 30 September 2025

[View Agenda Item 9.2 \(pages 93 - 119\)](#)

(a) Council received and noted the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2025 and authorised the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

(b) The Office of Local Government (OLG) introduced new Quarterly Budget Review Statement templates from the first quarter of 2025/26. Management has included these templates in the report while retaining some that are tailored for Rous' operations, and omitted sections no longer required. As the OLG may revise requirements over the next year, management is working to balance compliance with providing useful information to users.

Policies

3. Work, Health and Safety Policy

[View Agenda Item 10.1 \(pages 120 - 124\)](#)

(a) Council revoked the policy titled 'Work Health and Safety' dated 18 October 2023, and any policy revived as a result, and approved the adoption of the revised policy of the same name.

(b) The revised policy incorporates minor changes to ensure alignment with current legislation and best practice guidelines.

4. Investments Policy revised

[View Agenda Item 10.2 \(pages 125 - 134\)](#)

(a) Council revoked the Investments Policy dated 30 October 2024, and any policies as a result, and approved the adoption of the revised policy of the same name.

(b) The amendment prioritises investments with institutions that do not support the fossil fuel industry, provided their returns are within 0.05% (5 basis points) of the best alternative.

(c) Council's Investments Policy is reviewed annually.

Information reports

[View Agenda Items 11.1 – 11.7 \(pages 136 - 165\)](#)

Council received and noted various information reports including:

1. Gallans Road update (pages 136 – 141)
2. Future Water Project Update (pages 142 – 144)
3. Wilsons River Salinity Intrusion report – October 2025 (pages 145 – 148)
4. Councillor Hauge's Delegate Report – LGNSW Water Management Conference (pages 149 – 150)
5. Investments – August (pages 151 – 157)
6. Investments – September (pages 158 – 164)
7. Actions / Pending (page 165)

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

Nil

15 PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Nil

16 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES & PROJECTS

Nil

17 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

17.1 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/2025

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Hayley Martin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted the audited financial statements for 2024/2025 at its Ordinary Meeting on 21 October 2025 and resolved to present the audited financial statements and auditor's reports to the public at its November Ordinary Meeting. This is the final step in complying with the legislative requirements regarding annual financial reporting.

Council's draft financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 have been prepared and subjected to external audit by the Audit Office of New South Wales. The Auditor has expressed an 'unmodified opinion' on the financial statements. This means that it was of the opinion that the financial reports present fairly the financial position of Council as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance and cash flows were presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other legislative requirements.

Council's operating result from continuing operations for 2024/2025 was a surplus of \$16.111 million, with a deficit before capital grants and contributions of \$15.768 million for 2024/2025.

Council's overall financial position remains strong with net assets of \$1.208 billion, including cash and cash equivalents of \$80.141 million. Council has met the benchmark in five out of nine of its key performance ratios.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council presents the financial statements of Richmond Valley Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 to the public in accordance with Sections 418 and 419 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

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 outlined in this report.

REPORT

Section 418 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to fix a date for a meeting where the financial statements are to be presented to the public and Section 419 (1) requires Council to present the financial reports and auditor's reports to the meeting on the date fixed. Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 October 2025 that the financial statements would be presented at the meeting to be held on 18 November 2025.

Council's operating result from continuing operations for 2024/2025 was a surplus of \$16.111 million, compared to a budgeted surplus of \$35.740 million. Council received \$15.286 million in operating grants and contributions during 2024/2025 and \$31.879 million in capital grants and contributions during 2024/2025.

Council's operating result before capital grants and contributions was a deficit of \$15.768 million, compared to the original budgeted deficit of \$2.456 million. This is reflective of the challenges facing the economy with escalating cost of materials and labour and is heavily influenced by natural disaster recovery and the availability of operating grants.

The Federal Government's advance payment of the Financial Assistance Grant was only 50% in 2024/2025, compared to 85% in the previous year, resulting in income from operating grants being \$2 million below budget.

Further impacting on this result was an increase in depreciation expense, much of which is due to accounting standards requiring Council to index its asset values annually to reflect the fair value of the asset. These indexation rates, released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in July, after the end of the financial year, reflect the increasing cost of replacing those assets in line with current market conditions. As the cost of construction is increasing, so is the cost to replace our assets, hence the increase. Council adjusted the original budget in the September 2024 Quarterly Budget Review, adding an additional \$3.97 million, which isn't reflected in the financial statements (original budget).

Similarly, net loss on disposal of assets was adjusted at the September Quarterly Budget Review to \$2.2 million further impacting the operating result. Again, this accounting process has been impacted by the current economic market in terms of resale values for assets along with the increased indexation rates being applied annually and will be addressed in Council's budget moving forward.

Councils across the sector are continuing to face challenges in funding the needs of their communities and maintaining the required level of service. Council relies heavily on external funding to meet its existing service levels and continue to renew its infrastructure. The cost of supplies, materials, and everyday operating expenses, such as electricity and fuel, have continued to rise at a rate much greater than Council's revenue, which has impacted on Council's bottom line. Council had several long-term staff members conclude their employment with the organisation during the year, resulting in excess leave balances being paid out on termination, further attributing to the increased operating costs above budget.

Over the past 10 years council's operations have increased substantially, with operating expenditure increasing from \$47m in 2015/2016 to \$88m in 2024/2025, operating income (excluding capital grants) from \$45m to \$72mil and capital works program from \$18m to \$85m in 2024/2025. That represents an investment in our community increasing from \$65m to \$173m per annum. Whilst Council has only achieved two operating surpluses (excluding capital grants) over the past 10 years, most of Council's key performance indicators remain above the industry benchmark.

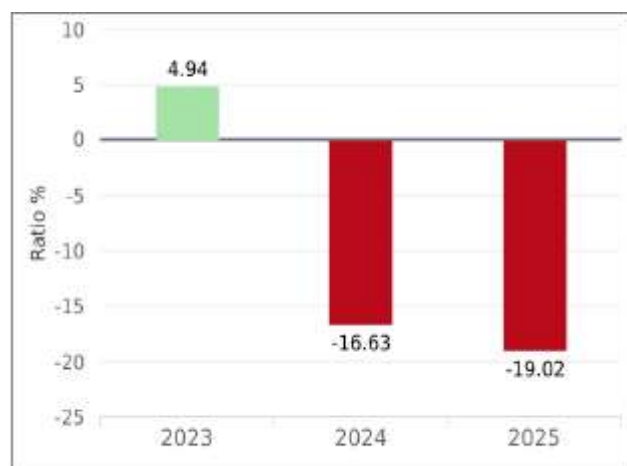
The summarised financial results for the year ended 30 June 2025 are as follows:

Income Statement	Actual 2025 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000
Total Income from Continuing Operations	104,039	109,782
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	87,928	82,827
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	16,111	26,955
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(15,768)	(14,446)

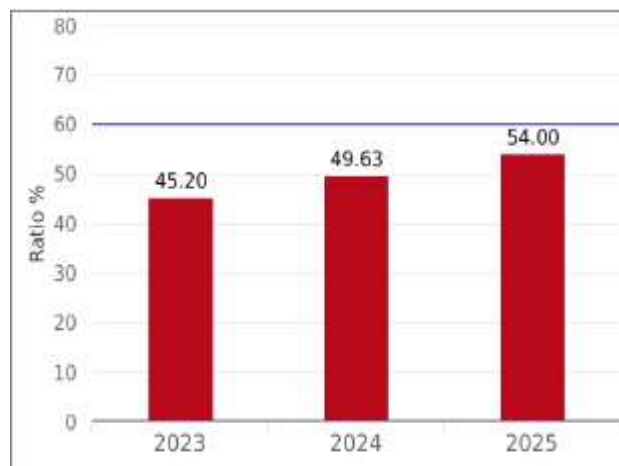
Statement of Financial Position	Actual 2025 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000
Total Current Assets	94,925	89,846
Total Non-Current Assets	1,171,935	1,125,927
Total Assets	1,266,860	1,215,773
Total Current Liabilities	37,591	30,836
Total Non-Current Liabilities	20,729	21,020
Total Liabilities	58,320	51,856
Net Assets	1,208,540	1,163,917
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	476,963	460,852
Revaluation Reserves	731,577	703,065
Total Equity	1,208,540	1,163,917

Statement of Cash Flows	Actual 2025 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities - receipts	117,620	104,628
Cash Flows from Operating Activities - payments	(62,244)	(55,140)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities	55,376	49,488
Cash Flows from Investing Activities - receipts	951	836
Cash Flows from Investing Activities - payments	(66,895)	(66,859)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities	(65,944)	(66,023)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities - receipts	-	2,600
Cash Flows from Financing Activities - payments	(4,071)	((3,962)
Net Cash provided (or used in) Financing Activities	(4,071)	(1,362)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(14,639)	(17,897)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	37,600	55,497
Cash and Cash Equivalents - end of year	22,961	37,600
Plus: Investments on Hand - end of year	57,180	44,696
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	80,141	82,296

Council's key performance measures remain satisfactory, with the majority of these being above the industry benchmark. These are summarised below:

Operating performance ratio

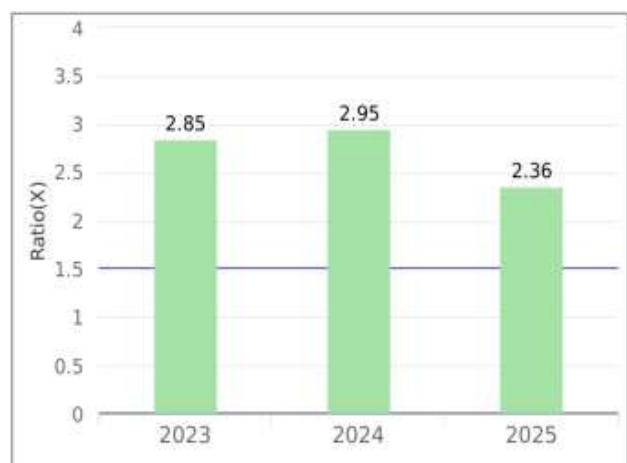
Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Own source operating revenue ratio

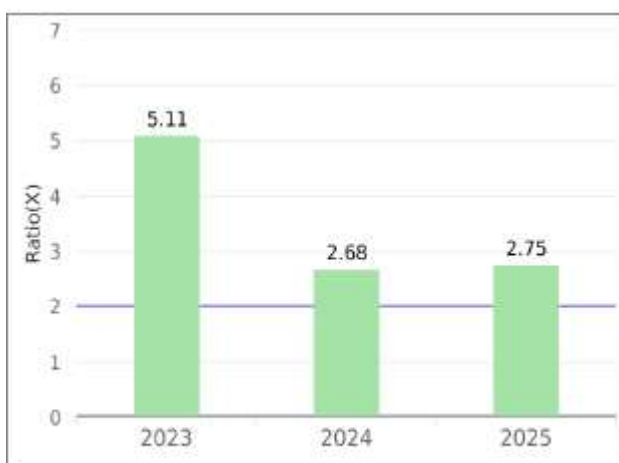
Benchmark: — > 60.00%

Council's operating performance ratio on a consolidated basis was -19.02% for 2024/2025. This ratio excludes fair value gains on investments which increased from 2023/2024 and has further been impacted by changes in the advance payment amount of the financial assistance grant from the Federal Government, with 85% being advance paid in 2023/2024 and only 50% in 2024/2025, resulting in a decrease in operating income relative to operating expenditure and is heavily impacted by natural disaster funding. The industry benchmark for this ratio is > 0.00% and achieving this will remain as a key focus moving forward.

Council's own source operating revenue ratio has increased slightly to 54.00%. This ratio is heavily impacted by grant funding which has been quite high over the past few years. The industry benchmark is > 60.00%.

Unrestricted current ratio

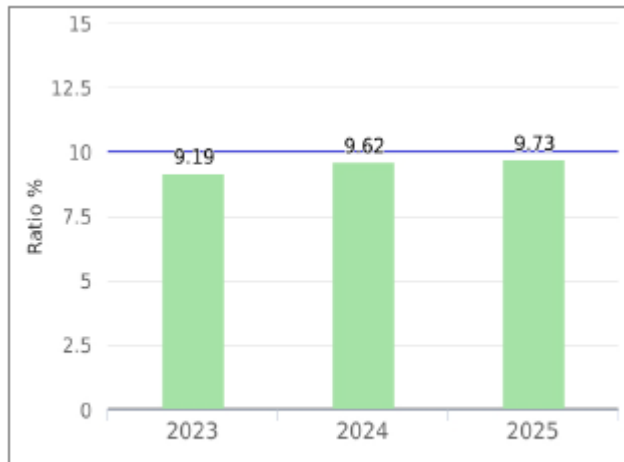
Benchmark: — > 1.50x

Debt service cover ratio

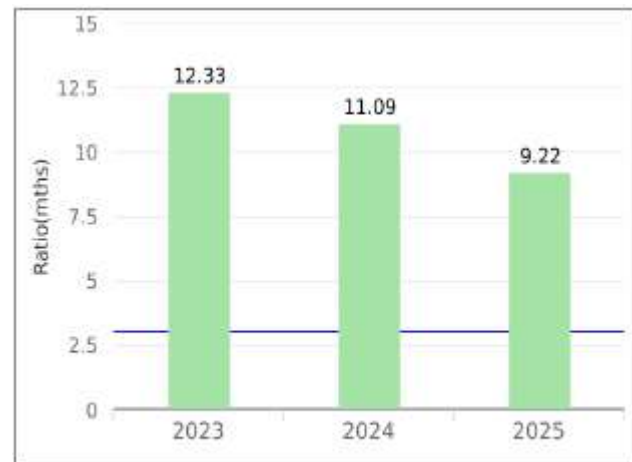
Benchmark: — > 2.00x

Council's unrestricted current ratio has remained consistent with previous years at 2.36, meaning Council now has \$2.36 in unrestricted current assets for every \$1 of current liabilities. This ratio is well above the benchmark of > 1.50x.

The debt service cover ratio was 2.75 for 2024/2025. This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. This ratio is above the benchmark of > 2.00x.

Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

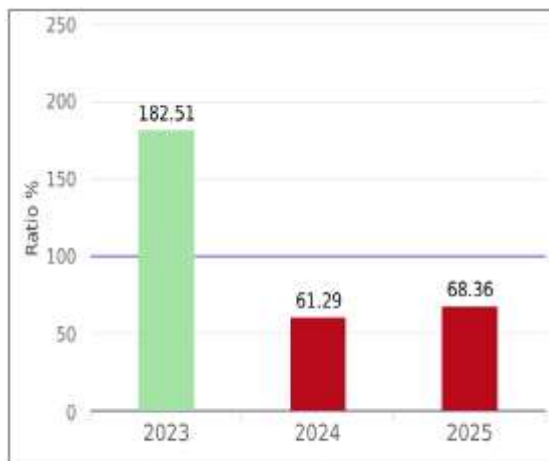
Benchmark: — < 10.00%

Cash expense cover ratio

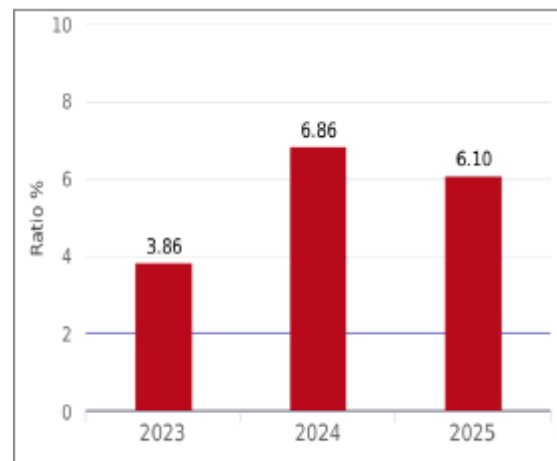
Benchmark: — > 3.00months

Council's rates and annual charges outstanding percentage remains comparable to the previous year at 9.73% on a consolidated basis. This ratio meets the industry benchmark of < 10.00%, however is still impacted by the fact that Council levies its water and sewerage annual charges in arrears. Given the number of challenges with cost-of-living pressures facing households over the last 12 months, this is a positive result and demonstrates that Council continues to actively monitor and pursue outstanding balances through its debt recovery practices.

The cash expense cover ratio has decreased to 9.22 months for 2024/2025. This ratio indicates the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow and is well above the benchmark of > 3 months.

Building and infrastructure renewals

Benchmark: — > 100.00%

Infrastructure backlog ratio

Benchmark: — < 2.00%

Council's buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio has improved slightly to 68.36%. This ratio was largely impacted this year by additional impairment being raised on council's infrastructure assets following the March Natural Disaster and essential public asset restoration applications. The industry benchmark is $\geq 100.00\%$.

Council's infrastructure backlog ratio was 6.10% for 2024/2025. This is again impacted by the revised amount of impairment on infrastructure assets due to disaster restoration works and will continue to be impacted by any future natural disasters. The industry benchmark is < 2.00%.

Asset maintenance ratio

Council's asset maintenance ratio was 149.75% for 2024/2025. This is above the benchmark of > 100.00%, which indicates that Council is investing sufficient funds to stop its infrastructure backlog growing.

Overall, Council's financial position is sound with net assets of \$1.208 billion, including cash and cash equivalents of \$80.141 million. Available working capital is sufficient to manage Council's day-to-day operations and provide a safeguard against unforeseen and unbudgeted expenditures after considering the level of internally restricted reserves. The balance of these reserves remains satisfactory, despite continued disaster recovery works and the completion of consecutive large capital works programs and is sufficient to fund future budgeted works. During the year, unexpected expenses were funded from higher-than-expected interest income, including the leave paid out on terminations and additional materials and services costs.

The schedule of restricted assets (reserves) held by Council as at 30 June 2025 is as follows:

Restricted Asset	30 June 2025 \$'000	30 June 2024 \$'000
External Restrictions		
Bonds and Deposits	456	535
Developer Contributions - General Fund	3,884	3,478
Developer Contributions - Water Fund	3,615	3,203
Developer Contributions - Sewerage Fund	7,424	6,480
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	19,936	13,642
Specific Purpose Unexpended Loans – General Fund	-	1,052
Water Supplies	7,060	6,056
Sewerage Services	4,065	6,141
Domestic Waste Management	8,029	4,912
Stormwater Management	844	1,330
Other	2,364	2,957
Total External Restrictions	57,677	49,786
Internal Restrictions		
Employee Leave Entitlements	1,706	1,631
Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library	121	44
Other Waste Management	1,051	4,382

Restricted Asset	30 June 2025 \$'000	30 June 2024 \$'000
Insurance Reserve	313	1,848
Plant Replacement	643	2,388
Real Estate and Infrastructure	3,131	4,288
Petersons Quarry	1,756	1,449
Woodview Quarry	1,698	1,693
Quarry Rehabilitation	699	634
Road Rehabilitation Reserve	2,834	2,649
Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange	-	-
Rural Road Safety Program	115	121
Unexpended Special Rates Variations	1,213	833
Financial Assistance Grant Advance Payment	3,581	5,767
TfNSW State Roads Maintenance Contract	6	6
Public Cemeteries Perpetual Maintenance Reserve	59	114
Carry Over Works	2,862	3,780
Event Funding	44	43
Northern Rivers Rail Trail Maintenance	562	640
Total Internal Restrictions	22,394	32,310
Total Restrictions	80,071	82,096
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	80,141	82,296
Unrestricted Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	70	200

CONSULTATION

Council is currently advertising the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 to the public and is inviting submissions in writing, with submissions closing at 4:00pm, Tuesday 25 November 2025. Any submissions will be reported to the December 2025 Ordinary Meeting.

Copies of the financial statements have been made available for viewing and download by the public from the date public notice was given until the day after the meeting where the financial statements were presented.

CONCLUSION

Overall Council is in a sound financial position. The presentation of Council's financial statements to the public is the last step in complying with the legislative requirements regarding annual financial reporting. Council has also advertised the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, advising that they will be presented to the public at this Ordinary Meeting and inviting submissions. Section 420 of the *Local Government Act 1993* invites submissions from the public on the financial statements and Section 420 (3) requires Council to refer any submissions it may receive to the Auditor. Submissions close at 4:00pm Tuesday 25 November 2025. If any submissions are received, these will be reported to the December 2025 Ordinary Meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 (under separate cover)**

17.2 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Director: Ryan Gaiter

Responsible Officer: Zakari Witt

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The budget review report for the quarter ended 30 September 2025 has been prepared to provide Council and the community with information regarding Council's financial performance and proposed amendments to the 2025/2026 budget.

This Quarterly Budget Review Statement is presented in the Office of Local Government's (OLG) newly introduced (mandatory) reporting format.

Council's projected net operating result before capital grants and contributions for 2025/2026 has decreased by \$153,541, excluding previously approved adjustments, resulting in a deficit of \$11.82 million. This decrease is primarily due to an increase in expenses from continuing operations, which rose by \$323,814 to \$96.36 million.

Operating results from continuing operations including capital grants and contributions but excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairments increased by \$51,081, bringing the surplus to \$58.98 million. This outcome stems from income increasing by \$374,895 to \$130.68 million, primarily due to higher grants and contributions. Detailed notes on significant adjustments are available on pages 4-7 of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

As at 30 September 2025, Council's actual revenue is tracking at 48% of the projected year-end result, which is 10% higher than at the same time last year. This improvement is primarily attributed to a payment received in the September quarter under the tripartite payment arrangement, bringing Essential Public Asset Restoration Funding from the 2022 floods to 90%. Expenditure from continuing operations continues to align with expectations, reaching 25% of the projected year-end total, indicating consistent delivery against the operational budget.

Council's capital works program has been reviewed, resulting in a projected program for 2025/2026 of \$87.68 million. This represents an increase of \$4.18 million following previously approved adjustments. Current expenditure for the capital program is at 12% of the projected annual total. This is expected to rise substantially through the remainder of 2025/2026 as several key grant funded projects progress. Notable projects include betterment of the NRLX effluent management system, Casino suspension bridge and Woodburn-Evans Head shared pathway. The capital budget will continue to be closely monitored, and any required adjustments will be presented in future budget adjustment reports to Council.

Council's unrestricted cash surplus has remained unchanged at \$301,339 as of 30 September 2025, projecting a consistent cash position.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2025; and
2. Approves the recommended budget variations.

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

New Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines for Local Government

The Office of Local Government (OLG) released new Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines) for Local Government in August 2025, with mandatory reporting to commence for the first quarter ending 30 September 2025. The guidelines aim to ensure clear and consistent reporting of financial information to Councillors and the community.

Under the new guidelines, Councils are provided with a standard template that must be submitted to the OLG each quarter. Councils may include additional narrative, commentary and supplementary information, as an attachment to Council but must not adjust the standard templates. The standardised template does not allow reporting of previously adopted adjustments, in the form of carry overs, revotes and monthly budget adjustments, making it difficult to distinguish between those being proposed and those previously resolved. To ensure transparency, the format presented in this report separates these adjustments from current period proposed adjustments and those previously resolved.

The OLG held a webinar in late September 2025 which was well attended by Councils across NSW and highlighted the challenges being faced by the local government sector in adapting to the new reporting requirements. Councils raised concerns with the resourcing impacts of the new requirements, particularly on councils, such as Richmond Valley, that have smaller finance teams. Concerns were also raised regarding the timing of the implementation of the guidelines, when Council resources are stretched preparing and undergoing their year-end Financial Statement audit. Whilst the new templates are in a similar format to the Financial Statements, preparing the year-end financial statements requires a significant amount of work and the expectation from the OLG that this is now undertaken quarterly requires additional time and resources from staff. Further changes to templates may be required as councils adapt to the new system.

Key changes to note are:

- The layout of income and expenses by financial statement category, as opposed to Operational Plan objectives in line with the original budget.
- New income and expenditure statements for general, water and sewer funds.
- Cash and Investments Statement includes reporting against actual cash balances.
- New Summary of Developer Contributions Statement – reporting actual developer contributions received and expended to date. The budget is not reported on this statement.
- The reporting of key performance indicators has been removed.
- The reporting of contracts and other expenses has been removed.

A fact sheet prepared by the OLG on how to read the quarterly financial overview, has been provided as an attachment to this report.

Quarterly Budget Review Report

The budget review for the first quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year has resulted in Council's operating result from continuing operations including capital grants and contributions but excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairments increasing by \$51,081 to a projected surplus of \$58.98 million. The net operating result before capital grants and contributions has decreased \$153,541 to a deficit of \$11.82 million. The improvement in the net operating result including capital grants and contributions is attributed to the movement in income and expenses from continuing operations as detailed below.

Council's projected budget position and recommended changes for Council resolution are summarised in the table below:

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2025	Revised Budget 2025/2026	Recommended Changes for Council Resolution	Projected Year End Result 2025/2026
Operating Income	84,373,778	170,273	84,544,051
Operating Expenses	96,040,724	323,814	96,364,538
Net Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions	(11,666,946)	(153,541)	(11,820,487)
Add: Capital Grants & Contributions	45,927,129	204,622	46,131,751
Net Operating Result including Capital Grants and Contributions	34,260,183	51,081	34,311,264
Add: Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	24,672,900	0	24,672,900
Net Operating Result excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	58,933,083	51,081	58,984,164
Add: Other Non-Cash Expenses	2,263,093	0	2,263,093
Add: Non-Operating Funds Employed	5,175,623	54,000	5,229,623
Less: Capital Expenditure	83,497,453	4,179,865	87,677,318
Less: Loan Repayments	3,385,226	0	3,385,226
Estimated Funding Result – Surplus/(Deficit)	(20,510,880)	(4,074,784)	(24,585,664)
Restricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	(20,812,219)	(4,074,784)	(24,887,003)
Unrestricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	301,339	0	301,339

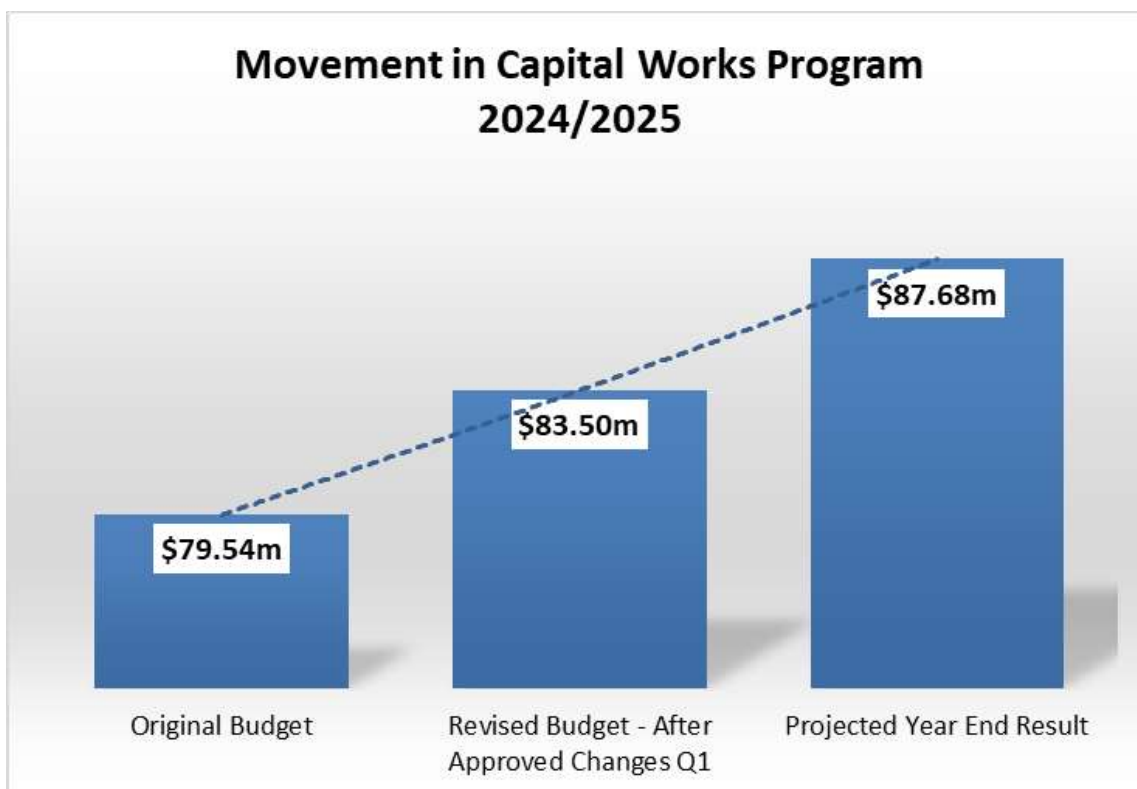
As illustrated in the table above, Council's estimated budget result (unrestricted cash result) has remained unchanged from the 2025/2026 revised budget at \$301,339. In overall cash terms, there is an increase in the estimated funding from reserves of \$4.07 million with an estimated total transfer from reserves of \$24.89 million for the 2025/2026 financial year. This predominately reflects grant funding received in 2025 for work scheduled in the 2026 year.

Income from continuing operations (operating income plus capital grants and contributions) is proposed to increase by \$374,895 to \$130.68 million and expenses from continuing operations are proposed to increase by \$323,814 to \$96.36 million. Significant adjustments include the addition of \$2.97 million to capital grants for the Rappville Sewer Treatment Plant project with further details provided on pages 4-7 of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

As at 30 September 2025, Council's actual revenue is tracking at 48% of the projected year-end result, which is 10% higher than at the same time last year. This improvement is primarily attributed to a payment received in the September quarter under the tripartite payment arrangement, bringing Essential Public Asset Restoration funding from the 2022 floods to 90% paid. Expenditure from continuing operations continues to align with expectations, reaching 25% of the projected year-end total, indicating consistent delivery against the operational budget.

Council's capital works program has been reviewed, resulting in a projected program for 2025/2026 of \$87.68 million, increasing the programmed works by \$4.18 million from previously adopted adjustments. Current expenditure for the capital program is at 12% of the projected year-end result. This is expected to rise substantially through the remainder of 2026 as several key grant-funded projects progress. Notable projects include betterment of the NRLX effluent management system, Casino suspension bridge, and Woodburn–Evans Head shared pathway. The capital program will be closely monitored, recognising the ongoing risks that large scale projects present, particularly in relation to contractor availability and weather delays. Given Council's continued focus on disaster recovery efforts, maintaining oversight of the capital budget remains a priority.

The following graph illustrates the movement in the 2025/2026 capital works program, illustrating the progression that previously approved changes and current recommended changes have on the projected year-end result.



The movement reflects a significant increase in the capital program compared to the original budget, driven by recovery and betterment projects following the 2022 floods and Cyclone Alfred. As indicated, delivery of these works will depend heavily on contractor availability and favourable weather. Given this dependency, the current projected year-end figure is likely to be revised downward once final priorities are established. The capital budget will continue to be closely monitored, and any required adjustments will be presented in future budget adjustment reports to Council.

All recommended changes for continuing operations and capital are disclosed in Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement. Changes in continuing operations are shown on page 3, with detailed explanations provided on pages 4–7. Capital changes are disclosed on page 11, with further details on pages 12–14.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the first quarter, Council's operating result from continuing operations, including capital grants and contributions but excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment, is a projected surplus of \$58.98 million. Excluding capital grants and contributions, the result reflects a projected deficit of \$11.82 million. Council's capital works budget is currently \$87.68 million and will continue to be closely monitored to ensure all projects are delivered on time and within budget. Council's estimated budget result (unrestricted cash result) has remained unchanged at \$301,339, demonstrating a consistent cash position. Overall, Council's projected financial position at year end remains satisfactory.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2025 (under separate cover)**
2. **QBRs - How to read factsheet (under separate cover)**

17.3 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - OCTOBER 2025**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 as at 31 October 2025 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
\$21,170,969	\$45,000,000	\$6,750,390	\$3,000,000	\$18,722,368	\$94,643,726

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments at 31 October 2025 was 5.99% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for October of 3.56% (annualised), 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 October 2025.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 11: Manage resources responsibly

11A Manage finances responsibly and provide value for money

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

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As at 31 October 2025, Council has earned \$942,775 in interest and \$792,473 in fair value gains from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of \$1,735,248. This equates to 71% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of \$2,444,032.

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 3.60% at the October meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in October was 5.99%, a decrease in 36 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 243 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 3.56% (annualised) which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of \$212,181 during the month of September. The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a gain of \$144,020 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a gain of \$68,161.

During October, most equity markets continued to rise and market volatility was low. Investor opinions remain positive despite ongoing geopolitical tensions and a continued focus on tariffs.

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 Investment Portfolio

Council held cash and investments of \$94,643,726 at 31 October 2025. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account (\$10,385,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account (\$10,029,726), Term Deposits (\$45,000,000), Floating Rate Notes (\$6,750,390), Bonds (\$3,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments (\$18,722,368) and other bank accounts (\$756,243).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,742 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of \$54,750,390 represented 57.85% of the total portfolio as at 31 October 2025.

Council made the following new investments during October 2025:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Police Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	6 months	4.35%
Australian Unity Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	6 months	4.33%
Rabobank	Term Deposit	Y	\$3,000,000	6 months	4.36%
Total			\$7,000,000		

Council had the following investment maturities during the month of October 2025:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	Environmentally Sustainable Investment	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Defence Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$47,868
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	N	\$2,000,000	\$20,959
AMP Bank	Term Deposit	Y	\$2,000,000	\$74,795
Rabobank	Term Deposit	Y	\$1,000,000	\$22,438
Total			\$7,000,000	\$166,060

Council had \$18,722,368 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 October 2025. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value 31 October 2025	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 31 October 2025	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	\$14,635,379	\$144,020	\$550,060	\$3,630,350
Long Term Growth Fund	\$4,086,989	\$68,161	\$242,413	\$1,086,988
Total	\$18,722,368	\$212,181	\$792,473	\$4,717,338

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of \$94,643,726 at 31 October 2025 includes \$68,472,368 or 72.3% 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 October 2025, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 31 October 2025 Council's cash and investments totalled \$94,643,726 with \$1,170,969 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 5.99% and total investment revenue equals 71% of budgeted revenue for the year.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **RVC Investment Pack - October 2025 (under separate cover)**

17.4 WATER PRICING REVIEW UPDATE

Director: Ryan Gaiter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At Council's Ordinary Meeting on 21 October 2025, the following Notice of Motion was adopted:

That a report be brought back to the November 2025 ordinary council meeting, addressing the following:

- The results of the water and sewerage pricing structure review, undertaken in response to Council's 20 December 2022 Resolution, including pricing equity and the impacts of major water users on the Casino water supply.
- An outline of the current water supply arrangements between Council and the Casino Food Company Ltd, including the charges adopted in Council's 2025-2026 Revenue Policy and proposed future price paths.

This report addresses the findings of the April 2023 water pricing review. It discusses some significant changes and considerations since the review which will need to be investigated in the future pricing review work and looks at comparisons with other Councils which have an abattoir within their LGA. It also looks at the pricing history for the last 10 years, noting an agreement was established between Council and the Northern Co-operative Meat Company in 2012, which includes confidentiality provisions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the results of the 2023 water pricing review and Council's commitment to further investigations in the Water for Life Strategy, Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program.
2. Continues to liaise with the Casino Food Company Ltd and other affected stakeholders on appropriate pricing structures that support Council's continued investment in water security and infrastructure and improve water pricing equity, while considering any potential impacts on the economic contribution of these businesses to the Richmond Valley.
3. Receives a further report on this matter in advance of the 2026/27 budget preparation process.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 11: Manage resources responsibly

11A Manage finances responsibly and provide value for money

11A3 Maintain efficient rating and revenue systems

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The projected operating results for water and sewer funds across the forward 10-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is operating deficits initially, gradually improving to operating surplus across the 10-year LTFP. It is expected that increases in operating costs will continue to impact the operational budget along with extensive capitals works, with \$42 million projected for water infrastructure works across the forward 10-year LTFP and \$124.7million in sewerage, which also incorporate significant borrowings. Water and sewer reserves are projected to decrease quite substantially, with the water fund in particular, projected to reduce to \$3 million within the forward four years and sewer to \$6 million. With large capitals works and significant borrowings required, it's imperative that pricing is reviewed to enable Council to meet the requirement by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to promote best practice pricing, the rationale for which includes full cost recovery.

REPORT

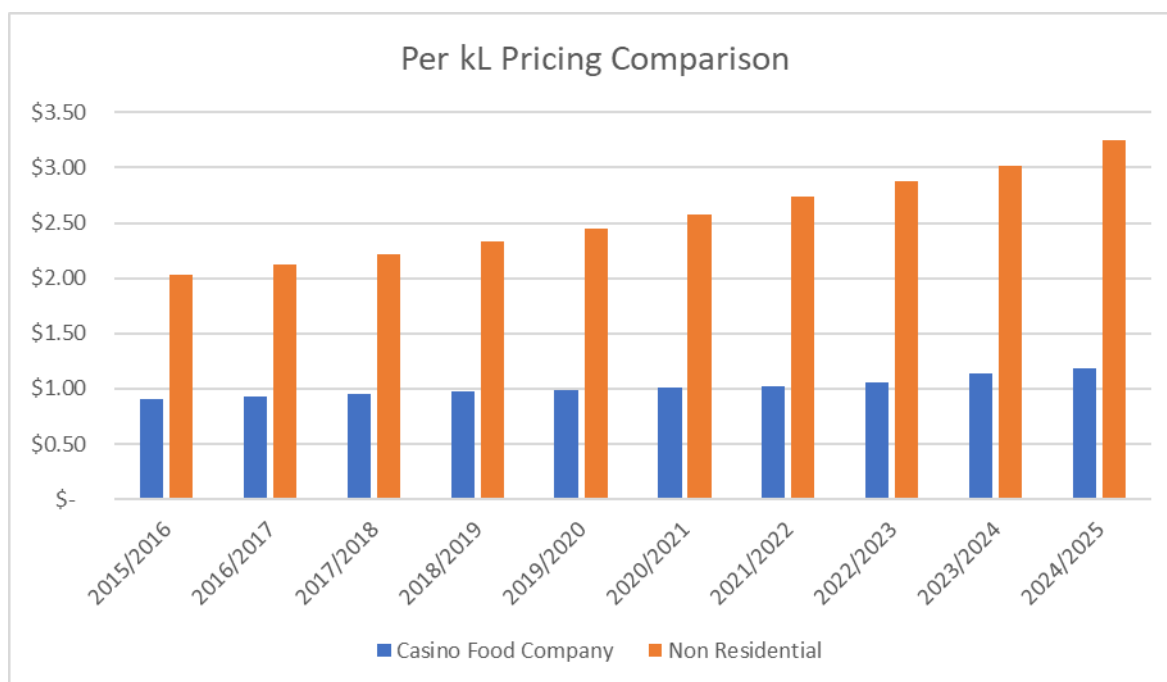
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- An outline of the current water supply arrangements between Council and the Casino Food Company Ltd, including the charges adopted in Council's 2025-2026 Revenue Policy and proposed future price paths.

Council conducted a preliminary review of water pricing in April 2023, in response to Councillors' concerns over pricing equity and future water security. The review looked at projected reserve balances and planned capital works in the Water and Sewer Capital Works Program for the following 10 years. The review also considered the historical pricing of the Casino Food Company Ltd (at the time NCMC), residential and other non-residential water customers. This review found that under the current water pricing arrangements, the gap is increasing year on year between the Casino Food Company Ltd.'s pricing and what other users are paying.

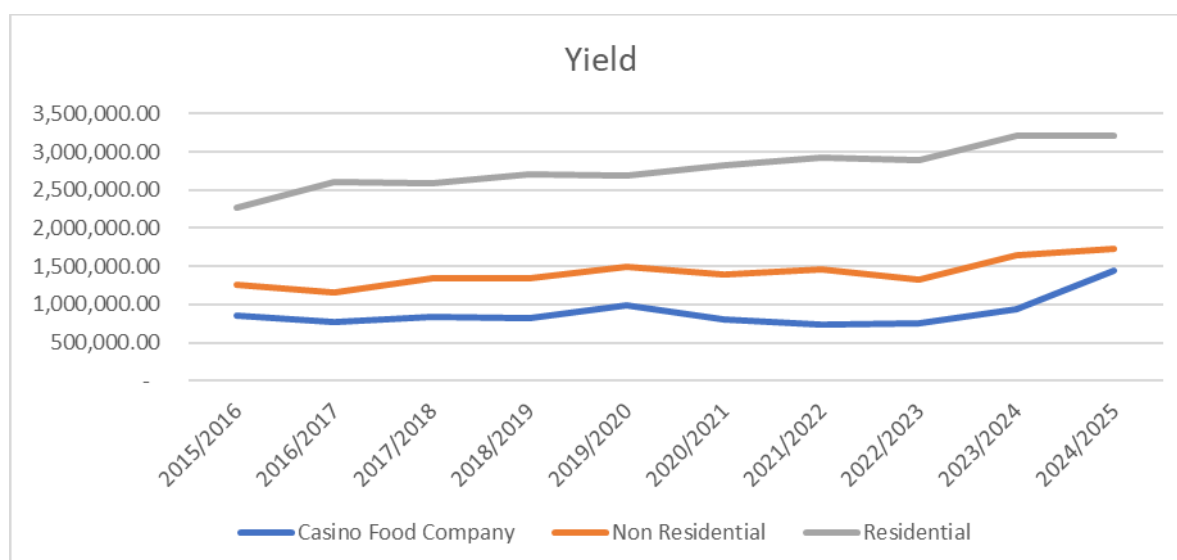
The following graph has been updated since the review to include current pricing data. It shows how the non-residential price per kL has increased by more in real terms in comparison to the Food Company Ltd price per kL, as shown in the graph below.



The following table shows actual pricing per kL as advertised in Council's annual Revenue Policy.

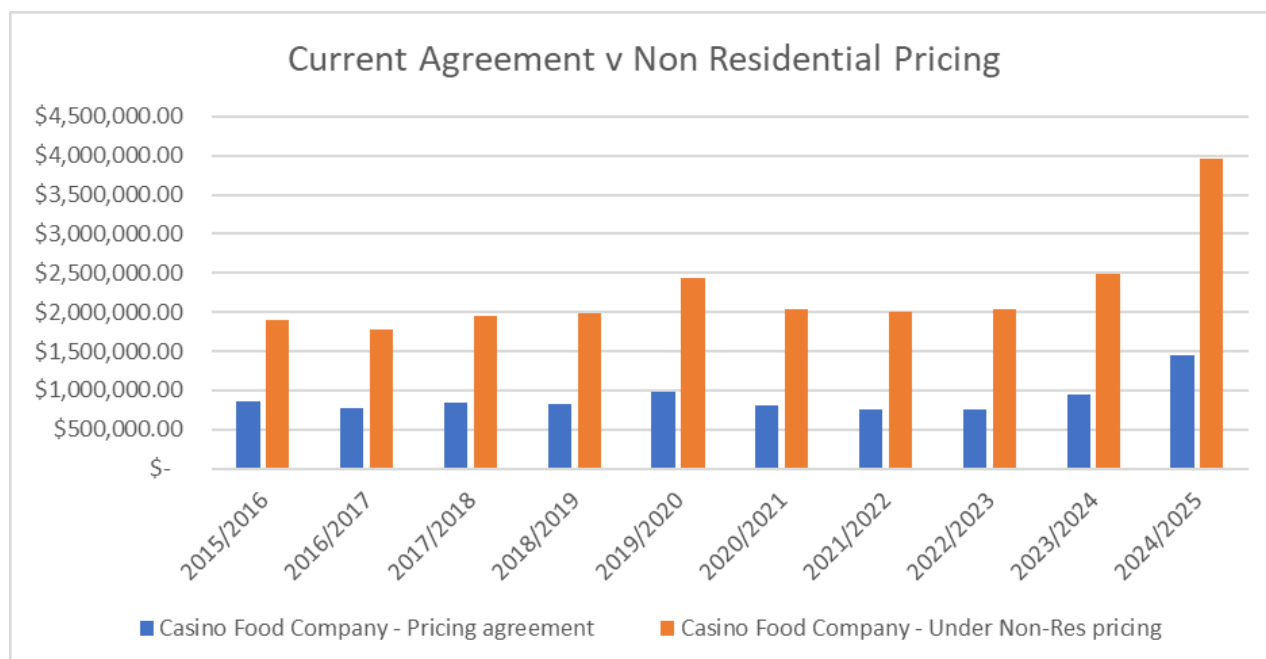
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
Casino Food Company Ltd	\$0.91	\$0.93	\$0.95	\$0.97	\$0.99	\$1.01	\$1.02	\$1.06	\$1.14	\$1.19	\$1.27
Non Residential	\$2.03	\$2.12	\$2.22	\$2.33	\$2.45	\$2.57	\$2.74	\$2.88	\$3.02	\$3.25	\$3.48

The review also looked at historical yield from each category of water user. The following yield graph below has also been updated with current data.



The revenue yield graph shows the residential yield on a continuous increase and the Non-Residential yield on a similar trajectory until 2021/2022. The Casino Food Company Ltd.'s yield has seen a sharper increase in the past two years, this is due to two consecutive 7% increases over the past two years along with increased consumption last financial year.

The review also looked at the savings achieved by the Casino Food Company Ltd over the lifetime of the agreement. The below graph shows the Casino Food Company Ltd's actual yield in blue against what the yield would have been if no agreement was in place and it paid the non-residential charge.



As can be seen above, the Casino Food Company Ltd has achieved significant savings from having the agreement in-place for more than a decade, ranging from a \$1,050,341 saving in the 2015/2016 financial year to a \$1,545,611 saving in the 2023/2024 financial year. The total savings that have been realised by the Casino Food Company Ltd.'s agreement with Council over the past 10 years is more than \$13 million dollars.

It must be noted that the Casino Food Company Ltd, is a major employer in the Northern Rivers region, with over 1,200 staff across three locations. The facilities manage production, cutting, packaging, branding, and distribution from Casino, bringing livestock from throughout Australia,

exporting globally and reinvesting in the regional economy. The Casino Food Company Ltd.'s annual turnover for the 2024-25 financial year exceeded \$300m, but it is frequently affected by climate conditions and livestock supply. These factors have caused profit fluctuations in recent years, occasionally resulting in reported losses.

It should also be noted that the agreement was established in 2012 to secure the future operations of the business, ensuring it continued to operate within the Richmond Valley area, whilst also considering the financial impacts on other water users and the operational effects on Council. The review revealed the complexities of water pricing across the Richmond Valley and the need for further investigation and discussions with major water users. A further review of water security and pricing was included as an action in Council's Water for Life Strategy (adopted in July 2024).

Council's adopted Community Strategic Plan, Water for Life Strategy and the adopted Delivery Program include an ambitious capital works program for essential water and sewer infrastructure over the next five years. This includes more than \$15m investment in Stage One of the Casino Water Security and Quality Improvement Programs; \$78m+ in replacement of the Casino Sewerage Treatment Plant and completion of Stage 2 of the Evans Head Sewerage Treatment Plant. Funding these works will be a significant challenge for Council and we will need to draw upon a combination of revenue from water and sewer charges, developer contributions, borrowings and Government grants. Council has also received approval of the Regional Jobs Precinct Masterplan which opens activation of an additional 187ha of industrial land in Casino and prioritisation of future housing development at South Fairy Hill in the NSW Reconstruction Authority's Resilient Land Strategy; these two developments will change the future landscape for water demand and have confirmed the need for investment in our infrastructure. It is expected that any new industry in the Regional Jobs Precinct will be paying the full commercial rate for their water as it would not be considered viable for local industries to establish an independent water supply due to construction costs and water licence access availability. Bearing these significant obstacles in mind, we will continue to work on the assumption of continued supply from the Casino Water Treatment Plant which has plenty of treatment capacity once upgraded, but more reservoir capacity will be required over time.

At present Council has the following projected reserves in both the sewerage and water funds at the end of this financial year.

Sewer Fund	
Section 64 Contributions	\$ 2,049,000.00
Infrastructure Replacement	\$ 4,302,000.00
	\$ 6,351,000.00
Water Fund	
Section 64 Contributions	\$ 3,765,000.00
Infrastructure Replacement	\$ 4,294,000.00
	\$ 8,059,000.00

Council's current 10-year capital works program in \$'000:

	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35
Water	3,881	8,774	9,173	2,110	1,800	1,355	1,455	1,205	1,210	1,225
Sewer	10,538	39,127	37,451	2,259	3,230	3,760	3,890	1,560	2,409	1,570
Total	14,419	47,901	46,624	4,369	5,030	5,115	5,345	2,765	3,619	2,795

Council is facing one of its largest water and sewerage capital investment programs over the next 10 years, with major investment in water security, replacing and upgrading Sewerage Treatment Plants. Although staff are still finalising the best options and expected costs for all these capital works, currently Council does not have the funds to build them. It can be seen from the above tables the required capital works in both the water and sewerage funds far outweigh the level of reserves accumulated over the years. Council is also finding it increasingly difficult to meet the escalating operational costs.

Although some help is available for capital works through government funding, current and future water/sewer customers and developers will need to share the cost of these upgrades over the next 30 years and beyond, as they will also share in the benefit of these long-term investments.

At present there are no agreements in place between Council and any other entity for sewerage charges, therefore pricing is equitable but needs to increase to address our future needs. All residential customers pay the same charge annually, and Non-Residential customer charges are based on the size of their water meter and how much wastewater they produce. These charges are based on a formula in accordance with DCCEEW's guidelines.

The below table shows the current adopted water pricing for water consumption.

Water Charge Category	Charge \$	Estimated Yield (\$)
Residential Consumption Charges	\$3.48 per kilolitre for first 200kL \$5.30 per kilolitre greater than 200kL	3,696,227
Non-Residential Consumption Charges	\$3.48 per kilolitre for first 200kL	1,800,067
The Casino Food Company Consumption Charge	\$1.27 per kilolitre	1,252,364

Comparison with other large users

The following table compares consumption in kilolitres by the top 10 water supply customers over the past three years.

Top 10 Users by Property #	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Casino Food Company Ltd	750,658	980,545	1,220,283
P162650	45,176	52,225	50,405
P175440	32,457	31,117	26,169
P174690	30,372	35,131	32,517
P146000	15,280	24,746	27,339
P174790	8,596	21,415	14,701
P109000	8,561	10,370	9,365
P138730	7,271	2,421	5,830
P105250	6,767	8,055	7,707
P163390	4,379	11,042	2,188

As can be seen the Casino Food Company Ltd is by far Council's largest water consumer, and under the current single step pricing agreement there is arguably no incentive for any water saving measures to be established.

Other Council water pricing comparisons

Council is not the only Regional Council to offer discounted water pricing for abattoirs or industrial users, compared to residential charges. The following graph shows the differing per kL rates, various councils charge their larger water consuming businesses in comparison to their residential consumers, covering both regional and metropolitan. The spikes in the graph are the councils that have a higher residential rate compared to what they charge the abattoir.



CONSULTATION

Consultation between the Casino Food Company Ltd and Council has been ongoing. Council is committed to continue working with the Casino Food Company Ltd to reach a position on a future pricing structure that supports the Casino Food Company Ltd ongoing operations and financial viability, while increasing the funds available to Council over the next 10 years to fund the capital investment and ongoing operations required for the benefit of the whole Richmond Valley community.

CONCLUSION

Water pricing is a complex issue which impacts our whole Local Government Area. There are numerous considerations that need to be taken into account when looking at future pricing models and scenarios and Council is continuing this water pricing review and will report back to Council as part of its development of the 2026/27 Revenue Policy with options for future price settings and potential price paths. Council will continue to consult with the Casino Food Company Ltd and is committed to working with them to achieve a solution which benefits the Richmond Valley community collectively.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.5 ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025**Director:** Ryan Gaiter**Responsible Officer:** Catherine Davis**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under Section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to prepare and publish an Annual Report documenting its financial performance and progress in implementing the Delivery Program and achieving Community Strategic Plan outcomes.

The 2024/2025 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Act requirements and is presented for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council receives and notes the Richmond Valley Council 2024/2025 Annual Report.
2. In accordance with Section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, posts the Annual Report on Council's website and provides a link to the Minister for Local Government and the Office of Local Government.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 10: Lead and advocate for our community

10C Lead with integrity

10C1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

REPORT

The Annual Report is a fundamental part of the accountability framework between Council and its community. Reporting on Council's progress in implementing its Delivery Program and achieving Community Strategic Plan outcomes, the Annual Report supports transparency and encourages a system of local government that is accountable to the community.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 prescribes additional information for inclusion in the Annual Report including Council's audited financial statements and notes, and any information required by the Office of Local Government Guidelines.

The 2024/2025 year saw the completion of the second and final year of the 2023-2025 Delivery Program, and the third and final year of the Rebuilding the Richmond Valley 2022-2025 Recovery Plan, with substantial progress being achieved in all areas.

The Annual Report details achievements, progress, statistics and financial performance over the previous financial year. Highlights of projects accomplished this year include:

- Illawong Lane, Evans Head upgrade
- Casino Netball Clubhouse
- Remediation of Naughtons Gap Road landslide
- Casino Pool Clubhouse upgrade
- Broadwater Bridge replacement

- Woodburn Memorial Hall Carpark and Footpaths
- Colley Park Restoration Project
- Queen Elizabeth Park upgrades
- Commencement of the Tatham Bridges replacement project.

A Snapshot of our achievements for 2024/2025

Below is a small excerpt of Council's achievements for the 2024/2025 reporting period. Further highlights are included in the full report.

Strengthening our role in region

- This year marked a major milestone in positioning the Richmond Valley as a recognised regional growth centre. The Regional Jobs Precinct Masterplan received Ministerial approval and final completion, providing a clear blueprint for future industry, infrastructure and development. Council continues to support growth throughout our area with comprehensive strategic planning.
- The NSW Government's Towns and Villages Resilient Business Activation Program provided funding to the Richmond Valley for three community projects designed to support economic and social recovery following the devastating 2022 floods. Further funds for two shovel-ready community infrastructure projects and a co-contribution from Council saw projects such as the Coraki Safety Initiative come to fruition. These programs are designed to boost community confidence, support tourism and stimulate local business activities.

Creating Great Places to Live

- Once again, our community held host to an array of successful celebrations, recognising our rich culture and community spirit. From small scale celebrations to marquee events, our area's celebrations offered something for everyone including market days, Naidoc, Senior and Youth week activities, art shows, a fun run, Australia Day, Anzac Day and Christmas celebrations, flower shows and various performances and festivals. Our community hosted large crowd attracting events such as the Casino Truck Show and Rodeo, Primex, Evans Head Fishing and Malibu Classics, Casino Beef Week and the NSW Working Stock Dog Championships.
- The Mid Richmond Three Villages Cycleway project also received a boost, securing \$5,392,000 from the Australian Government's Road Safety Program and the NSW Government. This funding will allow the installation of a shared path on Woodburn Evans Head Road, joining the Ray Jeffrey Memorial Cycleway, from the Riverside Retirement Village, Doonbah to Woodburn. The Three Villages Cycleway will be delivered in stages, at a total cost of approximately \$20,000,00. The project is designed to connect Evans Head, Woodburn and Broadwater, and will be a benefit for the community and tourism.

Protecting our unique environment

- November 2024 saw Council, in conjunction with consultants Place Design Group, Meridian Urban, Broad Property Research & Advisory win an Award for Planning Excellence in the Climate Change and Resilience category at the National PIA Planning Excellence Awards, for their outstanding work on the Mid Richmond Place Plans Project. The team also received a commendation in the Strategic Planning category.
- Council's new landfill cell at the Nammoona Resource Recovery Facility has been commissioned and will provide capacity for more than 10 years of residual waste from the Richmond Valley, removing transport costs and reducing Council's carbon footprint. The funds saved will support the continuation of the program to upgrade Council's waste collection trucks, and provide continuing public education services to the community in support of our circular economy objectives. In collaboration with the North East Waste Group and member councils, Council is making great progress in reducing our impact on the environment.

Delivering for our community

- Council continued to support its commitment to community consultation by holding our Big Conversation throughout the summer which included face to face consultation, ideas boards, multimedia and surveys to encourage community input in informing our planning and economic activities. Our Invest and Live team toured the area visiting businesses in Broadwater, Coraki, Casino, Evans Head and Woodburn, listening to what matters most for business, from current issues such as customer parking, to future growth opportunities.
- Council's library service has continued to grow with new members joining the service this year. Library loans increased by 3.2% for the year, with community outreach programs continuing in popularity and initiatives including senior's tech savvy sessions and children's reading, art and craft programs.

A copy of the 2024/2025 Annual Report has been circulated separately to Councillors. The Report will be posted on Council's website and advice of this provided to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2025, in accordance with the Act requirements.

CONSULTATION

Notification of the report will be made via social media, Council's website and the community newsletter.

CONCLUSION

The Richmond Valley Council 2024/2025 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and associated Regulations and Guidelines and is presented for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**RECOMMENDATION**

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

19.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2025 - 31 OCTOBER 2025

Director: Tina Kao

Responsible Officer: Andy Edwards

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Applications report for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025.

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.

Councillors receive 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.

The total number of Development Applications and Complying Development Applications determined within the Local Government Area for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025 was 17 with a total value of \$1,182,201.00.

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

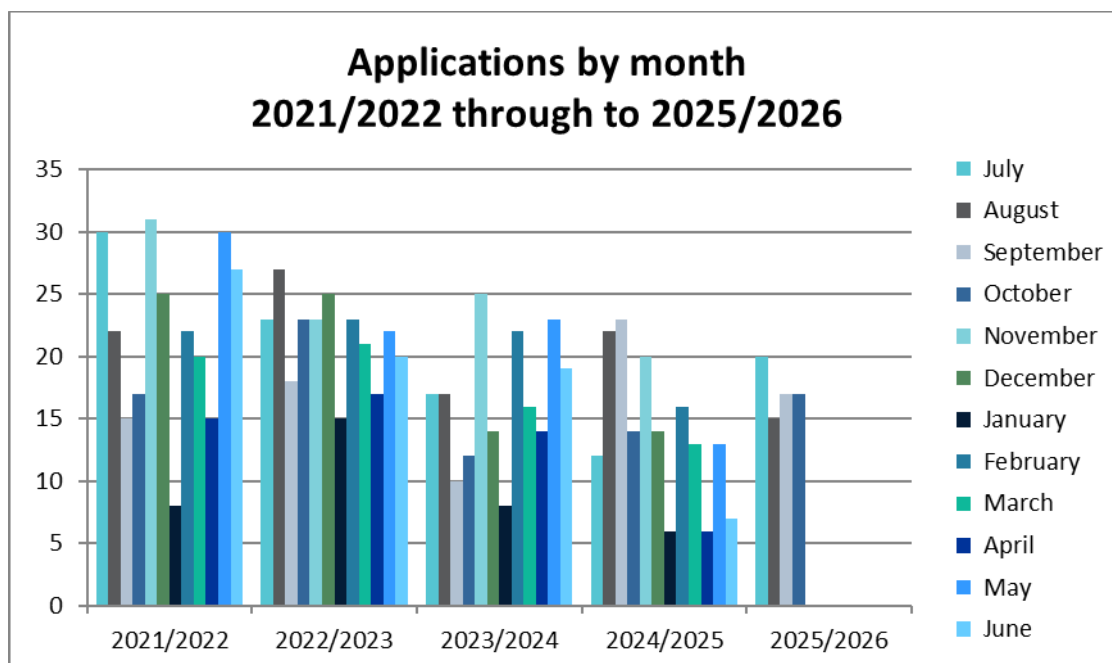


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications and CDC's processed by Council over five financial years.

Figure 2 provides the annual value of Development Consents including CDCs issued by Council and private certifiers over five financial years. Figure 3 provides a detailed review of the value for the reporting month of October 2025.

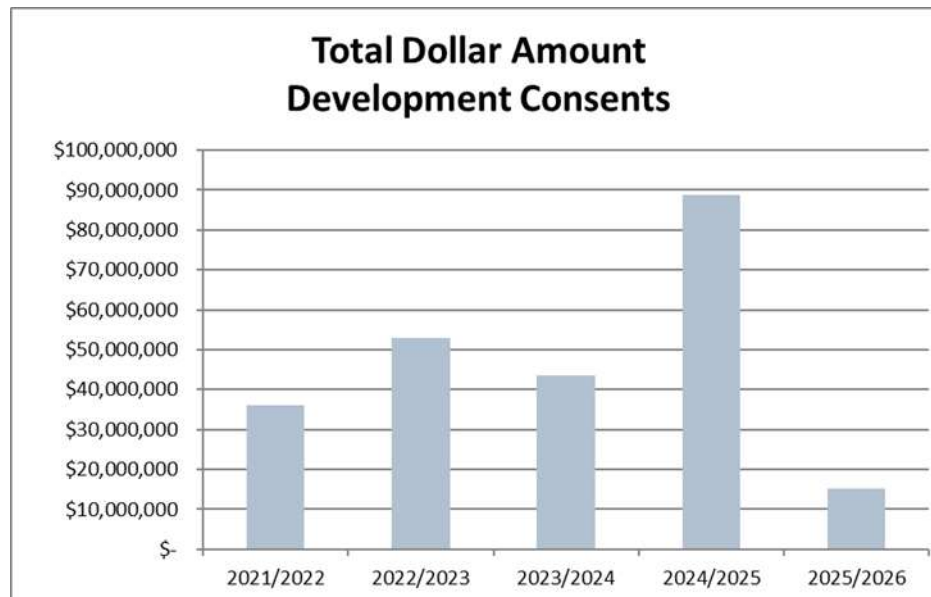


Figure 2: Annual value of development



Figure 3: Value of development for the months of October 2021 to 2025

2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
17	23	12	14	17

Table 1: Number of Applications for the months of October 2021 to 2025

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 value and number of applications determined by Council over the past five years.

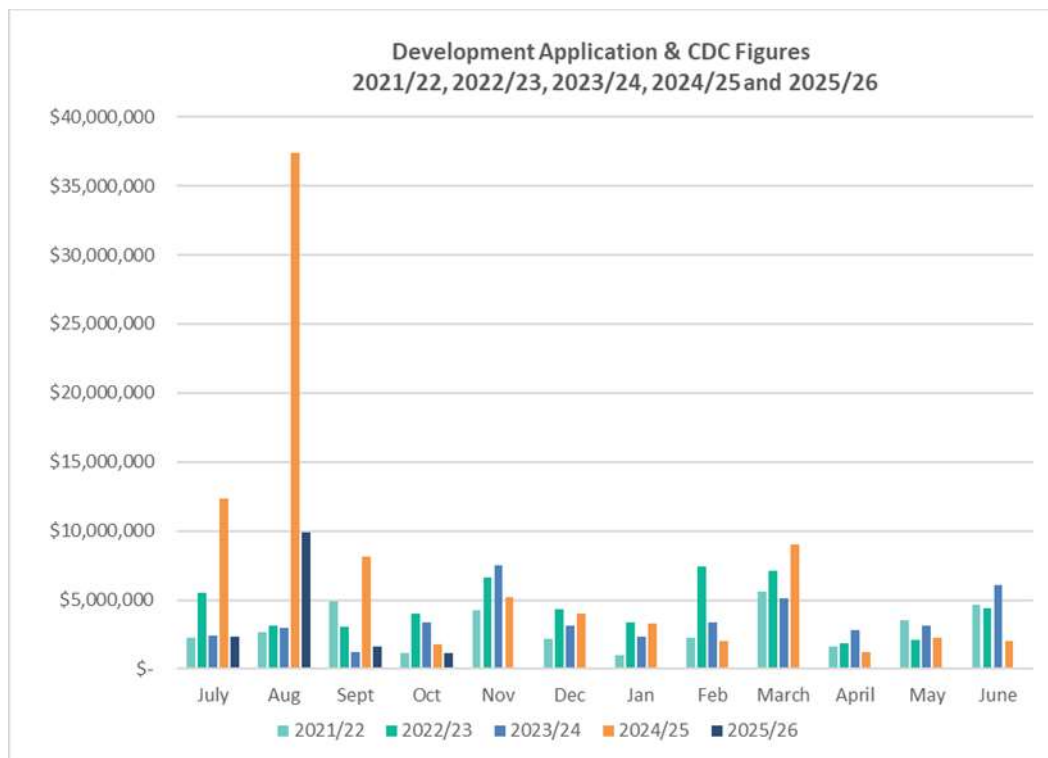


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

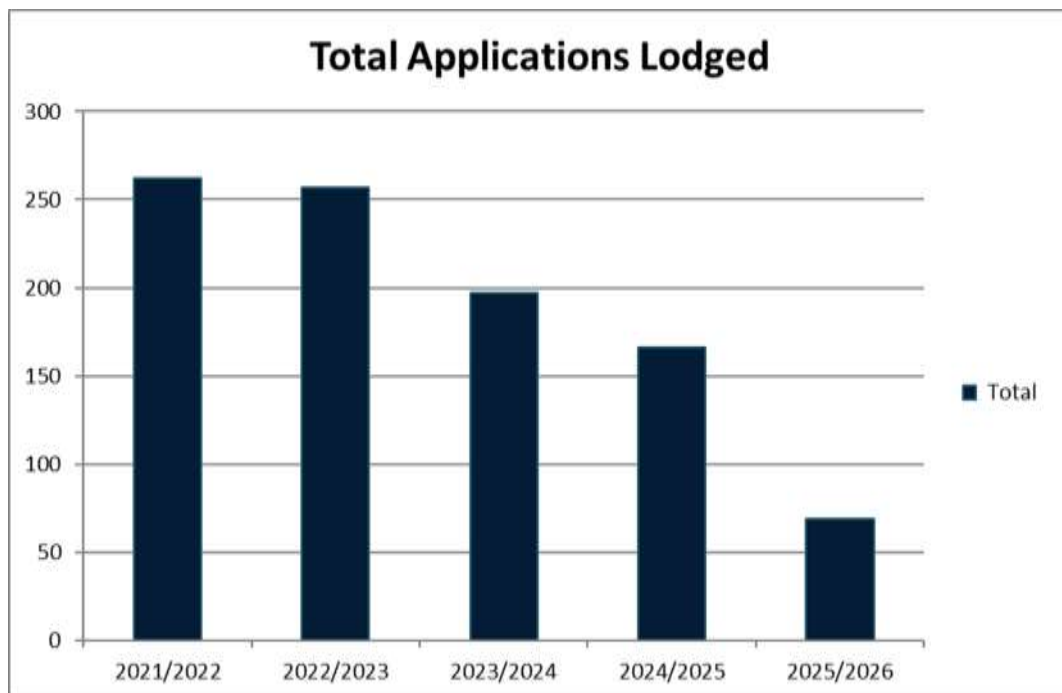


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications & CDCs per annum over five financial years

Activity for the month of October 2025

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	10
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	2
Operational Consent	1
Deferred Consent	-
Subdivision	1
Refused	-
Complying Development (Council Approved)	-
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	3
Amended Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	-
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED	17
Rejected	-
Withdrawn	-
Average assessment days for applications determined in October 2025 (Planning & Building Combined)	29
No. of Integrated development applications determined in October 2025	-
No. of Designated development applications determined in October 2025	-

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (In Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost \$
DA2025/0151	R J Hayes	J S Hancock	12 Canberra Road, Evans Head	Change of use of an existing building to a Gym and associated works	11/03/2025	26/03/2025	23/10/2025	90,640.00
MA2026/0004	GeoLINK - Lennox Head	Richmond Valley Council	Victory Camp Road, Casino	S4.55-2 Modification to create an additional lot	28/07/2025	7/08/2025	9/10/2025	0.00
DA2026/0030	P J Wallace	T L & M C Beven	14 Forest Grove, Fairy Hill	Dwelling extension with an additional living space, bedroom and bathroom, new OSMS and ancillary works	22/08/2025	15/09/2025	15/10/2025	45,000.00
DA2026/0034	S A Chapman	S A & L M Chapman	19 Barker Street, Casino	New colorbond shed and awning with request to vary DCP	31/08/2025	16/09/2025	15/10/2025	25,500.00
DA2026/0035	S D Henderson	K E Black	30 Light Street, Casino	New front and rear decks	1/09/2025	8/09/2025	15/10/2025	14,025.00
DA2026/0038	Newton Denny Chapelle	J S O'Connor	80 Hotham Street, Casino	Subdivision of existing dual occupancy to create two (2) new Torrens Title lots	3/09/2025	8/09/2025	2/10/2025	0.00
DA2026/0042	A J Williams	V A Williams	76 West Street, Casino	4.5m x 6.5m shed	9/09/2025	12/09/2025	15/10/2025	20,000.00
DA2026/0043	Chris Burley Constructions	RSM Properties Pty Ltd	130 Walker Street, Casino	Construction of new solar span roof in beer garden of existing premises	10/09/2025	23/09/2025	21/10/2025	186,400.00
DA2026/0053	S D Henderson	J A & G P Trew	3 Devon Court, Casino	Construction of colorbond shed	17/09/2025	19/09/2025	30/10/2025	21,450.00
DA2026/0054	Makin' Sheds Pty Ltd	S N & S M Wheeler	13 Lakeside Drive, Casino	Colorbond shed 6.5m x 9m x 3.6m	18/09/2025	23/09/2025	15/10/2025	36,370.00
DA2026/0057	AMC Building Design and Drafting	J L & R M Darmanin	Ginibi Drive, Swan Bay	Construction of shed with amenities	22/09/2025	1/10/2025	21/10/2025	138,217.00
DA2026/0058	T McDougall	K L & T McDougall	9 Tallowood Avenue, Casino	Construction of a new 6x6m shed with 6x3m awning built on a concrete slab.	23/09/2025	10/10/2025	29/10/2025	13,000.00

Summary of Council Certified Complying Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (In Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								
Summary of Flood Affected Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (In Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
DA2026/0051	Barker Architects	P J McConnell	1 McConnell Lane, Woodburn	Raising an existing residential dwelling including the construction of new landings/extended deck & external stairs	16/09/2025	22/09/2025	30/10/2025	99,000.00
MA2026/0009	N A Grimm	N A Grimm & D N Clark	80 Reynolds Road, Codrington	S4.55(1A) Modification - Raise existing dwelling above the flood level with alterations and additions	10/09/2025	17/09/2025	28/10/2025	0.00
Summary of Privately Certified Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Submitted to Council for Registration	Date Accepted	Determination Date	Estimated Cost
CDC2026/0008	GMA Certification (NSW) Pty Ltd	J L Towers & C A Westman	10 Ferrier Court, Casino	Construct New Dwelling	7/10/2025	31/10/2025	7/10/2025	337,269.00
CDC2026/0010	Buildcert Certification Pty Ltd	C V J & A L McSweeney	605 Reynolds Road, Backmede	Inground fibreglass swimming pool	16/10/2025	31/10/2025	16/10/2025	105,330.00
CDC2026/0011	The Trustee for The BSGM Unit Trust	JP Benson Pty Ltd	169 Canterbury Street, Casino	Installation of a security gate in an existing Woolworths tenancy	27/10/2025	31/10/2025	27/10/2025	50,000.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act with a Clause 4.6 Variation for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
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 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (in Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Refusal Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								
Summary of Development Applications Rejected under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (in Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Rejected Date	Estimated Cost
Nil								
Summary of Development Applications Withdrawn under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 October 2025								
Application ID	Applicant	Owners	Location	Development	Date Received (in Portal)	Date Accepted (In Portal)	Date Withdrawn	Estimated Cost
Nil								

19.2 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2025**Director:** Ryan Gaiter**Responsible Officer:** Rylee Vidler**RECOMMENDATION**

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

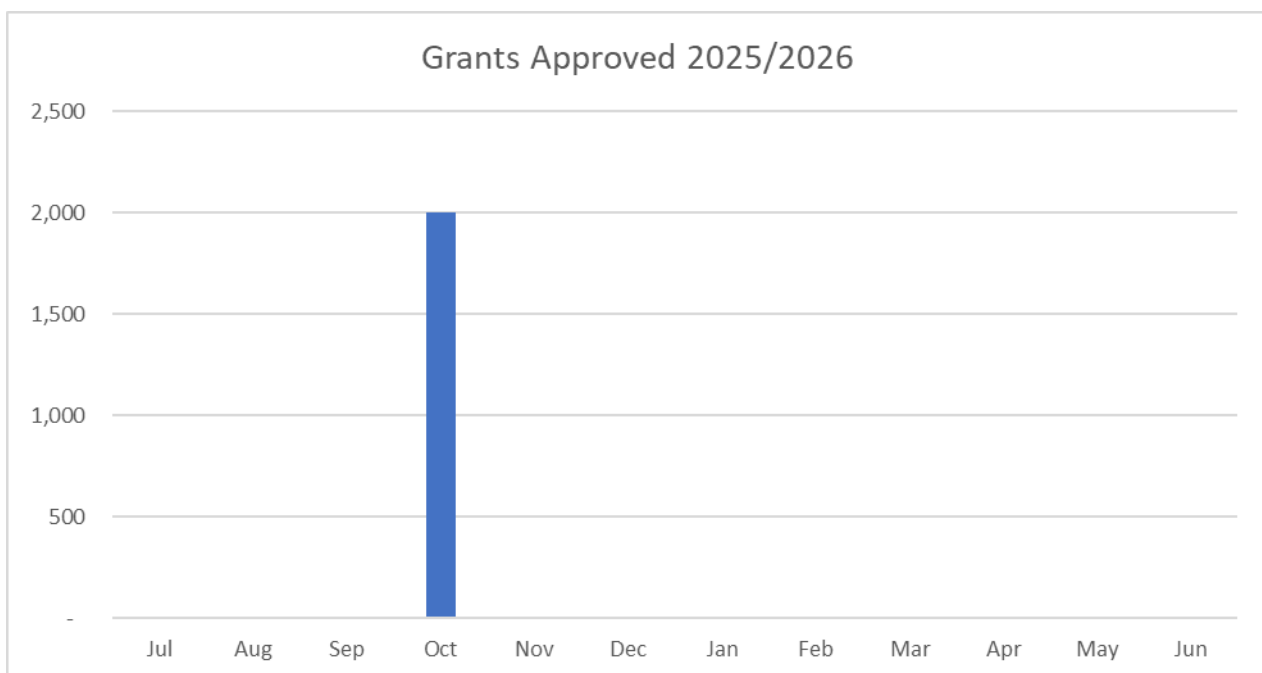
REPORT

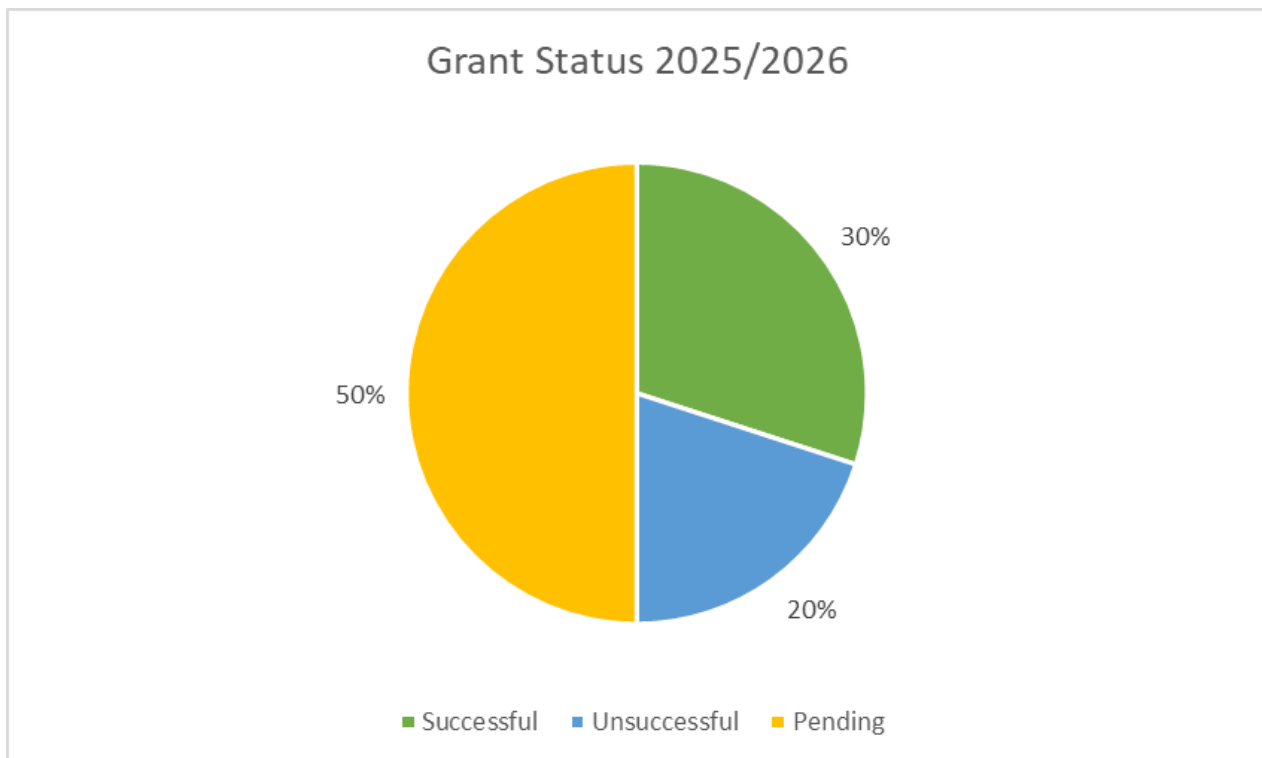
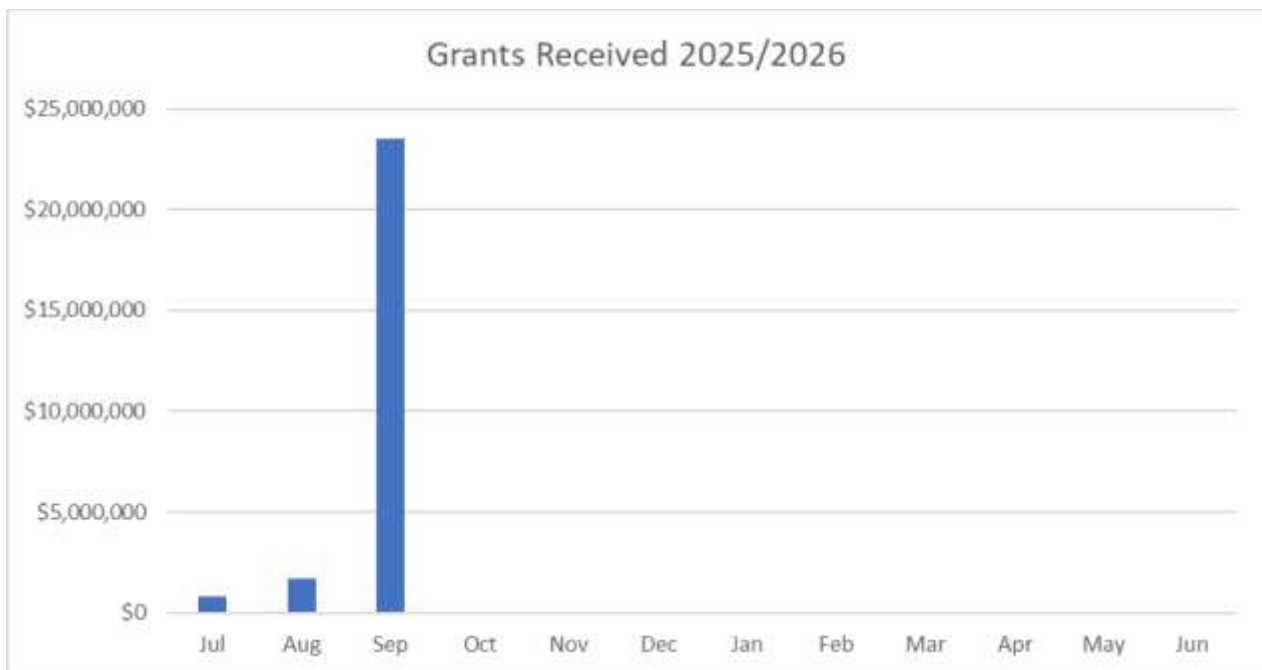
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of October 2025.

There was one grant approved, and one application submitted during the reporting period. Council was notified of one unsuccessful application during the period.

Council did not receive any funding for approved grants during the month.

A summary of grants approved and received, as well as the status of applications for the current financial year to 31 October is shown below:





Grants that have been approved

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Approved
Australia Day 2026 Community Events Grant Program	National Australia Day Council (Federal)	Australia Day 2026 Community Events Grant Program	\$ 11,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 9,000	8 September 2025	30 October 2025
Comment: This funding will be used to deliver activities and entertainment on Australia Day 2026.							

Grant Applications Submitted

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Canterbury Colches Street Casino Improvements	Transport for NSW (State)	Towards Zero Safer Roads Program - Fatal Crash Response	\$ 108,256	\$ 100,000	\$ 8,256	30 October 2025
Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to improve the safety of the intersection at Canterbury and Colches Street Casino. Proposed work includes tree trimming, pedestrian refuge islands and signage, pavement works and line marking.						

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Advised Unsuccessful
Connecting with Richmond Valley Seniors: Casino Live Well, Age Well Expo and Coraki Grow & Glow Workshop	NSW Department of Communities and Justice (State)	NSW Seniors Festival Grant Program 2026	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	\$ -	8 August 2025	27 October 2025
Comment: Funding was oversubscribed and highly competitive.							

ATTACHMENT(S)
Nil

**19.3 OUTCOME OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2025/2026
ROUND ONE FUNDING****General Manager:** Vaughan Macdonald**Responsible Officer:** Marie Cullen**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the allocations of funds through Community Financial Assistance Program 2025/2026 Round One.

REPORT

Council allocates an amount of funds each year to support local community organisations and groups that provide services, programs or activities in the Richmond Valley. The funding is managed in accordance with the financial assistance provisions of Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and Policy 1.02 Community Financial Assistance Program (Policy).

Council had allocated \$83,614.00 in the 2025/2026 budget for the Community Financial Assistance Program. The Policy provides for two approximately equal funding rounds, allowing for \$39,307.00 to be allocated in this first round. The funding was advertised and applications were open from 1 September 2025 to 30 September 2025 with Council receiving 23 applications.

All applications received have been reviewed in accordance with the Policy and 17 of those applications were deemed eligible. After applying the criteria, 12 projects will be partially or fully funded in this round.

In determining the allocation of funds, consideration was given to Council's Community Strategic Plan and the deliverables in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, as well as Program eligibility requirements, prior funding, past acquittal performance and selection criteria.

Councillors had an opportunity to review the proposals and provide feedback at the Information Session on 5 November 2025, with the General Manager approving the allocation of funds under his delegation.

The following table summarises the eligible projects that will be partially or fully funded.

Organisation	Purpose of funding	Amount allocated
Casino Netball Association Inc	Deliverable: Install security screens on all exterior windows of the new clubhouse. Benefit: Improves safety and protects community assets for players and visitors.	\$5,000.00
Casino Rugby Union Club Inc.	Deliverable: Replace old and broken lights with new lights and fittings in the clubhouse. Benefit: Provides a safe, well-lit space for sporting activities.	\$3,688.00
Buyinbin Aboriginal Corporation	Deliverables: Install seating around the yarning circle and add signage to the building. Benefit: Creates a welcoming space for cultural connection and community gatherings.	\$5,000.00
Casino Youth Hub	Deliverables: Deliver a creative leadership and co-design program for young people including 12 fortnightly sessions and four Pizza & Paddle nights. Benefit: Builds youth leadership, confidence, and advocacy while fostering social inclusion.	\$4,000.00
Rotary Club of Upper Richmond Inc.	Deliverables: Buy food and supplies for weekly student breakfasts and purchase sandwich toasters as needed. Benefit: Supports disadvantaged students with nutritious meals, improving wellbeing and school engagement.	\$2,000.00
Woodburn Business & Community Chamber	Deliverables: Buy an outdoor projector, extra-large portable screen, and portable speaker system. Benefit: Enables free or low-cost community movie nights, events, and presentations, promoting social connection and local engagement.	\$5,000.00
Casino Bos Indicus Youth Round Up (Casino Show Society)	Deliverable: Purchase 30 concrete blocks to build a sawdust storage bunker. Benefit: Maintains safe operations at the Showgrounds and supports youth participation in agricultural events.	\$3,300.00
Evans River RSL Day Club	Deliverable: Buy a Bain-Marie to keep meals hot and safe. Benefit: Provides seniors with nutritious meals served at safe temperatures, supporting health and social interaction.	\$2,700.00
Broadwater Community Hall	Deliverables: Upgrade hall lighting for better visibility and buy a manual sweeper for tennis courts. Benefit: Improves safety and usability of the hall for events and maintains courts for community sport.	\$2,359.00
Rotary Club of Casino Inc.	Deliverable: Pay for screening rights for the film <i>Just a Farmer</i> and host a community screening. Benefit: Raises awareness of mental health and suicide prevention in rural communities, fostering support networks.	\$2,000.00
Casino Mixed Probus	Deliverable: Bus hire for a day trip. Benefit: Reduces isolation and promotes social connection for older community members.	\$1,000.00
Evans Head Living Museum	Deliverable: Purchase a server computer for administrative purposes. Benefit: Preserves local history, improves volunteer engagement, and enhances public access to cultural resources.	\$3,260.00
	TOTAL ALLOCATED	\$39,307.00

Round One was over-subscribed, and as such, the following applications have not been allocated funding in this round. Unsuccessful applicants will be advised of the outcome and offered feedback on their application and encouraged to apply again in the next round or provided with alternative solutions to address their needs.

- KidsXpress
- Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre
- New Italy Museum Inc.
- Northern NSW Equine Challenge Association Inc.
- Rainbow Roos AU Inc

The following applications were either voluntarily withdrawn or deemed ineligible under the Policy to receive funding, and will be provided with feedback on why they were deemed ineligible:

- Casino Community Men's Shed Inc.

- Casino Senior Citizens Centre Incorporated
- Casino Show Society
- New Italy Museum
- Rotary Club Evans Head
- The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch 2nd Casino Scout Group

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

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 VP467838 - Construction of the Casino Rugby League Clubhouse

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

22.2 Proposed Extension of the Petersons Quarry Lease

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

These 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