Richmond Valley Council

# AGENDA

## Ordinary Council Meeting

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

**Date:** **Tuesday, 18 August 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 PUBLIC ACCESS AND QUESTION TIME

## 4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

## 5 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

# 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

## 6.1 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2026

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 July 2026.

### REPORT

Refer to attached Minutes.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

**1. Unconfirmed Minutes Ordinary meeting 21 July 2026 (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

## 10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

# 11 MAYOR'S REPORT

## 11.1 MAYORAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 14 JULY - 10 AUGUST 2026

**Author: Robert Mustow**

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Attendance Report for the period 14 July - 10 August 2026.

**July**
18th Casino Dog Trails
18th RSL Middle East Area of Operations Commemoration
18th Tony Hennessy Book Launch
18th Truck Show Meeting
18th Richmond Valley Business Awards Evans Head
20th Final Report - Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative NEMA/CSIRO briefing Richmond Valley Councillors
21st Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative; community meeting Casino
21st Richmond Valley Council Ordinary meeting
22nd Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative forum Lismore
23rd Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative forum Woodburn
25th Cassino Art Exhibition - On the Road Again
28th Windsor Park Community Workshop Coraki
29th Coraki CCTV Coraki Police Station
30th Casino Truck Show Sponsors night
31st Grandparents and Trucker Cap Friday
31st Casino Truck Show Light Up

**August**
1st Casino Truck Show
3rd Casino Biohub Project Update
4th TAFE Connects with Richmond Valley Workshop
6th CSIRO next steps discussion

### ATTACHMENT(S)

**Nil**

# 12 DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

# 13 MATTERS DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

Each Councillor is given the opportunity to indicate which items they wish to debate or question. Item numbers identified for debate or questioning will be read to the Meeting.

Following identification of the above items a motion will be moved in regard to the balance of items being determined without debate.

## 13.1 MATTERS TO BE DETERMINED WITHOUT DEBATE

**RECOMMENDATION**

That items identified be determined without debate.

# 14 GENERAL MANAGER

## 14.1 DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT, JANUARY TO JUNE 2026

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council has completed the first year of its 2025-2029 Delivery Program, with strong progress in achieving the community's priorities over the January-June 2026 reporting period. A number of key milestones have been achieved, including completion of the $3.5 million Casino Suspension Bridge, official opening of the reconstructed Twin Tatham Bridges and commencement of construction on the Evans Head to Woodburn section of the Three Villages Cycleway. Significant progress was also made on major water and sewer infrastructure projects, including the Casino Water Security Project, Casino Water Treatment Plant upgrade, Casino Sewage Treatment Plant replacement and Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant Stage 2. Council secured funding to progress planning for the Summerland Estate housing activation project and continued to advocate strongly for investment in housing, infrastructure and economic development opportunities across the Richmond Valley.

Of the 75 Principal Activities in the Delivery Program, 73 are currently on schedule. The remaining two projects, review of the Destination Management Plan and finalisation of the Floodplain Risk Management Plan, made substantial progress during the reporting period and are nearing completion, with both expected to return to schedule following Council consideration in July and August 2026 respectively. A full report on progress is attached.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the January-July 2026 Progress Report on the 2025-2029 Delivery Program and notes the significant progress across the four Key Directions of the plan.
2. Continues to advocate strongly for Government funding to deliver the community’s priority projects.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 1: Establish the Richmond Valley as a regional growth centre

1A2 Deliver the Community Strategic Plan

1A2.1 Develop, deliver and report on Council’s Delivery Program and Operational Plans

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Delivery Program activities are funded via a number of sources including Council’s own resources, together with Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and government grants and assistance programs.

### REPORT

Richmond Valley Council has completed the first twelve months of its 2025-2029 Delivery Program, with significant progress being achieved in all areas. The Delivery Program reflects the community priorities identified in the Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic Plan (adopted by Council in June 2025) and includes four key themes:

1. **Strengthening our role in the region** – focussing on steady, well-managed growth for the Valley, diversifying our economy and providing more housing, jobs and services. This

theme also addresses our ongoing challenge to adapt to a changing climate, build resilience and continue to support flood recovery.

2. **Creating great places to live** – focusing on creating vibrant, liveable and safe communities, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to come together. This theme also aims to ensure that our parks, playgrounds, sports fields and community facilities are well maintained and fit for purpose and that essential infrastructure and services, such as roads, water, sewer and waste management meet community needs

3. **Protecting our unique environment** - focusing on preserving our native bushland and biodiversity, maintaining healthy rivers, beaches and waterways and reducing our impacts on the environment

4. **Delivering for our community** – Focusing on the role that Council will play in helping to deliver the Community Strategic Plan priorities, including Council's civic leadership in engaging with and advocating for our community, as well as its responsibilities for managing community resources and providing great service.

These themes are divided into a total of 75 Principal Activities, outlining the main projects, plans and programs Council will complete over the next four years.

Of the 75 Principal Activities, 73 are currently on schedule, with two activities remaining behind schedule. These include:

- Renewal of the Richmond Valley Destination Management Plan, While the revised 2026-2030 Destination Management Plan has now been completed following extensive industry consultation and research, it remained behind schedule at the end of the reporting period and was presented to Council for adoption in July 2026.

- Finalisation of the new Richmond Valley Floodplain Risk Management Plan. Following additional technical review and community consultation, the draft plan was publicly exhibited during the reporting period and is scheduled for adoption by Council in August 2026.

A full progress report for the July-December 2025 period is attached. The report details progress on each of the 75 activities and will be made available on Council's website, with copies provided at local libraries.

**Signature projects and priority works**

Over the past six months, Council has made significant progress in delivering its signature projects and priority works. This includes:

- Completion and official opening of the new $3.5m Casino Pedestrian Suspension Bridge, providing a safe year-round connection between South Casino, Queen Elizabeth Park and the CBD.

- Completion and opening of the reconstructed twin Tatham Bridges, improving flood resilience and strengthening an important transport and evacuation route between Casino and the Mid-Richmond.

- Continued construction on the Evans Head to Woodburn section of the Three Villages Cycleway.

- Continued progress on the Casino Water Security project, including investigations and design work to improve long-term water reliability for Casino.

- Completion of detailed design and approvals work for the Evans Head Sewage Treatment Plant Stage 2 upgrade.

- Completion of detailed design for the new Casino Sewage Treatment Plant replacement and augmentation project, with approvals and funding advocacy continuing.

- Progress on planning and design for the Casino Water Treatment Plant upgrade and associated raw water pump station improvements.

- Continued delivery of Council's flood recovery road repair program, with approximately $38.6 million of the $52 million approved Essential Public Asset Reconstruction (EPAR) program now completed.

- Public exhibition of the draft Casino CBD Master Plan, with community consultation helping to shape the future revitalisation of the town centre.

**Supporting continued growth**

- Council secured $250,000 through the NSW Government's Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund to prepare detailed designs for the enabling water and sewer infrastructure required to activate Summerland Estate and support future flood-safe housing growth.

- Council continued to advocate strongly for housing, infrastructure and economic development opportunities, with the Mayor and General Manager travelling to Canberra in June to meet with Australian Government ministers and assistant ministers regarding regional priorities.

- Further progress was made in activating the Regional Jobs Precinct, including development approvals and construction works associated with Australia Post's proposed distribution centre, which is expected to create up to 18 local jobs.

**Delivering for our community**

Other highlights of the reporting period included:

- Adoption of the Richmond Valley Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2029 following extensive consultation with people with disability, carers and service providers.

- Delivery of the Fun in the Sun Youth Festival at Evans Head and ongoing youth engagement programs across libraries, sporting facilities and community venues.

- Provision of more than $41,000 in community grants to 16 local organisations through Council's Community Financial Assistance Program.

- Completion of a new CCTV network in Coraki to improve community safety and support local businesses and residents.

- Continued upgrades to parks, sporting facilities and community infrastructure, including shade improvements, walking and cycling connections and the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Park Rugby League Clubhouse.

- Delivery of habitat restoration, riverbank rehabilitation, wetland regeneration and community greening projects, including more than 100 mature trees and thousands of native plants established throughout the Richmond Valley.

- Continued rollout of solar energy projects across Council facilities to reduce emissions and improve energy resilience.

- Ongoing support for local employment and workforce development, with Council employing 21 trainees, apprentices and cadets at 30 June 2026 as part of its commitment to developing future local leaders.

A copy of the Delivery Program Progress Report can be accessed by clicking on the below link:

Delivery Program Progress report (Jan-June 2026): Delivery Program Progress Report

**CONCLUSION**

Council has made significant progress during the second six months of its 2025-2029 Delivery Program, completing the first year of delivery with the vast majority of Principal Activities on schedule.

A detailed report on progress has been prepared for community information and Council will continue to advocate strongly for government investment in priority infrastructure, housing, economic development and community projects to support the Richmond Valley's future growth and resilience.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## 14.2 RESILIENT HOMES PROGRAM UPDATE

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the 2022 flood disaster, the Australian and New South Wales Governments established the Resilient Homes Program (RHP) to assist affected communities to recover and build resilience through targeted flood risk reduction measures, including the voluntary acquisition of properties exposed to severe flood hazards.

Council acknowledges and supports the original intent of the Resilient Homes Program (RHP) and the associated voluntary buyback scheme in reducing flood risk and improving long-term community safety. However, we have significant concerns regarding the inclusion of a number of properties within Woodburn where the rationale for acquisition and future land use outcomes appears inconsistent with the flood risk categorisation of surrounding properties that will remain occupied.

This report outlines Council's concerns regarding the current application of the Resilient Homes Program in Woodburn, highlight the community impacts arising from the removal of additional housing stock in a smaller community, and seek support to advocate for a more flexible place-based approach that enables alternative outcomes where appropriate while improving community safety and resilience.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the social and economic impacts on the Woodburn community from the reduction in population due to the loss of 10% of its housing stock as a result of the Resilient Homes Program;
2. Continues to work with the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Woodburn Action Group to achieve positive outcomes for all communities in the Richmond Valley LGA; and
3. Writes to the Hon Kristy McBain MP – Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Minister for Emergency Management and the Hon Janelle Saffin - NSW Minister for Recovery, Minister for Small Business, and Minister for the North Coast requesting that properties bought back by the NSW RA's Resilient Homes Program under the individual and exceptional circumstances policy and not at high flood risk, remain available for productive residential use to minimise the loss of population in the Woodburn township and therefore reduce the economic and social impacts.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 8: Lead and advocate for our community

8B1 Advocate to federal and state government for community priorities and seek grant funding

8B1.2 Build positive working relationships with local members of parliament, government agencies and working groups to support advocacy

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

### REPORT

Following the February 2022 flood event, eligible homeowners in Woodburn were able to participate in the Resilient Homes Program (RHP) through voluntary buyback arrangements. The

program was subsequently expanded to include properties approved under individual and exceptional circumstances policy to support recovery and reduce safety risk for existing occupants, including some that did not fall within the high-risk prioritisation mapping developed by the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

This expanded application of the program has raised concerns for both Council and the community regarding the cumulative impacts of dwelling loss within a small township, where population levels are critical to the ongoing viability of local businesses, services and community infrastructure.

On 8 July 2026, Richmond Valley Council and the Woodburn Action Group jointly requested that the NSW Reconstruction Authority temporarily pause progressing the removal of buyback properties located outside the Richmond Street corridor to allow further consultation, assessment and investigation of alternative outcomes. The correspondence also identified a number of properties that warrant reassessment and consideration for future residential use. The concerns relate to the potential reduction in housing supply, fragmented land use outcomes, uncertainty for remaining residents, and broader impacts on the social and economic sustainability of Woodburn. The joint correspondence further advocated for planning processes that support economic resilience, local service provision and the maintenance of population thresholds necessary for long-term community viability in line with Council's Mid Richmond Place Plans.

***Social and Economic Impacts***

Unlike larger regional centres, the loss of even a relatively small number of dwellings can have a disproportionate impact on the social fabric and economic sustainability of a small community like Woodburn. As the Resilient Homes Program approaches completion, the NSW Reconstruction Authority is now the property owner of an estimated 30 properties within Woodburn which is 10% of total housing stock. A proportion of these properties, should demolition/removal occur, will leave vacant lots in between existing occupied houses.

These identified properties currently under the RHP has triggered a severe rental shortage, forcing many families, especially renters with school-aged children to leave Woodburn due to lack of flood-safe housing alternatives. Consequences include:

- 26.5% enrolment decline at Woodburn Public School, leading to loss of leadership and teaching staff as well as support staff.
- 17.8% enrolment decline at St Joseph's Primary School
- 22.8% overall primary student loss across the town
- Housing and rental scarcity causing family displacement
- Decline of members in local sporting clubs
- Breakdown of neighbourhood support networks and volunteer bases.

School funding models, such as the NSW Needs-Based Resource Allocation Model (RAM), rely on an interconnected formula of base per-capita allocations, rural/regional location adjustments, socio-economic equity loadings, and targeted learning support allocations. These formulas are all based on individual student enrolments.

A 26.5% drop in student numbers undermines school operational capacity across multiple fronts:

- Erosion of Equity Loadings: Fewer enrolled students directly reduces discretionary equity funding used to employ Student Learning Support Officers (SLSOs)
- Fixed Overhead Pressure: Core operational and maintenance costs remain static, meaning reduced per-capita allocations must cover proportionately higher baseline operating costs
- Compounded Learning Loss: Reduced total resourcing restricts the school's capacity to maintain targeted wellbeing and academic extension programs for remaining students
- The school is now below enrolment thresholds for the executive position of Assistant Principal and there is a reduction of mainstream classroom teacher allocation
- Forcing more multi-grade composite classes, reducing individualised attention.

For communities such as Woodburn, population retention is also a health issue.

Strong social connection is widely recognised as a key protective factor for mental health. In contrast, the ongoing decline in population, reduction in local services, increasing number of vacant properties, and uncertainty surrounding future development are contributing to feelings of isolation, anxiety, and diminished optimism within the community.

Local health services have raised concerns with Council about the growing mental health impacts on residents, reporting increasing numbers of patients experiencing persistent anxiety, stress, grief, and emotional exhaustion. These challenges are linked not only to the original disaster but also to the prolonged and uncertain recovery process. There is increasing concern about the cumulative effect that extended uncertainty is having on residents who continue to remain in Woodburn, with many experiencing ongoing emotional strain and a declining sense of confidence in the future. The removal of these dwellings represents a loss of more than 10% of the available housing stock within the Woodburn postcode and will impact population retention, workforce availability and the viability of local services including the two primary schools. The reality being is that there is no housing stock on offer to keep those buy back occupants local, unlike the solutions provided for buyback recipients in neighbouring councils like Lismore.

Many of the properties acquired under individual and exceptional circumstances are located amongst dwellings identified as having a moderate flood constraint and are mapped within Category 2(a) of Council's Flood Risk Management Study and Plan 2026. Within these areas, development is permissible subject to an increased level of assessment and appropriate flood-related engineering controls.

***Future use of Buy Back Land project***

To enhance opportunities for vacant land post buyback, Council in partnership with the RA will manage the upcoming land use planning assessment project to determine the future land use of buyback properties with a suitable planning consultant currently being procured. In partnership with the NSW Reconstruction Authority, stakeholders and the community, Council will determine future land uses, ownership and management arrangements, which may include parklands, environmental projects, community spaces or, where flood risk can be appropriately managed, selected commercial or industrial uses.

If Council is successful in the alteration of the current treatment of some buyback properties, this project will also identify where appropriate, opportunities for residential re-use. The consultants will prepare the planning proposal and supporting studies required to complete this by June 2027, including undertaking community consultation, and develop a divestment and management strategy to facilitate the transfer of the land to suitable future owners or managers.

Council acknowledges that the Commonwealth and NSW Governments' grant funding arrangements governing the Resilient Homes Program does not currently permit the ongoing residential use or repurposing of buyback properties. However, through the adoption of this recommendation, Council will escalate advocacy to the Ministers responsible for the National Emergency Management Agency and NSW Reconstruction Authority for policy changes that provide greater flexibility in the future use of acquired properties and enable more balanced, risk-based decision-making where individual property characteristics and exceptional local circumstances warrant alternative outcomes. This approach would better support the long-term sustainability of communities such as Woodburn while maintaining a strong focus on community safety.

**CONSULTATION**

Council, in partnership with the Woodburn Action Group and the Woodburn Business Chamber, has undertaken ongoing consultation with residents, businesses and community stakeholders regarding flood recovery and the long-term future of Woodburn. Feedback received through this engagement has consistently highlighted community concerns that a blanket approach to the Resilient Homes Program does not adequately account for the unique circumstances of small townships, and has reinforced the need for place-based, locally informed decision-making that

balances flood resilience with the long-term social, economic and community sustainability of Woodburn.

## CONCLUSION

While reducing flood risk remains a priority, the cumulative impacts of property acquisitions and population loss in communities such as Woodburn extend beyond individual properties and have the potential to affect the long-term viability of local businesses, schools, essential services and community networks. Council supports recovery outcomes that balance flood resilience with the ongoing social, economic and community wellbeing of Woodburn and considers that properties bought back under the Resilient Homes Program that are not in high-risk flood areas should be preserved to sustain population levels and protect the viability of local schools, businesses and community organisations. Avenues to explore the future residential use options for these properties can be included in the imminent future use of buy back properties planning assessment project.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

**Nil**

# 15 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

## 15.1 2026 STORMWATER DRAINAGE SERVICE REVIEW

**General Manager:** **Vaughan Macdonald**

**Responsible Officer:** **Charlene Reeves**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026 Stormwater Drainage Service Review provides a comprehensive assessment of Council's stormwater drainage network, service delivery arrangements, asset condition, operational performance and funding sustainability. Councils' stormwater network encompasses approximately 82.5 kilometres of stormwater conduits, 2,750 pits and 695 headwalls, with an estimated replacement cost of $78 million.

The Review found Council currently delivers a responsive stormwater service; however, the service remains predominantly reactive and is increasingly challenged by ageing infrastructure, limited asset condition data, recurring drainage issues, population growth, changing rainfall patterns and constrained funding. Approximately 69% of the stormwater network has not yet been inspected by CCTV, creating uncertainty regarding asset condition, renewal requirements and future investment priorities.

The Review concludes that while current expenditure broadly maintains asset condition, existing funding levels are insufficient to support expanded inspection programs, structured preventative maintenance, improved asset management systems, renewal backlogs and future capacity upgrades. The Review recommends consideration of an additional, dedicated and appropriately indexed funding source and identifies a Special Rate Variation (SRV) as the most appropriate mechanism to support long-term service improvement and financial sustainability.

The Review identified 15 key recommendations and 28 supporting actions aimed at strengthening governance, improving customer service, increasing CCTV inspection coverage, implementing proactive maintenance programs, improving asset management practices and supporting long-term capital investment. Collectively, these recommendations establish a roadmap for transitioning Council's stormwater service from a predominantly reactive model to a planned, preventative and risk-based service. Achieving these outcomes will require a sustainable funding source beyond current revenue streams

Accordingly, this report seeks Council's acceptance of the Review and progression of investigations into an SRV to provide a sustainable funding source for future stormwater service improvements.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the 2026 Stormwater Drainage Service Review;
2. Notes the Review's findings that current funding arrangements are insufficient to sustainably achieve Council's required stormwater service levels, address renewal requirements, undertake network-wide inspection programs and implement proactive maintenance activities;
3. Endorses the Review's recommended direction of a phased transition to a proactive, risk-based stormwater service model;
4. Resolves to commence the process to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation as the preferred mechanism to provide a more sustainable and ongoing funding source for stormwater service improvements and infrastructure investment identified in the Review;
5. Notes a report will be bought back to Council in September with information on the financial options and outcomes of a proposed Special Rate Variation application and the consultation process.

**DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS**

Objective 9: Manage resources responsibly and provide great service

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

9A1.4 Provide regular reports to Council on financial performance and ensure compliance with requirements for external audit

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate budget implications associated with receipt of the Review.

Should Council resolve to investigate a Special Rate Variation, future budget implications will be detailed in a subsequent report, including proposed service improvements, funding requirements, affordability considerations and long-term financial impacts.

Implementation of the recommendations contained within the Review will require additional ongoing funding, as current stormwater revenue and existing budget allocations are insufficient to deliver the recommended inspection programs, preventative maintenance activities, renewal works and service improvements identified within the Review.

**REPORT**

Council is responsible for managing an extensive urban stormwater drainage network servicing Casino, Evans Head, Woodburn, Coraki, Broadwater, Rappville and surrounding urban areas. The stormwater system plays a critical role in protecting homes, businesses, roads and community infrastructure from localised flooding and stormwater impacts.

The Review was undertaken to assess whether Council's current stormwater service levels, asset management practices and funding arrangements remain appropriate to meet current and future community needs. The review was informed by analysis of more than 2,000 customer requests, asset condition information, CCTV inspections, customer correspondence, consultation activities and staff workshops.

The Review identified that the current stormwater service model is heavily reliant on reactive maintenance and customer-driven responses. Without additional investment, Council's ability to achieve adopted Levels of Service, improve asset knowledge, reduce risk and address capacity constraints will remain limited.

**Key Findings**

The Review identified a number of significant findings supporting future investment in stormwater services:

- Council is responsible for approximately 82.5 kilometres of stormwater conduits, 2,750 pits and 695 headwalls with a Written Down Value of approximately $63 million and a Current Replacement Cost estimated at $78 million.
- Approximately 31% of the stormwater network has been inspected via CCTV, leaving approximately 69% of the network reliant on inferred condition data.
- Maintenance activities are predominantly reactive and driven by customer requests and rainfall events.
- Recurring customer requests demonstrate many drainage issues are being mitigated rather than permanently resolved.
- Existing renewal expenditure is broadly maintaining overall asset condition but is insufficient to address renewal backlogs, ageing infrastructure and known system capacity deficiencies.
- Current funding levels are sufficient to broadly maintain asset condition but do not provide capacity to systematically address infrastructure under-capacity, renewal backlogs or long-term resilience requirements.
- Population growth, urban development and climate-related rainfall pressures are expected to increase future demand on the stormwater network.
- The current Stormwater Management Service Charge generates approximately $206,000 annually and has remained unchanged since its introduction in 2006.
- Additional ongoing and sustainable funding will be required to deliver proactive maintenance programs, increase inspection coverage and improve long-term network performance.
- The Review identified a phased transition to a proactive, risk-based stormwater service model as the preferred service delivery option.
- The Review identified the preferred service delivery model as a staged Hybrid/Phased Approach that balances affordability with long-term risk reduction and service improvement.

**Charge Distribution and Assessment Base**

The current assessment base for properties contributing to the Stormwater Management Service Charge is outlined below.

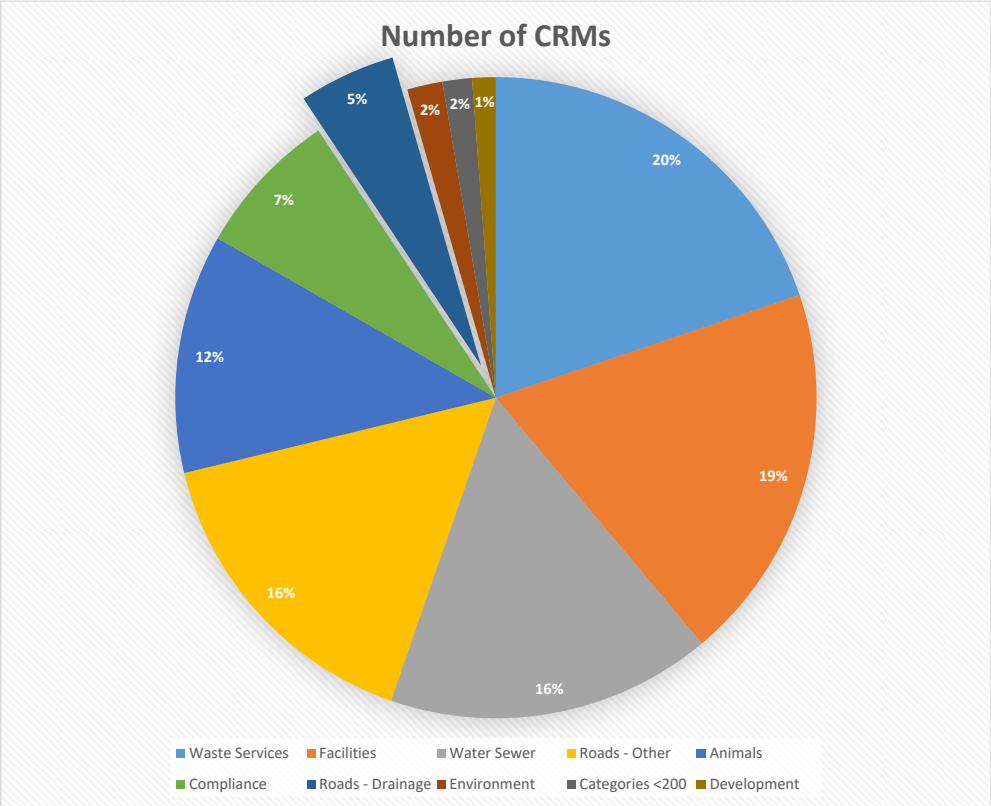
| ***Category*** | **Number of Charges** | **Percentage of Total** |
|---|---|---|
| *Residential – General Charges* | 5,340 | 80.1% |
| *Business – General Charges* | 517 | 7.8% |
| *Strata Unit Charges* | 808 | 12.1% |
| *Total Charges* | 6,665 | 100% |

The assessment base demonstrates that residential properties account for the majority of assessments and will therefore be a key consideration in any future funding model.

This charge distribution highlights the broad community reliance on stormwater infrastructure and the importance of ensuring sustainable long-term funding arrangements.

**Impact on Council Operations and Customer Demand**

Evaluation of Council's Customer Request Management (CRM) data for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025 demonstrates that stormwater drainage is a significant service area generating ongoing customer demand and operational workload. During the review period, Council received approximately 30,811 customer requests across all service categories, of which 1,504 related directly to stormwater drainage matters. This represents around 5% of all customer requests received by Council.




While stormwater drainage is not Council's highest-volume customer service category, the nature of these requests often involves site inspections, technical investigations, customer liaison, maintenance activities and, in some cases, capital works solutions. Consequently, stormwater requests can require significant staff resources and are often more complex than routine service requests.

The evaluation also supports the findings of the Stormwater Drainage Service Review, which identified recurring requests at known drainage hotspots and highlighted that many stormwater issues are currently managed through reactive interventions rather than long-term solutions. These recurring requests contribute to ongoing operational demand and place pressure on Council's maintenance and technical resources.

**Financial and Strategic Implications**

The Review concludes that current funding levels are insufficient to support the level of investment required to improve service delivery, reduce risk and meet Council's adopted Levels of Service.

Key financial implications include:

- Continued reliance on reactive maintenance will result in increasing lifecycle costs and operational inefficiencies.
- Additional investment is required to expand CCTV inspection programs and improve confidence in asset condition and renewal planning.
- Funding will be required to implement proactive maintenance programs, improve asset management systems and establish a structured service delivery framework.

- Long-term capital investment is required to address ageing infrastructure, known capacity constraints and future growth-related demands.

Strategically, the Review identifies an SRV as the preferred mechanism to provide an ongoing and appropriately indexed funding source capable of supporting long-term stormwater service improvements. The Review specifically concludes that an additional ongoing and appropriately indexed funding source will be necessary to support implementation of the recommended service improvements. The Review identifies an SRV as the most suitable mechanism available to Council to secure sustainable funding for stormwater infrastructure, inspection programs, proactive maintenance and future network upgrades.

Progression of an SRV investigation does not commit Council to a future application but provides the opportunity to fully assess affordability, service outcomes, community expectations and long-term financial sustainability before any final decision is made. Financial modelling will need to be performed, and various increase scenarios will need to be run through Council Long Term Financial Plan to enable a consultation process with the community. A further report will be bought back to Council including the scenario analysis and consultation process, giving Council the opportunity to decide whether an SRV application process should be undertaken.

**Risks**

Should Council not progress additional funding investigations, including consideration of an SRV, the Review identifies the following risks:

***Asset Risks***

- Increased likelihood of asset failures due to limited condition information and ageing infrastructure.
- Continued growth in renewal backlogs and deferred capital works.

***Service Delivery Risks***

- Ongoing reliance on reactive maintenance rather than preventative intervention.
- Increased frequency of recurring customer complaints and drainage-related service requests.
- Reduced ability to achieve Council's adopted stormwater service levels.

***Financial Risks***

- Escalating long-term lifecycle costs associated with reactive maintenance and emergency repairs.
- Increased likelihood of unplanned capital expenditure resulting from unforeseen asset failures.

***Strategic Risks***

- Reduced resilience to population growth, urban development and changing rainfall patterns.
- Increasing pressure on infrastructure that was designed to historical standards and is already experiencing capacity limitations.
- Reduced community confidence in the reliability and sustainability of Council's stormwater services.

Progressing an SRV investigation provides Council with the opportunity to better align service levels, risk management, asset sustainability and long-term financial planning.

## CONSULTATION

The Stormwater Drainage Service Review was informed by extensive consultation, operational analysis and evidence gathering. The review considered more than 2,000 customer requests received between 2018 and 2026, customer correspondence, community feedback obtained

through Council's Community Strategic Plan engagement activities, consultation undertaken during development of the Stormwater Asset Management Plan, asset condition information, operational records and stormwater studies.

A series of internal workshops were also conducted involving representatives from Executive Leadership, Asset Management, Roads and Drainage, Parks and Gardens, Water and Sewer, Finance and Governance teams. These workshops identified common themes relating to ageing infrastructure, limited inspection coverage, reactive maintenance practices, recurring customer complaints, funding constraints and growing service demands.

Review findings demonstrated broad internal agreement that the current stormwater funding model is insufficient to sustainably deliver Council's adopted Levels of Service or achieve the improvements identified throughout the Review. Consultation outcomes supported the need for additional sustainable funding to improve asset knowledge, reduce risk, implement preventative maintenance programs and address long-term infrastructure requirements. Accordingly, the Review identified investigation of an SRV as the preferred funding mechanism to support future service improvements and long-term stormwater sustainability.

Should Council resolve to progress an SRV application, extensive community consultation will be undertaken as part of the future investigation and IPART application process. This consultation will seek feedback on proposed stormwater service improvements, affordability impacts, funding options and community priorities before Council determines whether to proceed with a formal application.

***Supporting Documents***

The 2026 Stormwater Drainage Service Review is supported by a number of appendices and technical documents that informed the findings and recommendations outlined in this report. The full Review and supporting appendices are available via the links provided below and should be read in conjunction with this report.

Full 2026 Stormwater Drainage Service Review: 2026/07 Service Review Report

Appendix A: Appendix A - Case Study - Inspection and AI-Enabled Analysis

Appendix B: Appendix B - Case Study - Proactive Maintenance

Appendix C: Appendix C - Infrastructure Case Study - Illawong Lane

Appendix D: Appendix D - Stormwater Service Review Recommendations

Appendix E: Appendix E - CCTV Stormwater Drainage Inspection Maps

Appendix F: Appendix F – Internal and External Stakeholder Consultation Process

Appendix G: Appendix G – Referenced Documents Links

Appendix H: Appendix H - Data Inputs and Evidence Base

**CONCLUSION**

The Stormwater Drainage Service Review demonstrates that while Council continues to provide a responsive stormwater management service, the current funding model is insufficient to sustainably achieve the desired service outcomes identified within the Review. The review establishes a clear need for increased investment in inspection programs, preventative maintenance, asset renewal and future capacity upgrades.

The Review identifies a phased transition to a proactive and risk-based service model as the preferred approach and recommends securing an additional ongoing funding source to support this transition. An SRV represents the most appropriate mechanism for Council to consider in addressing the identified funding shortfall while ensuring transparency, accountability and long-term service sustainability.

The Stormwater Drainage Service Review provides Council with a clear evidence-based roadmap for improving stormwater service delivery, reducing risk and protecting a stormwater asset portfolio with an estimated replacement value of approximately $78 million. The Review demonstrates that

maintaining the current funding model is unlikely to provide the level of investment required to sustainably manage the network, achieve adopted Levels of Service or respond to future growth and climate-related pressures.

Progressing investigations into an SRV will enable Council to fully assess funding options, affordability impacts and community expectations while considering the long-term sustainability of the stormwater service. This approach provides Council with the information necessary to make an informed decision regarding future stormwater funding and investment, ensuring the network remains resilient, reliable and capable of supporting the Richmond Valley community into the future

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## 15.2 2026 CASINO TRUCK SHOW - POST EVENT ANALYSIS

**General Manager:** **Vaughan Macdonald**

**Responsible Officer:** **Stacey Mills**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026 North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show delivered record attendance, exceptional visitor satisfaction and significant economic benefits for the Richmond Valley and wider Northern Rivers region.

Held on Friday 31 July and Saturday 1 August 2026, the event attracted an estimated 45,000 attendees, establishing a new benchmark for Australia's largest community truck show and showcasing Casino as the home of Australia's trucking industry.

Demand from the transport industry remained exceptionally strong, with truck entries capped at 550 vehicles and registrations reaching capacity within one hour of opening. The expanded event program, including the return of Friday Night Lights and the Industry Sponsors Evening, successfully increased visitor length of stay and broadened economic benefits across the region.

Visitor survey results[1] confirmed the event's substantial tourism value, with 96% of respondents travelling from outside the Richmond Valley Local Government Area and visitors recorded from every Australian state and territory. Importantly, 72% of respondents stayed overnight, generating increased demand for accommodation, hospitality, retail and tourism businesses throughout the Richmond Valley and neighbouring local government areas.

Visitor expenditure data indicates the event generated an estimated $4.5 million to $13.4 million in direct economic activity across the Richmond Valley and Northern Rivers region, reinforcing the Truck Show's role as one of the region's most significant tourism and economic benefit events.

The continued growth of the North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show demonstrates the success of Council's investment in major events and highlights the event's increasing importance as a driver of tourism, economic development, industry engagement and community pride. Continued support from Council, industry partners and government funding bodies will be critical to sustaining future growth and maximising economic outcomes for the region.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the 2026 North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show Post Event Analysis Report;
2. Acknowledges the contribution of sponsors, volunteers, exhibitors, community organisations and Council staff involved in delivering the event;
3. Notes the significant economic, tourism and community outcomes generated by the event;
4. Supports the continued delivery and growth of the Casino Truck Show as a flagship event for the Richmond Valley.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 4: Celebrate our local identity and lifestyle

4B1 Support and deliver local events, festivals and cultural activities

[1] As at 11 August 2026

4B1.1 Host and support local events, civic ceremonies and festivals to encourage community connection

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Nil, the event is self-sufficient with income generated from sponsorships, merchandise sales and market and exhibitor stalls along with a $20,000 grant from Destination NSW covering the $300,000 it costs Council to conduct the event.

**REPORT**

The 2026 North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show, held on Friday 31 July and Saturday 1 August 2026, delivered record attendance, strong industry participation and substantial economic benefits for the Richmond Valley and wider Northern Rivers region.

The event continued its strong growth trajectory, attracting an estimated 45,000 attendees across the two-day program, buoyed by strong attendance at the Friday Night event, which continued to grow as a drawcard in its own right. This represents an increase of approximately 12 per cent on 2025 attendance and establishes a new benchmark for the event.

Demand from the trucking industry remained exceptionally strong, with truck entries capped at 550 vehicles to maintain site capacity, safety requirements and the overall visitor experience. Registrations reached capacity within one hour of opening, highlighting the Truck Show's standing as one of Australia's premier trucking events.

The expanded event format, including Thursday's Industry Sponsors Dinner and the return of Friday Night Lights, successfully increased visitor length of stay and extended economic activity across the region.

Auction items for the 2026 event raised $59,000, to be distributed to local charities, with recipient organisations to be finalised shortly.

**Friday Night Lights**

Following its successful introduction in 2025, Friday Night Lights returned as a cornerstone of the 2026 event program.

The evening transformed the Casino CBD into a showcase of illuminated trucks, drawing large crowds and generating significant activity with some local businesses trading through to 9.30pm.

Participation increased substantially from approximately 100 trucks in 2025 to 382 trucks in 2026, demonstrating strong support for the expanded format. Friday Night Lights has rapidly become a signature component of the Truck Show weekend, featuring illuminated truck displays, live entertainment, food vendors and exhibitor activations. The expanded program attracted strong community participation and contributed significantly to visitation, overnight stays and economic activity across the region.

Survey results indicate that 67 per cent of visitors attended both Friday Night Lights and Saturday's Truck Show activities. In addition to its economic benefits, Friday Night Lights generated highly engaging visual content which significantly enhanced media exposure and social media engagement during and after the event.

**Saturday Street Parade**

The Saturday Street Parade remains the event's most popular attraction and a defining feature of the Casino Truck Show experience.

Thousands of spectators lined the streets of Casino to view a diverse range of vehicles representing all sectors of Australia's transport industry, from modern fleet vehicles, heritage vehicles through to highly customised show trucks.

In addition to local CBD businesses trading throughout the day, the event featured:

- 19 additional food vendors
- 18 exhibitors
- 52 sponsor demonstrations
- 7 children’s entertainment vendors

The CBD continued to thrive combined with exhibitor displays, sponsor activations, entertainment, family activities and the wider truck exhibition precinct, the parade contributed to strong attendance throughout the day.

**Visitor Outcomes**

A visitor survey conducted during and immediately following the event has so far attracted 815[2] responses and provides valuable insight into visitor behaviour, satisfaction and spending patterns.

Results demonstrate exceptionally strong visitor satisfaction and advocacy:

- 96 per cent of respondents rated their experience as good or excellent.
- 81 per cent awarded the event a perfect score of 5 out of five.
- The event achieved an outstanding Net Promoter Score (NPS)[3] of 90.3
- 72 per cent of respondents stayed overnight.
- 48 per cent were first-time attendees.
- 52 per cent were returning visitors.

1.

**Interstate and Regional Visitation**

The Casino Truck Show continues to attract visitors from across Australia and has firmly established itself as a significant regional tourism drawcard.

Only 4 per cent of survey respondents resided within the Richmond Valley Local Government Area. The remaining 96 per cent travelled from outside the region, including visitors from every Australian state and territory.

[2] As at 11 August 2026

[3] Net Promoter Score (NPS) measures customer loyalty and satisfaction by asking how likely users are to recommend your product.

Survey respondents represented 435 different towns and cities. Brisbane was the largest single source market, followed by Grafton, Casino, Coffs Harbour and Sydney.

More than one-third of respondents travelled from Queensland, with additional visitors arriving from Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Additionally, the event also has international reach with social media posts demonstrating two examples of overseas visitation in 2026 (from Scotland and the Philippines). The event's ability to attract both interstate, intrastate and international visitors demonstrate its importance as a tourism asset and highlights its growing national profile.

**Economic Impact**

Visitor expenditure data confirms the Casino Truck Show continues to generate significant economic returns for the Richmond Valley and Northern Rivers region.

Across the 801 respondents who provided at least some spend data, total reported travel-party spend averaged approximately $1,630 (median $1,300), for a combined total of over $1.3 million in reported spend across responding travel parties alone.

Given an average travel party size of around 4.34 people, this points to a substantial direct economic contribution to the Richmond Valley and beyond from this single event.

Reported spending occurred across a range of sectors including accommodation, food and beverage, fuel, retail, merchandise and other discretionary purchases.

Importantly, 72 per cent of visitors stayed overnight, with Casino being the primary accommodation location, followed by Lismore, Ballina and Kyogle, through to Byron Bay, Grafton, Evans Head and Yamba. This demonstrates that the economic benefits of the event extend beyond the event footprint and flow throughout the broader regional economy.

Based on survey results, assuming an average travel party size of 4.35 people with a median spend of $1,300 per travel party, this implies a spend per attendee of $299 per person.

Assuming not every attendee spent $299 and using a conservative estimate of $100 per attendee, a conservative economic impact assessment indicates the 2026 Casino Truck Show generated between **$4.5 million and $13.4 million in direct visitor expenditure** across the Richmond Valley and Northern Rivers region.[4]

This estimate represents a substantial economic outcome by regional event standards and reinforces the Truck Show's value as a major economic driver and tourism drawcard.

Importantly, only 4% of surveyed attendees originated from within the Richmond Valley Local Government Area, confirming that the overwhelming majority of this expenditure represents new money being injected into the regional economy.

**Marketing, Promotion and Digital Reach**

A comprehensive promotional campaign was delivered across digital, print, radio, television and industry channels in the lead-up to the event, supported by $20,000 in Flagship event funding from Destination NSW.

The campaign focused on promoting the expanded two-day format, attracting emerging customer demographics and locations while reinforcing Casino's identity as Australia's Trucking Capital.

Survey responses identified social media as the most influential promotional channel, with 53 per cent of respondents indicating they first learned about the event through social media. This exceeded both word-of-mouth recommendations and repeat visitation awareness.

Digital performance was particularly strong, below are some statistics from 26 July to 10 August (a total of 16 days):

[4] These numbers will be further refined as greater spend and visitation data becomes available.

**Facebook**

- 2.3 million content views
- 38,400 engagements
- 102,000 page views
- 3,500 new followers

**Instagram**

- 806,600 content views
- 21,500 engagements
- 10,300 page views
- 2,200 new followers

**TikTok**

- 141,533 content views
- 12,774 engagements
- 4,278 page views
- 1,600 new followers

Facebook and Instagram continue to deliver the event's primary digital reach, while TikTok represents a smaller but fast-growing channel with strong potential for future audience growth. Digital marketing promotion significantly expanded the event's reach and visibility while delivering value for sponsors, exhibitors and the Richmond Valley community.

A new printed event program was developed this year which provided attendees with a 'How To' guide for the truck show. It covered the event program, things for people to do, places to eat, accommodation options and further discovery opportunities throughout the Richmond Valley. This event program is placed to grow into next year, providing an opportunity for sponsors and local businesses to advertise to the attendees to increase reach and awareness and provide for an additional advertising stream for the event.

**Future Growth and Funding Opportunities**

The continued growth of the Casino Truck Show is creating increasing demands on infrastructure, traffic management, public amenities, event logistics and visitor services, with attendees craving more. Record attendance and strong industry participation demonstrate that the event has evolved beyond a local festival and now functions as a major regional tourism and economic driver.

To maintain event quality, visitor safety and operational efficiency while supporting future growth, ongoing investment from industry partners and government funding programs will be increasingly important.

Additional funding opportunities would support expanded event infrastructure, traffic and pedestrian management, visitor amenities, shade and seating, destination marketing and future program enhancements. Given the significant economic returns generated by the event, continued advocacy for State and Federal Government support is strongly recommended.

**Volunteer, Sponsor and Industry Support**

The success of the 2026 Casino Truck Show would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the volunteer organising committee, event sponsors, trucking operators, exhibitors, community organisations and Council staff.

Industry support remained exceptionally strong, with truck entries reaching capacity within one hour of registrations opening and participation in the Friday Night Lights display growing to 382 vehicles. These results reflect the Casino Truck Show's reputation as one of Australia's premier trucking events and the ongoing support it receives from across the transport industry.

Richmond Valley Council sincerely thanks all volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, industry partners, community organisations and staff whose efforts were instrumental in delivering another highly successful event. Their continued commitment will be critical to supporting the future growth and ongoing success of the Casino Truck Show.

**2027 and beyond**

The continued growth of the Casino Truck Show presents significant opportunities to further strengthen its contribution to tourism, economic activity and community engagement across the Richmond Valley and Northern Rivers region.

Record attendance in 2026, strong interstate visitation and increasing industry participation demonstrate that the event has evolved into a nationally recognised tourism and industry showcase. Maintaining this growth will require ongoing investment in event infrastructure, traffic and pedestrian management, amenities, marketing and visitor experience enhancements.

Opportunities for future development include:

- Expanding visitor experiences across the Truck Show weekend to encourage longer stays and increased visitor expenditure.
- Enhancing infrastructure and amenities to accommodate growing attendance.
- Expanding the event program to continually refresh the visitor experience
- Strengthening partnerships with industry sponsors and exhibitors.
- Increasing destination marketing to attract new interstate and international visitors.
- Leveraging digital platforms to further expand the event's reach and profile.
- Pursuing State and Federal funding opportunities to support sustainable event growth.

With continued support from Council, industry partners, volunteers and government agencies, the Casino Truck Show is well positioned to build on its success and further cement Casino's reputation as Australia's Trucking Heartland while delivering increasing economic and social benefits to the Richmond Valley.

## CONSULTATION

Council's Events team and the volunteer organising committee met eight times throughout the year to discuss event planning and feedback received from past events. The Events team also consulted extensively with NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance on a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. These agencies were provided with an event schedule, site plan, contact details and assembly areas in advance of the Truck Show.

In the lead-up to the event, the Events team met twice with the Richmond Valley Liquor Accord to discuss event activities and liquor licensing and will attend the next meeting for a post-event debrief.

Local businesses, bus services and residents were consulted on proposed road closures, with their feedback incorporated into event planning. A letter advising of street closures was subsequently hand-delivered to all affected businesses and residents prior to the event. All event personnel, including security, marshals and volunteers, received pre-event briefings outlining emergency evacuation procedures, chain of command and communication protocols.

Within days of the Show's conclusion, a post-event survey was published online to gather feedback for future events. The Events team is currently undertaking a series of post-event briefings with key stakeholders to inform planning for future years.

## CONCLUSION

The 2026 North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show delivered record attendance, strong industry participation and substantial economic benefits for the Richmond Valley and Northern Rivers

region. With an estimated attendance of 45,000 people, 96 per cent of surveyed visitors travelling from outside the Richmond Valley and 72 per cent staying overnight, the event continues to demonstrate its value as a major tourism and economic development initiative.

Visitor satisfaction remained exceptionally high, with a Net Promoter Score of 90.3 and strong levels of repeat visitation, reinforcing the event's reputation as one of Australia's premier trucking events.

The Truck Show continues to strengthen Casino's identity as Australia's Trucking Capital while generating significant visitation, business activity and media exposure for the region. Continued investment from Council, industry partners and government funding programs will be essential to support future growth and maximise the economic and community benefits delivered by this flagship event.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

# 16 PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

## 16.1 RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY & PLAN AND TRANSITIONAL FLOOD PLANNING DCP AMENDMENT

**Director:** **Tina Kao**

**Responsible Officer:** **Tony McAteer**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Building upon the Richmond Valley Flood Study 2023, BMT Commercial Australia Pty Ltd was commissioned in September 2024 to undertake and prepare a Flood Risk Management Study & Plan for the Richmond Valley Council area.

The project has been guided through the oversight of a Flood Risk Management Plan Committee (Flood Committee) which endorsed the *Draft Richmond Valley Flood Risk Management Study & Plan* (Draft Plan), prior to Council endorsement at the Ordinary Meeting of 21 April 2026 for its public exhibition. The Draft Plan was subsequently exhibited, from 4 May 2026 to 8 June 2026, concurrently with the *Draft Richmond Valley Development Control Plan 2021 (Transitional Flood Provision) Amendment* (Draft DCP). The Draft DCP proposes retention of existing flood planning matrices for a transitional period after the new Flood Risk Management Plan has been endorsed. This is to allow time for a new Flood Planning Constraint Category (FPCC) planning control matrix to be developed as part of a future DCP Amendment.

Exhibition of the Draft Plan and Draft DCP received verbal and written feedback. Overall, the consultation demonstrated general support and acknowledged the importance of improving flood resilience.

The final *Richmond Valley Flood Risk Management Study & Plan* (final Plan), with an issue date of 14 July 2026, was endorsed unanimously by the Flood Committee on 23 July 2026.

The final Plan and Transitional DCP Amendment are now presented for Council consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the outcomes of community engagement on the Draft Flood Risk Management Study & Plan and Draft DCP (Transitional Flood Provision) Amendment.
2. Endorses the final *Richmond Valley Flood Risk Management Study & Plan* (dated 14 July 2026).
3. Approves the *Richmond Valley Development Control Plan 2021 (Transitional Flood Provision) Amendment*, with a commencement date of 19 August 2026.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 2: Adapt to regional challenges & build resilience

2A1 Implement long-term adaptation strategies for our communities

2A1.2 Complete the Richmond Valley Flood Plain Risk Management Plan

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

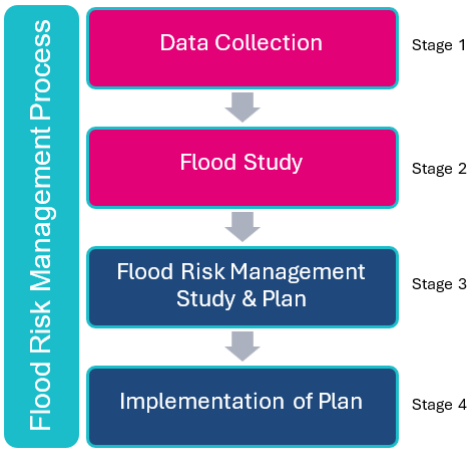
Implementation of the final Plan will have budgetary implications, however, many of the mitigation options explored by the Plan would require significant financial assistance from the Federal and/or State governments.

## REPORT

Flood Risk Management in NSW is outlined by the *Flood Risk Management Manual: the policy and manual for the management of flood liable land* (2023). The primary objective of the policy is to reduce the impacts of flooding and flood liability on communities and individuals, and to reduce losses resulting from floods, and in doing so improve community resilience to flooding.

BMT Commercial Australia Pty Ltd was commissioned in September 2024 to undertake and prepare a Flood Risk Management Study & Plan for the Richmond Valley Council area. This Flood Risk Management Plan represents Stage 3 of the NSW Flood Risk Management Framework.

During the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Study & Plan, Council and the consultant have been guided by the Flood Risk Management Plan Committee (Flood Committee). The Flood Committee included representation from Richmond Valley Council project Technical Working Group (TWG), two Councillors, four community representatives, State Emergency Services (SES), Rous County Council, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), and the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA). The Flood Committee met frequently throughout preparation of the Draft Plan and provided its endorsement on 19 March 2026. That Draft Plan was subsequently endorsed by Council on 21 April 2026 so that it could be publicly exhibited. The Draft Plan was exhibited from 4 May 2026 to 8 June 2026. Details of the exhibition process and a summary of feedback received has been provided under Sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the Final Plan.




Following on from the public exhibition, BMT has undertaken minor amendments to the report, appendices and mapping, with the final *Richmond Valley Flood Risk Management Study & Plan* (final Plan) being issued with a date of 14 July 2026.

A final meeting of the Flood Committee was held on 23 July 2026 to consider the final Plan along with a summary of the exhibition process and feedback received during the consultation process. The Flood Committee endorsed the final Plan unopposed.

The final Plan is now presented for Council's consideration along with *Richmond Valley Development Control Plan 2021 (Transitional Flood Provision) Amendment*.

## CONSULTATION

Community consultation was a critical component of preparing the Flood Risk Management Study & Plan (FRMSP). The consultation process was designed to inform residents about the study's objectives, methodology, and anticipated outcomes, while also serving as a precursor to the development of a plan. Engagement activities provided a platform for the community to share lived experiences of flooding, voice concerns, and contribute feedback on potential management measures and broader flood-related issues. This process aimed to strengthen the community ownership of the study, while encouraging ongoing engagement in the design and delivery of future mitigation strategies, land-use planning, and flood emergency management.

Consultation was completed via several different methods at various points during preparation of the FRMSP.

<u>Community Information Sessions during the Inception Phase</u>

At the commencement of the FRMSP, two community information sessions were held on 3 December 2024 at Casino, and on 4 December 2024 at Evans Head. The sessions were promoted through social media releases and notifications on Council's website & newsletter. These sessions provided an open forum for residents to contribute input to the study, engage directly with the project consultants, and gain a deeper understanding of the study's objectives. The sessions also created an opportunity for participants to share ideas and perspectives on potential strategies for mitigating flood risk.

Community Survey

In March 2025, an online community survey was prepared and made available to residents and businesses. Information about the survey was disseminated by Council through its media channels, including website, newsletters and social media platforms. The purpose of the survey was to collect information and feedback on a range of matters relating to historical flood experiences and community concerns, including:

- Property and residency information: Details regarding respondents' properties and length of residency.
- Flood experience: Information on the number and location of previous flood events, whether respondents were affected by the March 2022 flood, familiarity with the best evacuation routes and their inundation status during floods, and the sources and methods used to receive flood warnings. Respondents were also asked to provide input on Council's role during flood events.
- Observations and evidence: Photographs, observed flood depths, and descriptions of flood behaviour within the catchment were requested.
- Flood risk reduction ideas: Residents were invited to share suggestions for reducing riverine flood risks.
- Flood management preferences: Respondents were asked to rate potential flood management options for Richmond Valley on a scale of 1 (least preferred) to 5 (most preferred).

Public Exhibition of Draft Plan & Draft DCP - Overview

Public exhibition of the Draft Plan and Draft DCP commenced on Monday 4 May 2026 and closed on Monday 8 June 2026. Residents, community members and stakeholders were able to review the draft documents, make enquiries, submit responses, and participate in the community consultation process via multiple information sources and engagement methods. Specifically, this included:

- Online exhibition of the draft documents via the "On Exhibition" page of Council's Website, including a plain English summary of the Study and Plan.
- Draft Flood Planning Constraint Category (FPCC) mapping, along with Flood Mapping from the 2023 Flood Study, were available to view in Council's Spatial Map Viewer (Intramaps) via Council's Website.
- Public Notices were displayed in each of Council's Casino and Evans Head Customer Service Centres along with a printed copy of the draft documents.
- Public Notice was published in Council's May 2026 edition of the Valley Views Newsletter (distributed to all mailboxes in the LGA), along with several paid Facebook posts.
- Community Drop-in Information Sessions were attended by representatives of Council and BMT staff at the following locations and times:
    - Evans Head Library Meeting Room - Wednesday, 20 May 2026 from 10am to 1pm.
    - Coraki CWA Rooms - Wednesday, 20 May 2026 from 3pm to 6pm.
    - Casino Community and Cultural Centre - Thursday, 21 May 2026 from 9am to 11am, and

- Woodburn Community Building - Thursday, 21 May 2026 from 1pm to 3pm.

- Written submissions.

Community Feedback

A total of 13 community members attended the drop-in sessions, with 10 written submissions being received, during the public exhibition period. Overall, the consultation demonstrated general support for the Draft Plan and acknowledged the importance of improving flood resilience across the Richmond Valley. Feedback generally focused on understanding the implications of the study for individual properties and the broader community, rather than challenging the technical findings of the flood assessment. The principal themes raised during the consultation included:

- Improving understanding of property-specific flood risk, including the predicted flood behaviour during both design flood events and the 2022 flood, the proposed Flood Planning Constraint Categories (FPCCs), and future planning implications.
- Strengthening emergency management arrangements, including evacuation routes, evacuation centres, flood warnings and community communications.
- Continued interest in structural flood mitigation measures, particularly levees, dredging and drainage improvements.
- Concerns regarding the long-term sustainability and viability of floodplain communities, particularly Woodburn, under future planning and resilience initiatives.
- Broad support from government agencies for the study methodology, climate change assumptions and the proposed flood planning framework.

The Community Drop-in Information Sessions were largely focused on property-specific enquiries, with residents seeking to better understand the predicted flood behaviour affecting their properties, the implications of the proposed FPCC mapping and how the study may influence future development opportunities.

Community members also shared valuable **local observations of flood behaviour** during the 2022 flood event, including the timing of inundation, evacuation experiences and local flow pathways. These observations provided important context for interpreting flood behaviour and demonstrated the value of incorporating local knowledge into the flood risk management process. Several examples were identified where observed flooding differed slightly from the modelled results, typically reflecting the influence of localised features such as drainage infrastructure, fencing, surface conditions or other small-scale hydraulic controls that are not fully represented within a regional-scale flood model. Overall, these discussions provided confidence that the model adequately represents flood behaviour at a regional scale while highlighting opportunities for continued refinement of local flood understanding.

**Emergency management and community resilience** emerged as one of the strongest themes throughout both the drop-in sessions and the written submissions. Residents consistently raised concerns regarding evacuation routes, the availability and suitability of evacuation centres, communication during flood events and the need for improved flood warning systems. Communities such as Woodburn highlighted the practical challenges experienced during the 2022 flood event, noting that existing evacuation arrangements may not always be achievable under rapidly developing flood conditions. Feedback also highlighted the importance of ensuring emergency management arrangements reflect both modelled flood behaviour and community experience during recent flood events, reinforcing the need for continued improvements in preparedness, communication and community awareness. Submitters identified opportunities to improve community resilience through additional stream gauges, enhanced telecommunications (including satellite phones), improved community education and awareness, and continued enhancement of Council's Disaster Dashboard. These matters are generally consistent with the non-structural recommendations presented within the Draft Plan and will continue to inform collaboration between Council, the NSW SES and other agencies.

A recurring theme throughout the consultation was the desire for improvements to **drainage performance and additional structural flood mitigation measures**. Numerous submitters

questioned whether options such as dredging, levees, drainage improvements, river management and modifications to existing infrastructure, including roads, culverts and floodgates, could reduce flood impacts across the floodplain. These matters were discussed extensively during consultation, with the study reaffirming that such options had been investigated as part of the assessment. Consistent with the study findings, dredging and many large-scale structural mitigation measures were not identified as preferred options due to their limited flood reduction benefits, significant capital and ongoing maintenance costs, environmental impacts and engineering constraints. However, the study continues to recommend that a levee option at Coraki be progressed to a future feasibility assessment. Overall, discussions reflected the need to balance structural mitigation opportunities with their technical feasibility, economic viability and environmental constraints.

Several community organisations, particularly those representing Woodburn, also raised broader concerns regarding **the long-term social and economic implications** of floodplain planning. While acknowledging the flood risk affecting the township, these submissions expressed concern that future planning restrictions, property acquisition programs and uncertainty surrounding future development could contribute to population decline, reduced private investment and the loss of essential community services. At the same time, there was broad support for practical adaptation measures, including house raising, flood-compatible redevelopment and flood-resilient building design, alongside continued improvements to emergency preparedness. Council and BMT acknowledged these concerns while noting that broader matters relating to regional growth, housing policy, community services and property acquisition programs are beyond the scope of the study.

Several community members also sought **clarification regarding the role of the FRMSP** and its relationship to other flood recovery initiatives, particularly the NSW Reconstruction Authority's Resilient Homes Program. Questions were raised regarding whether the study would influence property buyback decisions or eligibility for resilience programs. These discussions highlighted the importance of clearly communicating the purpose and scope of the FRMSP, noting that while the study provides the technical basis for flood risk management and future land use planning, it does not determine eligibility for property acquisition or resilience funding programs.

Formal submissions from government agencies were generally supportive of the study's technical approach, including the adoption of the Flood Planning Level, incorporation of climate change considerations and application of the Flood Planning Constraint Category (FPCC) framework. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) supported the proposed flood planning framework while emphasising the importance of applying appropriate planning horizons and climate change scenarios across different planning decisions. DPHI noted that longer-term strategic land use planning may require consideration of climate change scenarios beyond those adopted for the Defined Flood Event. These comments are consistent with the approach adopted in this study, which provides an appropriate basis for current development assessment while retaining flexibility to inform future strategic planning.

Council has also prepared a transitional Development Control Plan Amendment that draws upon the outcomes of this study and provides an interim planning framework (retention of the existing development control matrices) while longer-term planning controls are developed (the FPCC development control matrix).

While government agencies generally supported the adopted Flood Planning Level and climate change approach, some community submissions questioned whether the adopted climate change allowances adequately represented future flood risk. Broader issues such as the affordability and availability of insurance, changing community expectations and the need to consider a wider range of future climate scenarios were also raised. These comments reinforce the importance of regularly reviewing flood studies as updated climate science, policy and planning guidance become available.

Overall, the consultation process confirmed that the Draft Plan provides a sound technical basis for future flood risk management across the Richmond Valley. The consultation primarily improved community understanding of the study and its application while providing valuable local knowledge that supports the interpretation of flood behaviour and the implementation of future flood risk

management measures. The issues raised during consultation have informed the final version of the Plan.

**Changes to the Draft Documents**

As a result of consultation feedback and a general document review by the consultant, minor changes were made to the Draft Plan which include-

- insertion of Sections 4.4 and 4.5 to the final Plan which provides an overview and summary of community engagement throughout the preparation of the FRMSP.
- Minor change to the Flood Planning Constraint Category (FPCC) mapping and text –
    - a consistent reference within the mapping and report to High Flood Islands being identified as FPCC2(e)
    - applying a hatched style to FPCC2(e) High Flood Islands (this is to denote these areas are not physically flooded (inundation) but are subject to isolation considerations), and
    - to replace a small area of FPCC3 & FPCC4 on the foreshore of the Evans River (Mcdonald Place and Elm Street) with FPCC2(c) so it is consistent with the majority of Evans Head.
- minor grammar/text corrections throughout the report.
- revision of wording for “examples” of prescriptive controls.

The following links are provided;

Final Report
Map A Critical Duration
Map B Peak Flood Depths
Map C Peak Flood Levels
Map D Peak Flood Velocities
Map E LiDAR Assessment
Map F ARR42 Assessment
Map G Vegetation Assessment
Map H Levee Failure Assessment
Map I Flood Hazard
Map J Flood Function
Map K Climate Change
Map L Flood Emergency Response Classifications of Communities
Map M Flood Planning Levels
Map N Flood Planning Constraint Categories
Map O Flood Planning Constraint Categories
Map P Cumulative Impacts
Map Q Mitigation Options Impacts

The Draft DCP was changed to include-

- Savings and Transitional Provisions - so the Transitional DCP Amendment won’t apply to DAs lodged but not determined when the amendment commences
- minor grammatical changes, and
- replacement of the draft FPCC map (Figure 1).

The following link is provided to Development Control Plan Amendment
DCP21 Transitional Flood Provision Amendment

**CONCLUSION**

The final *Richmond Valley Flood Risk Management Study & Plan (dated 14 July 2026)* is presented to Council along with the *Richmond Valley Development Control Plan 2021 (Transitional Flood Provision) Amendment*.

Both documents were publicly exhibited and are presented to Council for endorsement and approval. respectively.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

# 17 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES & PROJECTS

## 17.1 DRAFT RICHMOND VALLEY CEMETERY STRATEGY 2026

**Director:** **Ben Zeller**

**Responsible Officer:** **Kim Anderson**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Richmond Valley Council manages nine cemeteries across the Local Government Area, including four active cemeteries that continue to provide burial and memorialisation services for the community. Council's existing cemetery planning framework is based on the 2015 Cemeteries Background Paper and no longer adequately reflects current regulatory requirements, industry standards, community expectations, demographic trends or long-term financial considerations.

Council engaged Locale Consulting to prepare the draft Richmond Valley Cemetery Strategy 2026 (Draft Strategy) to provide a contemporary framework for the management, operation and future development of Council's cemeteries. The Strategy considers cemetery capacity, future demand, infrastructure needs, financial sustainability, regulatory compliance, cultural and heritage considerations and opportunities to improve service delivery.

The draft Strategy confirms that Council currently has sufficient cemetery capacity to service forecast demand for many decades, however, identifies the need to proactively plan for future expansion, improve memorialisation opportunities, respond to increasing regulatory requirements and strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of cemetery operations.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the 28-day exhibition period for the draft Richmond Valley Cemetery Strategy 2026.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 4: Celebrate our local identity and lifestyle

4D3 Ensure town centres and public spaces are well maintained

4D3.2 Develop a new Cemeteries Management Strategy for the Richmond Valley

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Richmond Valley Cemetery Strategy 2026 (draft Strategy) provides a detailed assessment of Council's current cemetery business model and identify opportunities to improve financial performance through increased revenue generation, improved cost recovery and more efficient operational practices. The review includes analysis of current cemetery costs, benchmarking against comparable councils, future demand projections and ongoing operational expenditure to inform long-term financial sustainability.

Council's Revenue Policy 2025/26 identifies Cemetery fees and charges as being set at a '*partial cost recovery level, whereby users make a significant contribution towards the cost of service'* where remaining costs are funded from general purpose revenue. As a result, cemetery operations have required an average annual subsidy of approximately $75,000 over the past five years.

The draft Strategy identifies several measures to strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of cemetery services, including:

- Reviewing fees and charges to improve cost recovery while maintaining affordability for the community;

- Monitoring service performance and operational costs;
- Investigating opportunities to diversify memorialisation products and services;
- Establishing mechanisms to fund future asset renewal and ongoing maintenance obligations; and
- Developing appropriate funding arrangements to meet perpetual care responsibilities.

A key outcome of the draft Strategy is the establishment of a framework to manage Council's long-term perpetual maintenance liabilities. Cemeteries require ongoing maintenance long after burial capacity has been exhausted, and the Strategy recognises the importance of addressing these future obligations now rather than transferring the financial burden to future generations. This approach will support the development of sustainable funding practices and improve Council's ability to provide long-term stewardship of Richmond Valley's cemetery network.

Overall, the draft Strategy provides recommendations to reduce Council's reliance on general revenue subsidies over time while ensuring cemetery services remain financially sustainable, compliant with regulatory requirements and responsive to community needs.

**REPORT**

Cemeteries are important community assets that provide places for remembrance, ceremony and reflection, while also maintaining a strong connection to local history, culture and heritage.

Richmond Valley Council manages nine cemeteries across the Local Government Area (LGA), including three primary operational cemeteries that continue to accommodate new interments and memorialisation services.

Council engaged Locale Consulting to undertake a comprehensive review of Richmond Valley's cemeteries to assess current conditions and quantify the factors that will influence their ongoing operational sustainability and long-term viability.

While Council previously developed a Cemetery Strategy in 2015, the document is no longer considered fit for purpose due to changing legislative requirements, evolving community expectations, and shifts within the interment industry. The new Cemetery Strategy provides a contemporary framework that aligns with current industry standards, regulatory obligations and best-practice cemetery management.

Key findings of the Richmond Valley Cemetery Strategy 2026 (draft Strategy) include:

Current Capacity and Future Demand

The draft Strategy concludes Council's cemetery network retains substantial capacity for future interments:

- Casino Lawn Cemetery has capacity exceeding 100 years based on current usage trends and planned expansion areas.
- Coraki Cemetery has significant unused capacity with more than 100 years of potential supply.
- Evans Head Cemetery has approximately 70 years of capacity but requires longer-term investigation of expansion opportunities.
- Existing overall cemetery capacity is considered sufficient to meet forecast demand.

The draft Strategy notes that while deaths within the Richmond Valley LGA are forecast to increase due to an ageing population, increasing cremation trends are likely to moderate demand for traditional burials.

Social and Industry Trends

Key trends influencing future cemetery operations include:

- Increasing cremation rates;
- Growing demand for memorialisation options for ashes interments;

- Greater expectations for customer service and accessibility;
- Emerging interest in natural and environmentally sensitive burial options; and
- Increased recognition of cultural and spiritual requirements.

The draft Strategy identifies opportunities to diversify memorialisation products and investigate options for natural burial at Casino Lawn Cemetery.

Financial Sustainability

Current cemetery operations currently require an average annual subsidy of approximately $75,000 from Council's general revenue. The draft Strategy identifies that:

- Cemetery fees generally do not achieve full cost recovery;
- Increasing regulatory obligations are placing pressure on operating costs;
- Current perpetual maintenance reserves are insufficient to fully meet future obligations; and
- Consideration should be given to progressive fee increases to improve long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on general rate revenue.

Regulatory Compliance

The draft Strategy outlines actions required to align Council's operations with the NSW Interment Industry Scheme, including:

- Cemetery signage upgrades;
- Monument inspection programs;
- Enhanced record management systems;
- Public pricing transparency; and
- Improved reporting and compliance processes.

Infrastructure and Service Improvements

The draft Strategy recommends continued investment in:

- Cemetery road networks;
- Landscaping and tree planting;
- Memorial gardens and niche walls;
- Accessibility improvements;
- Amenities upgrades;
- Expansion planning for future burial areas; and
- Modern cemetery management systems for record keeping and reporting.

The draft Strategy establishes several key strategic directions to ensure Council can continue to provide sustainable, compliant and community-focused cemetery services into the future. A primary focus of the Strategy is maintaining adequate burial capacity across the cemetery network to meet current and future demand. While existing cemetery land is considered sufficient for the foreseeable future, Council will need to carefully manage available space and plan for future expansion opportunities, particularly at its larger operational cemeteries. A draft masterplan has been provided for each of the active cemeteries to guide development.

The draft Strategy recommends expanding memorialisation opportunities through the provision of additional niche walls, memorial gardens and alternative forms of ashes interment. This will allow Council to better meet community expectations while supporting the long-term viability of cemetery operations.

The draft Strategy identifies the priority for Council to implement measures to ensure compliance with evolving regulatory requirements. The introduction of the NSW Interment Industry Scheme

which has increased obligations relating to cemetery management, record keeping, maintenance standards, customer service, pricing transparency and cultural considerations. The draft Strategy provides a framework for achieving ongoing compliance and responding to future regulatory changes.

**CONSULTATION**

The development of the draft Richmond Valley Cemetery Strategy 2026 included stakeholder engagement and consultation to ensure the Strategy reflects community expectations, industry best practice and Council's operational requirements.

Consultation undertaken by Locale Consulting included discussions with relevant Council staff, review of existing cemetery operations and consideration of current and emerging trends within the cemetery and interment sector. The consultation process identified a range of themes, including the importance of maintaining respectful and well-presented cemetery environments, improving long-term financial sustainability, providing greater memorialisation choice, and ensuring services continue to meet the needs of a changing community.

Feedback highlighted the value placed on cemeteries as important community assets that preserve local history, culture and heritage, while also serving as places of remembrance and reflection. Stakeholders acknowledged the need for Council to plan proactively for future maintenance obligations, asset renewal requirements and changing burial preferences.

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy, the draft Richmond Valley Cemetery Strategy 2026 will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to provide community members and stakeholders with an opportunity to review the document and provide feedback.

**CONCLUSION**

The draft Richmond Valley Cemetery Strategy 2026 provides a contemporary framework to guide the sustainable management of Council's cemetery network over the long term. The draft Strategy confirms that existing cemetery capacity is sufficient to meet forecast demand for many decades, while identifying opportunities to improve service delivery, diversify memorialisation options and respond to changing community expectations.

Importantly, the draft Strategy highlights the need to strengthen the financial sustainability of cemetery operations, which currently require an average annual subsidy of approximately $75,000 from Council's general revenue. The recommended review of fees and charges, together with improved financial planning and the establishment of mechanisms to fund future perpetual maintenance obligations, will assist in reducing reliance on ratepayer funding and support responsible long-term asset stewardship.

Public exhibition of the draft Strategy for a period of 28 days will provide the community with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed direction before the document is finalised. Subject to consideration of submissions received during the exhibition period, adoption of the draft Strategy will ensure Council is well positioned to meet its operational, regulatory and community obligations while preserving and maintaining Richmond Valley's cemeteries for current and future generations. (Councillors provided with a copy under separate cover).

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## 17.2 ASSET POLICIES

**Director:** **Ben Zeller**

**Responsible Officer:** **Kim Anderson**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has reviewed and updated its asset planning policies to strengthen the management, protection, and long-term sustainability of community infrastructure. The revised policies provide clearer standards, reduce risk, and ensure assets are planned and maintained in a consistent, safe, and financially responsible manner. This framework supports better decision making, improved service delivery, and a more resilient asset base that meets current and future community needs.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the new and revised Asset policies:

1. CPOL 11.7 Road Management
2. CPOL 11.18 Leasing and Licencing Councils Community Facilities
3. CPOL11.23 Standard Wording for Easements, Restrictions, and Positive Covenants
4. CPOL 11.2 Bitumen Sealing adjacent to residences on unsealed public roads
5. CPOL 11.3 Contributions for Kerb and Guttering and Footpath Paving.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 5: Provide infrastructure that meets community needs

5A1 Maintain and improve asset management systems

5A1.1 Develop, implement & review the RV Asset Management Strategy, Asset Management Plans and Policies

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

### REPORT

Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of its asset planning policies to ensure they remain consistent and aligned with best practice asset management principles. This review strengthens Council’s ability to responsibly manage public infrastructure, support sustainable service delivery, and meet community expectations for safety, accessibility, and long-term financial responsibility. The new and revised policies provide clearer guidance on the planning, protection, and maintenance of Council assets while improving transparency around responsibilities for both Council and the community. By establishing consistent standards, addressing emerging risks, and integrating legislative requirements, the revised policy framework enhances Council’s capacity to make informed, evidence-based decisions that optimise asset performance, reduce lifecycle costs, and safeguard public amenity. The policies presented for consideration as part of this report include:

**CPOL 11.7 Road Management (Last Adopted 17 October 2023)**

The Road Management Policy establishes the framework for the planning, assessment, management, and maintenance of Council's road network and road reserves. The policy outlines Council's responsibilities for roads under its care and control and provides clear guidance for

activities undertaken within road reserves. It supports the delivery of a safe, efficient, and sustainable transport network by defining road hierarchy classifications, maintenance and inspection requirements, risk management processes, and service level considerations. The policy also provides guidance regarding Crown roads and roads not under Council's management, while supporting community connectivity, emergency access, and compliance with relevant legislative requirements.

This revision includes several enhancements to strengthen governance, transparency, and consistency in road network management. Reviews are undertaken to ensure the document remains current and responsive to legislative, operational, and community expectations. The revised policy also expands the process for reviewing and changing road hierarchy classifications by establishing clearer assessment criteria, documentation requirements, and decision-making processes. These amendments ensure that any changes to road classifications are based on objective evidence, including road function, traffic volumes, network connectivity, strategic importance, and service level outcomes. The revisions provide greater clarity for staff, stakeholders, and the community while supporting informed and consistent management of Council's road assets.

**CPOL 11.18 Leasing and Licencing Councils Community Facilities (New Policy)**

The proposed Leasing and Licensing of Council Community Facilities Policy establishes a clear framework for the management, allocation, leasing, and licensing of Council-owned and managed community facilities. The policy aims to ensure these public assets are used efficiently, equitably, and in a manner that delivers the greatest possible benefit to the Richmond Valley community.

The policy provides guidance on the assessment, approval, and ongoing management of leases and licences for community facilities, ensuring decisions are made consistently, transparently, and in accordance with legislative requirements. It recognises the importance of supporting community organisations, sporting groups, cultural activities, and other users while protecting Council's assets and maintaining appropriate financial and governance controls.

As a new policy, it formalises Council's approach to leasing and licensing arrangements by establishing clear roles, responsibilities, eligibility criteria, assessment requirements, and approval processes. The policy also promotes accountability and sustainable asset management by ensuring community facilities are utilised effectively and that leasing and licensing arrangements reflect the intended purpose and community value of the facility.

The adoption of this policy aligns Richmond Valley Council with local government practices and provides a consistent approach comparable to those used by other NSW councils. It supports fair and transparent decision-making, protects Council's interests, and ensures community facilities continue to deliver social, recreational, cultural, and economic benefits for the wider community.

**CPOL 11.23 Standard Wording for Easements Restrictions Positive Covenants (New Policy)**

The proposed Standard Wording for Easements, Restrictions and Positive Covenants Policy establish a consistent framework for the preparation, review, registration, and management of easements, restrictions on the use of land, and positive covenants that benefit Richmond Valley Council.

The policy aims to provide approved standard wording and clear requirements for the creation of these legal instruments to ensure consistency, legal compliance, and administrative efficiency across Council's operations. It supports the protection of Council assets and infrastructure, and other public interests by ensuring obligations and restrictions affecting land are appropriately documented and enforceable.

As a new policy, it formalises Council's approach to the use of easements, restrictions, and positive covenants by defining when they are required, the standard terms to be applied, and the processes for assessment, approval, registration, amendment, and release. This will reduce ambiguity, improve consistency in development and land dealings, and provide greater certainty for Council, developers, landowners, and the community.

The policy also strengthens governance and risk management by ensuring legal interests are established and maintained in accordance with relevant legislation and best practice. Adoption of the policy will provide a clear and transparent framework that supports the long-term protection of public infrastructure and assets while facilitating efficient land development and property management outcomes.

**CPOL 11.2 Bitumen Sealing adjacent to residences on unsealed public roads (Last Adopted 21 September 2021)**

The Bitumen Sealing Adjacent to Residences on Unsealed Public Roads Policy provides a fair, transparent, and consistent framework for assessing requests from residents for bitumen dust sealing on Council-managed unsealed roads adjacent to residential properties. The policy recognises the impacts of dust generated by traffic on unsealed roads while balancing community expectations, engineering requirements, financial considerations, and long-term asset management responsibilities.

The policy establishes the criteria and process by which Council may consider requests for bitumen dust sealing and ensures that decisions are made objectively and consistently across the local government area. It also supports responsible management of Council's road assets by considering factors such as road function, traffic volumes, safety, drainage, maintenance requirements, whole-of-life costs, and potential benefits to both the applicant and the broader community.

This review of the policy includes updates to provide greater clarity regarding the scope and application of the policy, including eligibility requirements and the extent of works that may be considered. The revised policy also introduces a more comprehensive merit-based assessment framework, incorporating a range of technical, financial, environmental, and community benefit criteria. These changes strengthen transparency and equity in the assessment process, support informed decision-making, and ensure that available resources are directed toward projects that provide the greatest overall benefit to the community while maintaining sound asset management practices.

**CPOL 11.3 Contributions for Kerb and Guttering and Footpath Paving (Last Adopted 21 September 2021)**

The Contributions for Kerb and Guttering and Footpath Paving Policy establishes the framework for the recovery of contributions from property owners where kerb and guttering, footpaths, cycleways, and associated infrastructure are constructed adjacent to their properties and that provide a direct benefit to properties. The policy outlines the circumstances in which contributions apply, the method for calculating contributions, and Council's approach to cost recovery consistent with relevant legislative provisions.

The policy also identifies situations where development-related works are required and where the full cost of infrastructure may be payable by the developer or property owner. In addition, it provides Council with the discretion to vary or waive contributions where works are undertaken primarily to achieve broader community, traffic management, road safety, accessibility, or strategic transport outcomes.

This periodic review does not introduce any new contribution requirements. Rather, it clarifies the existing contribution framework, confirms the contribution rates applicable to various property frontages and development related works, and establishes notification requirements for affected property owners prior to the commencement of works. The review also strengthens the policy by providing greater clarity regarding its scope, application, and administrative processes, ensuring transparency, consistency, and improved understanding of Council's existing cost sharing arrangements.

## CONSULTATION

Council undertook consultation with relevant internal stakeholder groups across multiple departments to ensure the proposed policy updates reflect operational requirements, asset management objectives, legislative obligations, and practical implementation considerations. Feedback from staff was incorporated to improve the clarity, consistency, and application of the policies across Council's operations.

In addition, Council obtained legal advice during the development of the Standard Wording for Easements, Restrictions and Positive Covenants Policy. This reflects the requirement for Section 88B instruments to be prepared by a suitably qualified legal practitioner to ensure legal accuracy, consistency, and compliance with relevant legislation. The legal review assisted in establishing standardised wording and processes that will support the effective creation, registration, and ongoing management of easements, restrictions on the use of land, and positive covenants that benefit Council and the broader community.

## CONCLUSION

The reviewed and proposed asset planning policies strengthen Council's governance framework for the management, protection, and delivery of infrastructure and community assets. Collectively, the policies provide greater clarity, consistency, and transparency in decision-making, while ensuring Council's practices remain aligned with legislative requirements, asset management principles, and community expectations.

The policy reviews have focused on improving clarity of application, strengthening assessment and decision-making processes, formalising governance arrangements, and ensuring contemporary practices are reflected in Council's policy framework. The introduction of new policies addressing the leasing and licensing of community facilities and standard wording for easements, restrictions, and positive covenants further enhances Council's ability to manage assets effectively and protect public interests.

Adoption of the revised and new policies will support sound asset management, reduce operational and legal risk, improve consistency across Council's activities, and provide clear guidance for staff, stakeholders, and the community. It is therefore recommended that Council adopt the policies as presented.

Policy documents follow;

CPOL-11.7 Policy Road Management

CPOL-11.18 Policy Leasing and Licensing Councils Community Facilities

CPOL-11.23-Policy Standard Wording for Easements Restrictions Positive Covenants

CPOL-11.2 Policy Bitumen sealing adjacent to residences on unsealed roads

CPOL11.3 Policy Contributions for Kerb and Guttering and Footpath Paving

## ATTACHMENT(S)

**Nil**

# 18 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

## 18.1 MONTHLY BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS REPORT - AUGUST 2026

**Director:** **Ryan Gaiter**

**Responsible Officer:** **Zakari Witt**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the unspent 2025/2026 budget allocations that are proposed to be transferred into the 2026/2027 budget as either carry forwards or revotes.

Carry forwards represent the unspent portion of budgeted projects that were either started or contracted to be started prior to 30 June 2026. Revotes represent the portion of budgeted projects that did not commence during the 2025/2026 year and are proposed to be delivered during 2026/2027.

Carry forwards and revotes are a routine annual occurrence arising due to timing of grant funding and associated expenditure along with other factors such as wet weather delays and contractor and material availability.

The proposed carry forwards total $12,134,353 comprising $163,638 in operating expenditure and $11,970,715 in capital expenditure. This represents 0.17% of revised budgeted operating expenditure and 16.83% of revised budgeted capital expenditure for 2025/2026.

The proposed revotes total $6,711,972 comprising $75,397 in operating expenditure and $6,636,575 in capital expenditure. This represents 0.08% of revised budgeted operating expenditure and 9.33% of revised budgeted capital expenditure for 2025/2026.

Council's annual financial statements are currently being prepared for audit and as such, the final carry forward and revote budgets are still subject to change. Any changes will be included in the quarterly budget review statement as at 30 September 2026, once unexpended grants and reserve balances have been finalised.

At this stage the proposed changes will have no impact on the projected budget surplus of $472,089 for 2026/2027 as the carry over works are fully funded from unexpended grants and contributions or previously budgeted from cash reserves.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the carry forwards for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 as detailed in the report.
2. Adopts the revotes for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 as detailed in the report.
3. Notes the revised budget for 2026/2027, including carry forwards and revotes.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 9: Manage resources responsibly and provide great service

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

9A1.4 Provide regular reports to Council on financial performance and ensure compliance with requirements for external audit

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As detailed in the report.

## REPORT

### Carry Forwards

Carry forwards represent the unspent portion of adopted project budgets that were either started or contracted to be started prior to 30 June 2026 and are provided in this report for information. Proposed carry forwards total $12,134,353 of which $163,638 relates to operational projects and $11,970,715 relates to capital projects. Operational carry forwards represent 0.17% of revised budgeted expenditure, whilst capital carry forwards represent 16.83% of revised budgeted capital expenditure for 2025/2026.

Council is required to restrict grants and contributions revenue and carry forward the associated budget to ensure projects are delivered in accordance with the relevant funding agreements. The total grant and contribution carry forward for 2025/26 is $11,000,985, comprising $3,504,587 in unexpended grants and contributions and $7,496,398 in grant revenue yet to be received.

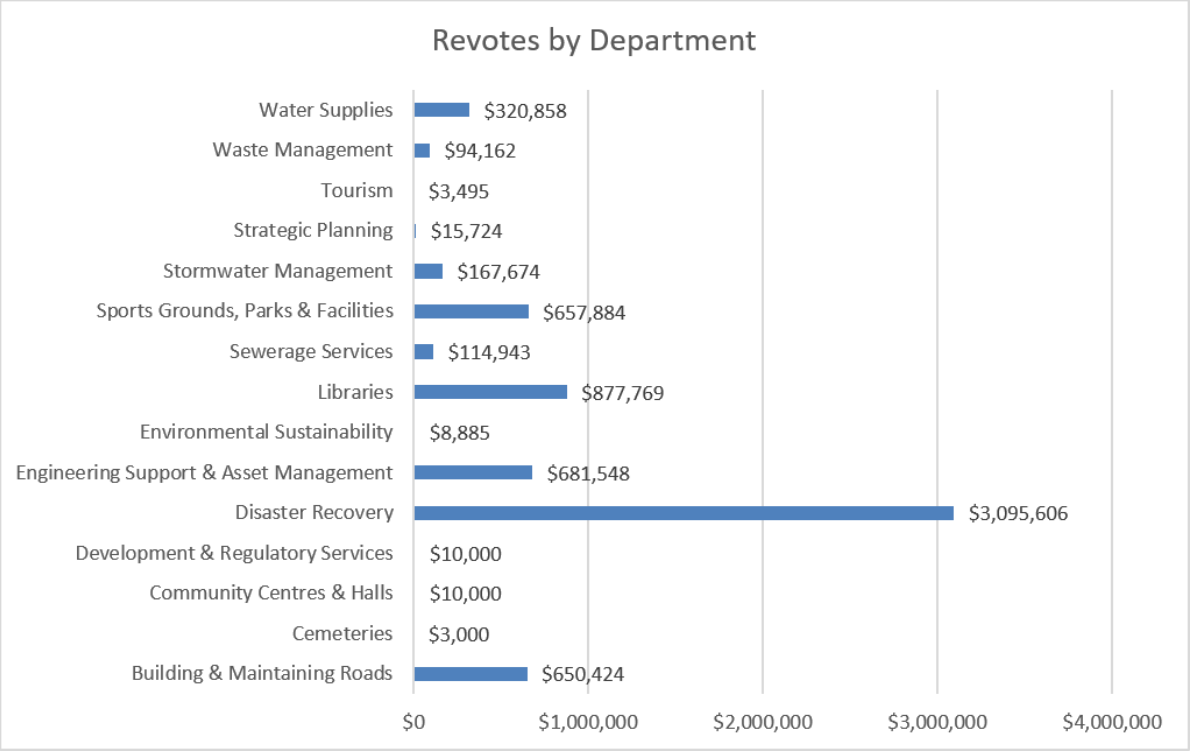
Carry forward figures are elevated due to major grant-funded projects waiting on finalised timelines at the time of adopting the 2026/2027 budget, including the NRLX Effluent Management System, Rappville Sewer and Woodburn Pony & Tennis Clubhouse.

The remaining carry forwards are funded from externally restricted reserves totalling $718,292, including $490,635 from water reserves and $124,610 from sewer reserves, with a further $415,076 funded from internally restricted reserves.

### Revotes

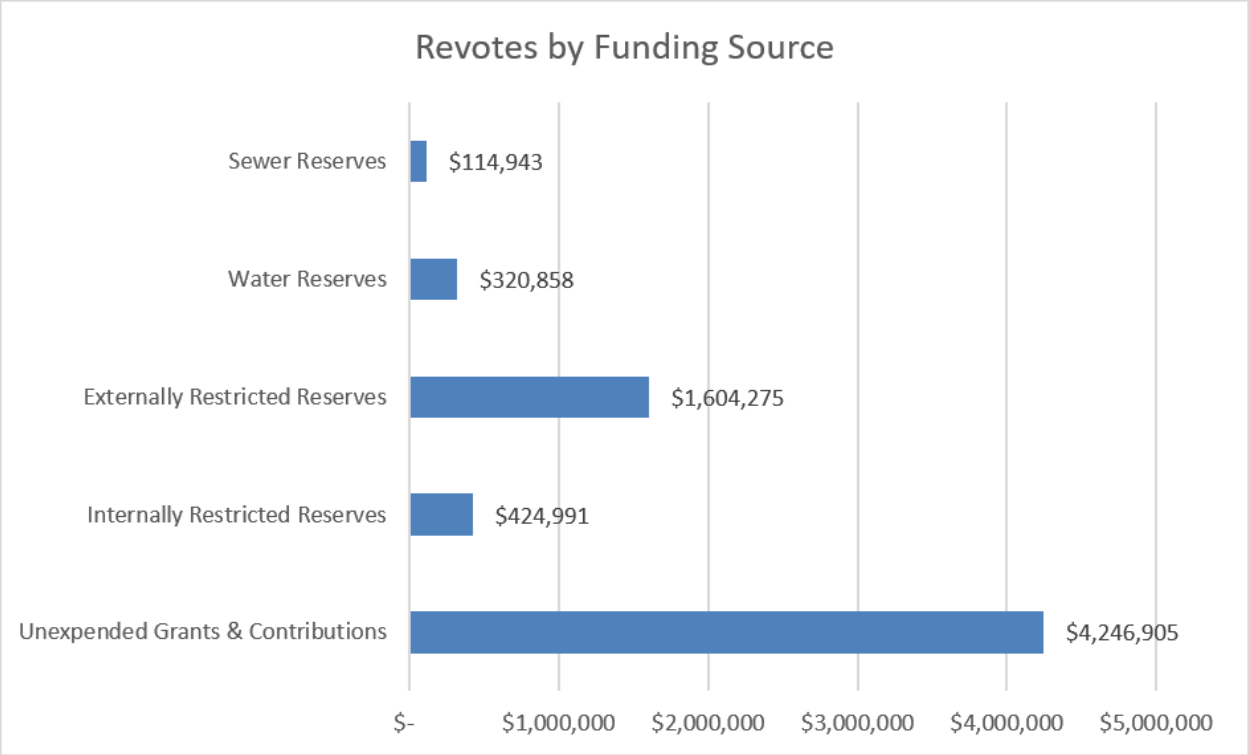
Revotes represent budgeted projects that did not commenced during the 2025/2026 year and are proposed to be completed during 2026/2027. Proposed revotes total $6,711,972 which include $75,397 in operational projects and $6,636,575 in capital projects, 0.08% and 9.33% of the respective budgeted expenditure for 2025/2026.

Revotes are an annual occurrence and arise from a number of factors, including wet weather delays, contractor and material availability, and the timing of grant funding and associated expenditure. In 2026, Council has faced the added challenge of managing a significant recovery program alongside its normal works program, with considerable wet weather further impacting delivery progress and timeframes.




The graph above illustrates the total proposed revotes by department with the most significant adjustments summarised below and full detail available in the attached report.

- **Disaster Recovery** – Revote of $3,095,606 due to a revised work schedule for essential public asset restoration works due to competing priorities and unfavourable wet weather in 2025/26 extending delivery timeframes.
- **Engineering Support & Asset Management** – Proposed revote of $158,750 for the Casino Depot Fuel Cell upgrade due to supply chain delays along with a further $438,679 for the Casino Depot masterplan upgrade to enable works to be delivered during low traffic periods.
- **Libraries** – A revote of $863,509 for fleet replacement of the mobile library with solar panel installation due to supply chain delays with delivery now expected in 2027.
- **Sports Grounds, Parks and Facilities** – Revote of $576,344 for Airforce Beach access and carpark upgrades subject to approval of the Crown Land License resulting in delays to the project timeline.




As illustrated in the graph above, revotes are fully funded from unexpended grants or reserves and as such, there will be no impact on the projected budget result for the 2026/2027 year.

The final carry forward and revote budgets are still subject to change as financial statements for 2025/2026 are currently being prepared for audit. Any changes will be included in the quarterly budget review statement as at 30 September 2026, once unexpended grants and final reserve balances have been audited.

Total capital carry forwards and revotes will bring the 2026/2027 capital works program to $77,361,651 from an adopted capital works program of $58,754,361. This is a sizeable capital works program, which includes ongoing natural disaster restoration works in addition to councils' standard works program, and as such, will be continually monitored and comprehensively reviewed throughout the year and adjusted accordingly to ensure it remains achievable.

## CONCLUSION

The carry forwards and proposed revotes will have no impact on the projected budget surplus of $472,089 for the 2026/2027 year. Combined carry forwards and revotes will increase the 2026/2027 operational budget by $239,035 and the capital program by $18,607,290, bringing the total capital program to $77,361,651. Council will continue to monitor and review the capital works program throughout the year to maximise opportunities for the delivery of these projects.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **2025-2026 Budget Carry Forwards (under separate cover)**
2. **2025-2026 Budget Revotes (under separate cover)**

## 18.2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT - JULY 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 July 2026 is shown below:

| Bank Accounts | Term Deposits | Floating Rate Notes | Fixed Rate Bonds | TCorp IM Funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $18,634,047 | $41,000,000 | $6,250,000 | $3,000,000 | $19,448,042 | $88,332,089 |

The weighted average rate of return on Council's cash and investments at 31 July 2026 was 3.49% which was below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index for July of 4.67% (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 July 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 July 2026, Council has earned $93,947 in interest and $22,251 in fair value losses from funds held in TCorp, for a total investment income of $71,696. This equates to 2.37% of the annual budget for interest and investment income of $3,023,187.

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 did not meet in July, so the cash rate remained at 4.35%.

#### Rate of Return

The weighted average rate of return on cash and investments in July was 3.49%, a decrease in 217 basis points from the previous month. The rate of return is 117 basis points below the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index of 4.67% (annualised) which is Council's benchmark.

Council's NSW Treasury Corporation IM Funds returned a net loss of $22,251 during the month of July. The Medium-Term Growth Fund (MTGF) returned a loss of $11,520 and the Long-Term Growth Fund (LTGF) returned a loss of $10,731.

NSW Treasury Corp's monthly economic report states that the Australian economic data was on the weaker side during July. Inflation was lower than the RBA expected and consumer and business confidence remains weak. Investors still predict a 50% chance of another rate increase in

this cycle; however, this could change quickly with escalation of the Iran war impacting on inflation expectations.

The MTGF has a recommended investment timeframe of five 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 $88,332,089 at 31 July 2026. This was made up of Council's Business Online Saver Account ($17,775,000), Term Deposits ($41,000,000), Floating Rate Notes ($6,250,000), Bonds ($3,000,000), NSW Treasury Corporation Investments ($19,448,042) and other bank accounts ($859,047).

Council's investment portfolio had maturity dates ranging from same day up to 1,813 days. Term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds of $50,250,000 represented 56.89% of the total portfolio as at 31 July 2026.

Council did not have any investment maturities or make any new investments during July.

Council had $19,448,042 in longer term investments being the MTGF and LTGF held with NSW Treasury Corporation as at 31 July 2026. The investment values and fair value returns are shown below:

| Investment Holding | Fair Value at 31 July 2026 | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) at 31 July 2026 | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) YTD | Fair Value Gain/(Loss) Life of Investment |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medium Term Growth Fund | $ 15,150,598 | ($11,520) | ($11,520) | $ 4,145,568 |
| Long Term Growth Fund | $ 4,297,444 | ($10,731) | ($10,731) | $ 1,297,444 |
| **Total** | **$ 19,448,042** | **($22,251)** | **($22,251)** | **$ 5,443,013** |

**Environmentally Sustainable Investments (ESI's)**

Council's cash and investments portfolio of $88,332,089 at 31 July 2026 includes $66,698,042 or 75.5% 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 July 2026, Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

As at 30 July 2026 Council's cash and investments totalled $88,332,089 with $18,634,047 of this being funds held in bank accounts. The weighted average rate of return was 3.49% and total investment revenue equals 2.37% of budgeted revenue for the year to 31 July 2026.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

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

## 18.3 REVIEW OF AGENCY INFORMATION GUIDE (GIPA ACT)

**Director:** **Ryan Gaiter**

**Responsible Officer:** **Catherine Davis**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Government Information (Public Access) 2009* (GIPA Act) requires an agency to adopt and maintain an Agency Information Guide (AIG). A review of Council's AIG adopted in August 2025 has been undertaken, with amendments to update the guide incorporated into the document.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the draft Agency Information Guide incorporating updates
2. Adopts the updated Agency Information Guide; and
3. Authorises substitution of the current organisational structure with any updates to the lower tiers of the structure when final decisions are made.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM LINKS

Objective 8: Lead and advocate for our community

8C1 Provide representative and accountable community governance

8C1.4 Ensure Richmond Valley Council complies with statutory requirements and processes

### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

### REPORT

Section 21 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) provides that an agency is required to adopt and maintain an Agency Information Guide (AIG). A review of the current version adopted by Council in August 2025 has been completed and a draft of the updated AIG is attached for review.

The AIG is required to contain the following information:

- Describe the structure and functions of the agency
- Describe the ways in which the functions (in particular, the decision-making functions) of the agency affect members of the public
- Specify any arrangements that exist to enable members of the public to participate in the formulation of the agency's policy and the exercise of the agency's functions
- Identify the various kinds of government information held by the agency that the agency makes (or will make) publicly available
- Specify the manner in which the agency makes (or will make) government information publicly available; and
- Identify the kinds of information that are (or will be) made publicly available free of charge and those kinds for which a charge is (or will be) imposed.

Review of the current document has revealed no significant content amendments are required. However, the updated document has been amended in terms of formatting and design to modernise the aspect and improve readability, together with removal of outdated information.

***Pending update to organisation structure***

Council is currently undergoing a workplace change which may affect the lower tiers of the organisational structure reporting lines. The workplace changes will not come into effect until October 2026. It is therefore recommended that Council adopt the AIG in the current draft to comply with section 21 of the GIPA Act and authorise substitution of the updated organisational structure in the draft document when the workplace change commences. It is not anticipated that any other changes to the AIG will be required.

**CONSULTATION**

A copy of the draft AIG was provided to the Information and Privacy Commission NSW in accordance with section 22 of the GIPA Act. To date, no feedback has been received. Council is not precluded from adopting the draft AIG to comply with section 21 of the GIPA Act.

**CONCLUSION**

Following the required annual review, Council's AIG has been updated to modernise design and readability, with minor adjustments made to remove outdated information. It is recommended that Council adopts the draft updated AIG and authorises insertion of an updated organisational structure when required.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**1. Draft RVC Agency Information Guide 2026 (under separate cover)**

# 19 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

## 19.1 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS UPDATE AS OF 30 JUNE 2026

**Director:** **Ben Zeller**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers that Capital Works Progress update as of 30 June 2026.

**REPORT**

At the Council meeting of 24 June 2025, Council adopted a Capital Works Program for 2025/26 totalling $79,543,272. This budget included major projects such as:

- Tatham Bridges Replacement ($10.6m)
- Casino Suspension Bridge ($2.9m)
- Woodburn Evans Head Shared Pathway ($5.3m)
- Essential Public Asset Restoration ($16.6m)
- NRLX Effluent System Upgrade ($5.5m)
- Casino Industries Activation (Bruxner Roundabout) ($3.8m)
- Halsteads Drive Restoration ($0.9m)
- Evans Head STP Design and Construction ($5.2m)
- Casino STP Upgrade ($2.9m)
- Woodburn Pony and Tennis Club ($0.8m)

It should be noted that the amounts shown above represent the expenditure budgeted for 2025/26 only. Many of these projects span multiple financial years, with budgets allocated in prior years for planning and design activities and in future years for delivery and completion. As such, the figures above do not represent the total project cost over the life of each project.

Council reviews the Capital Works Program on a quarterly basis to ensure budgets remain aligned with project progress, funding deed requirements, procurement outcomes, delivery schedules and organisational priorities. As a result of these approved adjustments and budget carry forwards, the Capital Works Program budget on 30 June 2026 was revised to $76,007,956 from the original adopted budget of $79,543,272.

Following end-of-year financial reconciliations, actual expenditure totalled $56,237,836, representing 74% of the revised budget.

It should also be noted that further reductions to the Capital Works Program budget were not able to be reflected during the year for several grant-funded projects where requests to vary project delivery timeframes were still awaiting approval from the relevant funding bodies. As a result, project budgets associated with the Casino Industries Activation (Bruxner Highway Roundabout), Rappville Sewerage Scheme and Woodburn Pony Club and Tennis Club projects remained within the 2025/26 budget despite expenditure being deferred to future financial years.

The 2025/26 financial year continued to present challenges for the delivery of capital infrastructure projects. Industry-wide pressures, including shortages of skilled labour and specialist contractors, supply chain delays, fluctuating fuel and material costs, and extended periods of adverse weather, impacted construction programs and procurement timelines. These factors influenced both the timing and sequencing of works across several projects.

In addition, many of Council's major capital projects are complex, multi-year initiatives that require extensive planning and design, environmental and statutory approvals, land acquisition, stakeholder consultation, procurement processes and compliance with funding deed requirements before construction can commence. Consequently, some projects progressed more slowly than originally anticipated, resulting in portions of the allocated budget being carried forward to future financial years as works move through planning, approvals, procurement and construction.

The projects remain funded, with delivery continuing in accordance with revised project schedules.

Despite these challenges, Council successfully delivered a substantial capital works program during 2025/26, with more than $56 million in infrastructure investment delivered across the local government area. Council continued to advance several major strategic projects while also completing a large volume of smaller capital works across the organisation. This outcome reflects the significant effort of staff, contractors and project partners in delivering and managing one of the largest capital works programs in Council's history.

In summary, at 30 June 2026:

- 616 individual projects were in the capital works program at some point during the 25/26 financial year
- 95 projects were in the planning phase (15%)
- 132 projects were in the delivery phase (21%)
- 329 projects were completed (54%)
- 60 projects were removed or rolled into the next financial year (10%)

Importantly, 461 projects (75%) were either completed or actively being delivered at year end, demonstrating strong progress across the overall program.

At the Council meeting of 30 June 2026, Council adopted a Capital Works Program for the 2026/27 year of $58,754,361.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## 19.2 KEY PROJECTS UPDATE

**Director:** **Ben Zeller**

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Key Projects update.

### REPORT

An update on Council's Key Projects is provided below. The table outlines each project's approved budget, funding source, estimated completion timeframe and status, together with an overview of key risks relevant to project delivery.

Risks have been identified across three broad categories:

- **Financial Risk** – factors that may affect expenditure against the approved project budget.
- **Program Risk** – factors that may influence the anticipated completion timeframe.
- **Scope Risk** – factors that may affect the delivery of the approved project scope or intended outcomes, including regulatory, design, stakeholder or external dependencies.

Each risk category has been recorded as **Low**, **Medium** or **High**, based on the information available at the time of reporting and defined as follows:

- **Low** – No material issues identified at this stage.
- **Medium** – Matters identified that require ongoing monitoring or management.
- **High** – Issues identified that have the potential to significantly affect project delivery if not adequately managed.

Risk ratings are intended to provide a high-level snapshot only and may change as projects progress and further information becomes available.

An update regarding Council's Key Projects is provided below:

| ***Rappville Sewer Augmentation*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $6,149,613 | |
| **Funding Source** | Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund $5,985,000<br>Council Contribution $164,613 | |
| **Estimated Completion** | December 2026 | |
| **Financial Risk** - Medium | **Program Risk** - Medium | **Scope Risk -** Medium |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Rappville Sewer project continue to progress, with the village pressure sewer reticulation network completed from property boundaries through the village streets to the connection point opposite the Rappville Hotel.<br>Negotiations for the remaining village reticulation works, including the rail corridor under bore and sewer pump station construction, are nearing completion. Discussions with suitable contractors are progressing well, with appointments expected to be finalised by mid-August. Installation of pressure sewer systems on individual properties, including connections and transitions from existing septic systems, will be undertaken as the final stage of the project once the reticulation network and sewage treatment plant facilities have been commissioned. | |

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| | Construction of the rising main is underway, with works commencing near the sewage treatment plant site along Myrtle Creek Road.<br><br>At the sewage treatment plant site, construction of the effluent and maturation ponds continues to progress. While wet weather during May and June affected site conditions and resulted in some delays, the effluent pond embankments have now been constructed to design height and installation of the clay liner is underway. Excavation of the maturation and wastewater treatment ponds has commenced, and procurement of the irrigation, solar and electrical components has been completed, with installation works scheduled to commence in September.<br><br>An extension of time for project completion has been approved by the funding body through to 31 December 2026, providing greater flexibility to manage delivery risks and complete the remaining works. |

| ***NRLX – Effluent Management System*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $5,750,000 | |
| **Funding Source** | Infrastructure Betterment Fund (State Government) | |
| **Estimated Completion** | December 2026 | |
| **Financial Risk** - Low | **Program Risk** - Medium | **Scope Risk -** Low |
| **Status Update** | Works on the NRLX Effluent Management System project continue to progress, with the contractor having successfully mobilised to site and completed preliminary works, including remediation of internal bank batters, clearing of existing drainage channels, targeted vegetation removal and establishment of a sediment drying area.<br><br>Key administrative and regulatory activities have also progressed, with the Review of Environmental Factors finalised together with supporting management plans and concept designs for the pretreatment system, new irrigation areas and the dredging sequence. The detailed design for the irrigation system has been completed and submitted as part of the EPA licence amendment process, which is currently underway.<br><br>Detailed design of the pretreatment system and pond bank raising works is continuing. Planning and approvals activities remain a key focus to support delivery of the next phase of construction works and ensure the project remains aligned with regulatory requirements. | |

| ***Casino Industries Activation*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $13,798,498 | |
| **Funding Source** | Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund $9,969,000<br><br>Council Contribution $3,829,498 | |
| **Estimated Completion** | December 2026 | |
| **Financial Risk** - High | **Program Risk** - High | **Scope Risk -** High |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Casino Industries Activation project continue to progress, with Stage 1 road and pavement works for the roundabout now complete. Electrical and street lighting works are underway, and | |

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| | traffic has been switched to facilitate Stage 2 construction. Road excavation works and construction of the Patricia Street Road apron are currently in progress.<br><br>The internal infrastructure works are also advancing, with the compulsory acquisition process for a portion of the adjacent landholding continuing. Sewer construction has progressed to the second manhole, while the water main has been installed from Cassino Drive and capped at the roundabout to accommodate ongoing construction activities. Electrical works have commenced, including the removal of power poles and high voltage lines to facilitate future development works.<br><br>On Lot 1, bulk earthworks have commenced, with stripping works completed following delays associated with recent wet weather.<br><br>An extension of time for the project has been approved by the funding body until 31 December 2026.<br><br>The project continues to present a high level of financial, delivery and scope risk due to weather-related impacts and delays associated with third-party agencies. Regular liaison with the project steering committee and funding body is ongoing to monitor progress and implement mitigation measures. The length of Patricia Street is continually reviewed in line with projected budgets with a minimum deliverable being the activation of Lot 1. |

| ***Queen Elizabeth Park Rugby League Clubhouse*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $1,607,825 | |
| **Funding Source** | Community Assets Program (NSW & Federal Government) – administered by NSW Reconstruction Authority | |
| **Estimated Completion** | September 2026 | |
| **Financial Risk** - High | **Program Risk** - High | **Scope Risk -** High |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Queen Elizabeth Park Rugby League Clubhouse project continue to progress well, with the building now at lock-up stage. The contractor is progressing internal fit-out and finishing works and is working towards practical completion and opening of the facility by the end of August.<br><br>Construction of the remaining external civil and stormwater works is being finalised to support completion of the project, with minor finishing works to continue following opening of the facility.<br><br>The project continues to carry elevated financial, program and scope risks due to construction cost pressures and previous scope adjustments required to maintain delivery within the available funding allocation. Ongoing project monitoring and management is being undertaken to support successful project completion. | |

| ***Woodburn Pony and Tennis Clubhouse*** | |
|---|---|
| **Budget** | $840,000 |
| **Funding Source** | Community Assets Program (NSW & Federal Government) – administered by NSW Reconstruction Authority |
| **Estimated Completion** | March 2027 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Financial Risk** - High | **Program Risk** - High | **Scope Risk** - High |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Woodburn Pony and Tennis Clubhouse project continue to progress, with construction of the engineered earth mound required to meet revised flood compliance requirements delayed by ongoing wet weather and site conditions.<br><br>The clubhouse construction tender process has been completed, with submissions received and currently under negotiation. Discussions are focused on achieving an outcome that aligns with the available project budget while maintaining the intended project scope.<br><br>An extension of time for project delivery has been approved by the funding body until 31 March 2027, providing additional time to address delivery challenges associated with the revised compliant design and recent weather impacts.<br><br>The project continues to carry a high level of financial, program and scope risk due to funding constraints, delivery timeframes and the complexity of the revised flood-compliant design. Council continues to work closely with the funding body and project stakeholders to manage these risks and support successful delivery of the project. | |

| ***Airforce Beach Access and Carpark Upgrade*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $530,000 | |
| **Funding Source** | Office of Local Government (OLG): $330,000<br><br>Council Contribution: $200,000 | |
| **Estimated Completion** | March 2027 | |
| **Financial Risk** - Low | **Program Risk** - High | **Scope Risk -** Low |
| **Status Update** | Council has received the Crown Land license and is currently negotiating with the successful tenderer regarding pricing, given the delays experienced since the tender was submitted. The objective is to confirm that the tendered pricing remains valid and is reflective of current market conditions.<br><br>Concurrently, the project scope is being reviewed to ensure appropriate security measures are incorporated, including lighting, gate access, and CCTV provisions.<br><br>Consideration is also being given to future operational and security requirements to ensure the facility remains fit for purpose and to minimise the need for additional works in the future. This grant program was recently extended until mid-2027. | |

| ***Stan Payne Oval Lighting Upgrade*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $529,025 | |
| **Funding Source** | $200,000 from the NSW Government Office of Sport, $329,025 contributed by Council. | |
| **Estimated Completion** | October 2026 | |
| **Financial Risk** - Medium | **Program Risk** - Low | **Scope Risk -** Low |
| **Status Update** | The detailed lighting design has been finalised, and early works | |

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| | including underground service location and geotechnical investigations have been completed.<br><br>The contractor has mobilised to site and commenced trenching works on the eastern side of the field. Construction of the foundations will follow.<br><br>Progress has been impacted by ongoing wet weather, with saturated ground conditions limiting access and construction activities. |

| ***Woodburn Evans Head Shared Pathway*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $6,651,000 | |
| **Funding Source** | Transport for NSW Road Safety Program | |
| **Estimated Completion** | December 2026 | |
| **Financial Risk** - Medium | **Program Risk** - Medium | **Scope Risk -** Medium |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Woodburn Evans Head Shared Pathway project continue to progress, with pavement construction, concrete pathway installation and drainage works ongoing.<br><br>Concrete works on multiple sections of the pathway have been completed, while culvert construction continues, supported by inspections and quality assurance activities confirming compliance with design requirements.<br><br>Detailed design and geotechnical investigations for the pedestrian bridge have now been completed. Fabrication of the bridge is underway off site, with construction of the bridge foundations scheduled to commence in September and bridge installation to follow.<br><br>Progress on some elements of the project has been impacted by ongoing wet weather; however, works continue to advance across the site and the project remains focused on achieving the planned delivery program. | |

| ***Casino Sewer Treatment Plant*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $2,950,000 (2025/26 only) | |
| **Funding Source** | Sewer Reserve | |
| **Estimated Completion** | December 2026 | |
| **Financial Risk** - High | **Program Risk** - Low | **Scope Risk** - High |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Casino Sewer Treatment Plant project continue to progress, with the detailed design now reaching Issue for Tender (IFT) status. The design consultant has completed the bill of quantities, which is currently being reviewed by the project team.<br><br>Additional geotechnical investigations of the proposed treatment plant site and groundwater monitoring at the existing treatment plant site are continuing to support final project planning and design. The high voltage electrical design has been submitted to Essential Energy for approval, with a determination expected in the coming months.<br><br>Council continues to engage with regulatory agencies, including the | |

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| | EPA and DCCEEW, regarding the approval pathway for the project. Section 60 approval has not yet been received and remains contingent on addressing EPA concerns relating to the receiving waterways assessment. Manly Hydraulics Laboratory has completed a draft report to address these matters, which is currently being reviewed by the project team.<br><br>A request for quotation has been issued for a Traffic Impact Assessment. This assessment, together with the completed odour assessment, will support finalisation of the Review of Environmental Factors addendum.<br><br>The Casino Sewer Treatment Plant remains Council's priority sewer infrastructure project. The immediate focus is on progressing approvals and completing the remaining pre-construction activities required to position the project for future delivery. |

| ***Evans Head Sewer Treatment Plant – Stage 2*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $18,453,000 | |
| **Funding Source** | DCCEEW SSWP – 50% funded, Sewer Reserves 50% | |
| **Estimated Completion** | December 2027 | |
| **Financial Risk** - High | **Program Risk** - Medium | **Scope Risk -** Low |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Evans Head Sewer Treatment Plant Stage 2 project continue to progress, with the detailed design now finalised and the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) endorsed.<br><br>The Section 60 application documentation has also been finalised and submitted to DCCEEW for assessment. Council will continue to work closely with the department throughout the review process to support timely consideration of the application.<br><br>Construction tender documentation is being finalised in parallel with the Section 60 approval process, with tenders expected to be called between August and October 2026.<br><br>The target for construction commencement remains January 2027, with project completion scheduled for December 2027.<br><br>The project continues to be impacted by significant cost escalation experienced across the wastewater infrastructure sector since project inception, with cost estimates refined through successive design stages undertaken by Public Works. | |

| ***Casino Water Treatment Plant*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Budget** | $9,944,000 | |
| **Funding Source** | 50% Safe and Secure Funding Program, 50% Council Water Fund | |
| **Estimated Completion** | June 2028 | |
| **Financial Risk** - High | **Program Risk** - Medium | **Scope Risk** - Medium |
| **Status Update** | Works on the Casino Water Treatment Plant Augmentation project continue to progress, with the concept design phase now substantially complete. MJM Environmental has delivered the 100% Concept Design, with the final report submitted in late July. Feedback has been received from DCCEEW and an independent | |

| | |
|---|---|
| | peer review has been completed.<br><br>Supporting investigations have also progressed, with draft geotechnical and site survey reports completed to inform the next stage of project development.<br><br>Council has applied to the Disaster Ready Fund seeking funding assistance for the proposed PAC Dosing Plant, which forms part of the broader treatment plant upgrade.<br><br>A Section 60 pre-submission meeting has been held with DCCEEW, with the formal application anticipated to be lodged by the end of August. Following completion of the approval process, the project is expected to progress into detailed design and construction planning.<br><br>The project remains a key initiative to improve treatment performance and ensure a reliable, high-quality drinking water supply for the Casino community into the future. |

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## 19.3 SEWERAGE NETWORK INFLOW AND INFILTRATION ABATEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

**Director:** **Ben Zeller**

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Inflow and Infiltration Abatement Program Update

### REPORT

Council's Environment Protection Licence for the Casino Sewerage Treatment Plant requires regular reporting to the NSW Environment Protection Authority on actions being undertaken to reduce storm and ground water inflow and infiltration into the sewerage network. Council recently submitted its latest six-monthly progress report covering the period to 30 June 2026. This report provides Councillors with an overview of the work being undertaken and the progress achieved to date.

Inflow and infiltration occurs when rainwater or groundwater enters the sewerage network through cracked pipes, defective manholes, deteriorated junctions, illegal connections or pipe work faults on private property. This additional water can place significant pressure on the sewerage system during wet weather, increasing pumping and treatment costs, reducing available network capacity and increasing the risk of sewer overflows.

To address these issues, Council continues to implement a targeted program of inspections, repairs, rehabilitation works and monitoring improvements across the sewerage network. The program aims to identify defects, prioritise investment and better understand how the network responds during rainfall events so resources can be directed to areas of greatest need.

During the six-month period ending 30 June 2026, Council completed approximately 7.2km of CCTV inspections across the Richmond Valley sewerage network, including 5.6km within Casino. These inspections continue to provide valuable information on asset condition and help identify locations where rehabilitation or renewal works are required.

Council also completed 14 sewer junction repairs during the reporting period and undertook repair, or rehabilitation works on 33 sewer manholes. A further package of manhole rehabilitation works has been identified and is either planned or already underway. These works target known infiltration points and help improve the overall integrity of the sewer network.

The sewer renewal program has continued to progress, with relining works completed in a priority area of the Casino network. Council has also advanced a larger relining program covering more than 2km of sewer mains across several Casino catchments. Once delivered, these works will further reduce infiltration through ageing infrastructure and improve network performance during wet weather periods.

Council has continued to invest in monitoring and technology improvements to better measure the effectiveness of these programs. This includes upgrades to sewer pump station monitoring systems, improved flow monitoring capability and the deployment of sewer level sensors within priority catchments. These initiatives will provide better operational data and support future decision-making and investment planning.

Private property defects remain a significant source of stormwater entering the sewerage network. During the reporting period, Council completed smoke testing and inspections across 165 properties within a priority Casino catchment and continued follow-up actions with property owners where defects or potential illegal stormwater connections were identified. Council also continues to work with owners in previously inspected catchments to facilitate completion of outstanding repairs.

Council has also maintained its inspection and compliance program at a Casino caravan park, where several previously identified inflow and infiltration issues have now been rectified.

Remaining actions continue to be monitored through regular inspections and engagement with the site operator.

While reducing inflow and infiltration is a long-term challenge that will require ongoing investment over many years, Council is making steady progress through a combination of targeted investigations, network repairs, rehabilitation works and improved monitoring. This work is helping to improve the reliability and resilience of the sewerage system, reduce environmental risks and ensure available infrastructure capacity is used as efficiently as possible.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## 19.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2026 TO 31 JULY 2026

**Director:** **Tina Kao**

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Development Applications report for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 July 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 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 was seventeen (17) with a total value of $7,945,326.10.

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

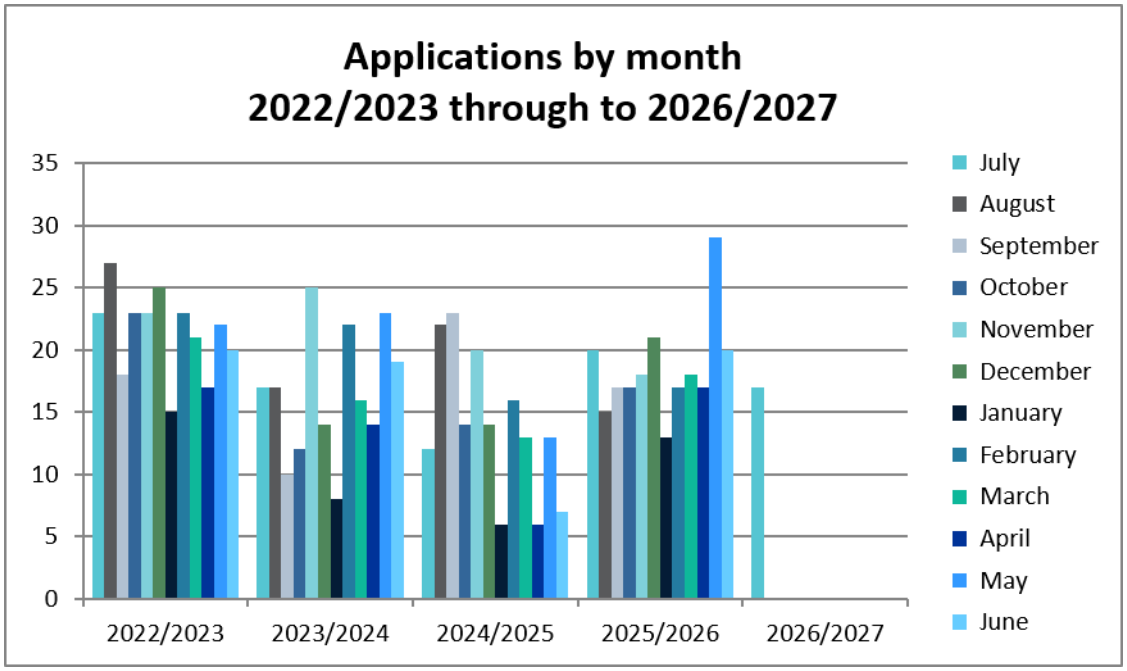



*Figure 1: Monthly number of development applications and CDC's processed by Council over five financial years.*

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 July 2026.

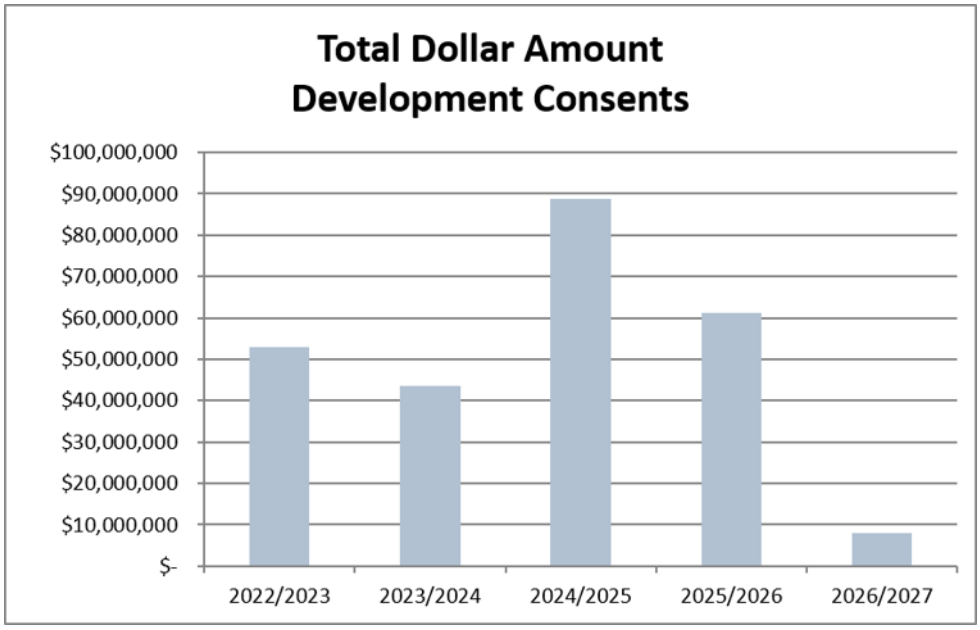



*Figure 2: Annual value of development*

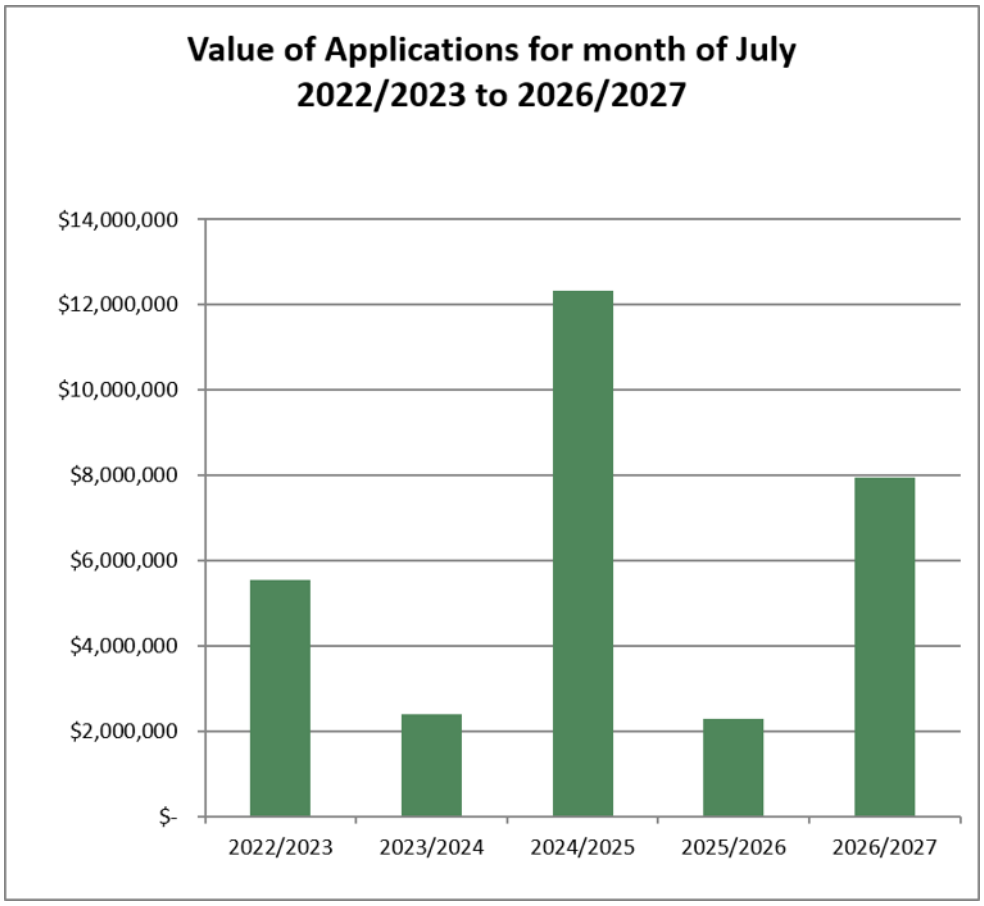



*Figure 3: Value of development for the month of June from 2022/2023 to 2026/2027*

| 2022/2023 | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 | 2026/2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | 17 | 12 | 20 | 17 |

*Table 1: Number of Applications for the month of June from 2022/2023 to 2026/2027*

**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.

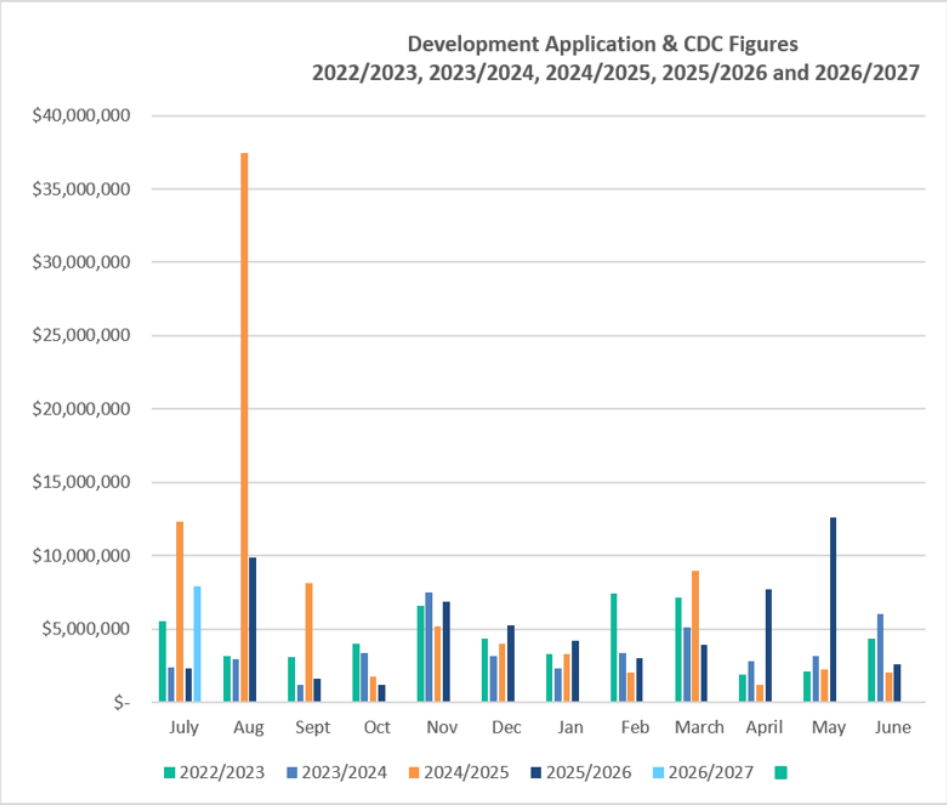



*Figure 4: Value of development applications per month over five financial years.*

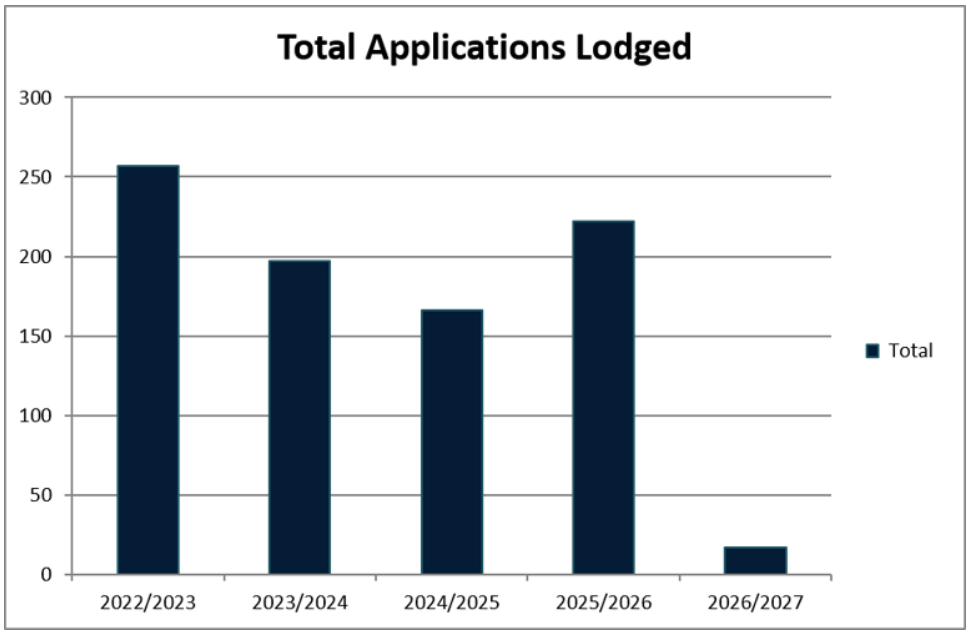



*Figure 5: Number of Development Applications & CDCs per annum over five financial years*

***Activity for the month of July 2026***

| | |
|---|---|
| General Approvals (excluding Subdivisions, Section 4.55) | 12 |
| Section 4.55 amendments to original consent | 1 |
| Operational Consent | - |
| Deferred Consent | - |
| Subdivision | - |
| Refused | - |
| Complying Development (Council Approved) | - |
| Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved) | 3 |
| Amended Complying Development (Private Certifier Approved) | 1 |
| **TOTAL NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED** | **17** |
| Rejected | **-** |
| Withdrawn | - |
| Surrendered | 1 |
| **Average assessment days for applications determined in July 2026 (Planning & Building Combined)** | **27** |
| **No. of Integrated development applications determined in July 2026** | **-** |
| **No. of Designated development applications determined in July 2026** | **-** |

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Application ID** | **Applicant** | **Owners** | **Location** | **Development** | **Date Received (In Portal)** | **Date Accepted (In Portal)** | **Determination Date** | **Estimated Cost $** |
| DA2026/0212 | S D Henderson | J E Cusack | 15 Wheat Street, Casino | Construction of new dwelling. | 29/04/2026 | 15/05/2026 | 08/07/2026 | 330,000.00 |
| DA2026/0213 | Craft Acquisition Pty Ltd | Hoppe Property Group Pty Ltd | 104-106 North Street, Casino | Demolition works, vegetation removal, and the construction of a food and drink premises with drive through and signage. | 29/04/2026 | 15/05/2026 | 14/07/2026 | 4,203,831.00 |
| DA2026/0244 | Play Design Studio | Karl's Transport Pty Ltd | 160 Swan Bay School Road, Swan Bay | Construction of a new steel framed rural farm shed. | 3/06/2026 | 16/06/2026 | 31/07/2026 | 117,700.00 |
| DA2026/0245 | Ardill Payne & Partners | E J Gambley | 30 Paddon Street, Broadwater | Proposed construction of a detached dual occupancy and associated works. | 3/06/2026 | 18/06/2026 | 21/07/2026 | 450,000.00 |
| DA2026/0249 | D A Griffin | D A Griffin & K P Bieleny | 14 Ferry Road, East Coraki | New two storey dwelling. | 9/06/2026 | 16/06/2026 | 31/07/2026 | 247,500.00 |
| DA2026/0250 | A L Watson | B W & A L Watson | 21 Flatley Place, North Casino | Construction of a new shed and fibreglass swimming pool with associated fencing. | 9/06/2026 | 25/06/2026 | 23/07/2026 | 96,250.00 |
| DA2026/0254 | J E Fadelli | J E Fadelli | 22 Nowlan Place, North Casino | Construction of shed including request to vary RVDCP. | 15/06/2026 | 18/06/2026 | 21/07/2026 | 49,500.00 |
| DA2026/0256 | T McLaren | T McLaren & R S Loadsman | 108 Woodburn Street, Evans Head | Construction of a single storey dwelling, freestanding shed, ancillary works and landscaping. | 17/06/2026 | 18/06/2026 | 17/07/2026 | 860,574.00 |

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 (Cont'd) | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Application ID** | **Applicant** | **Owners** | **Location** | **Development** | **Date Received (In Portal)** | **Date Accepted (In Portal)** | **Determination Date** | **Estimated Cost $** |
| DA2026/0257 | JtB Drafting | C M & V C Taylor | 30 Fairway Drive, Casino | Extensions & internal alterations to existing double storey dwelling, including construction of a new pool & spa. | 18/06/2026 | 23/06/2026 | 31/07/2026 | 409,200.00 |
| DA2026/0259 | Newton Denny Chapelle | J Kruse | 21-25 Hickey Street, Casino | Proposed relocation of a residential dwelling & construction of a carport - Lot 33. | 22/06/2026 | 25/06/2026 | 24/07/2026 | 422,946.00 |
| DA2026/0260 | Newton Denny Chapelle | J Kruse | 21-25 Hickey Street, Casino | Proposed relocation of a residential dwelling & construction of a carport - Lot 34. | 22/06/2026 | 25/06/2026 | 29/07/2026 | 352,405.00 |
| MA2026/0032 | R J Hayes | M P & E J Rose | 17 Wirraway Avenue, Evans Head | S4.55 (1A) Modification to approved detached storage garage/shed, increasing the size and adjusting the site position. | 29/06/2026 | 3/07/2026 | 27/07/2026 | 93,500.00 |

| Summary of Council Certified Complying Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 July 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 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Application ID** | **Applicant** | **Owners** | **Location** | **Development** | **Date Received (In Portal)** | **Date Accepted (In Portal)** | **Determination Date** | **Estimated Cost** |
| DA2026/0233 | Barker Architects | D L Trustum | 925 Woodburn Coraki Road, Swan Bay | Raising and relocating an existing dwelling, construction of new entry stairs and covered deck including a variation to the RVCDCP. | 22/05/2026 | 4/06/2026 | 01/07/2026 | 112,520.10 |

| Summary of Privately Certified Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Application ID** | **Applicant** | **Owners** | **Location** | **Development** | **Date Submitted to Council for Registration** | **Date Accepted** | **Determination Date** | **Estimated Cost** |
| MA2027/0001 | Buildcert Certification Pty Ltd | G M & G F Bebb | 5 Cedar Street, Evans Head | Demolition of existing shed & erection of detached steel framed shed. | 1/07/2026 | 01/07/2026 | 01/07/2026 | 65,000.00 |
| CDC2027/0002 | The Trustee for The BSGM Unit Trust | JP Benson Pty Ltd | 169 Canterbury Street, Casino | Removal of redundant exit sign. | 13/07/2026 | 13/07/2026 | 13/07/2026 | 4,400.00 |
| CDC2027/0003 | Techton Building Services | The Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust | 93 Manifold Road, North Cassino | Alterations & Extensions to Existing School Building to Create a New Awning Roof. | 21/07/2026 | 21/07/2026 | 21/07/2026 | 90,000.00 |
| CDC2027/0005 | Buildcert Certification Pty Ltd | T McLaren & R S Loadsman | 108 Woodburn Street, Evans Head | Demolition of a Dwelling & Carport. | 30/07/2026 | 30/07/2026 | 30/07/2026 | 40,000.00 |

| Summary of Development Applications determined under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act with a Clause 4.6 Variation for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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 July 2026 to 31 July 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 July 2026 to 31 July 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 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Application ID** | **Applicant** | **Owners** | **Location** | **Development** | **Date Received (in Portal)** | **Date Accepted (In Portal)** | **Date Withdrawn** | **Estimated Cost** |
| Nil | | | | | | | | |

## 19.5 GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION REPORT - JULY 2026

**Director:** **Ryan Gaiter**

**Responsible Officer:** **Rylee Vidler**

### RECOMMENDATION

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

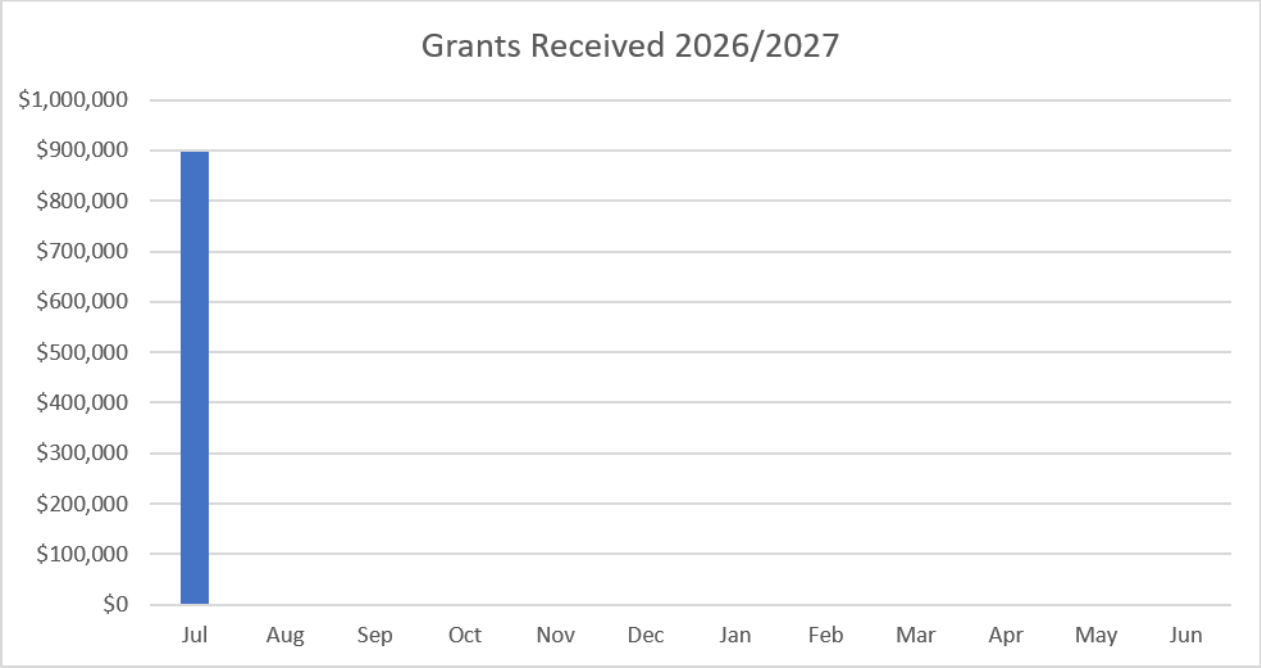
### REPORT

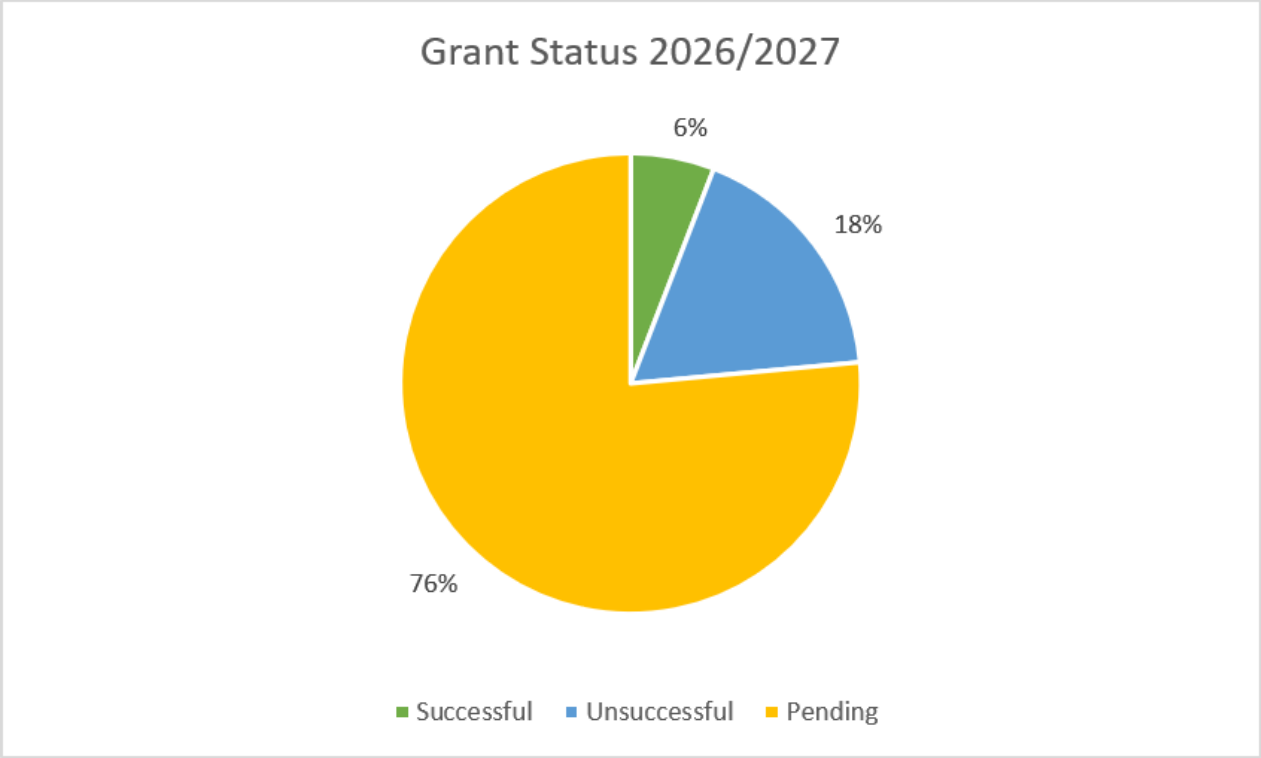
This report provides information on grant applications that have been approved, grants that have been received, grant applications that were unsuccessful and grant applications that were submitted for the month of July 2026.

During the reporting period, Council was notified of one successful application and three unsuccessful applications. Council submitted seven new applications during July.

Council received $898,428 during July for approved grants.

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


Grants Received 2026/2027
$1,000,000
$900,000
$800,000
$700,000
$600,000
$500,000
$400,000
$300,000
$200,000
$100,000
$0
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun


Grant Status 2026/2027
6%
18%
76%
Successful
Unsuccessful
Pending

***Grants that have been approved***

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Date Approved |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Regional Event Fund Program 26/27 Flagship Stream - Casino Truck Show 2026 | Destination NSW (State) | Regional Event Fund 2026/2027 Flagship Stream | $ 20,000 | $ 20,000 | $ - | 10 April 2026 | 1 July 2026 |
| Comment: This funding will be invested in targeted marketing initiatives for the 2026 Casino Truck Show, including digital advertising, professional photography and videography. | | | | | | | |

***Unsuccessful Grant Applications***

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Advised Unsuccessful |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Design of the Cassia Street Shared Path Evans Head | Transport for NSW (State) | Get NSW Active | $ 40,700 | $ 40,700 | $ - | 12 December 2025 | 2 July 2026 |
| Comment: Funding was oversubscribed with 244 applications submitted and 79 projects awarded. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Design of the Casino Active Transport Corridor | Transport for NSW (State) | Get NSW Active | $ 278,300 | $ 278,300 | $ - | 12 December 2025 | 2 July 2026 |
| Comment: Funding was oversubscribed with 244 applications submitted and 79 projects awarded. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Design of Shared Pathway from Woodburn to Broadwater | Transport for NSW (State) | Get NSW Active | $ 368,000 | $ 368,000 | $ - | 12 December 2025 | 2 July 2026 |
| Comment: Funding was oversubscribed with 244 applications submitted and 79 projects awarded. | | | | | | | |

***Grant Applications Submitted***

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Casino Water Treatment Plant - Powdered Activated Carbon System Replacement | NSW Reconstruction Authority (State) | Disaster Ready Fund - Round 4 | $ 6,329,408 | $3,164,704 | $ 3,164,704 | 1 July 2026 |
| Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to relocate the Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) dosing plant to Casino WTP. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Stan Payne Oval Restoration and Upgrades | Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (Federal) | Game On: Teaming up for Climate Action | $ 122,665 | $ 122,665 | $ - | 13 July 2026 |
| Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to restore Stan Payne Oval grandstand roof. | | | | | | |

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Woodburn Oval Public Toilets Upgrades | Department of Communities and Justice (State) | Community Building Partnership | $ 45,000 | $ 22,500 | $ 22,500 | 17 July 2026 |
| Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to update the public toilet facilities at Woodburn Oval. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Ongoing weed management and maintenance of replanted areas at Airforce Beach, Evans Head | NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (State) | Crown Reserves Improvement Fund - Weeds 2026-27 | $ 8,640 | $ 8,640 | $ - | 23 July 2026 |
| Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to fund the ongoing maintenance of the replanted areas at Airforce Beach. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Increase Water Security for Casino Racecourse and Showground | NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (State) | Crown Reserves Improvement Fund - General 2026-27 | $ 437,092 | $ 437,092 | $ - | 24 July 2026 |
| Comment: If successful, this funding will allow Council to install two 245,000L water tanks, stormwater and irrigation pipelines, electric pumps and a pump shelter to boost on-site water storage. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Evans Head SLSC Irrigation and Access Upgrade | NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (State) | Crown Reserves Improvement Fund - General 2026-27 | $ 56,500 | $ 56,500 | $ - | 24 July 2026 |
| Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to install irrigation and lay new turf at Evans Head Surf Life Saving Club. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Betterment of Casino Rugby League Clubhouse | NSW Rugby League (Other) | NSWRL Infrastructure Investment Fund - Round 2 | $ 1,750,692 | $ 142,867 | $ 1,607,825 | 28 July 2026 |
| Comment: If successful, this funding will be used to fund stormwater drainage works in conjunction with the betterment of the Queen Elizabeth Park rugby league clubhouse. | | | | | | |

***Grants that have been received***

| Project Name | Funding Body | Funding Name | Project Value | Grant Funding | Council Funding | Application Submitted | Date Received | Total Received |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Upgrading Albert Park Tourist Stopover Casino and Shark Bay Evans Head | Department of Regional NSW (State) | Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5 | $ 1,213,000 | $ 1,213,000 | $ - | 23 September 2022 | $ 242,600<br>9 July 2026 | $ 1,213,000 |
| Comment: Final payment received for completion of project. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| AGRN1198 - Emergency Works | NSW Reconstruction Authority (State) | Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) | $ 785,825 | $ 681,250 | $ 104,575 | Various dates | $ 497,441<br>13 July 2026 | $ 681,250 |
| Comment: Payment received for emergency works completed post Cyclone Alfred event. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| St Joseph's Primary School | Transport for NSW (State) | School Zone Transfer | $ 56,251 | $ 56,251 | $ - | N/A | $ 56,251<br>15 July 2026 | $ 56,251 |
| Comment: Payment received for works completed. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| AGRN1198 - Emergency Works | NSW Reconstruction Authority (State) | Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) | $ 785,825 | $ 681,250 | $ 104,575 | Various dates | $ 90,587<br>17 July 2026 | $ 681,250 |
| Comment: Payment received for emergency works completed post Cyclone Alfred event. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| AGRN1198 - Cyclone Alfred Recovery | NSW Reconstruction Authority (State) | Community Recovery Support Fund | $ 549,300 | $ 549,300 | $ - | N/A | $ 11,549<br>24 July 2026 | $ 181,549 |
| Comment: Second instalment of funding for recovery works following Cyclone Alfred. | | | | | | | | |

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**Nil**

## 20 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

## 21 QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING (IN WRITING)

## 22 MATTERS REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil

## 23 RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED COUNCIL