



Bland Shire Council

Business Paper

Ordinary Council Meeting

21 April 2020



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
A guiding checklist for Councillors, Officers and Advisory Committees

Ethical Decision Making

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Could your possible conflict of interest lead to private gain or loss at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

Conflict of Interest

- A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict: Pecuniary – regulated by the Local Government Act and Office of Local Government and, Non-pecuniary – regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Office of Local Government (advice only).

The test for conflict of interest

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of "corruption" – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest

Identifying Problems

- 1st - Do I have private interest affected by a matter I am officially involved in?
2nd - Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
3rd - Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

Agency Advice

Officers of the following agencies are available during office hours to discuss the obligations placed on Councillors, Officers and Advisory Committee members by various pieces of legislation, regulation and Codes.

Contact	Phone	Email	Website
Bland Shire Council	6972 2266	council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au	www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au
ICAC	8281 5999 Toll Free: 1800 463 909	icac@icac.nsw.gov.au	www.icac.nsw.gov.au
Office of Local Government	4428 4100	olg@olg.nsw.gov.au	www.olg.nsw.gov.au
NSW Ombudsman	9286 1000 Toll Free: 1800 451 524	nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au	www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

Common Acronyms Used in Bland Shire Council Reports and Documents

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACAT	Aged Care Assessment Team
AFZ	Alcohol Free Zone
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ALIA	Australian Library and Information Association
AMP	Asset Management Plan
AMRC	NSW Association of Mining Related Councils
BCA	Building Code of Australia
BDCP	Bland Development Control Plan
BEC	Business Enterprise Centre
BFMC	Bush Fire Management Committee
BFMP	Bush Fire Management Plan
BSC	Bland Shire Council
BWW	Business West Wyalong
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CBD	Central Business District
CDAT	Community Drug Action Team
CDO	Community Development Officer
CENTROC	Central West Regional Group of Councils
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIV	Capital Improved Value
CLRS	Councillors
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPP	Cowal Partnering Program
Cr	Councillor
CRO	Community Relations Officer
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CSU	Childrens Services Unit
CT	Community Technology
CWA	Country Women's Association
DA	Development Application
DAES	Director Asset & Engineering Services
DCCDS	Director Corporate, Community & Development Services
DCCS	Director Corporate & Community Services
DCP	Development Control Plan
DTS	Director Technical Services
DEMO	District Emergency Management Officer
DEOCON	District Emergency Controller

DisPlan	Disaster Plan (Local DisPlan, District DisPlan, State DisPlan)
DP	Delivery Program
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
DWMC	Domestic Waste Management Charges
DWMS	Domestic Waste Management Services
EA	Executive Assistant
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
ED	Economic Development
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EFO	Electoral Funding Authority
EOI	Expression of Interest
EPAA	Environmental Planning & Assessment Act
ERA	Eastern Riverina Arts
EWSA	Educator Workplace Safety Audit
EWV	Events West Wyalong
EYLF	Early Years Learning Framework
FAG	Financial Assistance Grant
FDC	Family Day Care
FFTF	Fit for the Future
FRRR	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
FYI	For your information
GHMS	Grain Harvest Management Scheme
GIPA	Government Information (Public Access) Act
GM	General Manager
GTAN	Government Training & Assistance Network
GWCC	Goldenfields Water County Council
HACC	Home and Community Care
HR	Human Resources
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
IPART	Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
IPR or IP&R	Integrated Planning and Reporting
ITAV	It Takes A Village Program
JO	Joint Organisation
K&G	Kerb and gutter
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LALC	Local Aboriginal Lands Council
LBDC	Little Bangs Discovery Club
LCCMCAC	Lake Cowal Gold Mine Closure Advisory Committee
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee

LEMO	Local Emergency Management Officer
LEOC	Local Emergency Operations Centre
LEOCON	Local Emergency Operations Controller
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LG	Local Government
LGA	Local Government Act or Local Government Area
LGNSW	Local Government New South Wales
LIAC	Legal Information Access Centre
LTFP	Long Term Financial Plan
M	Million
Manex	Management Executive
MHDA	Mental Health Drug & Alcohol
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
MML	Murrumbidgee Medicare Local
MOW	Meals on Wheels
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MPHN	Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network
MPR	Multi Purpose Room
MR	Main Road
MRU	Mobile Resource Unit
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal & Islander Observance Committee
NFAR	No further action required
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NQF	National Quality Framework
NSRF	National Stronger Regions Fund
NSWEC	New South Wales Electoral Commission
NSWPLA	New South Wales Public Libraries Association
NSWRFS	NSW Rural Fire Service
OGM	Office of the General Manager
OLG	Office of Local Government
OP	Operational Plan
P&G	Parks & Gardens
PA	Per Annum
PC	Personal Computer
PCBU	Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking
PHaMs	Personal Helpers and Mentors
PLA	Public Library Association
POEO	Protection of the Environment Operations Act & Regulations

PSITAB	NSW Public Sector Industry Advisory Board
PSSA	NSW Primary Schools Sports Association
QBRS	Quarterly Budget Review Statement
R2R	Roads to Recovery
Rd	Road
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RDO	Rostered Day Off
Rec	Recreation
REROC	Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
RFBI	Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RMAP	Risk Management Action Plan
RMS	Roads & Maritime Services
RRL	Riverina Regional Library

RTO	Registered Training Organisation
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SEDTA	Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SES	State Emergency Service
SH	State Highway
SLA	Service-level agreement
SLNSW	State Library New South Wales
SRC	Summer Reading Club
SRV	Special Rate Variation
St	Street
STW	Sewerage Treatment Works
TASAC	Tourist Attraction Signposting Assessment Committee
TCORP	Treasury Corporation

TSR	Travelling stock route
TVET	TAFE Delivered Vocational Education & Training
USU	United Services Union
UV	Unimproved Value
VC	Victoria Cross
VIC	Visitor Information Centre
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement
WAPS	Workforce Assessment Plan & Strategy
WHS	Work Health & Safety
WWBC	West Wyalong Bowling Club
WWFHG	West Wyalong Family History Group
WWRL	West Wyalong Rugby League

21 April 2020

commencing at 6:30PM

Council advises that an audio recording of the proceedings of this meeting will be taken and made publicly available on the website. It should be noted however that the recording quality will be affected due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

1.0 OPENING MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Let us acknowledge the Wiradjuri people, their elders past and present, traditional custodians of the land we now share.

Let us be inspired by the resilience, innovation and perseverance of past generations.

*Let us honour those who protect this great land,
may you draw strength from your God or Faith*

*so that we may, here today, on behalf of our community, - build a vibrant future together.
("Pause for Reflection").*

2.0 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

2.1 Attendance

Councillors

Cr Bruce Baker
Cr Rodney Crowe
Cr Penny English
Cr Kerry Keatley
Cr Tony Lord
Cr Liz McGlynn
Cr Brian Monaghan
Cr Murray Thomas
Cr Jan Wyse

Staff

General Manager – Ray Smith
Director Technical Services – Will Marsh
Director Corporate & Community Services - Alison Balind
Executive Assistant – Julie Sharpe

2.2 Apologies

2.3 Applications for a leave of absence by Councillors

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Meeting held on 17 March 2020

- **Corrections**
- **Business Arising**
- **Confirmation**

4.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor/ Officer	Item	Nature of Interest	How Managed
		<input type="radio"/> Non-Pecuniary <input type="radio"/> Pecuniary	<input type="radio"/> Verbal Disclosure <input type="radio"/> Written Disclosure <input type="radio"/> Left meeting

5.0 PRESENTATION(S) AND PUBLIC FORUM

5.1 Presentations to Staff

6.0 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

7.0 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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2020/2021 34

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9.0 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.0 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Closure of the meeting to discuss confidential business under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act

10.1 Request for the Waiver of Rent Payments – Covid-19

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A (2))

The matters and information are the following:

(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,

10.2 Application Under Council's Financial Hardship Policy

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A (2))

The matters and information are the following:

(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,

10.3 Business Assistance Application - Resubmitted

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A (2))

The matters and information are the following:

c) Information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

10.4 West Wyalong/Wyalong Flood Study

Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A (2))

The matters and information are the following:

c) Information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

Resumption of the meeting and consideration of recommendations of the Closed section of the meeting

11.0 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.6 Regular consultation with key industry, business and stakeholders

Committee	Date/s	Minutes attached
Australia Day Awards Committee of the Whole <i>(Whole Council)</i>		
Australian Rural Roads Group Inc <i>(Mayor Monaghan, Cr McGlynn - alternate, Cr Thomas - alternate)</i>		
Bland Rural Fire District Zone Liaison Committee <i>(Cr Keatley)</i>	25 th September 2019 25 th March 2020	✓
Bland – Temora RFS Zone Bushfire Management Committee <i>(Cr Baker)</i>	25 th March 2020	
Community Reference Group <i>(Whole Council)</i>		
Country Mayors Association of NSW <i>(Mayor Monaghan)</i>	29 th May 2020	
Cowal Gold Project Community Environmental Monitoring & Consultative Committee (CEMCC) <i>(Mayor Monaghan, Cr Thomas - alternate)</i>	4 th March 2020	✓
Goldenfields Water County Council Board <i>(Cr McGlynn)</i>	23 rd April 2020	
Internal Audit Committee		
Lachlan Valley Noxious Plants Advisory Committee <i>(Cr Crowe)</i>		
Local Traffic Advisory Committee		
Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network Board <i>(Cr Monaghan)</i>		

Newell Highway Taskforce <i>(Cr Lord)</i>		
NSW Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils (MERC) <i>(Cr McGlynn, Cr Thomas - alternate)</i>	7 th & 8 th May 2020	
NSW Public Libraries Association <i>(Cr Wyse)</i>		
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) <i>(Mayor Monaghan)</i>	23 rd April 2020	
Riverina Joint Organisation <i>(Mayor Monaghan)</i>	23 rd April 2020	
Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee <i>(Cr Wyse)</i>		

Recommendation:

That the Council receive and note the delegate and committee reports from Councillors and Committee meeting minutes as presented.



BTZ LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting:	BTZ Liaison Committee Meeting
Convened by:	Trevor Reeves
Attendees:	Trevor Reeves, Cheryl Noble, Trevor Penfold, Jeff Gould, Will Marsh & Steve Firth
Location:	Bland Fire Control Centre
Date and time:	Wednesday 25 th September 2019
Apologies:	Garry Lavelle, Ray Smith & Steve Holden
Minutes by:	Cheryl Noble

MINUTES

1 – Welcome

Trevor Reeves welcomed everyone to today's Liaison Committee Meeting.

2 – Apologies

Trevor Reeves asked if there were any apologies for today's meeting. These were noted and placed in the Minutes.

3 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Trevor asked if everyone had received a copy of the previous minutes. All present had a copy.

Motion: The minutes from the BTZ Liaison Committee Meeting on Wednesday 27th March 2019, are a true and correct record of that meeting. Moved by Will Marsh & Seconded by Jeff Gould

4 – Business arising from previous meeting

Trevor asked if there were any business arising from the meeting on Wednesday 27th March 2019. No items were brought forward.

5 – Commencement of 2019/2020 fire season

The BTZ Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting was held earlier today, and Trevor advised that the BFMC adopted that the BTZ Bush Fire Danger Period commences on 1st October 2019.

Notifications will be placed in the local papers and the BTZ FaceBook page. We will also advise both Councils, neighbouring RFS Districts, Group Captains, Captains and our Permit Issuing Officers.

6 – Finance

Trevor Reeves gave all present a copy of the 2018-2019 M&R Report. Explained the figures for both Bland & Temora reports. There are two claims still to be submitted one for RFSA Grant and Thanowring Station project.

Jeff Gould asked if Temora was always overspent. Trevor Reeves advised that the cause of this has been due to the Temora FCC being the main office and additional cost to electricity, stationary, phones etc.

Trevor Reeves advised that Renee Williams from RFS Region West Office has not received any advice from the Minister on the approved allocations for 2019 – 2020.

In the 2019-2020 Budget we requested;

- \$180,000 to build a new station at Bland Creek
- \$60,000 for new toilet facilities at Tallimba Station
- \$80,000 to improve facilities at Temora FCC and Thanowring Station. .

7. Stations

Bland Creek Station - Trevor Reeves meet with both Ray and Gary Penfold and pegged out a suitable location for the new Bland Creek station site. The tender process has commencement and Steve and Brogan will have a look at the tenders next week. The station will be two bays - 2A with Kitchenette and toilet facility. The estimated finish date for this project is mid April 2020.

Tallimba Station Toilet Facility – Jonathon Mackenzie suggested that we hold off until speaking to Steve Holden about this project, and would like Steve to speak to the Brigade before any work commences.

Temora FCC & Thanowring project – We have already spent \$16,000 on air-conditioning in the Thanowring Station. These improvements will allow the Incident Management Team to make better use of the area during a S44.

8 – Fleet

The BTZ tanker servicing has been contracted to Temora Truck and Tractor in Temora and Harry Grayland at Barmedman Motors.

Trevor Reeves informed the meeting that

Trevor advised that we have experienced additional expenses in this financial year, due to defects in two of our Bland tankers - one with a diff problem and another with a transfer case problem.

Jeff advised that one tanker was returned from its service and the fuel light was one.

Trevor has received nothing but positive reports from the tanker servicing and believes that this has been working extremely well.

Fleet replacement – 2018-1019 Aria Park and Morangarell Brigade new Cat 1 tankers and engineering could not guarantee the delivery of these. It is looking like these May come in May 2020. Trevor spoke to Andrew Cantrell and they are working hard at getting through the back log of tankers.

9 - 2018-2019 District Business Plan

Trevor gave all present a copy of the business plan and explained the outcomes.

Trevor will send an email copy to the Business Plan and finances to Steve Firth and Garry Lavelle at Temora Shire Council.

10. Work Health and safety

Trevor Reeves advised that he has not received any issues during his time as the Acting Zone Manager.

Trevor Penfold – discussed the new rules for 40km speed limits around emergency vehicles.

Trevor Reeves thought that the new red and blue flashing beacons that were placed in the Group Vehicle were a great idea. Bruce suggested we also place beacons in the HQ tankers.

11. General Business

A Basic Fire Fighter Course will be at the Bland Fire Control Centre on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29th September, and we have received good volunteer numbers wishing to attend.

Trevor Reeves advised that he received a letter from Blow Clear - Wamboyne Brigade in relation to concerns with fuel load and fire breaks. Trevor discussed this issue with Jeff Gould and when Steve Holden returns next week, Trevor will brief Steve on their concerns.

Trevor Penfold asked if we are looking at doing Pre Incident Plans for the two chicken farms in Temora, and suggested that we have an onsite meeting with them. Trevor Reeves advised that we will be looking into these.

Meeting Closed 13:20

Next Meeting

Date	Start	Finish	Location
Wednesday 25 th March 2020	12:45	14:45	Bland Fire Control Centre

MINUTES OF MEETING
Cowal Gold Operations
Community Environmental Monitoring
and Consultative Committee (CEMCC)

Date: Wednesday 4 March 2020
Time: 9.08 am – 9.52 am EMCC – WCC Condobolin
Minutes taken by: Kathryn Conroy

Attendees:

Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews (LA)
Evolution:	Greg Walker (GW) Danielle Wallace (DW) Kathryn Conroy (KC) Renee Pettit (RP)
Community Members:	Lucy Buttenshaw (LB), Angus Stitt (AS), Kate Dean (KD) Bruce Dent (BD)
Bland Shire Council:	Nil representative
Forbes Shire Council:	Nil representative
Lachlan Shire:	Cr Dennis Brady (DB)
Independent Environmental Scientist	Max Finlayson (MF)

Apologies: Cr Brian Monaghan, Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, Chris Roylance and Ally Coe.

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Independent Chair, LA, opened the meeting at 9:08am and thanked all members for coming and to the Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation for providing the venue. LA introduced GW, Evolution Mining Cowal's new General Manager (Interim) and welcomed him to the CEMCC.</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interest</p> <p>LA advised there were no changes to previous declarations by CEMCC members, nor to hers; Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and she receives payment via a Trust established by the Bland Shire Council for her work as Chair of the CEMCC.</p> <p>Renee Pettit (RP) completed a declaration statement.</p>	No changes to members previous declarations.
<p>3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes</p> <p>Moved by LB (LB), seconded by Bruce Dent (BD)</p>	
<p>4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>ACTION ITEMS:</p>	

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	
1	LA to send declaration to KC (Complete – received 19/12/19)	LA	<p>2: DW to review acronyms list and add any additional items required to next presentation (ongoing).</p> <p>3: DW and RP to continue to respond to concerns raised by near neighbor re blast and close out business owners.</p>
2	Provide additional acronyms in the next slide deck for the CEMCC members. (DW included acronym list presentation – any additional items to be included as an ongoing action).	DW	
3	KC and DW to respond to concerns raised by near neighbor re blast and close out business owner concerns. (DW advised that Evolution is investigating options to provide noise mitigation to relevant properties. Ongoing but compliant with consent limits. KC advised consultation between business owners and car parking is continuing. Monitoring to resolve issue with consideration of alternative parking options should complaints continue.)	DW & KC	
4	Further discussion to be had at the next CEMCC meeting regarding the community engagement approach to the consultation in relation to approvals (included in presentation).	DW & KC	
<p>5. Correspondence (as emailed with the meeting notice on 17/2/20 with 1 additional item.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/12/19– Email to members with the draft minutes for review/comment. 19/12/19 – Email from KC with the completed declaration forms. 20/12/19 – Email to members with the final draft. 17/2/20 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report. 2/3/20 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting. 			
<p>6. Reports</p> <p>DW provided a detailed account of Cowal Gold Operations (CGO's) Environment Department's activities over the last quarter.</p> <p>KC provided details on the activities undertaken by the Social Responsibility Department in the last quarter.</p> <p>DW provided details on current status of approvals.</p>			<p>See attached presentation for further details.</p> <p>Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation.</p> <p>Action: DW to update CEMCC once WAD CN investigation completed.</p>
<p>7. General Business</p> <p>Perception Survey, initiative from Evolution, very proactive, interviews starting from Friday 13 March 2020. LA advised that she had spoken with Deloitte as chair of the CEMCC (stakeholder group). KD also stated that she had been interviewed.</p>			

<p>DB thanked Evolution for financial assistance during current drought conditions.</p> <p>RDA social media workshop in Condobolin sponsored by Evolution was commended on content. It was expressed that it would be very beneficial to local businesses online presence during tough times.</p> <p>GW Interim GM introduced himself with his background, goals & attraction to Evolution Cowal. GW noted a strong community engagement and will work hard to enhance this relationship with the community.</p> <p>KC informed committee of her resignation due to personal reasons and thanked members for support.</p>	
<p>8. Next Meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday, 3 June 2020 at Forbes Shire Council (Chambers) commencing at 9am.</p> <p>Following dates: 26 August – On site 2 December – ECCC, West Wyalong.</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.52am with LA thanking all for their attendance.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Add acronyms to list as they arise (ongoing)	DW
2	DW and RP to respond to concerns raised by near neighbor re blast and close out business owner concerns	DW and RP
3	DW to update CEMCC once WAD CN investigations completed.	DW

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Section 1 - Office of the General Manager

8.1 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update – April 2020



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.2 Ensure councillors take ownership and a strong leadership role.

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Compliance

The current status, as far as it affects the Bland Shire Council, is that all directions from the NSW State and the Commonwealth Governments, including directions contained in the Public Health Orders, have been complied with.

Covid-19 Action Plan

Council will also be aware of the establishment of a team of staff who have developed and are implementing a Covid-19 Action Plan to ensure the safety of staff and the community as well as ensuring the ongoing operations of council.

The Action Plan includes the identification of critical positions and services and we have developed a hierarchy of delegations in the event that there is a total shutdown.

Delegations

I believe that it is also necessary for council to delegate authority to the Mayor and General Manager to make any urgent decisions specifically in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic that is in the best interests of council and the community. This would be a limited delegation only for the duration of the current pandemic and would require a report back to council on any such decisions having been made.

Communication

There has been regular communiques distributed to all staff to keep them up-to-date with the ever changing situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. I have also attended a number of meetings at the Council depot to keep the outdoor staff informed of all aspects of this situation.

Council's website and Facebook Page are constantly being updated with the latest information for our community.

Partial Cessation of Works

There will be a partial cessation of some outdoor operations from 14-17 April 2020 as a consequence of the Covid-19 situation. Those staff affected by this will be on special leave although some staff have opted to take annual leave. This is because whilst staff are on special that are to remain 'fit for work' as they may be called back to undertake other duties.

Child Care Centres

Council would be aware of the decision by the Commonwealth Government to make all child care free during the pandemic. This had an adverse financial effect on all local council run child care centres. In the case of Bland Shire we were anticipating a loss of up to \$100,000.00 over a six month period. This is because local government employees are not eligible for the JobKeeper allowance and there was no subsidy available to local council run centres.

Fortunately, the NSW State Government has come to the rescue with the following funding as announced by the Minister for Local Government on 9 April:

"I am pleased to announce the NSW Government has committed up to \$82 million to support our 260 council-run childcare centres.

As you are aware council-run childcare facilities were unable to access the Commonwealth's JobKeeper payment scheme, resulting in a significant funding shortfall for the largest providers of childcare facilities in New South Wales.

This new funding will provide councils with certainty during an unpredictable time, ensuring childcare educators can be confident they will remain employed. Families and children can now also be assured that their preschool service will continue to operate, providing some familiarity for them during these trying times".

Financial Implications

There will undoubtedly be costs to council associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, however, Bland Shire Council is in a strong financial position compared to many other NSW councils. Nevertheless, Council should be supporting all lobbying efforts for a specific stimulus package for the local government sector across Australia.

There is also a 'splinter award currently being negotiated between the relevant unions and LGNSW, the intent of which is to provide NSW councils with greater flexibility when dealing with industrial relations matters. Full details of the interim award were not available at the time of preparing this report, however I expect to have that information by the evening of the council meeting.

Summary

I have participated in numerous webinars over the past few weeks including those run by the NSW OLG, LGNSW, Local Government Professionals NSW, Local Government Professionals Australia and MLHD. There is a plethora of information being disseminated and at this stage I am confident that Council is well placed to deal with this ever changing situation.

There is no doubt that the situation will have changed by the evening of the council meeting and I will be happy to provide any further verbal updates at that time.

Recommendation:

- 1 That the report on the current status of the Covid-19 pandemic, as it relates to the Bland Shire, is received and noted:**
- 2 That the Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority to make any urgent decisions specifically in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic that is in the best interests of council and the community and that this be a limited delegation only for the duration of the current pandemic and requires a report back to council on any such decisions having been made.**

8.2 Review of Council's Business Assistance Policy and Procedure



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

DP15.2 Continue ongoing engagement and communication with the Shire's existing industry including support for diversification and alternate industry or business

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Council has requested a review of the existing Business Assistance Policy and Procedure and in accordance with the discussions held at the workshop held on 31 March a revised Policy and Procedure is attached to this report.

The proposed changes are marked in red.

Financial Implications

The amendments to this policy will reduce the overall amount of financial assistance to be provided to new businesses but will still provide a worthwhile incentive to those businesses.

Summary

The recommended amendments will not diminish the main objective of the Policy which is to provide both financial and in-kind assistance to new or relocating businesses.

Recommendation:

That the revised Business Assistance Policy and Procedure, presented to the April 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council is adopted.



POLICY STATEMENT

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

POLICY ADOPTED: 19 July 2016 [21 April 2020](#)

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Background:

Council's role in economic development is to provide leadership and direction in order to foster, encourage and maximise sustainable development opportunities within the Bland Shire. Council's Community Strategic Plan 2012-2023 states that Council aims to retain and attract businesses to the Council area.

Council facilitates business partnerships, participates in local and regional networks and undertakes research and planning in the identification of business opportunities.

In order to encourage diverse and innovative business initiatives in the Shire, Council may offer incentives and support through the business development policy.

Policy Objectives:

The policy aims to provide appropriate incentives to:

- An existing business, located within the Shire, to expand their operations or relocate to a more appropriate area [within the Shire](#)
- An existing business, located outside the Shire, to relocate or establish within the Shire; and
- A new business to establish within the Shire,

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in the expectation that the business will directly or indirectly provide increased employment opportunities or services for residents of the Bland Shire.

Types of Assistance:

Council provides information to industry about developing/relocating to the Council area including facilitation with existing local businesses and identification of possible business locations. Various State and Federal Government assistance programs may also be available to some businesses to encourage expansion and relocation, information on these programs is also available from the Council.

In addition to this support Council may, on application, consider the following measures as potential incentives for business development.

- Assistance in preparing applications for State and Federal Government support
- Hosting visits by key personnel (including extended visits);
- Meeting the cost of relocation expenses for key personnel; [Delete](#)
- Waiving or reducing the Council component of DA fees;

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- Providing land or buildings at a reduced rental, at cost or under a lease/purchase or delayed settlement arrangement;
- **Providing rental assistance for a maximum period of 12 months to a maximum of \$5,200.00 (or \$100.00 per week)**
- The provision of **in kind** assistance to engage consultants or business planning advice
- Providing direct financial incentives, linked to the cost of establishment or relocation;
- Waiving or reduction of Section 94 contributions;
- Reimbursement of rates for a start up period;
- The provision of infrastructure (that would otherwise be met by the industry/commerce);
- The provision of council plant for works in kind; and
- The provision of assistance to engage consultants or business planning advice.

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These measures can be considered by Council singularly or in combination on a case by case basis, dependent on the merits of each case.

Determination of Merit:

The viability of the business, as verified by an accountant or banker.

Type of development and potential for the development to encourage expansion of existing businesses and infrastructure or in-migration of other businesses.

The costs incurred by the business in undertaking the relocation or expansion.

Benefit to other businesses from the business assistance such as the upgrade of infrastructure.

Number of employees, direct and flow on which the business will develop/provide.

Benefit to the community including an identified need for the businesses or services.

Assesment of Applications:

Council, at a regular meeting, is to assess applications for business assistance in accordance with the adopted budget and the merit criteria above.

Conditions of Assistance:

Conditions of assistance will be determined as a part of the approval process and may include the substantiation of expenditure and reporting on outcomes.

Related Procedure:

Applications must be made in accordance with the Business Development Procedure.

Authorisation:

Status	Committee	N/A	
	Manex	N/A	
Owner	General Manager		
EDRMS Doc. ID	329281		
Superceded Policy			
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Review Date

15 March 2005	1	11/12/06	
24 August 2010	2	N/A	
19 July 2016	3		July 2021

Related Council Policy / Procedure
Business Assistance Procedure
Business Assistance Application Form

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

PROCEDURE ADOPTED: 19 July 2016 21 April 2020

OBJECTIVE

To outline the procedure for applying for assistance under Council's Business Development Policy.

BACKGROUND

Council's Business Development Policy and procedures aim to provide appropriate incentives to:

- Existing businesses, located within the Shire, to expand their operations or relocate to a more appropriate area **within the Shire**
- Existing businesses, located outside the Shire, to relocate or establish within the Shire;
- New businesses to establish within the Shire;

in the expectation that the business will directly or indirectly provide increased employment opportunities or services for residents of the Bland Shire.

A range of incentives are available on application.

ASSISTANCE CRITERIA

Applicants shall be assessed on the following merit based criteria

- The viability of the business, as verified by an accountant or banker.
- Type of development and potential for the development to encourage expansion of existing businesses and infrastructure or in-migration of other businesses.
- The costs incurred by the business in undertaking the relocation or expansion.
- Benefit to other businesses from the business assistance such as the upgrade of infrastructure.
- Number of employees, direct and flow on which the business will develop/provide.
- Benefit to the community including an identified need for the businesses or services.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

Council will consider types of assistance as detailed in the policy.

These measures can be considered by Council singularly or in combination on a case by case basis dependent on the merits of each case.

CONDITIONS OF ASSISTANCE

Incentive payments will be paid as 50% up front with the remaining 50% paid in a further 12 months time dependent on the continued viability of the business.

All applications are to be submitted to council for approval.

Applicants are to submit a Business Plan in support of their application if appropriate

Recipients of council assistance are required to promote such assistance

Assistance will be determined on the number of existing like businesses

(A new business that is duplicating an existing like business will receive 50% of the estimated assistance)

The formula used to calculate the amount of financial assistance will be based on the following:

- \$2500.00 per FTE
- 0.5% of CAPEX

If successful the applicant is to adhere to the following conditions:

1. Provision of tax invoice for any cash component of any assistance;
2. Provision of receipts for any reimbursement of expenses;
3. Report on outcomes twelve months after the receipt of the assistance; and
4. Participation in appropriate publicity associated with the assistance.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are encouraged to apply for assistance following the receipt of consent for the development related application. Where this is not practical, in principal assistance can be granted by Council, with formal approval to be granted following approval of the development related application.

1. Applicants to meet with Council's **General Manager (or delegate)** to discuss business development and types of assistance available and given a copy of the procedure and associated forms.
2. If they have not already done so potential applicants for business assistance are to contact Council's Manager of Development Services (or delegate) to discuss the proposal and identify all applicable consents and approvals at the earliest instance.

Such a meeting will discuss the merits of the proposal and identify specific application requirements.

Note: Council will consider each application in accordance with applicable statutory and non-statutory provisions. Planning requirements will not be reduced as an incentive to development.

3. **Council** staff to assist with the application and identify any assistance available from other agencies.
4. **Council** staff to prepare a report and forward, with the application for assistance, to Council for discussion at the next available meeting.
5. Council approves or declines the recommendation, subject to appropriate approvals.
6. The **Council** staff to arrange a letter to be sent to the applicant indicating the decision made by Council. If successful, the letter is to offer assistance, outline the conditions and reporting obligations, the successful applicant is required to sign off - accepting these conditions.
7. Following receipt of the acceptance the **Council** staff to consult with Development Services to confirm all relevant approvals have been received, the works are completed and no matters are outstanding.

8. Payment is to be organised together with appropriate publicity in consultation with the applicant.
9. Successful applicants are to report to Council on the achievements of the business and use of the assistance twelve months after the assistance is received.

FORM

The Business Development Assistance Application Form comprises part of this procedure.

Authorisation:

Status	Committee	N/A	
	Manex	N/A	
Owner	General Manager		
EDRMS Doc. ID	329282		
Superseded Policy			
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Review Date
24 August 2010			
19 July 2016	1		July 2021

Related Council Policy / Procedure

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

8.3 Financial Statements – March 2020



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management.

Author: Director Corporate & Community Services

Introduction

The financial report is provided in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Financial Implications

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES, RATES COLLECTIONS AND INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 2,056,381.81
BCard	\$ 30,000.00
	\$ 2,086,381.81
Invested Funds	
Fixed Deposits	\$ 36,200,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$ 3,737,948.65
	\$ 39,937,948.65
Net Balance	\$ 42,024,330.46
Percentage of investment to Net Balance	95.04%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.3.20
SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING APRIL 21, 2020

BALANCE as at 01.03.20	\$ 2,202,487.47
Add Receipts	
<u>Receipts over \$150,000</u>	
9/3/20 Investment Redemption Bankwest	\$ 2,000,000.00
13/3/20 Roads to Recovery Quarterly Payment	\$ 665,089.00
23/3/20 Australian Government Drought Communities Program	\$ 500,000.00
<u>Receipts under \$150,000</u>	\$ 1,061,625.75
<i>Total Receipts for March 2020</i>	\$ 4,226,714.75
Less Payments	
<u>Payments over \$150,000</u>	
5/3/20 BJ & VM Keys Flood Damage Tidds Lane & Alleena Road	-\$ 189,814.41
26/3/20 Mystate Bank Investment	-\$ 2,000,000.00
<u>Payments under \$150,000</u>	-\$ 2,183,006.00
<i>Total Payments for March 2020</i>	-\$ 4,372,820.41
CASH BALANCE	<u>\$ 2,056,381.81</u>
Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank	\$ 350,000.00

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period March 01, 2020 to March 31, 2020.
I CERTIFY,
That the accounts included in the accounts summary and totalling as detailed under:-

Fund	Voucher No.s	Total
Cheques	025870 - 025881	\$ 34,572.25
Auto-pay Creditors	E020484 – E020769	\$ 3,757,990.40
Auto-pay Payroll	01/03/20 – 29/3/20	\$ 568,134.85
March Bank Charges & Commission etc		\$ 2,064.08
Direct Debits	Repayments & Vehicle Lease	\$ 10,058.83
		\$ 4,372,820.41

1. Are fully supported by vouchers and invoices and have been fully registered.
2. The responsible officer concerned has certified that the goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered to order and/or that the services for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered according to order.
3. Official orders have been issued for the supply of such goods and services. The goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been checked with the entries in the goods order book.
4. The prices and computations of every account are correct.
5. The prices for the goods supplied or services rendered under the contract or quotation in accordance therewith and in all cases the prices charged are according to order and as far as I am able to ascertain fair and reasonable.
6. The provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Regulations in connection therewith have been complied with.

Further I also certify that the Ledger has been reconciled with the bank statements for the last preceding monthly period.

.....
Director of Corporate & Community Services

CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL MANAGER

This accounts summary, a copy of which was submitted to each member of Council on the 21st April 2020, has been checked and is fully supported by vouchers and invoices. These vouchers have been duly certified as to receipt of goods, the rendition of services, to prices and computations, and to costings.

.....
General Manager

CERTIFICATE OF CHAIRMAN OF ORDINARY MEETING

I certify that this accounts summary, covering amounts totalling \$4,372,820.41 was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 21st April 2020 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

RATES REPORT

Below is a summary of outstanding rates

Total rates income levied (2019/20)	\$ 10,122,223.63
Rates received as at 31/03/2020	\$ 7,701,305.52
% of rates received to date	76.08%

The total rates income includes rates in arrears and accumulated interest.

Summary

The information provided is in accordance with the Local Government (General) regulation 2005 and that the financial position of Council is satisfactory and the external investments are held in accordance with section 625 of the Local Government act 1993.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council receive and note the statement of Bank Balances, Rates Collections and Investments for the month of March 2020**
- 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 March to 31 March 2020, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$4,372,820.41.**

INVESTMENTS

The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 31st March 2020. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

DATE	INVESTED WITH WHOM	INVESTED AMOUNT	TERM	YIELD	DATE DUE
14-October-2019	Bank of QLD (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	336 days	1.50%	14-September-2020
24-February-2020	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	210 days	1.50%	21-September-2020
17-February-2020	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	365 days	1.55%	16-February-2021
05-March-2020	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,500,000.00	210 days	1.33%	01-October-2020
08-November-2018	Bank of QLD (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	550 days	2.80%	11-May-2020
08-September-2019	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	365 days	1.65%	08-September-2020
08-September-2019	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	365 days	1.65%	08-September-2020
08-September-2019	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	365 days	1.65%	08-September-2020
13-December-2019	AMP (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	370 days	1.70%	17-December-2020
16-January-2020	Bank of QLD	1,000,000.00	184 days	1.60%	17-August-2020
12-December-2019	AMP (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	365 days	1.70%	11-December-2020
29-November-2016	Westpac (FRN)	2,000,000.00	1826 days	3MBBSW+1.2%	29-November-2021
01-November-2019	AMP (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	364 days	1.65%	30-October-2020
08-July-2019	AMP (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	550 days	2.15%	08-January-2021
28-January-2020	ME Bank (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	245 days	1.55%	29-September-2020
08-October-2019	NAB (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	181 days	1.60%	06-April-2020
15-October-2019	CUA (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	272 days	1.55%	13-July-2020
29-October-2019	AMP (Term Deposit)	2,500,000.00	547 days	1.60%	28-April-2021
20-June-2019	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	547 days	2.10%	18-December-2020
28-February-2020	MyState Bank (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	276 days	1.60%	30-November-2020
13-December-2019	Australian Unity Bank	2,000,000.00	182 days	1.70%	12-June-2020
22-January-2020	ME Bank (Term Deposit)	2,500,000.00	306 days	1.50%	23-November-2020
07-February-2020	Australian Unity Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	1.70%	05-February-2021
12-December-2020	Australian Unity Bank	1,500,000.00	343 days	1.70%	20-January-2021
26-March-2020	MyState Bank (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	210 days	1.85%	22-October-2020
	ANZ Deposit at Call	50,890.32	Cash at Call		
	CBA Deposit at Call	\$3,687,058.33	Cash at Call		
	TOTAL:	39,937,948.65			

I certify that the above investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Regulation and Council's Investment Policies.

I certify that the above investment has been reconciled with Council's General Ledger Accounts.

General Manager

8.4 Making of the Rates 2020/2021



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP 10.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Bland Shire Council will, as required under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, levy Ordinary Rates on all rateable properties within its area. The rates that are proposed to be levied are set out in the recommendation included in this report. All Council Rates & Charges are exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Financial Implications

The rate structure and special charges adopted will be the basis of the estimates for the 2020/2021 budget

Summary

Pursuant to Chapter 15 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Sections 492-503), Council is required to make the Rates and Charges for the 2020/2021 year.

The structure of the rate must be in accordance with Section 497 of that Act.

The rate pegging limit for Ordinary Rates, as advised by The Minister for Local Government, has been set at 2.6% for the 2020/21 rating year. The below recommendations have been calculated on a 2.6% rate increase.

The Council will adopt the Revenue Policy and budget document at a later date, however for the budget document income to be accurate, Staff request the following rates be adopted at this time.

Recommendation:

That the Council makes the rates for the 2020/2021 year to allow for inclusion in the 2020/2021 budget preparation as follows:

ORDINARY RATE

A. That it is hereby RECOMMENDED that Ordinary Rates be made for the year commencing on 1 July 2020 on all rateable land within the area of the Council of Bland as follows:

(a) Farmland Rate

A base amount of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero two seven one two cents (0.002712c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as farmland, the base amount to yield two point nine two percent (2.92%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Farmland rate.

(b) Mining Rate

A base amount of one hundred and eighty six dollars (\$186.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero four four nine one cents (0.004491c) in the dollar on the land value of all land categorised as mining land, the base amount to yield fourteen point four one percent (14.41%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the mining rate.

(c) Gold Mining Rate

A base amount of one hundred and eighty six dollars (\$186.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero three three two four two cents (0.033242c) in the dollar on the land value that is categorised as gold mining land, the base amount to yield zero point zero two percent (\$0.02%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the mining rate.

Recommendation:

That the Council makes the rates for the 2020/2021 year to allow for inclusion in the 2020/2021 budget preparation as follows:

ORDINARY RATE

B. That it is hereby RECOMMENDED that Ordinary Rates be now made for the year commencing on 1 July 2020 on all rateable land within the area of the Council of Bland as follows:

(a) Residential Rate

A base amount of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero five three eight seven cents (0.005387c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as residential, the base amount to yield twenty nine point one nine percent (29.19%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential rate.

(b) Business Rate

A base amount of one hundred and sixty one dollars (\$161.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero nine one four two cents (0.009142c) in the dollar on the land value of all land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield twenty six point one two percent (26.12%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business Rate.

But excepting there-from any land within the following areas of the Council of Bland which are hereby taken to be separate centres of population for the purposes of Section 529 (2) (b) of the Local Government Act 1993; and centres of activity for the Purposes of Section 529 (2) (d) of that Act:

- * Land within the West/Wyalong Differential General Rating District as defined in the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 8 December 1992
- * Land within the Town Improvement District of Barmedman as defined in the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 November 1940 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette of 15 November 1940.
- * Land within the Town Improvement District of Ungarie as defined in the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10 December 1926 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette of 24 December 1926.

Recommendation:

That the Council makes the rates for the 2020/2021 year to allow for inclusion in the 2020/2021 budget preparation as follows:

C. WEST WYALONG - WYALONG

THAT Ordinary Rates be now made on all rateable land within that part of the area of the Council of Bland within the West Wyalong/Wyalong Differential General Rating District as defined in the Minutes of the Council held on 8 December 1992, as follows:

(a) Residential (West Wyalong/Wyalong) Rate

A base amount of one hundred and sixty one dollars (\$161.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero one zero nine four one cents (0.010941c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land, the base amount to yield twenty two point three two percent (22.32%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (West Wyalong/Wyalong) rate.

(b) Business (West Wyalong/Wyalong) Rate

A base amount of one hundred and eighty six dollars (\$186.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero one nine five one seven cents (0.019517c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield eleven point two zero percent (11.20%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (West Wyalong/Wyalong) rate.

Recommendation:

That the Council makes the rates for the 2020/2021 year to allow for inclusion in the 2020/2021 budget preparation as follows:

D. BARMEDMAN

THAT Ordinary Rates be now made on all rateable land within that part of the area of the Council of Bland within the Town Improvement District of Barmedman as defined in the Minutes of the Council held on 8 November 1940 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette on the 15 November 1940, as follows:

(a) Residential (Barmedman) Rate

A base amount of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero seven nine four nine cents (0.007949c) in the dollar on the land value of rateable land, that is categorised as residential land, the base amount to yield thirty seven point seven five percent (37.75%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (Barmedman) rate.

(b) Business (Barmedman) Rate

A base amount of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero eight six two zero cents (0.008620c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield thirty four point zero zero percent (34.00%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (Barmedman) rate.

Recommendation:

That the Council makes the rates for the 2020/2021 year to allow for inclusion in the 2020/2021 budget preparation as follows:

E. UNGARIE

THAT Ordinary Rates be now made on all rateable land within that part of the area of the Council of Bland within the Town Improvement District of Ungarie as defined in the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 December 1926 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette of the 24 December 1926, as follows:

(a) Residential (Ungarie) Rate

A base amount of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero four four one four two cents (0.044142c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land, the base amount to yield thirty five point nine seven percent (35.97%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (Ungarie) rate.

(b) Business (Ungarie) Rate

A base amount of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero five two two six five cents (0.052265c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land the base amount to yield twenty four point seven nine percent (24.79%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (Ungarie) rate.

8.5 Making Of Waste Management Charges 2020/2021



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP 10.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

Following the adoption by the Council of the 2020/2021 Operational Plan, Council is to formally make the ordinary rates and charges for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, including those that relate to Waste Management Services.

Financial Implications

The Council will adopt the Revenue Policy and budget document at a later date, however for the budget document income to be accurate, Staff request the following rates be adopted at this time.

Summary

Where the Council has adopted the Operational Plan it is required to make and levy rates, fees and charges, in accordance with Sections 496, 501, 504 and 510 of the Local Government Act, 1993, to ensure it has the required revenue to deliver services to the community. It is therefore proposed that the Domestic Waste Management Charge be levied as outlined in the recommendation included with this report.

Recommendation:

That the Council makes the Waste Management charges for the year 2020/2021 for inclusion in the 2020/2021 budget preparation as follows:

1. That a Domestic Waste Management Charge be now made in respect of Residential premises within the area of the Council of Bland where a domestic waste management services is available, as follows

(a) Land, which is occupied and/or built upon-

Standard 240L domestic service

Barmedman	\$450.00
Ungarie	\$450.00
West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$450.00
Weethalle	\$450.00
plus \$450.00 per extra collection.	

Standard 120L Domestic Service

West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$356.00
Ungarie	\$356.00
Barmedman	\$356.00
Weethalle	\$356.00
plus \$356.00 per extra collection.	

(b) Vacant Land able to be built upon \$38.00

2. That an annual charge be made on land categorised as Business Land within the area of the Council of Bland and which is provided by Council with a trade waste removal service as follows:

Standard 240L Collections

West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$475.00
Ungarie	\$475.00
Barmedman	\$475.00
Weethalle	\$475.00
plus \$475.00 per extra collection	

Standard 120L Collections

West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$378.00
Ungarie	\$378.00
Barmedman	\$378.00
Weethalle	\$378.00
plus \$378.00 per extra collection.	

3. An Annual Waste Management Charge of \$38.00 per property will apply to all properties not within a serviced area for the DWMS, under Section 501 of the Local Government Act.

8.6 Making Of Sewerage Rate Charges 2020/2021



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP 10.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

Following the adoption by the Council of the 2020/2021 Operational Plan, Council is to formally make the ordinary rates and charges for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Financial Implications

The Council will adopt the Revenue Policy and budget document at a later date, however for the budget document income to be accurate, Staff request the following rates be adopted at this time.

Summary

Where the Council has adopted the Operational Plan it is required to make and levy rates, fees and charges, in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, to ensure it has the required revenue to deliver such services to the community. It is therefore proposed that the Sewerage Rate Charge be levied as outlined in the recommendation included with this report.

Recommendation:

SEWERAGE RATE

THAT the Council makes the Sewerage Rate charges for the year 2020/2021 for inclusion in the 2020/2021 budget preparation as follows:

The Sewerage Rate for the year commencing on 1 July 2020 subject to a minimum amount of eight hundred and ninety dollars (\$890.00) excepting any assessment in respect of the land not built upon nor connected to sewer mains in which case the minimum amount shall be, two hundred and fifteen dollars (\$215.00) and that the charge to be made for non-rateable land provided with sewerage services shall be:

- (a)** Land defined in Clause 184(1) of former Ordinance 46 under the Local Government Act 1919- \$180.00 for each water closet on the premises and \$95.00 per annum for each cistern serving any urinal on the premises.
- (b)** Land defined in Clause 184(2) of former Ordinance 46 under the Local Government Act 1919- \$180.00 for each water closet on the premises and \$95.00 per annum for each cistern serving any urinal on the premises.

In accordance with the National Competition Policy Guidelines, the Council categorised some of its activities as Business Activities, one of which was Sewerage Disposal.

Council believes that it has a responsibility to provide entities identified as Business Activities as essential services to the residents of the Shire as part of its Community Service Obligation (CSO) and is prepared to accept a level of subsidisation in operations for the benefit of the Shire.

National Competition Policy guidelines, however, require Council to determine the results of aspects of its operations that are considered to be equivalent to similar private sector business operations that are subject to all forms of taxation. Indirect taxes such as payroll and fringe benefits have to be included as expenses where applicable.

8.7 Adoption Of Draft Annual Operational Plan, Budget And Revenue Policy For 2020/2021



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP10.3 Ensure the General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and other Council documents.

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and endorse the Draft Annual Operational Plan 2020/2021 (including the Draft Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year) and the Draft Revenue Policy (including Draft Fees and Charges 2020-2021).

The *Local Government Act 1993 (the Act)* requires Councils in NSW to operate under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) guidelines which aim to streamline Council operations and optimise the use of resources. The endorsement of the above mentioned documents is in keeping with this Framework and will allow Council to seek feedback from the community ahead of their formal adoption at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 16 June, 2020.

Financial Implications

The draft documents detail the financial implications to be considered by Council.

Summary

The Operational Plan sets out what Council activities it intends to achieve for the next Financial Year. Each of these activities and performance measures are required to be reported on by the nominated Responsible Officer on a quarterly basis, with a six-monthly update presented to the elected Council.

The documents have been developed for the purposes of consultation with the community and includes each of the Operational Plan items, how they will be measured, what the target is for each and who is responsible for ensuring the actions are completed as well as where they fit within the Delivery Program 2017-2021.

The Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year provides the funding for Council to achieve the actions contained in the Operational Plan.

The following dot points provide some guidelines which were used in the preparation of the 2020/2021 Budget:

- Rates income is based on a rate peg amount of 2.6%.
- User Charges and Fees have increased on average by 2%.
- Interest on Investments is based on an average of 1.8% Investment Returns.
- Wages have been prepared based on an increase of 2.5% in line with the Local Government (State) Award.
- Other expenses have been budgeted to increase by 2.5%.

The Draft Operational Budget has been prepared in accordance with the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The Draft Budget details Council's Capital Works Program for the 2020/2021 Financial Year. The proposed Capital Works for the 2020/2021 Financial Year amounts to **\$3.4M**. This figure includes projects identified as part of the Stronger Country Communities Fund and the Drought Communities Programme – Extension – works which are funded by respective allocations from the NSW and Federal Governments.

Draft Revenue Policy (including Draft Fees and Charges 2020-2021)

An increase of approximately 1.5% has been applied to most fees and charges to cover expected increases in costs in providing the goods or service. A review of all fees and charges was conducted as part of the preparation of the 2020/2021 budget. Any significant changes to fees and charges is to be consulted with the community as part of the public exhibition process.

Councillors will have further opportunity to comment on the draft documents during the upcoming public exhibition closing on Friday 5 June 2020, although Councillors are encouraged to put forward their comments well prior to the deadline.

A copy of Draft Annual Operational Plan for the 2020/2021 Financial Year (including the Draft Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year) and the Draft Revenue Policy (including Draft Fees and Charges 2020-2021) have been provided under separate cover.

Recommendation:

- 1. That the Draft Annual Operational Plan 2020/2021 (including the Draft Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year) and the Draft Revenue Policy (including Draft Fees and Charges 2020-2021) documentation be endorsed and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, commencing 24 April 2020, in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.**
- 2. That a revised Annual Operational Plan 2020/2021 (including the Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year) and the Revenue Policy (including Fees and Charges 2020-2021) incorporating all public comments, submissions and input from staff and Councillors to the DRAFT documents be provided to the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 16 June 2020 for final adoption.**

Section 3 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

That the following reports, provided for information only, be received and noted:

- **8.8 - Economic Development & Tourism Report – March 2020**
- **8.9 - Community Services Report**
- **8.10 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update**
- **8.11 - Children’s Services Monthly Update**
- **8.12 - Bland Community Care Services Update**
- **8.13 - Assets & Engineering Services Report**
- **8.14 - Development Services Activity Report – March 2020**

8.8 Economic Development & Tourism Report – March 2020



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

DP14.2 Attract a diverse range of Visitors to the Shire

DP15.2 Continue ongoing engagement and communication with the Shire's existing industry and business including support for diversification and alternate industry or business

DP15.3 Lobby for and work with industry, government and education providers to ensure Bland Shire residents and businesses have access to competitive telecommunication services

DP16.2 through partnerships with stakeholders foster our education, learning and training industry and increase employment opportunities within the Shire

Author: General Manager and Tourism & Administration Officer

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Why Leave Town Statistics

	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Oct 19 – Mar 20
Total Program							
Number of Loaded Cards	2	48	218	17	40	64	389
Load Value	\$61	\$2,820	\$13,821	\$1,010	\$3,100	\$2,330	\$23,142
Number of Redemptions	1	1	56	71	57	42	228
Value of Redemptions	\$1	\$50	\$3,246	\$2,564	\$2,340	\$1,532	\$9,734

Due the COVID-19 crisis in Australia, many emails received from different Government departments have been sent to the businesses to support them in these difficult times. Council has received positive feedback from the recipients in appreciation of supplying them with the information and providing a link to make it easier for them. Some of the website links below:

1. Free TAFE short courses: <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/>
2. Department of Planning and Environment's offer on free energy management check-up and a possible visit once allowed: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-energy-management-advice-registration-101016836076>
3. Jobkeeper: <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper>
4. Business advice and support: www.business.gov.au
5. NSW Health: [Access industry-specific business advice](#) — including downloadable workplace posters
6. Safe Work NSW: [Access a guide for managing your obligations in relation to COVID-19](#)
7. Fair Work Ombudsman: find out about workplace entitlements and obligations - [COVID-19 and Australian workplace laws -](#)

TOURISM

Although the Visitors Centre doors are closed, planning is underway in preparation for when the time comes and we can invite visitors back to the Bland Shire.

The Bland Shire Outdoor Art Trail:

The planning and flyer is in its final stages and ready to be printed soon. Fortunately, we could still work with a graphic designer and the printers via phone and email.

New Bland Shire Visitors Guide:

A brand new and exciting look for a Bland Shire Visitors Guide is being prepared with plenty of information and reasons to stop in the Bland Shire. This guide is in the planning and negotiations stages with a graphic designer via phone and emails.

The process will take a little longer due to the fact that content discussions and layout happens a little differently now. Hopefully to be printed by June and ready for distribution to Visitors Centres across NSW.

The Riverina

As part of The Riverina and Thrive Riverina the e-newsletters were suspended due to the COVID-19 situation and no tourism promotions can go ahead at this stage.

All the Shires in The Riverina are working on updating content on The Riverina websites. Information supplied to The Riverina also gets posted to VisitNSW and DestinationNSW all with different target areas.

Please see attached past e-newsletters that were distributed. The content of the e-newsletter is themed and requested by The Riverina for publication.

Inside the Riverina

December 2019

Get away from it all with a farm stay in the beautiful Riverina region. Choose from an array of accommodation experiences, from camping to glamping to train carriages!



Whispering Pines - Farm Stay with a Difference

Relax and reconnect in the peaceful Riverina landscape on a 703-acre organic farm. [Whispering Pines](#) is in the heart of Australia's Food Bowl, located 65.7km from West Wyalong and 74.5km from Narrandera. This is a perfect place for enjoying wine tours, food trails, art trails and charming historic towns.

Bring the family and camp in the middle of the farm where a 100-year-old olive grove stands surrounded by pine trees that whisper when a gentle breeze blows through them. At night, enjoy a warm campfire underneath the brilliant array of stars.

During the day, enjoy walks along the creek or alongside the fields where you can meet the farm animals, including sheep, horses, chickens and of course the friendly cats and dogs.

You can also tour the flour mill where the Walkers produce organic flour and rolled oats in their traditional stone ground flour mill or wonder through the vintage Aviation museum, which includes a vast collection of vintage planes and automobiles.

Facilities include a full amenities block with toilets, showers and disability access.

[More information](#)



GRIFFITH

Ingliden Park Cottages

Set on 90 acres of mixed possible farming land, [Ingliden Park](#) is the perfect place for a getaway. A hideaway from the hustle and bustle, but close enough to Griffith to take advantage of its cafes, restaurants, wineries and attractions.

Ingliden Park gives you a taste of country living at its absolute best. Guests can enjoy the quiet peaceful surrounds of a cottage garden and participate in farm activities depending on the time of the year, or you can do as little as you wish in a tranquil, picturesque homely country setting.

Take a wander onto Davies Hill and enjoy a 360 degree view of Griffith and the surrounding area, and spot the local wildlife.



GUNDAGAI

Hillview Farmstay

[Hillview Farmstay](#) is the ideal getaway, located 33 kilometres south of historic Gundagai on the Hume highway approximately halfway between Sydney and Melbourne.

Your accommodation is set on just under 1000 acres of rolling hills and natural bush land. The property produces prime beef for the local market.

The five cottages are set in two acres of gardens overlooking the tennis court (full size with night lights) and the farm land. Take a dip in the pool, try fishing in the dam, or explore some of the 500 acres of natural bush to observe the flora and wildlife. Choose from a four bedroom cottage, two storey with two bedrooms, or single storey with one bedroom cottages. Each cottage is fully self-contained and air-conditioned with verandas and barbecues.

Hillview provides a full basket breakfast. Barbecue packs available on request.



COOLAC

Coolac Cabins and Camping

Located just three and a half hours drive from Sydney or one hour from Canberra and in close proximity to the towns of Tumut, Gundagai and Cootamundra, it's easy to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city and come enjoy some peace and quiet at [Coolac Cabins and Camping](#). Take a walk around the property, enjoy the games room and let the kids run wild! Or simply sit back, relax and take in the country air and enjoy the native wildlife. Large grassed areas, pet-friendly, great facilities and a lovely atmosphere; what more could you possibly want?



TEMORA

Just another farm stay? No way!

Set on the historic Hazeldean property just outside Ariah Park, [Country Carriage B&B](#) exudes peace and tranquillity whilst ensuring comfort, relaxation and a whole lot of nostalgia.

Your hosts, the Bromfields, are 5th generation owners of Hazeldean who have struck hospitality gold with their unique accommodation options. Red Rattler train carriages, that once graced the City Circle train lines of Sydney, now sit proudly on the farm. Each carriage is beautifully decorated to provide visitors with a nostalgic and unique holiday experience.

"I had a number of antique furniture pieces that I wanted to show off," says Mrs Rita Bromfield, "and I had a vision for the carriages, so I designed the restoration around providing comfort, style and grace for my guests, with a hint of quirkiness."

The City Circle carriage has a spacious layout, perfect for a couple or a single, with a king bed, full sized bathroom, large living area with a billiard table, dining area and kitchen bar area.

If you plan on bringing the whole family the Overlander will accommodate up to six people. Remember the compartments in the old Red Rattlers? Turns out they make for very comfortable sleeping quarters. The Overlander provides a large living and dining area as well as two toilets and is fully air-conditioned.

Take in the astounding sunsets, and enjoy stargazing with unobstructed views of the night sky, whilst you enjoy the outdoor spaces. Wake in the morning to a full continental breakfast of generous proportions and listen for the call of the resident animals as you enjoy the tranquillity of the farm.

A short five minute drive will find you in the historic village of Ariah Park where you can enjoy a great meal at the heritage listed Ariah Park Hotel and explore the history of the region at the Echoes of Ariah Park Museum. A slightly longer drive will get you to Temora where you can visit the world famous Aviation Museum or explore the treasures of the Rural Museum, Ambulance Museum and Railway Museum.

Country Carriage B&B can be found at 'Hazeldean', 809 Quandary Road, Quandary.

Inside the Riverina

January 2019

Dive into summer with a trip to the Riverina - there are so many water-based activities on offer you will be spoilt for choice. See our featured activities below for inspiration.



NARRANDERA

Slide into Summer in Narrandera

Narrandera's [Lake Talbot Water Park](#) has reached a whole new level of excitement! Make a splash in the pools or slide into summer via one of the three new slides, including a dual racer slide: an adrenaline racing enclosed high-speed racer slide that allows for two people to enjoy at a time!

Four swimming pools, terraced lawns and shady trees, together with coin-operated BBQ's make this an ideal water playground. There is also a kiosk on site. Open each day November through to Easter except Christmas Day.

The boat ramp is adjacent to the pools and part of the lake, and is a focal point for water-skiers.



COOTAMUNDRA

Dive in to Cootamundra

The [Cootamundra Swimming Pool](#) has both an outdoor and indoor heated pool, shallow children's pool, playground, barbeque and canteen. There is also a splash park due for completion in February 2020. Open all year round, come into Cootamundra and make a splash today.



GUNDAGAI

Kayak the Murrumbidgee

[Gundagai](#) is a great place to take the [Kayak](#) or Canoe out on the Murrumbidgee River and explore the beautiful waterway. Immerse yourself in nature and experience the abundance of wildlife that live in and around the river. Teach the kids in the quiet waters of Morley's Creek, or paddle against the river current for some great aerobic exercise.



WEST WYALONG

Stay cool by the pool

Take some time out with the kids and cool off from the searing summer heat at [Holland Park Pool](#) in West Wyalong. Let the kids loose on the children's water slide which is operational throughout the season. Relax with an afternoon barbeque with friends and family on the grassed area or grab some food from the huge range of choices on the menu at the kiosk.

With an Olympic-sized 8 lane pool with a diving board, waterslide, hydro play pool and aqua inflatable slide this is the coolest place to swim, splash and play all summer long.



BARMEDMAN

Soak away your aches and pains

[Barmedman Mineral Pool](#) is a large therapeutic pool that is said to ease aches and pains due to the high mineral content. The pool is fed by an underground stream and is surrounded by shady grassed areas with BBQ facilities, amenities block, cold showers and campsites for tents and caravans.

The popular pool has its origins in the flooding of the Barmedman goldmines by an underground stream. In 1974 the water underwent an assay test to determine the mineral content. The total dissolved solids are 25,815ppm. Seawater contains approximately 38,000ppm dissolved solids.



DARLINGTON POINT

Family fun at Darlington Point

A favourite with the locals in summer, the Darlington Point War Memorial Swimming Pool includes a 25 metre lap and recreational pool, shaded medium pool, shaded toddlers pool.

The facility also includes a kiosk, change rooms and shaded picnic tables and barbecue, so you can bring your friends and family and stay cool in summer.



TEMORA

Calming waters

Find deep relaxation, better circulation, improved sleep, relief from anxiety and stress, and alleviate pain and pressure by visiting Temora's [Weightless Float Centre](#). Many people simply use the therapy for relaxation but the effects can be far more extensive.

"Reduced Stimulation Therapy has benefits for your mind, body and spirit," says Weightless Float Centre owner, Jenny Winkley. "A float pod is a lightless, soundproof tank filled with salt water set at room temperature that your body naturally floats in giving you benefits such as relaxation, personal development, spirituality and wellbeing," she explains.

"The pod allows you to completely escape the outside world for an hour or an hour and a half, while you relax and heal," says Jenny.

Sessions are available in 60, 90 and 120 minute lots, and you can purchase 3, 5 or 10 float session packs for continued treatment.

Temora Weightless Float Centre is offering a three visit float introductory special for just \$159. An excellent deal if you are looking to try out the treatment to see if it is for you. [Contact Jenny](#) for more information.

Share Forward

Inside the Riverina

February 2019

The Riverina is the food bowl of Australia. Licorice and chocolate, olive oil and wine, food lovers can tantalize their tastebuds in the Riverina. Producing rice, nuts, oilseeds, citrus, wine grapes, prunes, dairy, livestock, cereal crops, you'll sense the Riverina landscape change with every season.

Fresh local produce is an important part of the region and provides for a very satisfying visitor experience! This month we're featuring a selection of places where you can get that paddock to plate experience.



Planted Cootamundra

[Planted Cootamundra](#) is a wholefoods cafe specialising in local organic seasonal food. All their products and meals are house-made using the freshest ingredients they can source because they value the health and well-being of their customers.

Why not call in for a specialty coffee, a wonderful meal or even just a chat. Richard and Rose look forward to welcoming you to their place.



NARRANDERA

Narrandera Farmers Market

Narrandera Farmers' Market boasts a variety of local produce, baking, preserves and handmade items. A lovely, relaxing way to spend your Sunday morning.



WEST WYALONG

Fresh, local and friendly

This traditional style cafe dating back to the 1800's has everything you are looking for whether it is eat-in or take-away meals or to purchase from a range of fresh local products. The Paragon Café with its roots deeply embedded in the history of West Wyalong is a well know stop-over for travellers and locals alike.

This year the [Paragon Café](#) is celebrating 10 years of producing and selling their own home made cold-pressed juices and raw smoothies. A cold-pressed juice from the Paragon is one of the best kept secrets to keeping the doctor away during the cooler months approaching and a great way to improve energy as well as detoxing. A large range of cold-pressed juice flavours can be purchased from the Paragon.

The Pilon family are a handy team in the kitchen making their own healthy foods include paleo frittatas, soups and salads cakes, slices and superfood balls made from local products for those looking for a healthy treat. While waiting for your order, browse through the local products available at the front of the store.



GUNDAGAI

Smarts Butchery

[Smarts - Gundagai Butchery](#) is a local family-owned business in the heart of Gundagai. They get a range of their produce from their family farm in Nangus as well as produce from other local farms. They do this to ensure they sell fresh great quality meat to their valued customers. The team at Smarts - Gundagai Butchery prepare all of their meats in shop and totally from scratch. So for your next BBQ be sure to head into Smarts - Gundagai Butchery, you won't be disappointed.



JERILDERIE

A gift for those at home

[Sticky Finders Candy Shop](#) in the main street of Jerilderie, offers a selection of local produce for those travelling through. From local honey to Billabong tomato sauces, olive oil to sweet jams, the owner Kathy will be able to recommend a produce gift for those who couldn't make the trip with you.

Kathy will also be able to recommend the best Bonics Wine produced in Jerilderie for you to sample.....or an ice cream flavour for the little ones.



BATLOW

The freshest produce, straight from the farm

[Wilgro Orchards](#) roadside stall and cellar door is just outside the township of Batlow, NSW. Batlow was called 'un-defendable' in the recent Dunns Road Fire that ripped through the Snowy Valleys but, though damaged, Batlow survived and is recovering. Wilgro Orchards, was damaged in the blaze with their produce and cider impacted.

Their resilience has shown through with the reopening of their roadside stall which sells produce and value added products direct to the public for most of the year. Fresh produce include apples, cherries, berries, nuts, quinces, apricots, pears and stonefruit. Wilgro's products also include Batlow Road Cider, vinegars, jams, apple and cherry pies, apple juice, dried fruit, ice cream and clafoutis.

All the produce and products listed are grown and made at Wilgro Orchards. While the fresh produce is seasonal, most of the other products are available throughout the year. Coffee is also available.

Wilgro Orchards are open seven days a week September - June.

Wilgro are proud to showcase their sustainably managed orchard, which grows fruit as naturally as possible. This is then ripened, harvested and available to you straight from the farm – you can't get produce any better than that! Make sure you take in the beautiful views and stunning scenery of Batlow while dropping in to fill your Empty Esky with local produce.

You will find Wilgro Orchards at [Batlow CiderFest](#) on 10th May 2020. The Batlow CiderFest street party is one to remember, with two stages of wonderful entertainment, great food, and cider from local makers and boutique producers from across Australia. It's a chance to celebrate Batlow, and the recovery of the region.



TEMORA

Designer Dressing

If you ask the locals around the Temora Shire what their favourite salad dressing is, you are likely to hear "Poppy Seed Dressing". Stock in the local IGA is in constant demand and creator, Sam Dart, works hard to meet the market demands.

She was given the recipe for poppy seed dressing by her mum who was serving the popular dressing in her café in Albury. Sam decided to get to work on putting Poppy Seed Dressing into production.

Thirteen years later, Sam experiences a high demand for the poppy seed dressing, or PSD. She receives orders from all over Australia and the product is stocked in over 20 retail outlets across the Riverina.

For stockists and mail orders you can email sam@psd.id.au

Inside the Riverina

This month we have a wide variety of events happening across the Riverina, including the Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition in Leeton, various car shows in Lockhart, Temora, West Wyalong and Gundagai, the opening of the Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail and the amazing SunRice festival in Leeton coming up in early April.

March 2019



The annual **Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition** is preparing to celebrate its 21st anniversary from Friday 6 – Sunday 8 March 2020! The catch and release competition is held on a 20km stretch of the scenic Murrumbidgee River from the Sturt Canal (Gogeldrie Weir) to Eurole Bridge, with anglers aiming to claim more than \$40,000 in prizes.

Besides the fishing, the weekend promises to have something for everyone! The Saturday night has plenty on, with live entertainment, continuous raffles and plenty of food options for those heading out to the Weir.

Date: 6 - 8 March

Location: Gogeldrie Weir, Leeton



LOCKHART

Celebrate road transport history, past and present, at **Lockhart Truck Show**. Attractions include a special display of Kenworth vehicles, WW2 Jeep rides, market stalls and more.

Date: 7th March

Location: Treasure Street, Lockhart



TEMORA

The Temora Rural Museum's **Annual Live Exhibition** features a grand parade of vintage vehicles and machinery, local art exhibition, temora town band, major exhibits, food and drink stalls.

Date: 14th March 9am

Location: Bundawarra Centre, Temora

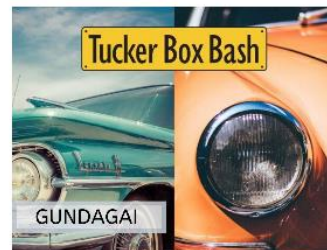


WEST WYALONG

The **Crooked Mile Show and Shine** is a family fun day offering displays of motor vehicles and bikes, market stalls, children's activities and refreshments.

Date: 22nd March 2020

Location: McAlister Oval, West Wyalong



GUNDAGAI

The **Tucker Box Bash** is a family-friendly car show event including driving events for historical cars. Get tickets [here](#).

Date: 27 - 29 March

Location: Gundagai Showground and Racecourse



TUMBARUMBA

The Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail will open in early April with a **family fun day**. Relax and enjoy beautiful scenic countryside and spectacular mountainsides with safe trails for the whole family to enjoy.

Date: 4th April 8:30am

Location: Figures Street, Tumbarumba



HILLSTON

Join Hillston Jockey Club at their **annual race meeting** for a day of racing and fashion. A free bus will take you from the Commonwealth Bank, High St to the races and back again. The last race will be followed by live music.

Date: 4th April

Location: Hillston



LEETON

The Biennial **Leeton SunRice Festival** is back for 2020, offering over 20 events to suit everyone in the family over the Easter long weekend. Includes Festival Street Parade, Open Gardens, a Balloon Glow and more.

Date: 9 - 13 April

Location: Leeton



Share



Forward

8.9 Community Services Report



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP3. Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life for the residents of the Bland Shire

Author: Community Relations Officer and Community Development Officer

Police Video

In the wake of COVID-19 and the new enforcement orders created by the government to stop the spread of COVID-19 and the subsequent confusion regarding some of the restrictions. Council teamed up with the local police inspector to conduct a Q & A video session to be distributed across Councils Facebook page. The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive with a number of comments thanking Council for delivering the initiative.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from Bland Shire Council. The post text reads: "A huge thanks to everyone who sent in their questions regarding the current COVID-19 restrictions. We were pleased to be joined by Inspector Matthews from the Murrumbidgee Police District to provide some clarity on what we can and can't do under the new rules. Now is not the time for loop holes! People are asked to comply in accordance with the intent of the new directives set out by the government for the purpose of saving lives. If you are questioning or considering an outing or a trip that is non-essential, just STAY HOME! Head to the link below to access the video - <https://youtu.be/D093xDSZOJA>". Below the text is a video player with the title "COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS Q & A" and the Bland Shire Council logo. The video player shows a YouTube embed for "Bland Shire Covid-19 Q&A session - 9 April 2020". To the right of the post is a list of comments from various community members, including Amber Rowland, Tammie Hopkins, Holly Brooks, Linda Lord, Dann Biggam, Tracey Eyles, KimandJohn Cassidy, and Sarah Mackenzie, all expressing gratitude for the video.

Home Delivery Information

Community Services staff have developed an information sheet to be distributed to elderly and vulnerable residents regarding home delivery services that are available to residents in the wake of the current COVID-19 situation.

Council recognises that ensuring our elderly, vulnerable and isolated residents have access to essential supplies is crucial in the current environment. The information sheets have been distributed to key community contacts and gatekeepers in each of the villages as well as a number of service providers who work directly with vulnerable and isolated residents. As a result, a number of residents have been able to access home delivery services whilst ensuring they are able to stay safe in their homes.

**BLAND SHIRE
HOME DELIVERY SERVICES**
FOR ELDERLY, VULNERABLE AND ISOLATED RESIDENTS

PHARMACY DELIVERIES

West Wyalong Pharmacy, Main St - 69 722 378
West Wyalong Health Save Pharmacy, Ungarie Road - 69 720 101
Ariah Park Pharmacy - 69 741 079
Ardlethan Pharmacy - 69 782 068

FOOD DELIVERIES

Bernardis Supermarket - 69 722 528
Delivering to West Wyalong area on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Order before 12pm for same day delivery. Orders/payment can be made over the phone.

IGA Supermarket West Wyalong - 69 088 913

Vinnies Fruitz - (Narrandera) 69 592 721
Delivering to West Wyalong Tuesdays and Thursdays. Delivering to Weethalle and Tallimba on Wednesdays. Phone through orders ASAP due to stock demands.

Barmedman General Store and Takeaway - 69762008
Drop off and collection of scripts and groceries. Deliveries may be available to isolated residents.

Ungarie Butchery - 69759015
Deliveries available twice a day at 12.30pm and 4.30pm.

PFD - 131477
PFD have launched new Pdf2Home delivery service for orders over \$250. Visit www.pdf2home.com.au or phone.

Woolworths/Aust Post Partnership deliveries - 1800 000 610 to register or Online (including Basic Box - \$80 including delivery).

Virtual Fitness Classes

In collaboration with Seek Fitness Club, Council is offering some youth focused virtual classes to keep young people aged 12 – 18 active during the course of isolation and over the upcoming school holidays. A video application called 'Zoom' enables participants and the local gym instructor to come together allowing young people to complete sessions in the comfort of their own home. In addition to keeping young people active and connected, the initiative also enables Council to support a local business that has been significantly affected by the current COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing measures.

TikTok Challenge

Council is conducting a competition for local youth using TikTok - a hugely popular mobile phone application. TikTok is a short-form, video-sharing app that allows users to create and share 15-second videos, on any topic. This will allow young people to create a short clip using lip syncing or dance, from which Council will select the best clips with the creators receiving prizes. This is a great way for council to remain connected with young people during the current COVID-19 restrictions, whilst further encouraging physical activity creativity within our young residents.

8.10 Bland Shire Library Monthly Update



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP3.4 Foster a community learning culture optimising our physical and virtual spaces

Author: Library Services Coordinator

2020-21 Collection Allocations

Due to the postponement of the Riverina Regional Library (RRL) Advisory Committee meeting, scheduled for 18 March, where the matter of additional collections funding was to be discussed, RRL will proceed with current collection allocations and make any required amendments at a later stage.

Bland Shire Council carried the following recommendations at its last meeting

- Endorse the proposal for RRL to allocate 25 per cent of additional state funding to all RRL member Councils on a Collections Enhancement Project.
- Representatives of Bland Shire Council attend the March RRL Advisory Committee meeting to inform the committee of Council's support.
- Allocate the additional Bland collections fund included in its annual contribution to RRL to the Bland Shire Library annual operational budget to meet future requirements of the local library.

Library Shut-down

In response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, Bland Shire Library initially suspended all group activities, but remained open to the public. However, identified were a number of issues giving the Council cause to close the library's door until further notice from 5pm Monday 24 March in the interest of staff and public safety.

eResources

Whilst the closure of the library has brought its own set of challenges, it has also been a source of inspiration as we all reimagine library services without physical libraries. In response, Bland Shire Library has been heavily promoting RRL's eResources including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, Story Box Library and online computer lessons via social media as well as utilising other mediums such as the local paper.

RRLAC Support

The Riverina Regional Library Administration Centre (RRLAC) has closed with staff working from home. RRLAC has implemented the following.

- With all RRL branch libraries presently closed to the public, the RRLAC has suspended fines and implemented ongoing automatic extensions (of up to 3 months) on all loans.
- Members are being encouraged to keep their borrowed items at home until it is safe for members to be out-and-about, and safe for library staff to be handling returned items.
- While some individual Councils (Bland not included) are offering a "click and collect" or "click and deliver" loans service, the Riverina Regional Library Administration Centre does not recommend the continuation of these services in the interest of staff and public safety.

- In response to a spike in loans, RRL has allocated a further \$10,000 for expenditure on eResources in the RRL Borrow Box quarantine collection, to provide faster access to popular titles and expand the range of titles that are available to RRL borrowers.
- The genealogy database Ancestry is now available (for a limited time during the pandemic) online via the RRL website. Previously, Ancestry was only accessible free-of-charge by visiting the library.
- Four Bolinda eBook titles, which each offer 500 simultaneous loans, have been purchased for RRL Book Clubs – Bland Shire Library currently has one Book Club. Book Club members can download a copy of the one title and get together for online discussions while the club members are unable to meet in person.
- Due to RRLAC closing there are no internal deliveries, hence all reservations are currently on hold.

Library Statistics March 2020 (*up until March 20*)

- 142 Information Requests
- 209 Customer Service Requests – this figure includes 45 technology assists
- 144 Computer Usage
- 17 requests for Wi-Fi (ie. mobile device users)
- 33 adults attended regular programs in the library
- 70 children and parents/carers attended regular children's programs in the library
- 90 Visitor Information Requests – this figure relates to normal library opening hours only and includes 13 telephone inquiries

NB. The above statistics are collected manually and may not be exact. However, the above figures are deemed a fair and reasonable indicator.

- 2094 people through the door
- 2094 library items issued
- 46 library items reserved
- 7 new members

NB. The above statistics are collected electronically and are deemed accurate.

8.11 Children's Services Monthly Update



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP4.2 Provide quality, accredited and affordable Education and Care Services within Bland Shire and surrounds (Bland Preschool, Family Day Care, Mobile Resources Unit, Vacation Care and Toy Library services)

Author: Children Services Coordinator

Recruitment

Recruitment for the position of Mobile Resource Unit Play Session Leader was finalised to commence on Tuesday 14 April 2020.

Staff Training

On Saturday 14 March, staff across all CSU services attended an in-house workshop facilitated by Koori Curriculum with a focus on embedding Indigenous Perspectives into classroom curriculum.

Staff meetings

- Tuesday 10 March: Educational Leader Meeting held across CSU.
- Wednesday 18 March: CSU Staff Meeting – cancelled due to Covid-19.

It Takes A Village

Due to restrictions resulting from Covid-19, throughout the month usual venues used to deliver programs became unavailable. Staff have been innovative in introducing new methods of how community members access our program, until the restrictions lift.

- The first two sessions of the month were as per normal until the restrictions were put in place.
- Tuesday 3 March: West Wyalong Local Aboriginal and Land Council: Demonstration on how to make Cloud Dough and Moon Sand.
- Tuesday 10 March: Weethalle: Postponed due to low RSVP's for the scheduled workshop.
- Launch of It takes a Village ITAV Facebook page.
- Craft resource packs have been created for young children. These can be collected from CSU without contact. The service goal is to develop one new pack per week.
- Staff have been brainstorming ways to continue the Toy Library service, due to community members enquiring if the service is going to continue and correspondence with the external funding body.
- Activity booklets for preschool aged children have been developed for educational purposes to distribute locally in hardcopy and online.
- Research of online links for parents of children 0-5yrs for education purposes to distribute locally in hardcopy and online.

Mobile Resource Unit

Ungarie Preschool

- One new enrolment, bringing enrolment numbers on Wednesday to twelve children and Thursdays to nine children.
- Thursday 12 March, children and Educators visited Ungarie Central School to take part in the Zoo Mobile presentation.
- Attendance at Ungarie has decreased due to Covid-19.

Playgroup

Playgroup sessions across all venues – West Wyalong, Tallimba and Weethalle have been suspended due to Covid-19 precautions and restrictions of access to venues.

Vacation Care

The April School Holiday Program will run from Tuesday 14 April to Thursday 23 April. The activity program has been completed and has been sent to schools for advertisement and published on CSU social media.

Bland Preschool

Due to Covid-19, attendance rates have decreased across all classes. Teachers have compiled Easter craft packs for families to collect for use at home. Attendances are expected to be low into Term Two and as such, Teachers are investigating ways to stay in touch with children and families through digital technology.

Preschool excursions/Incursions:

- Tuesday 10 March: Healthy Harold Life Education Van - Monday/ Tuesday Bilby
- Wednesday 11 March: Healthy Harold Life Education Van - Wednesday / Thursday Bilby and Gecko
- Thursday 12 March: Zoo Mobile - Wednesday/ Thursday Bilby and Gecko
- Thursday 19 March: Yoga - Wednesday/ Thursday Gecko
- Thursday 26 March: Yoga - Wednesday/ Thursday Bilby
- Monday 23 March: Yoga - Monday / Tuesday Bilby
- Splatter Gallery – Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Family Day Care

- A Temora FDC Educator celebrated 20 years' service in Family Day Care.
- Educators in West Wyalong attended two excursions at the beginning of the month. On Monday 9 March, Educators and children visited Wyalong Public School to participate in the Healthy Harold workshop. On Thursday 12 March, Educators and children came to the Children Services Unit to take part in the Zoo Mobile presentation.
- The West Wyalong and Temora Educator park catch-up in Temora scheduled for Thursday 26 March was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- The Children Services Coordinator and FDC Support Officer met with a potential new Educator in Aria Park on Friday 6 March; however, the prospective Educator has decided to postpone the application process due to COVID-19.
- Playgroups in West Wyalong and Temora have been cancelled due to COVID-19.
- The service was successful in gaining Inclusion Support Funding for an Educator, meaning that this Educator receives funding to reduce group sizes to accommodate for the requirements of any enrolled child with additional needs.
- The Indigenous workshop facilitated by Koori Curriculum was offered to all FDC Educators, with one Educator attending along with the FDC Support Officer.
- Monitoring visits of FDC educators are currently held over the phone.
- Annual Educator Workplace Safety Audits are continuing to be conducted as due.

8.12 Bland Community Care Services Update



Our People - A Strong, healthy, connected and inclusive community

DP1- Ensure health and support services address the needs of the community

Author: Community Care Coordinator

Our services have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, meaning we are only providing direct in home services until further notice. We are keeping updated with the latest information, as it is released to ensure we are acting accordingly. We are using this time to continue to refine our services and processes.

Group Activities

Due to social distancing measures implemented by the Health Department, all group activities have been suspended until further notice.

Direct Services

Direct services remain in place at this time; we are constantly reviewing the latest information given to us by the Department to ensure we are following the latest directions in relation to community care services. All staff have completed a COVID19 Infection Control online learning module to ensure we are practising the latest protocols to minimise and aid in prevention of the virus spreading.

Client Intake

We have reduced our client intake to minimise contact with people. However, should there be an urgent referral or enquiry we are assisting with these over the phone to ensure that client needs are met.

COVID information provision to current clientele

Fact sheets on COVID-19 specifically designed for senior Australians, along with home delivery services available locally have been posted to all clients. This is to ensure we are assisting to keep our clients up to date with the virus and associated services to assist in keeping them safe.

8.13 Assets & Engineering Services Report



Our Places - Maintain & improve the Shire's assets & infrastructure

*DP9.1 Responsibly manage asset renewal and maintenance for current and future generations
DP9.4 Maintain parks, ovals and recreational facilities to approved standards*

Author: Director Technical Services

1. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 16.3.2020

- Graders
 - Thulloo Road
 - McCaskies Lane Area
 - Lewes /Narriah Road
 - Longergans Lane
 - MR57 North
- Gravel Carting
 - Kolkibertoo Road
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Shire Roads

2. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 23.3.2020

- Graders
 - Thulloo Road
 - McCaskies Lane Area
 - Lewes /Narriah Road
 - Longergans Lane
 - McCartens Lane
- Gravel Carting
 - Kolkibertoo Road
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Kilkilbertoo Stockpile
 - Shire Roads

3. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 30.3.2020

- Graders
 - Thulloo Road
 - McCaskies Lane Area
 - Bootowa Road
 - Kalms Lane
 - McCartens Lane
- Gravel Carting
 - Deans Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - 57 North Stockpile
 - Shire Roads

8.14 Development Services Activity Report – March 2020



Our Leadership - A well run Council acting as the voice of the community

DP17 Lead the community by example with sustainable, effective, efficient and customer focused practices

Author: Manager Development & Regulatory Services

Planning and Building Activities Update

Development Applications

The Council has received the following Development Applications during March 2020:

Application No	Address	Development
DA2020/0055	7 Golden Street, West Wyalong	Change of use commercial to a vehicle repairs workshop
DA2020/0056	22 Monash Street , West Wyalong	Change of use from a garage to an office and storeroom and including the construction of a new carport
DA2020/0057	279 Neeld Street, West Wyalong	New storage shed
DA2020/0059	42 Monash Street, West Wyalong	Retrospective development application for an existing garden feature (Windmill)
DA2020/0060	32 Old Hospital Road, West Wyalong	New single storey dwelling and storage shed
DA2020/0061	79 Boltes Lane, West Wyalong	New single storey dwelling, storage shed and Inground swimming pool
DA2020/0062	2A Dumaresq Street, West Wyalong	Storage shed
DA2020/0063	463 Back Creek Road, Wyalong	New single storey dwelling

The following DA applications were approved during March 2020:

Application No	Address	Development	Approval Date
DA2020/0045	95 Pine Street, West Wyalong	Demolition of existing dwelling and storage shed including the removal of trees	3/2/2020
DA2020/0047	2 Charles Place, West Wyalong	New single storey dwelling	4/3/2020
DA2020/0048	12 Montgomery Street, West Wyalong	New single storey dwelling	17/3/2020
DA2020/0049	1 Oak Street, Wyalong	Demolition of an existing office building and the installation of a new transportable office building	25/3/2020
DA2020/0050	115 Main Street, West Wyalong	Use of footpath for an "A" frame advertising sign	26/3/2020
DA2020/0054	Sutcliffes Lane, Aria Park	Subdivision creation of one (1) additional lot for the purposes of agriculture	17/3/2020
DA2020/0055	7 Golden Street, West Wyalong	Change of use	27/3/2020
DA2020/0059	42 Monash Street, West Wyalong	Retrospective development consent for a garden feature (Windmill)	25/3/2020

Building Inspections

The following inspections were carried out by Council during March 2020:

Inspection Type	Number
Pre-Lodgement	2
Site	18
Pier Holes	3
Slab/Coping	8
Frame	3
Hot & Cold	1
Wet Areas	3
Drainage/Plumbing	4
Final	16

Public Health Activities Update

Food Premises

Council staff undertook **five (5)** food premises inspections during March 2020. All food premises inspected were found to be compliant.

Regulatory Activities Update

Dog Attacks

There were no dog attacks reported during March 2020.

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities March 2020

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	10	1
Returned to Owner	8	0

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	9	19
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	2	1
Dumped at Pound	3	4
Surrendered	10	1
Total Animals in Pound	24	25

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	1	0
Euthanased	0	0
Rehoused	17	0
Sold	0	1
Died at Pound	0	2
Stolen	0	0
Escaped	0	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	18	3
Animals in Pound at end of Month	6	22

NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE