Richmond Valley Council

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Date: **Tuesday, 30 June 2026**

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 APOLOGIES

4 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19 May 2026.

REPORT

Refer to attached Minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting - 19 May 2026 (under separate cover)

6 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

7 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

8 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

9 MAYOR'S REPORT

9.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 12 MAY - 10 JUNE 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 12 May – 10 June 2026.

MAY

15 – NRJO Board Meeting
15 – Business Beers, Bowls, BBQ – Casino Business Chamber
16 – NSW SES Awards Ceremony
18 – Casino High School – Project opening presentation
20 – Rous County Council – Policy discussion
21 – Driving Brenda's Beef Week Moke
23 – Beef Week Opening Ball
25 – Evans Head RSL Day Club – 17th Birthday
25 – Beef Week Steak & Mates dinner
28 - Beef Week & Bindaree Industry dinner
29 – Breakfast with the Butchers Casino Beef Week
29 – St Mary's Primary School Beef Week Celebration
29 – Beef Week Greyhound Races
30 – Beef Week Saturday Parade
31 – Beef Week Car Show

JUNE
3 – Suspension Bridge Inspection – Casino
4 – Destination North Coast Networking Event - Evans Head
9 – Richmond Valley Council General Manager Briefing Session
10 – Imagine Northern Rivers Workshop

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

10 DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

11 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.

11.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

RECOMMENDATION

That items identified be determined without debate.

12 GENERAL MANAGER

12.1 CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE: IMPACTS OF DISALLOWANCE MOTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025* which prescribed the *2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW* has been disallowed by the NSW Legislative Council, following concerns with some of the provisions of the new Code.

The disallowance means that the amended regulation, and the Code it prescribed, are no longer in force and Council will need to take action to ensure it complies with these changes.

This will require rescission of Council's December 2025 resolution adopting the new Code, which will have the immediate effect of reinstating the former Code. As a result, the former provisions allowing Councillors to attend meetings by audiovisual link, and to conduct pre-meeting briefing sessions, will again be in force.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Rescinds it's December 2025 decision (resolution 161225/11) to adopt the Richmond Valley Council Code of Meeting Practice 2025.
2. Notes that, as a result of this rescission, the previous Code of Meeting Practice, adopted in August 2025 (resolution 190825/12) is re-instated.
3. Further notes that the Office of Local Government is currently drafting an updated Model Code of Meeting Practice and that further advice will be provided to Council in due course.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 8: Lead and advocate for our community

8C1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

8C1.2 Review and update Council's Code of Meeting Practice

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

REPORT

Background

In February 2025, the Office of Local Government announced proposed sweeping changes to the way that council meetings are conducted in NSW under the Model Code of Meeting Practice. Key changes proposed included significantly reducing Councillors' options to attend council meetings via audiovisual link, banning pre-meeting briefing sessions, requiring Councillors and staff to stand when addressing Council meetings and extending the powers of the Mayor to expel Councillors from meetings for disorderly conduct. The proposed changes prompted widespread discussion within the local government sector, with many councils, including Richmond Valley Council, raising concerns with the proposals.

Despite feedback from the sector, the NSW Government progressed with the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025*) which prescribed the

2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW and, in August 2025 announced that all councils in NSW would be required to adopt the new Model Code by December. Council accordingly adopted a new Code of Meeting Practice, incorporating the new mandatory provisions, at its December 2025 Ordinary Meeting.

Meanwhile, on 25 November 2025, Dr Amanda Cohn MLC had moved a motion in the Legislative Council to disallow the Amendment Regulation, due to concerns from local councils and the community regarding the new provisions.

Debate on the disallowance motion was deferred, following indications from the NSW Government that the Model Code may be amended to address these concerns. However, when no further amendments had been provided within six months, the vote on the disallowance motion was held and carried on 26 May 2026.

Implications of the decision

Section 41(4) of the *Interpretation Act 1987* provides that the disallowance of an amending regulation has the effect of restoring the previous regulation as of the day of its disallowance.

This means that the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice is no longer prescribed for the purposes of section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version.

Accordingly, councils throughout NSW will now have to bring their Codes of Meeting Practice back into line with the 2021 version of the Model Code (which provided greater flexibility for audiovisual attendance at meetings and permitted pre-meeting briefing sessions for Councillors).

To achieve this, it is recommended that Council rescinds its December 2025 decision to adopt its Code of Meeting Practice. This will have the effect of reinstating Council's previous adopted Code of Meeting Practice containing the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code (Adopted at the August 2025 Ordinary Meeting, Resolution 190825/12). A copy of the August version of the Code is attached for information. Because more than three months have elapsed since the resolution, the requirement for three Councillors to sign a proposed rescission motion will not apply. However, it should be noted that the Office of Local Government is currently drafting an updated Model Code of Meeting Practice and further changes are possible within the coming months. It is therefore recommended that Council should not seek to make any additional amendments to the August 2025 version of the Code until further advice on the updated Model Code is received from the Office of Local Government.

CONSULTATION

The August 2025 version of the Code of Meeting Practice was exhibited for a period of 42 days, in accordance with the legislative requirements before being adopted at Council's August Ordinary Meeting. Should further changes to the Model Code be prescribed in future, further community consultation will be required.

CONCLUSION

Due to the disallowance of the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025*, the 2021 Model Meeting Code is now in effect. Rescission of the motion adopting Council's Code of Meeting Practice at the December 2025 Ordinary Meeting is required to ensure compliance with Section 360 of the LGA.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Code of Meeting Practice Adopted 19 August 2025 (under separate cover)

12.2 DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2026/2027 (INCLUDING DRAFT FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2026/2030), DRAFT REVENUE POLICY 2026/2027 AND DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/2036

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its Ordinary Meeting on 19 May 2026, Council resolved to place the Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates), Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan on public exhibition. The Operational Plan outlines the actions that Council will implement over the next 12 months to deliver the priorities of the Community Strategic Plan, provide essential services and build the infrastructure our community needs to support continued growth in housing and employment.

This report provides information regarding public submissions received by Council during the exhibition period and details minor amendments that have been made to the Draft Financial Estimates.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the public exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan 2026/27 and associated Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan and the public submissions received in response;
2. Adopts the Draft Operational Plan 2026/2027 (including Financial Estimates 2026/2030), Revenue Policy 2026/2027 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/2036, as presented with this report;
3. In respect of the general land rates contained in the 2026/2027 Draft Revenue Policy, Council in accordance with Sections 535 and 537 of the *Local Government Act 1993* makes the following General Rates for the 2026/2027 financial year:

Rating Category	Base Amount	% Yield from Base Amount	Rate in Dollar (Ad Valorem)
Residential	$310.00	22.12%	0.00398
Rural Residential (sub-category)	$310.00	25.36%	0.00250
Business	$360.00	8.52%	0.01183
Farmland	$360.00	16.25%	0.00276

4. In relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council makes and imposes the maximum charge for interest, as determined by the Minister for Local Government and in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993,* as follows:
    (i) for the 2026/2027 financial year, 9.5% per annum;
5. In respect of annual charges and user charges for Waste Management, Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Management Service Charges, in accordance with Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes these charges as detailed in the 2026/2027 Draft Revenue Policy to apply to the 2026/2027 financial year.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 9: Manage resources responsibly and provide great service

9A1 Undertake long-term financial planning and ensure compliance with financial regulations

9A1.1 Prepare and implement Council's Long Term Financial Plan

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in the report.

REPORT

The 2026-2027 Operational Plan outlines the actions that Council will implement over the next 12 months to deliver the priorities of the Community Strategic Plan, provide essential services and build the infrastructure our community needs to support continued growth in housing and employment.

The Plan has been prepared in a challenging economic climate as conflict in the Middle East continues to take its toll on local businesses and households with increasing costs for fuel and services. Council has also been significantly impacted by these cost increases and has had to carefully balance the budget to ensure it has sufficient revenue to deliver priority projects and essential services, while being conscious of the community's cost of living challenges. The Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates), Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan were placed on public exhibition following the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 May 2026. The exhibition period closed 4:00pm Thursday 18 June 2026, with three public submissions being received.

Managing increasing costs

Council's Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/2036 has been updated as part of the development of the Operational Plan 2026/2027 (including Financial Estimates 2026/2030). As outlined in the May Council report, there have been several challenges in forming the 2026/2027 budget and maintaining an unrestricted cash surplus and an improving operating result.

Council's 2026/2027 financial outlook reflects growing pressure on its long-term sustainability, despite applying a reduced rate peg of 3.7%, which continues to lag behind rising expenditure and depreciation costs driven by asset revaluations and infrastructure demands. Economic impacts from global conflicts, inflation, fuel surcharges, supply chain disruptions and rising material costs - particularly affecting waste, water and sewer services - have significantly increased operational expenses, with suppliers imposing fuel levies of around 10% and projected additional costs to Council exceeding $1.1 million for next year at the current rates. To maintain essential services and align with industry pricing standards, Council proposed annual and user charge increases of 8–10%, while also budgeting for the 4% annual wage increase for the next three years under the new Local Government Award, which has now been approved by the Industrial Relations Commission. Additionally, it is proposed to invest an extra $500,000 into stormwater drainage improvements, while reviewing outdated stormwater charges that currently fail to adequately fund maintenance of Council's $78 million stormwater asset base.

Rates and charges

The Draft Revenue Policy, endorsed for public exhibition at Council's May meeting, included the following proposed increases to Rates and Annual Charges for 2026-2027:

- General Rates – to increase by 3.70% in-line with Council's IPART determined rate peg
- Domestic Waste Annual Charge – to increase by 10%
- Non-Domestic Waste Annual Charge – to increase by 10%
- Water Access Charges – to increase by 8%
- Water Consumption Charges – to increase by 8%
- Sewerage Annual Charges – to increase by 8%

This is forecast to generate an additional $3,702,096 to support essential services for the community over the coming year, including $614,449 from additional rates revenue, $1,404,740 for water services, $946,773 for sewerage services and $738,317 for waste management.

Adjusting water pricing

One of the key issues to be resolved in developing the draft budget was the need to achieve more consistent and equitable water pricing across the local government area, in response to Council's recent water pricing review. At its April meeting Council endorsed further discussions with the Richmond Valley's largest water user, Casino Food Company (CFC), regarding a potential price pathway for 2026-27 and beyond. These proposed charges were reflected in the Draft Revenue Policy exhibited for public comment and it is recommended that they are applied for the 2026-2027 financial year, pending the second stage review of water pricing, to be completed by March 2027. Council will continue to work with the CFC throughout this review to identify an appropriate long-term pricing pathway that secures future investment in water security and addresses increasing operational costs. Details of the discussions undertaken to date with the CFC are included in the consultation section of this report.

Achieving efficiencies

As Council moves forward from the 2022 flood event, with reduced grant funding opportunities, it will take the opportunity to reduce the scale of its operations and realise salary savings through natural attrition. This has already been achieved through reduced staffing at the Manager level whilst continuing to pursue operational efficiencies, such as within Information and Technology Services by systematically migrating to centralised enterprise service providers to achieve cost reductions. This will be ongoing over the coming 12 months, along with plans to accelerate the move towards landfilling at the Nammoona Waste Facility, which is expected to generate operational savings in future years. In addition, revised depreciation timelines for the Casino Sewage Treatment Plant have slightly improved operating results. The Executive team will continue to identify areas for efficiencies and keep Council informed of key proposals.

Updates to the budget

During the public exhibition period, further information has been received, requiring changes to be made to the 2026/2027 budget. These changes are detailed below:

Operating Income – increase of $96,114

- Updated supplementary land values and the number of assessments and services has resulted in a net increase in rates and annual charges of $11,076.
- Adjustments as outlined in the March Quarterly Budget Review with the most notable change being the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative project of $73,346 along with some minor operational grant funded projects.

Operating Expenditure – increase of $135,229

- Revised budgets for Councillor and Mayoral fees, resulting in a decrease in operating expenditure of $3,088 based on fees determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.
- Revision of the key budget assumption for salaries from 4.1% to 4%, per the new Local Government State Award, with increases required to the assumptions for the forward 2 years from 3.5% to 4%. This has had a positive impact on year 1 with a $23,945 saving in operating expenditure, whilst increasing the expenditure in forward years due to an increase in the estimated % budgeted for in those years.
- Adjustments in line with grant funding or as outlined in the March Quarterly Budget Review with the most notable changes being Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative $73,346 and Flying Fox Habitat Grants of $66,365.

Capital Grants and Contributions – increase of $93,000

- Increase in capital grants as approved in the March Quarterly Budget review, with $43,000 for the Casino Water Treatment Plant Process Improvements and $50,000 for Coraki Riverside Park Boat Ramp Repairs.

Capital Expenditure – increase of $6,177,341

The main changes are as approved in the March Quarterly Budget review, with the most notable changes being:

- Water Treatment Plant Upgrades $537,450
- Water Mains Replacements - $1.512mil
- Water Smart Metering - $395,000
- Sewer Relining Program $800,000
- Sewer Pump Station Upgrades $311,500
- Stan Payne Oval Lighting Upgrade $329,435
- Woodburn Tennis Repairs - $130,245
- Coraki Riverside Park Improvements and Boat Ramp Repairs - $103,015
- Evans Head Senior Citizens Hall Improvements - $100,000
- Nammoona Waste Facility Fuel Cell Upgrade - $112,500
- Patricia St Industrial Development - $1,799,102

The changes resulted in a slight increase to the unrestricted cash surplus of $66,625, to $472,089. The revised budget projections are summarised below:

Budget Estimates $'000	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030
Total Operating Revenue	85,696	88,101	91,325	94,472
Total Operating Expenditure	93,581	95,068	98,760	101,177
Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions	**(7,885)**	**(6,967)**	**(7,435)**	**(6,705)**
Add: Capital Grants and Contributions	8,450	44,888	30,718	723
Operating Result including Capital Grants and Contributions	**565**	**37,920**	**23,283**	**(5,983)**
Add: Non-Cash Expenses	27,963	28,566	29,275	29,933
Add: Non-Operating Funds Employed	20,627	5,792	13,509	1,684
Less: Capital Expenditure	58,754	64,037	55,348	15,914
Less: Loan Repayments	2,987	2,163	2,088	2,185
Estimated Funding Result – Surplus/(Deficit)	**(12,586)**	**6,079**	**8,631**	**7,536**
Restricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	(13,058)	5,700	8,252	7,121
Unrestricted Funds – Increase/(Decrease)	**472**	**379**	**379**	**414**

Draft Revenue Policy

The Statement of Rates and Charges has been updated with the latest supplementary land values along with movements in the number of assessments and services. Rates and annual charges increased overall by $11,076.

CONSULTATION

Council advertised the Draft Operational Plan (including Financial Estimates 2026/2030), Draft Revenue Policy 2026/2027 and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026/2036 from 20 May 2026, with public submissions closing at 4:00pm Thursday 18 June 2026.

Advertising included coverage on Council's Facebook page, website and community radio interviews. Five videos were posted to Council's Facebook page covering various areas of the

Operational Plan, including events, libraries, sustainability, projects and infrastructure as well as a wrap up video on the draft plan and proposed increases to fees. These videos had a total 75,180 views and resulted in 844 clicks through to the plans on public exhibition. Copies of the draft documents were also made available at Council's administration offices in Casino and Evans Head.

Public Submissions

Council received three submissions during the exhibition period. One submission supported Council's proposal to increase the water charges for the Casino Food Company. A further two submissions were received opposing the proposed increase of the Coraki Caravan Park fees across the peak season. These submissions have been provided to Councillors for further consideration.

In relation to the proposed increase in Coraki Caravan Park fees, the issues raised in the submissions regarding potential impacts on local business and the wider community have been considered and it is noted that the park's management agreement has recently expired and requires renegotiation. Accordingly, it is proposed to maintain last year's fee structure for the caravan park and apply only an increase in line with CPI at this time. The fee structure will be reviewed once a new management agreement is in place

Ongoing discussions with the Casino Food Company

At its meeting on 21 April 2026, Council received a report on the progress of the water pricing review, including details of work both Council staff and consultants had performed in relation to calculating the cost of production of water for Richmond Valley Council. This review has calculated the direct cost for Council to supply Casino Food Company is $1.48/kL. The report also put forward a base scenario and three options for Council's consideration. The resolution of council is provided below:

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the water supply cost analysis findings and the independent review of Council's water pricing methodology;*
2. *Notes that the current water consumption charge applied to the Casino Food Company Ltd does not fully recover the cost of supply to it facilities and results in an ongoing financial loss to Council's Water Fund;*
3. *Notes that access to Council's town water supply provides the Casino Food Company Ltd with significant avoided costs, reduced commercial risk, and higher supply security, particularly during periods of drought, which are not reflected in current pricing;*
4. *Endorses discussions with the Casino Food Company Ltd to increase water consumption charges to Scenario 2 for 2026/27, as outlined in this report;*
5. *Requires that the General Manager completes an assessment to determine the long run marginal cost pricing framework, in line with regulatory best practice and reports the findings and recommendations back to Council by March 2027, to inform water pricing decisions for the 2027/28 financial year.*

In Part 4 of the resolution, Council endorsed discussions with the Casino Food Company on the proposal to increase water consumption charges to Scenario 2 in the report ($1.69/kL). Discussions have been held with the Casino Food Company following this resolution with both parties demonstrating a commitment to working collaboratively towards a mutually beneficial outcome. The latest communication was received on 24 June 2026, requesting some further information on pricing methodology which has been provided to the Casino Food Company. The Company also proposed the following phased implementation of pricing increases for Council's consideration:

- Financial year 2026/2027 $1.47 (+ relevant CPI)
- Financial year 2027/2028 $1.60 (+ relevant CPI)
- Financial year 2027/2029 $1.69 (+ relevant CPI)

The below table models the impact of this proposal compared to Council's current Long Term Financial Plan. For this exercise we have used the Casino Food Company's average consumption from the past two years to provide a consumption figure, and an average CPI for the December quarter for the last five years (3.8%) for a relevant CPI figure.

Financial Year	Per Long Term Financial Plan	Per Casino Food Company Proposal	Difference
2026/2027			
$/kL	$1.69	$1.53	$0.16
Yeild	$2,079,840.75	$1,877,349.32	$202,491.43
2027/2028			
$/kL	$1.77	$1.66	$0.11
Yield	$2,183,832.79	$2,043,373.41	$140,459.38
2028/2029			
$/kL	$1.86	$1.75	$0.11
Yield	$2,293,024.43	$2,158,313.16	$134,711.27

The Long-Term Financial Plan figures are based on $1.69/kL for next financial year with 5% increases in 2027/2028 and 2028/2029. However, as Part 5 of the April resolution commits the General Manager to complete an assessment to determine the long run marginal cost framework, in line with regulatory best practice and report the finding back to Council by March 2027, to inform water pricing decisions for the 2027/2028 financial year, the Long Term Financial Plan figures are indicative only and subject to adjustment.

It is recommended that Council adopts the Scenario 2 pricing exhibited in the draft Revenue Policy for 2026-2027, as additional revenue is required to fund critical water supply infrastructure upgrades.

CONCLUSION

Council exhibited its draft Operational Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Revenue Policy for 2026-2027 from 20 May 2026 to 18 June 2026, with three public submissions being received. Following the exhibition period and consideration of the submissions, some amendments have been made to the Operational Plan Financial Estimates 2026/2030 and Revenue Policy 2026/2027, as detailed in the report.

It is recommended that Council adopts the draft plans as provided in the below links.

Draft-Operational-Plan-including-Financial-Estimates-2026-2030

Draft-Long-Term-Financial-Plan

Draft-Revenue-Policy-2026-27

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

13 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Nil

14 PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

14.1 DRAFT CASINO CBD MASTER PLAN

Director: **Tina Kao**

Responsible Officer: **Tony McAteer**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Draft Casino CBD Master Plan* (draft Master Plan) is a 25-year strategy for a vibrant, connected, walkable and investment-ready CBD. It provides a framework for more diverse housing and business opportunities, public realms that support everyday life, community events and long-term local pride, while supporting growth and retaining heritage values and local character.

The plan is intended to be implemented in stages, providing the basis for future decisions about capital works, grant funding, land use planning, design guidance, catalyst site activation and long-term investment attraction. It provides a vision for the Casino CBD to instil growth, clarity on its purpose in servicing the community and confidence to encourage business investment.

The Draft Master Plan is presented to Council for endorsement for exhibition and consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the *Draft Casino CBD Master Plan* for public exhibition for a period of 30 days.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 3: Grow and diversify our economy

3C1 Activate our CBDs and grow the retail sector

3C1.2 Procure and deliver CBD masterplans for Casino and Evans Head

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

REPORT

The preparation of a draft Master Plan for the Casino CBD was first identified by the *Casino Place Plan* in 2023. This project commenced in October 2025 with the engagement of consultancy firm Arcadia Landscape Architecture along with partner planning specialists and engagement specialists, the *Draft Casino CBD Master Plan* has been prepared in close consultation with Council. Production of this document was a staged approach which included analysis of the precinct, early community and stakeholder engagement, and the development of a structure plan.

Summary of the Draft Master Plan

Engagement

The first round of engagement was conducted early in the project. This comprised of workshops, information sessions, and interviews that were conducted in December 2025, as well as a thorough community survey which was open through December into late January 2026 and received 126 responses. The consultation package was designed to move beyond broad vision-setting and into a more practical conversation about how the CBD functions today, what community believe could change first, and their suggestions on realistic renewal pathways over time. Feedback found strong pride in Casino CBD events and community feel, that the CBD core had opportunity to be clearer in its intended functions, strong support for more diverse housing and accommodation, and to have paths, streets and crossings that are comfortable and works for everyone.

The Vision

The draft Master Plan proposes a vision for Casino CBD that instils main street pride, riverfront energy, and is built for locals, visitors and investment. This is underpinned by place principles for a compact and walkable core, a spine that connects the core to the river and suspension bridge, builds upon existing strengths of events and civic life as well as existing built form character in order to achieve commerce and housing for the anticipated growth in Casino and the LGA.

Strategic Framework

The draft Master Plan is structured around sequencing of short-term visible actions and medium term catalyst initiatives. This staged approach provides opportunity to flex and manoeuvre amongst the actions identified. These actions will progressively establish the conditions for longer term structural change in land use planning & activation initiatives.

This staged approach also recognises that renewal in Casino will not happen evenly across the whole centre. Some parts of the CBD are better placed to change earlier, whilst other areas will evolve more gradually. The draft Master Plan therefore uses staging not only as a delivery mechanism, but as a way of managing growth: strengthening what already works, proving the value of uplift in the right locations, and then scaling that change over time. Importantly, this is not a rigid sequence. The draft Master Plan provides a flexible framework that responds to opportunity, allowing projects to move ahead sooner where there is readiness, investment interest or strategic benefit, so long as they contribute to the overall vision for Casino CBD. The following is a summary of staging-

- **Short term (0-5 years) – Reinforcing the commercial core –**
    - Connecting the CBD with the river and key assets such as the new suspension bridge and the Rail Trail
    - Strengthen main street core, pedestrian comfort loops and shopfront upgrades
    - Everyday comfort, greenery & care – improve amenity, shade, accessibility and activation
- **Medium term (6-15 years) – Catalyst projects and mixed-use growth –** bring forward development of catalyst sites that are large scale land holdings, close to the CBD core but outside the sensitive heritage cluster
- **Long term (16-25 years) – full realisation of a connected, intensified & river connected CBD –** a compact, walkable and river-connected CBD with a strong commercial core, a mixed-use and medium density frame, and well cared for neighbourhoods beyond.

The Structure Plan component is intended to guide the CBD's evolution over the next 25 years by identifying where early action is identified to likely occur, how visible improvements can build confidence, and how longer-term growth can be directed in a way that strengthens the town centre's role, character and identity. This staged approach recognises that successful town centre renewal is cumulative. Early public-domain upgrades, activation projects and wayfinding improvements help make the centre safer, greener and easier to use. Over time, these changes create the conditions for catalyst redevelopment, mixed-use growth and a stronger relationship

between the commercial core, the river, the Rail Trail and surrounding neighbourhoods. In this way, the Structure Plan is not only a long-term vision, but also a practical urban framework helping to understand immediate priorities while keeping sight of the long-term picture.

Draft Structure Plan

Land Use and Zoning

To achieve the intended outcomes of the Master Plan, a range of amendments are proposed to the planning scheme including:

- Land zone changes - extend the E2 Commercial Centre zone to south of North Street, and introduce an R3 Medium Density Residential zone to fringes of the CBD core and along the transport corridors.
- Residential Development - support an uplift in residential density in the CBD Core and its immediate surrounds; apply flexibility for residential development in the E2 Commercial Centre & E1 Local Centre zones where 'Active Street Frontage' requirements will not apply. Otherwise, the CBD continues to permit residential development in the form of Shop-top housing in the E1 and E2 zones.

- New local provisions - to encourage a general uplift in development supported by catalyst sites which meet minimum land area requirements and can achieve built form design excellence.
- Building Height - increased building height across the E1, E2 & R3 zones which could support 3 to 4 storeys, while allowing building height flexibility for identified and future additional catalyst sites

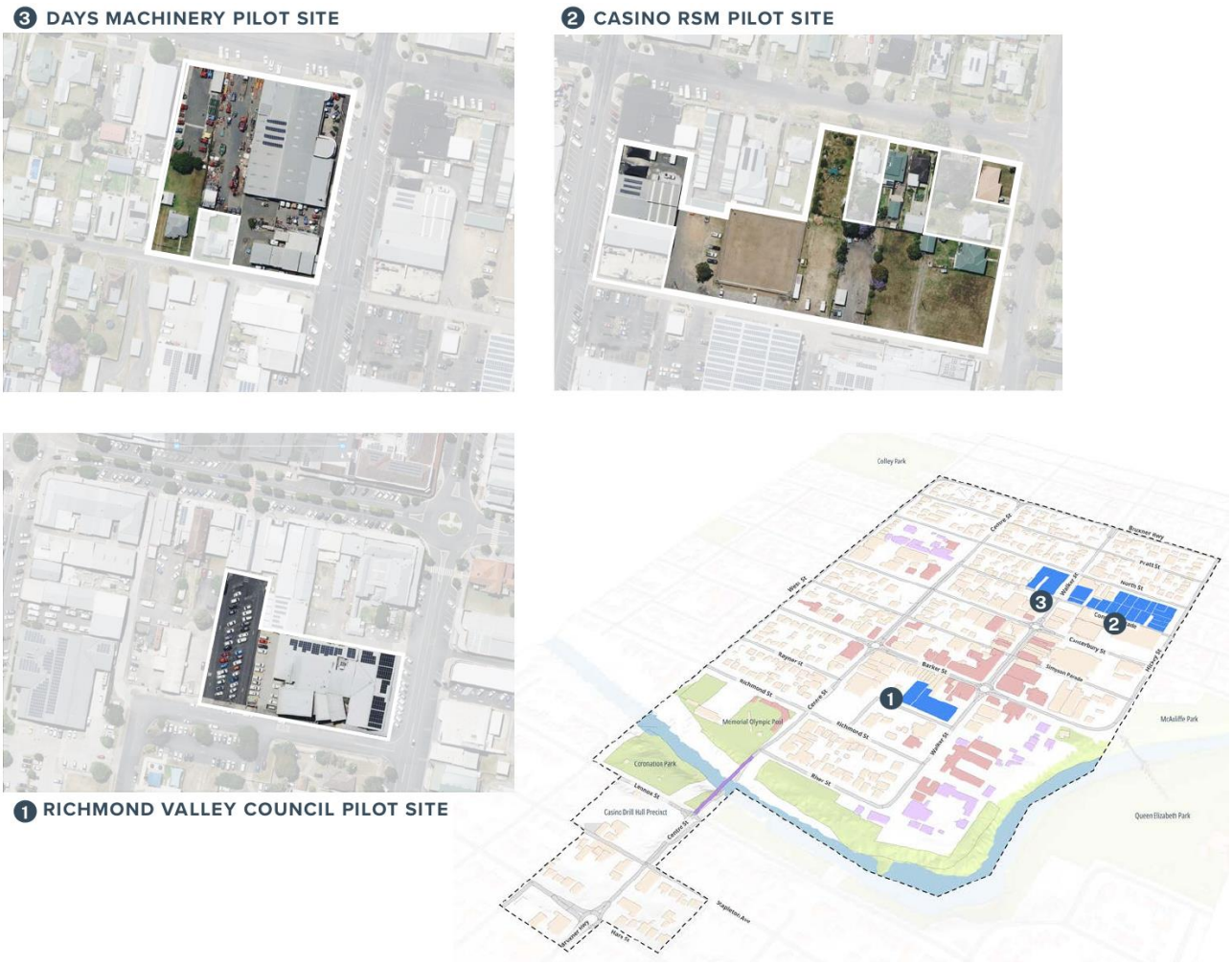
Proposed/Indicative Land Zoning Map

Massing & Feasibility Study and Catalyst Sites

A study was done to calculate the CBD precinct's potential development yields by testing current baseline capacity against an uplift scenario. It demonstrated if all available lots (and configurations of lot sizes) were to be developed under the current planning framework a yield of 1,050 new shops and 2,428 new dwellings (based upon defined assumptions) is possible. More than sufficient to meeting the 1,600 implied dwelling demand projections for Casino (by 2041). However, eventual market uptake of development potential is forecast to be only a portion of capacity due to economic, environmental and social conditions that play out in development activity, irrespective of location.

The study also looked at a general uplift scenario in the precinct which would be led by catalyst sites. This first wave of uplift would be focused on sites comprising of larger land holdings positioned around the heart of the CBD core. Three demonstration sites were identified each having a distinct character and strategic role. Together they demonstrate how targeted mixed-use uplift within the E2 zone can strengthen arrival into the CBD, support commercial activity, introduce housing into the centre and help revitalise the broader town heart over time. They have also been deliberately chosen as pilot sites because, in addition to their strategic location, they are comparatively less affected by flooding and heritage constraints and offer larger, and more

adaptable footprints that are better suited to testing redevelopment potential. These sites also currently bound the outer areas of the commercial core.



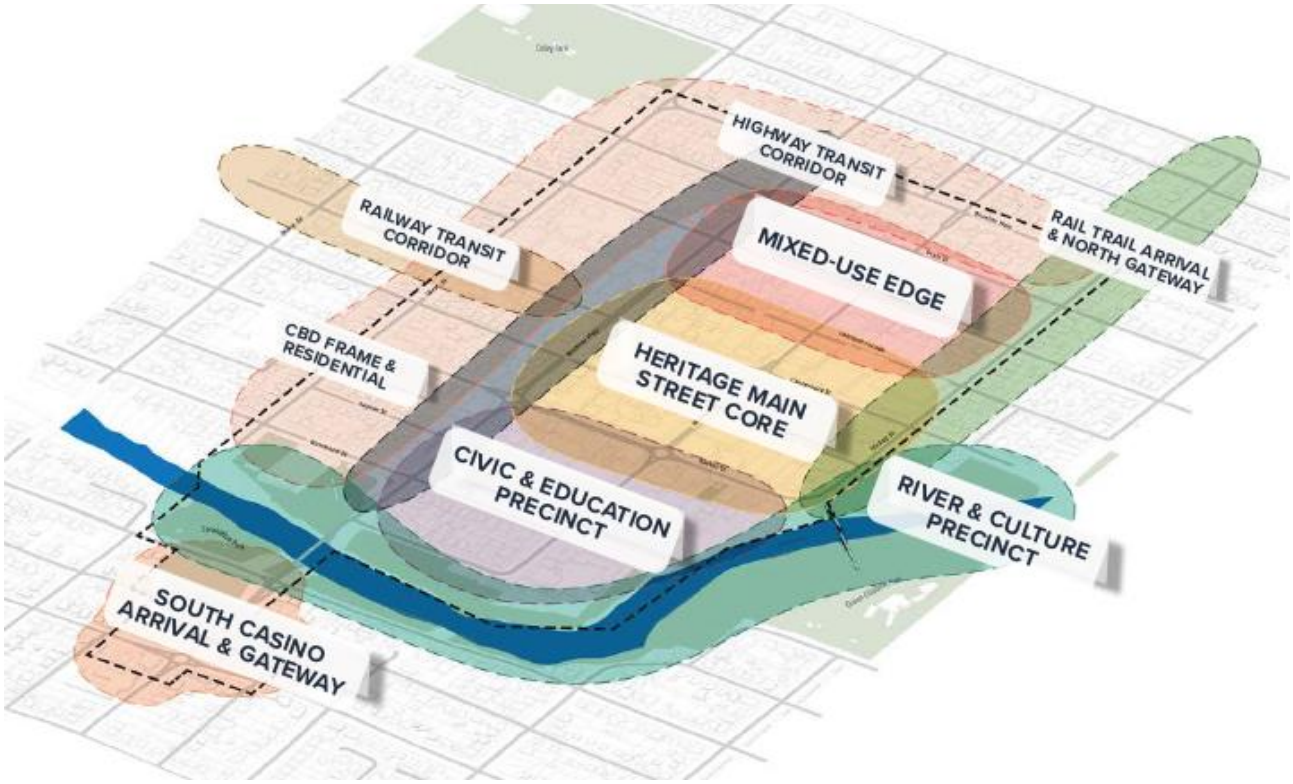
Casino CBD Pilot Sites (Three Locations)

Street Design Guidelines

Different parts of the town centre have different roles: some operate as heritage-led retail streets, others as civic or education edges, river links, residential interfaces, gateways or transport corridors. The Street Design Guideline component of the master plan therefore sets out how each street type should feel, function and perform, so that future public-domain works, capital projects and private interfaces all contribute to the same long-term vision.

The guideline is intentionally place-based rather than purely engineering led. It focuses on the qualities that matter most: like walkability, comfort, shade, accessibility, safety, identify, heritage fit, event ready, and strong connections between the main street (commercial core) & the river, Rail Trail and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Each character precinct guide should be read as a high-level design brief. It does not replace detailed design, traffic engineering, flood or servicing studies, but rather provides the urban design direction against which future projects should be developed, tested and staged. Each of the character precincts, see figure below, will focus on: role & character; street design intent; key street design moves; public realm & interface guidance; movement & access guidance; street elements / palette; and supported by typical diagrams/figures showing street allocation, setback and the interface with private domain.



Casino CBD Character Precincts Map

CONSULTATION

Community engagement confirmed that people see Casino CBD as much more than a shopping strip - it is the everyday heart of a country town, a place of memory and events, and a gateway to the river and wider valley. Most people like the scale and feel of the town centre and want it to work better, not to be transformed into a city.

Should Council resolve to endorse the Draft Plan, it will be publicly exhibited for a period of 30 days. A representative of the consultant team will visit Casino to conduct information sessions and stakeholder engagement, along with Council Officers, to gauge feedback on the draft Master Plan.

CONCLUSION

The draft Casino CBD Master Plan provides a 25-year roadmap for strengthening the town centre by building on its existing character, community identity and strategic role within the Richmond Valley. Rather than reinventing Casino, the plan focuses on reinforcing its commercial core, reconnecting the CBD to the Richmond River and surrounding assets, and guiding growth in a coordinated, place-sensitive way.

Ultimately, the plan positions Casino CBD to become a more vibrant, walkable and investment-ready centre, with stronger economic activity, improved public spaces, and a greater connection between its main street, riverfront and community life. By combining clear vision with implementable actions, it gives Council and the community a confident framework to guide sustainable growth and enhance Casino's regional significance over time.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

15 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES & PROJECTS

Nil

16 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

16.1 COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION 2026/2027

Director: **Ryan Gaiter**

Responsible Officer: **Hayley Martin**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each financial year, the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determines the minimum and maximum remuneration payable to Mayors and Councillors for carrying out their duties. The determination by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is pursuant to Sections 239 and 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council has received notification that the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined that the Mayoral and Councillor Fees are to increase 3.7% for the 2026/2027 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Sets the Mayoral Allowance for the 2026/2027 financial year effective from 1 July 2026 at $52,560 per annum.
2. Sets the Councillor Fee for the 2026/2027 financial year effective from 1 July 2026 at $24,080 per annum.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 9: Manage resources responsibly and provide great service

9A1 Undertake long-term financial planning and ensure compliance with financial regulations

9A1.1 Prepare and implement Council's Long Term Financial Plan

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The draft budget already includes an amount for this expense, however the budgeted figure was calculated estimating an increase of five percent in Mayoral and Councillor remuneration. The increase determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for 2026/2027 was 3.7%, therefore a decrease of $3,080 to the draft budget currently on exhibition will be required.

REPORT

In April each year the New South Wales Local Government Remuneration Tribunal releases its annual report and determination on the remuneration of Mayors and Councillors for the following financial year. The report sets out the factors considered by the Tribunal when making its determination. These include:

- Submissions and comments made by associations and individual councils
- Key economic indicators
- Current economic climate, including the war in the Middle East and cost of living pressures
- Council categorisation
- IPART Rate Peg Base Cost Change
- Other public sector and state remuneration determinations

The Tribunal has determined an increase of 3.7% for next financial year, a comparison of the current fees and the determined fees is shown in the table below. There has been no change to the categorisation of Richmond Valley Council which remains in the Regional Rural grouping. Council resolved to adopt the maximum fees category throughout the duration of the last term of Council. The majority of NSW Councils do the same.

Fee Type / Year	Minimum Fee	Maximum Fee
Councillor Fee 2025/2026	$10,530	$23,220
Councillor Fee 2026/2027	$10,920	$24,080
Mayoral Allowance 2025/2026	$22,420	$50,680
Mayoral Allowance 2026/2027	$23,250	$52,560

A copy of the full report published by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal can be viewed at:

Current LGRT Determinations | NSW Remuneration Tribunals

It should be noted that the fees above do not include the superannuation component of Councillors' remuneration, which will be paid at the required rate. Following the *Local Government Amendment Act 2021*, Council resolved to make payment of superannuation to Councillors equivalent to the superannuation guarantee which will remain at 12% from 1 July 2026.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council continues to adopt the maximum fee and increases the Mayoral and Councillor fees in accordance with the Tribunal recommendation for the 2026/2027 financial year as outlined in this report.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

16.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - MAY 2026

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 May 2026 is shown below:

Bank Accounts	Term Deposits	Floating Rate Notes	Fixed Rate Bonds	TCorp IM Funds	Total
$25,375,797	$35,000,000	$6,250,000	$3,000,000	$19,327,372	$88,953,168

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments at 31 May 2026 was 9.18% which was above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for May of 4.48% (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 May 2026.

DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 9: Manage resources responsibly and provide great service

9A1 Undertake long-term financial planning and ensure compliance with financial regulations

9A1.2 Maintain Council's investment portfolio in accordance with requirements and aim for the best long-term benefit for the community

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As at 31 May 2026, Council has earned $2,483,733 in interest and $1,415,197 in fair value gains from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of $3,898,930. This equates to 124.74% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of $3,125,750, noting the annual budget was increased by $682,000 following the December Quarterly Budget Review.

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

REPORT

Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Cash Rate Update

The RBA increased the cash rate to 4.35% at its May meeting.

Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in May was 9.18%, a decrease in 124 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 469 basis points above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 4.48% (annualised) which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned net gains of $402,197 during the month of May. The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a gain of $276,491 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a gain of $125,706.

During May, financial markets continued to be impacted by the ongoing ware in the Middle East. According to NSW Treasury Corp's monthly economic report, Australia's economic data has been on the weaker side following the RBA's decision to increase the cash rate at the beginning of the month. Investors expect the cash rate to hold steady at the June meeting but predict one more rate hike towards the end of the year.

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 $88,953,168 at 31 May 2026. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account ($18,685,000), Macquarie Cash Management Account ($5,016,562), Term Deposits ($35,000,000), Floating Rate Notes ($6,250,000), Bonds ($3,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments ($19,327,372) and other bank accounts ($1,674,235).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,813 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of $44,250,000 represented 49.75% of the total portfolio as at 31 May 2026.

Council made the following new investment during May 2026:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	ESI	Amount Invested	Investment Term	Interest Rate
Heartland Bank	Term Deposit	Y	$2,000,000	6 Months	5.35%
Heartland Bank	Term Deposit	Y	$2,000,000	6 Months	5.35%
Total			**$4,000,000**		

Council had the following investment maturities during the month of May 2026:

Banking Institution	Investment Type	ESI	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Heartland Bank	Term Deposit	Y	$2,000,000	43,380.82
Rabobank	Term Deposit	N	$2,000,000	22,538.08
Total			**$4,000,000**	**65,918.90**

Council had $19,327,372 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 May 2026. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

Investment Holding	Fair Value at 31 May 2026	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 31 May 2026	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD	Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment
Medium Term Growth Fund	$ 15,051,438	$ 276,491	$ 966,118	$ 4,046,408
Long Term Growth Fund	$ 4,275,934	$ 125,706	$ 431,358	$ 1,275,934
Total	**$ 19,327,372**	**$ 402,197**	**$ 1,397,477**	**$ 5,322,342**

Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)

Council's cash and investments portfolio of $88,953,168 at 31 May 2026 includes $60,577,372 or 68.1% with no direct investment in the fossil fuel industry.

These percentages include Council's investments with NSW 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.

CONCLUSION

During the month of May 2026, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 31 May 2026 Council's cash and investments totalled $88,953,168 with $25,375,797 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 9.18% and total investment revenue equals 124.74% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 May 2026.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. RVC Investment Pack - May 2026 (under separate cover)

17 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATION

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

17.1 WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE OFF REARDONS LANE

Director: **Ben Zeller**

Responsible Officer: **Kim Anderson**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the withdrawal of the proposed road closure adjoining Reardons Lane, Swan Bay.

REPORT

Council received an application from an adjoining landowner requesting the closure and purchase of a section of public road adjoining Reardons Lane. This application was brought to Council for information at the April 2026 Ordinary Meeting.

The road is currently unnamed and was transferred to Council as the Roads Authority in 1995. It is classified as an unsealed gravel road and is not maintained by Council. The road functions as a no-through road.

In accordance with Section 38B of the *Roads Act 1993*, Council undertook the relevant consultation prior to the proposed closure of the public road for disposal, which included notifying relevant authorities, adjoining landholders and inviting feedback.

During the consultation period, the applicant withdrew the request for the closure and purchase, and, as a result, the asset will remain status quo.

Map: Showing proposed road closure for disposal.

17.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 MAY 2026 TO 31 MAY 2026

Director: **Tina Kao**

Responsible Officer: **Andy Edwards**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Applications report for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026.

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 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 was twenty-nine (29) with a total value of $12,607,480.00.

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

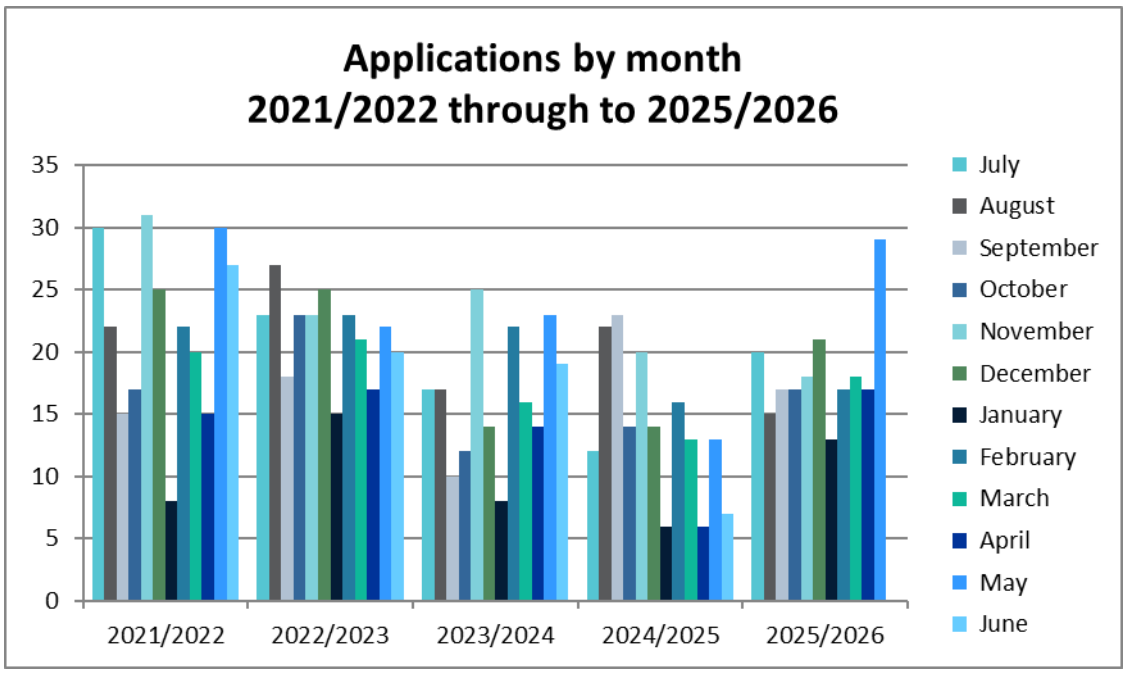


Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications and CDC's processed by Council over five financial years.

Figure 2 provides the annual value of Development Consents including CDCs issued by Council and private ceritifers over five financial years. Figure 3 provides a detailed review of the value for the reporting month of May 2026.

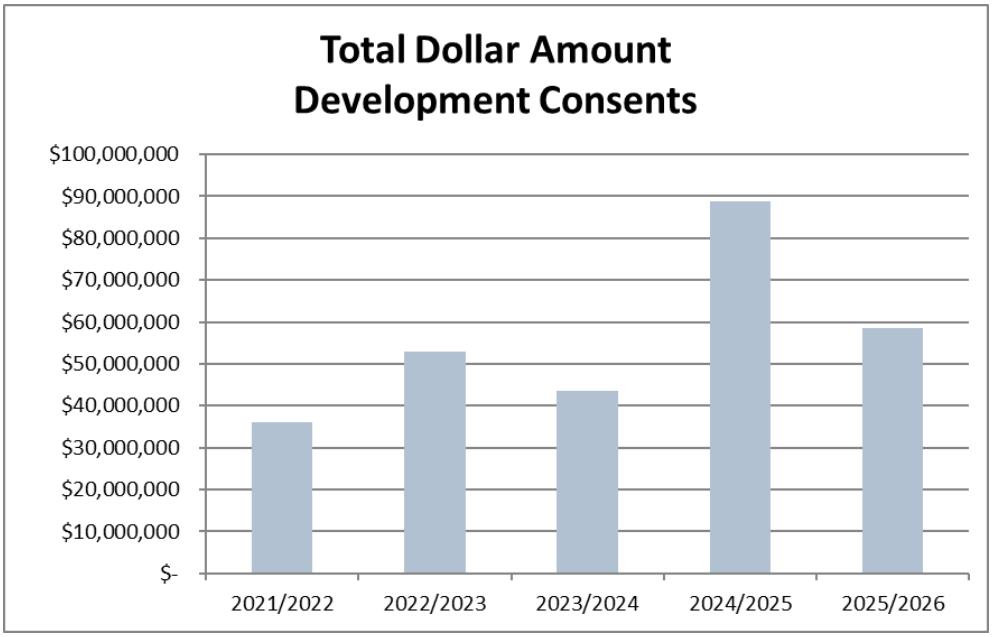


Figure 2: Annual value of development

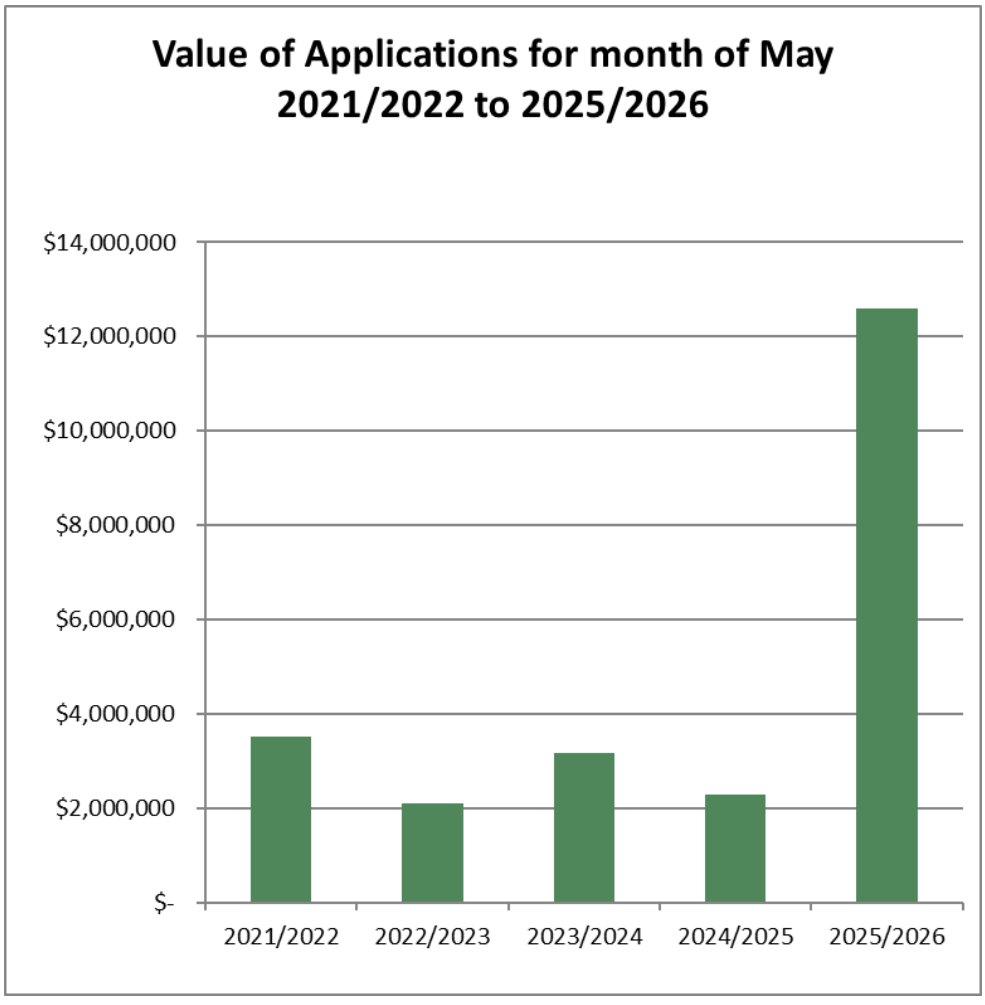


Figure 3: Value of development for the month of May from 2021/2022 to 2025/2026

2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
30	22	23	13	29

Table 1: Number of Applications for the month of May from 2021/2022 to 2025/2026

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.

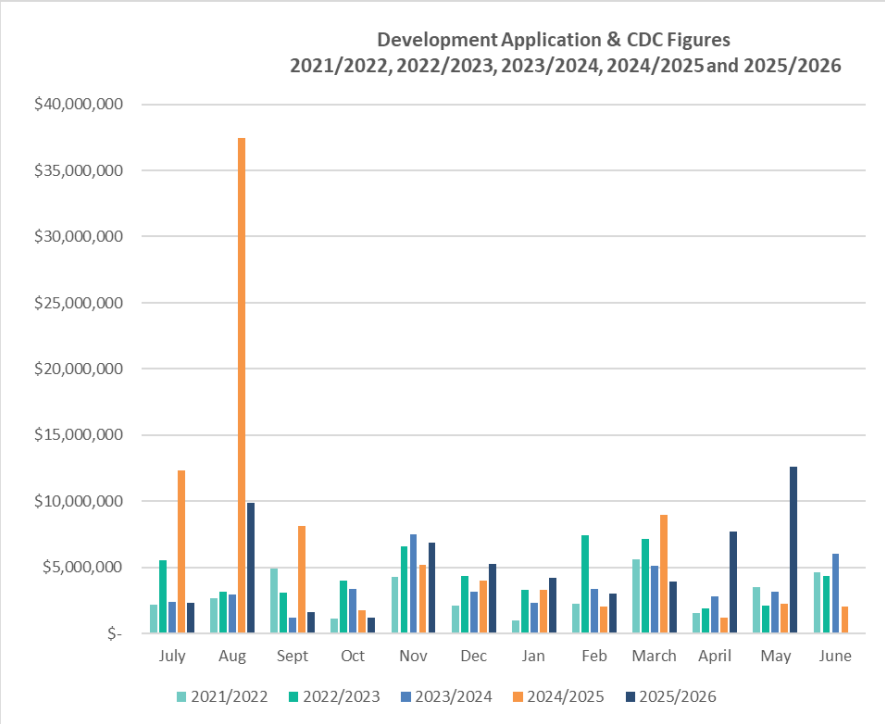


Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.

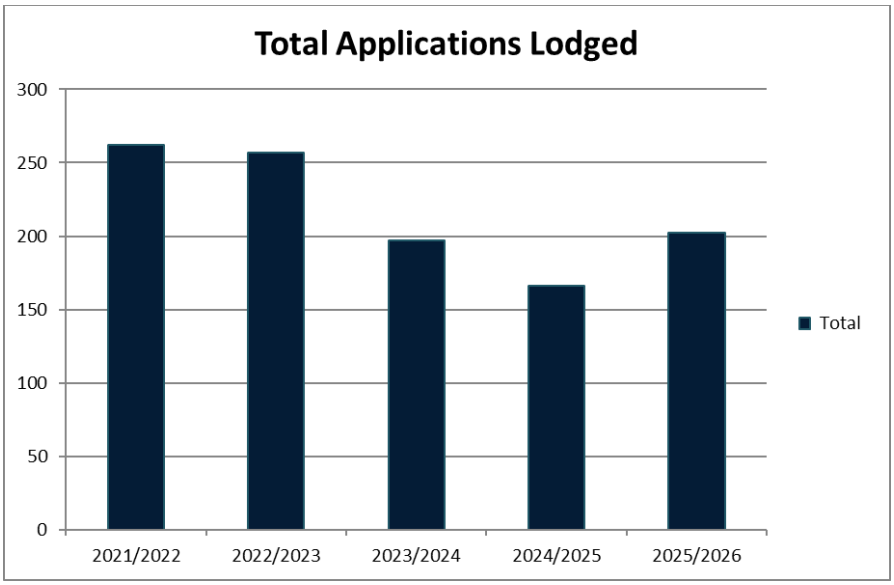


Figure 5: Number of Development Applications & CDCs per annum over five financial years

Activity for the month of May 2026

General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55)	24
Section 4.55 amendments to original consent	2
Operational Consent	-
Deferred Consent	1
Subdivision	1
Refused	-
Complying Development (Council Approved)	-
Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	1
Amended Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved)	-
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED	**29**
Rejected	-
Withdrawn	-
Surrendered	2
Average assessment days for applications determined in May 2026 (Planning & Building Combined)	**41**
No. of Integrated development applications determined in May 2026	**2**
No. of Designated development applications determined in May 2026	**-**

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Received (In Portal)**	**Date Accepted (In Portal)**	**Determination Date**	**Estimated Cost $**
DA2026/0108	Planners North	J T Bancroft	40-42 Ocean Drive, Evans Head	Construction of Multi-dwelling housing comprising 11 units (9 x 3-bed, 2 x 2-bed), tree removal and associated works.	20/11/2025	14/01/2026	26/05/2026	8,687,484.00
DA2026/0158	T A Mayfield	W N Gordon & T A Mayfield	304 Mothersoles Road, Ellangowan	Construction of a single storey 2-bedroom kit home	23/02/2026	24/02/2026	1/05/2026	109,000.00
DA2026/0167	S D Henderson	B J Ryan	7 West Street, Casino	Demolition of existing shed and construction of new colourbond shed with request to vary DCP	6/03/2026	18/03/2026	13/05/2026	21,450.00
DA2026/0172	Artisan Pools Pty Ltd	S R & A Powell	7 Sussex Street, Woodburn	Installation of an in-ground fibreglass swimming pool and associated fencing	11/03/2026	19/03/2026	13/05/2026	55,300.00
DA2026/0177	MT Town Planning Pty Ltd	M A Nolte & G J Rossiter	97 Endries Lane, Tatham	Consolidation of 4 existing lots and Subdivision to Create Two (2) Lots	17/03/2026	8/04/2026	19/05/2026	0.00
DA2026/0178	R J Hayes	T M H Ezzy	1/1 Fern Place, Evans Head	Alterations and additions to an existing Strata unit	18/03/2026	26/03/2026	6/05/2026	110,000.00
DA2026/0180	Fernleigh Drafting & Council Services	B J Taylor & T M Parkinson	124 Lennox Street, Casino	Detached steel framed shed with amenities and request to vary DCP	19/03/2026	1/04/2026	11/05/2026	35,750.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 (Cont'd)								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Received (In Portal)**	**Date Accepted (In Portal)**	**Determination Date**	**Estimated Cost $**
DA2026/0181	J C R Thomas	J C R & U Thomas	46 Charolais Avenue, North Casino	Construction of a new 7m x 9m metal shed with a 7m x 4.5m awning	19/03/2026	8/04/2026	11/05/2026	24,835.00
DA2026/0184	Play Design Studio	D J Thomas	86 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Coraki	New steel framed shed with request to vary DCP	23/03/2026	27/03/2026	11/05/2026	59,400.00
DA2026/0185	N Fox	B A & J Angel	63 Beech Street, Evans Head	Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a new single-storey dwelling, together with conversion of an existing shed to a secondary dwelling and associated site works	24/03/2026	8/04/2026	7/05/2026	805,000.00
DA2026/0188	MT Town Planning Pty Ltd	NLI Management Pty Ltd	3/82-94 Barker Street, Casino	Change of use to Recreation Facility (Indoor) for use as a Pilates Studio	2/04/2026	24/04/2026	28/05/2026	5,500.00
DA2026/0189	Newton Denny Chapelle	W M & E P Ziegenfusz	1 Wageners Road, Greenridge	Construction of a farm shed for the storage of site maintenance equipment	7/04/2026	13/04/2026	13/05/2026	167,200.00
DA2026/0190	Fernleigh Drafting & Council Services	P S Waters & C M Randall	203 Centre Street, Casino	Removal of existing shed and construction of detached steel framed shed with request to vary DCP	9/04/2026	14/04/2026	25/05/2026	60,960.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 (Cont'd)								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Received (In Portal)**	**Date Accepted (In Portal)**	**Determination Date**	**Estimated Cost $**
DA2026/0191	Gawk Outdoor	Walter Corp Pty Ltd	137-141 Johnston Street, Casino	Erection and display of a digital, free-standing advertising sign and associated works	9/04/2026	15/04/2026	26/05/2026	104,500.00
DA2026/0192	T J Ott	T J & T J Ott	4764 Bruxner Highway, Piora	Construction of a 3 bedroom single storey dwelling	9/04/2026	21/04/2026	26/05/2026	444,301.00
DA2026/0193	Fernleigh Drafting & Council Services	A C & H C McSweeney	7 Heathwood Place, North Casino	Detached steel framed shed	9/04/2026	22/04/2026	21/05/2026	41,800.00
DA2026/0194	MT Town Planning Pty Ltd	T J & J M Martin	10940 Summerland Way, Casino	Construction of a shed	9/04/2026	14/04/2026	15/05/2026	232,981.00
DA2026/0195	Planners North	R D Galloway & R M Crawford	1279 Swan Bay New Italy Road, New Italy	Construction of two (2) new greenhouses comprising a 8m x 30m and 8m x 40m greenhouse.	13/04/2026	28/04/2026	28/05/2026	49,500.00
DA2026/0197	Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation	Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation	153 Canterbury Street, Casino	Upgrade to the internal and external thermal insulation of the existing building and refurbishment of existing amenities to include disabled access	13/04/2026	29/04/2026	29/05/2026	247,884.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 (Cont'd)								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Received (In Portal)**	**Date Accepted (In Portal)**	**Determination Date**	**Estimated Cost $**
DA2026/0199	Fernleigh Drafting & Council Services	A M & J D Curtis	15 Durack Circuit, Casino	Detached steel framed shed with retaining wall	16/04/2026	28/04/2026	27/05/2026	42,520.00
DA2026/0200	Fernleigh Drafting & Council Services	M J & L M Davis	73 Hotham Street, Casino	Detached Steel Framed Carport	17/04/2026	5/05/2026	28/05/2026	16,600.00
DA2026/0202	S D Henderson	M C Saunders & D S J Hogg	50 Junors Road, Backmede	As-built shed with amenities	22/04/2026	28/04/2026	27/05/2026	38,500.00
DA2026/0208	Fernleigh Drafting & Council Services	M G & I M Young	24 Fergusson Street, Casino	Detached Steel Framed Shed	24/04/2026	30/04/2026	27/05/2026	41,272.00
MA2026/0021	D J Bowles	J A & D J Bowles	20 Parkes Street, Coraki	S4.55(2) Modification involving the addition of a bedroom and bathroom module and deck to the existing dwelling.	4/02/2026	13/02/2026	7/05/2026	93,318.00
MA2026/0026	Plan A Town Planning Pty Ltd	Ironfish 99 Pty Limited	129 River Street, Woodburn	S4.55(2) Modification to the approved service station to facilitate use of a second above ground diesel tank and facilitate the preparation and sale of food.	7/04/2026	17/04/2026	28/05/2026	115,000.00

Summary of Council Certified Complying Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
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 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Received (In Portal)**	**Date Accepted (In Portal)**	**Determination Date**	**Estimated Cost**
DA2026/0187	A L B Gall	A N & A L B Gall	865 Woodburn Coraki Road, Swan Bay	Construction of a new two storey dwelling to replace a dwelling demolished following the 2022 flood.	27/03/2026	2/04/2026	13/05/2026	687,500.00
DA2026/0196	R J Hayes	A & T F Walsh	224 Baraang Drive, Broadwater	Raising of rear part of dwelling above flood level	13/04/2026	16/04/2026	22/05/2026	149,985.00

Summary of Privately Certified Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Submitted to Council for Registration**	**Date Accepted**	**Determination Date**	**Estimated Cost**
CDC2026/0029	The trustee for Crawford Family Trust t/as East Coast Building Consultants	B A Burley	7 Greenstreet Avenue, Casino	Demolition of existing buildings	08/05/2026	18/05/2026	07/05/2026	5,500.00

Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act with a Clause 4.6 Variation for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Received (in Portal)**	**Date Accepted (In Portal)**	**Determination Date**	**Estimated Cost**
DA2026/0183	R J Hayes	M W & K L Rees	23 Alfred Street, Woodburn	House lift and associated works including a Clause 4.6 height variation to the RVLEP	23/03/2026	26/03/2026	1/05/2026	159,940.00

Summary of Development Applications Refused under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
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 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
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 May 2026 to 31 May 2026								
Application ID	**Applicant**	**Owners**	**Location**	**Development**	**Date Received (in Portal)**	**Date Accepted (In Portal)**	**Date Withdrawn**	**Estimated Cost**
Nil								

17.3 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - MAY 2026

Director: **Ryan Gaiter**

Responsible Officer: **Rylee Vidler**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Grant Application Information Report for the month of May 2026.

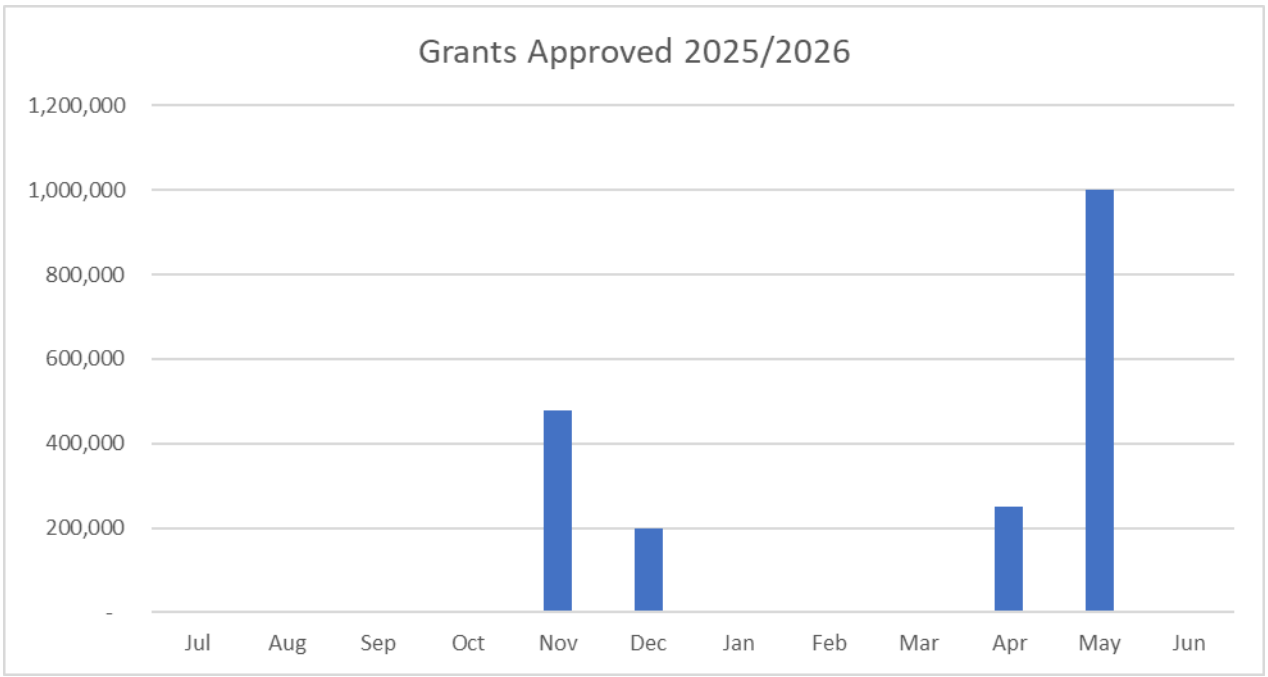
REPORT

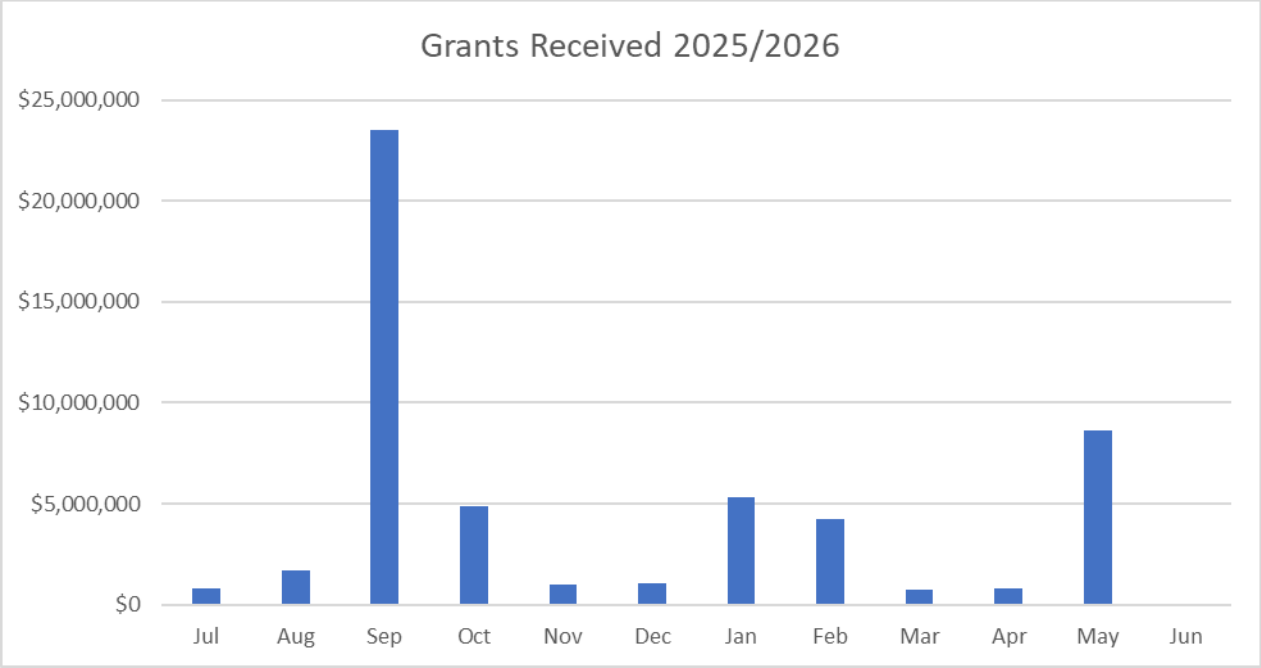
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of May 2026.

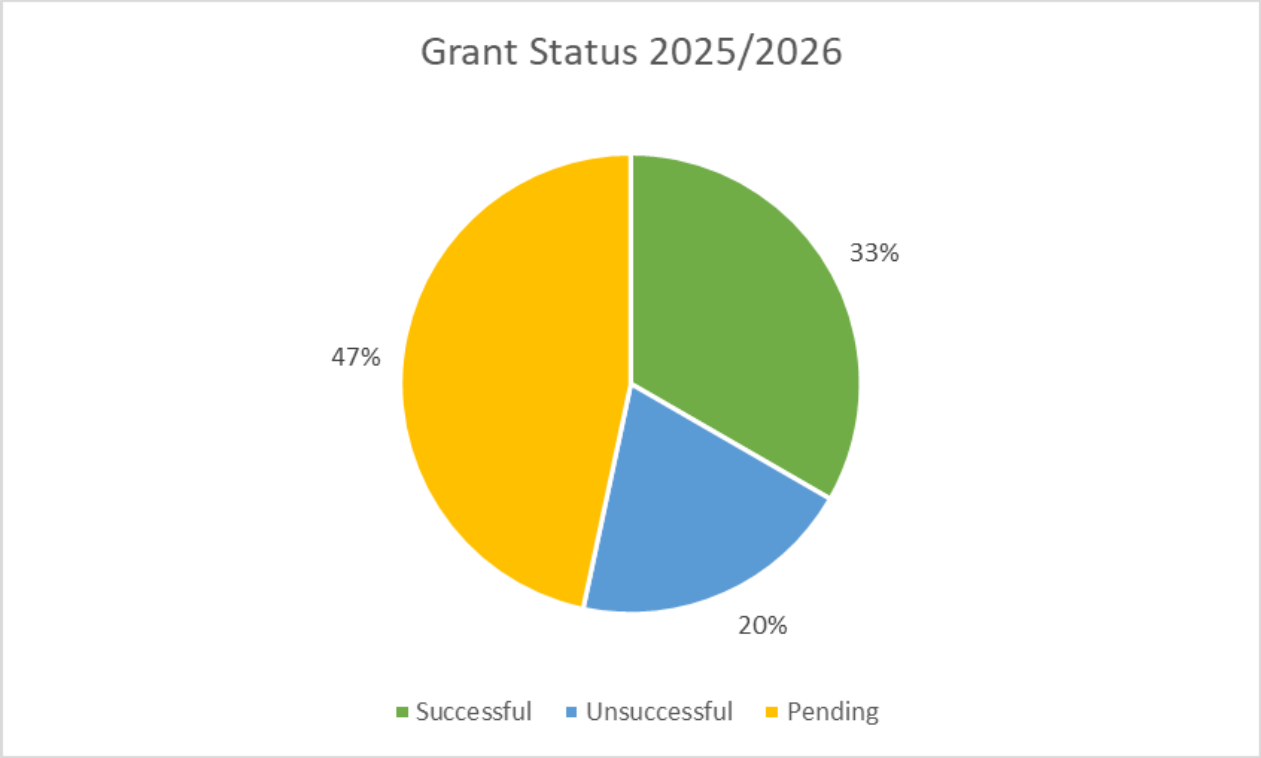
During the reporting period, Council submitted two new grant applications and was notified of one successful application. Council was notified of one unsuccessful application.

Council received $8,644,433 during May from eleven previously approved grants.

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




Grants Received 2025/2026
$25,000,000
$20,000,000
$15,000,000
$10,000,000
$5,000,000
$0
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun


Grant Status 2025/2026
33%
47%
20%
Successful
Unsuccessful
Pending

Grant Applications Submitted

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted
Windsor Park Upgrades	Regional Development Trust Fund (State)	Community Participation Stream Active Regional Communities Package	$ 785,000	$ 628,000	$ 157,000	1 May 2026
Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to deliver upgrades to Windsor Park, Coraki in alignment with the Windsor Pak Masterplan.						
Staff Professional Development - Procurement and Contracting	Local Government Procurement (Other)	LGP Capability Grant Fund 2026	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ -	15 May 2026
Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to host a one day workshop for up to 20 RVC participants to build practical capability and confidence for staff undertaking procurement and contract-related activities.						

Grants that have been approved

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Approved
Her Way: Connecting Casino CBD with Queen Elizabeth Park	Transport for NSW (State)	Safer Cities: Her Way 2	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000	$ -	6 March 2026	1 May 2026
Comment: This funding will be used to design and deliver an infrastructure program to improve the safety of women and gender diverse people in Casino CBD and navigation to Queen Elizabeth Park.							

Unsuccessful Grant Applications

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Advised Unsuccessful
Stan Payne Oval Lighting Upgrades	NSW Office of Sport (State)	NSW Rugby World Cup Legacy Program	$ 529,025	$ 150,000	$ 379,025	20 February 2026	18 May 2026
Comment: This project was deemed ineligible by the funding body.							

Grants that have been received

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Flying Fox Habitat Restoration Grants Program	Local Government NSW (State)	Flying Fox Habitat Restoration Grants Program	$ 374,992	$ 299,992	$ 75,000	2 May 2022	$ 28,560 6 May 2026	$ 39,430
Comment: Milestone payment received.								
Casino Industrial Precincts	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	$ 13,333,000	$ 9,969,000	$3,364,000	N/A	$ 1,993,800 7 May 2026	$ 9,807,834
Comment: Final payment for works completed on Casino Industrial Precinct. Total received is grant funding less funds spent by Public Works when they were administering the project.								
Casino Water Treatment Works	Department of Planning and Environment (State)	Safe and Secure Water Program	$ 623,003	$ 311,502	$ 311,502	N/A	$ 30,735 11 May 2026	$ 99,236
Comment: Milestone payment received.								
Betterment of Casino Junior Rugby League Clubhouse	Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	$ 1,607,825	$ 1,607,825	$ -	27 March 2024	$ 482,348 15 May 2026	$ 1,125,478
Comment: Milestone payment received.								
Financial Assistance Grant 2025/2026	NSW Local Government Grants Commission (Federal)	Financial Assistance Grant	$ 7,220,788	$ 7,220,788	$ -	N/A - Annual Allocation	$ 909,893 18 May 2026	$ 7,220,788
Comment: Quarter 4 instalment of the 2025/2026 FA Grant								
AGRN1198 - Emergency Works	NSW Reconstruction Authority (State)	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)	$ 1,494,785	$ 1,379,945	$ 114,840	Various dates	$ 66,223 19 May 2026	$ 66,223
Comment: Payment received for emergency works completed on Lagoon Road.								

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Name	Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Application Submitted	Date Received	Total Received
Betterment of Casino Footbridge	Department of Regional NSW (State)	Community Assets Program	$ 3,505,767	$ 3,505,767	$ -	27 March 2023	$ 701,153 21 May 2026	$ 3,505,767
Comment: Final milestone payment received.								
Betterment of Naughtons Gap Road	Transport for NSW (State)	Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package	$ 3,021,840	$ 3,021,840	$ -	1 December 2022	$ 580,880 27 May 2026	$ 2,696,168
Comment: Final payment received for project completion.								
Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy 2025/2026	Transport for NSW (State)	Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy 2025/2026	$ 99,000	$ 99,000	$ -	N/A - Annual allocation	$ 99,000 27 May 2026	$ 99,000
Comment: Annual payment to subsidise street lighting.								
Roads to Recovery 2024/25 to 2028/29	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Federal)	Roads to Recovery Program	$ 8,819,517	$ 8,819,517	$ -	N/A - Annual allocation	$ 781,841 27 May 2026	$ 2,906,431
Comment: Quarter 4 instalment for the 2025/2026 allocation.								
Rappville Sewer Augmentation	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (State)	Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	$ 5,985,000	$ 5,985,000	$ -	N/A	$ 2,970,000 28 May 2026	$ 5,203,268
Comment: Final payment for works completed on Rappville Sewer Augmentation. Total received is grant funding less funds spent by Public Works when they were administering the project.								

ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

17.4 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE 27 MAY 2026

General Manager: **Vaughan Macdonald**

Responsible Officer: **Charlene Reeves**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2026.

REPORT

A copy of the Minutes is included in the attachments.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2026 (under separate cover)**

17.5 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM - 2 JUNE 2026

Director: **Ben Zeller**

Responsible Officer: **Kim Anderson**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Local Transport Forum held on 2 June 2026.

REPORT

A copy of the minutes is included in the attachments.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Local Transport Forum Minutes - 2 June 2026 (under separate cover)

18 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

19 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:

19.1 Tender REGPRO372526RVC - Bulk Fuel and Fuel Cards

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.

19.2 Tender VP501329 – Casino Sewer Mains Rehabilitation

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.

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).

20 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL