

Bland Shire Council Business Paper Council Meeting





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OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

A place where people are valued, an environment that is respected, a future that is bright, a community that is proud

sion

Working together to improve our quality of life

BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL west wyalong

- Put the community first
- Work together as a committed team
- Respect and value each other Have open and honest two-way communication

Ur

- Act with integrity and honesty
 Continuously
- improve our services
 Keep ourselves and
- others safe

Value

Affirmation of Office

I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Bland Shire and the Bland Shire Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

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, Nonpecuniary – 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	6972 2266	council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au	www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au
Council			
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



Council Meeting Agenda

19 April 2022 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.

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 Monica Clark Cr Rodney Crowe Cr Jill Funnell Cr Kerry Keatley Cr Tony Lord Cr Liz McGlynn Mayor Brian Monaghan Cr Roger Moore Staff General Manager – Ray Smith PSM Acting Director Corporate & Community Services – Leesa Bryant Executive Assistant – Julie Sharpe

2.2 Apologies

Director Technical Services – Will Marsh Director Corporate & Community Services – Alison Balind

2.3 Applications for a leave of absence by Councillors

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Ordinary Meeting held on 22 March 2022
- Corrections
- Business Arising
- Confirmation

4.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor/ Officer	Item	Nature of Interest	How Managed
		O Non-PecuniaryO Pecuniary	 O Verbal Disclosure O Written Disclosure O Left meeting

5.0 PRESENTATION(S) AND PUBLIC FORUM

6.0 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

7.0 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

8.0 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Section 1 - Office of the General Manager

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- 9.0 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE
- 10.0 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS
- 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
Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (Cr Lord)	5 July 2022	
Australia Day Awards Committee of the Whole (Whole Council)		
Bland Rural Fire District Zone Liaison Committee (Cr Baker)		
Bland – Temora RFS Zone Bushfire Management Committee (Cr Baker)		
Community Reference Group (Whole Council)		
Country Mayors Association of NSW (Mayor Monaghan)	27 May 2022	
Cowal Gold Project Community Environmental Monitoring & Consultative Committee (CEMCC) (Cr McGlynn)	9 March 2022	
Goldenfields Water County Council Board (Cr McGlynn, alternate Cr Lord)	28 April 2022	
Lachlan Regional Transport Committee (LRTC) (Cr Lord)	23 April 2022	
Local Traffic Advisory Committee (Cr Moore)		
Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network Board (Cr Funnell)		

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON 19 APRIL 2022

Newell Highway Taskforce	9 May 2022	
(Cr Lord)		
NSW Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils (MERC)	18 March 2022 3 June 2022	\checkmark
(Cr McGlynn)		
NSW Public Libraries Association (Cr Clark)		
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)	25 February 2022	\checkmark
(Mayor Monaghan)		
Riverina Joint Organisation (Mayor Monaghan)	25 February 2022	\checkmark
Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee (Cr Clark)		

355 Committee	Date/s	Minutes attached
Barmedman Community Centre		
Barmedman Tidy Towns		
Mirrool Silo Kick Challenge Committee		
Ungarie Advancement Group	12 January 2022 16 February 2022	✓ ✓
Ungarie Retirement Village Association		
Ungarie Showground Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Committee		
Weethalle Community Committee		
Wyalong School of Arts & Hall Committee		

Recommendation:

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

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 18th MARCH 2022, AT ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB, 243 ANSON ST, ORANGE, NSW.

Present in person

Cr Michael Banasik Cr Phyllis Miller OAM Cr Mathew Deeth Steve Loane OAM Cr Kevin Duffy Cr Jason Hamling Cr Scott Ferguson Cr David Somervaille Kent Boyd Cr Peter Batten Heather Nicholls Brad Cam Cr Mathew Dickerson Murray Wood Cr Dennis Brady Cr Denis Todd

By Zoom

Cr Dom Figliomeni Jon Shillito

Apologies

Cr Liz McGlynn Cr Jim Hickey Peter Vlatko Cr Peter Abbott Cr Jarrod Marsden Cr Des Kennedy Cr Andrew Dawson Rebecca Ryan David Henry Cath Blakey Ron Zwicker Cr Elaine Bendall Cr Rob Hooke Andrew Johns Greg Tory Cr Jane Keir Mike Urguhart Garv Woodman Cr Ros Jackson Cr Katrina Walker Cr John Stafford Colleen Worthy Cr Aneillo Iannuzzi

Wollondilly Shire Council (Chair) Forbes Shire Council (Dep Chair) Wollondilly Shire Council **Forbes Shire Council** Orange City Council (Dep Chair) **Orange City Council** Blayney Shire Council (Ex Comm) **Blayney Shire Council** Parkes Shire Council **Cabonne Shire Council Cabonne Shire Council** Mid Western Regional Council **Dubbo Regional Council Dubbo Regional Council** Lachlan Shire Council (Ex Comm) Warrumbungle Shire Council (Ex Comm)

Wollongong City Council Lachlan Shire Council

Bland Shire Council Broken Hill City Council Cobar Shire Council **Cobar Shire Council Cobar Shire Council** Mid Western Regional Council Cabonne Shire Council **Blayney Shire Council** Wollondilly Shire Council Wollongong City Council Wollongong City Council Lachlan Shire Council **Gunnedah Shire Council** Gunnedah Shire Council Lachlan Shire Council Walgett Shire Council Walgett Shire Council Warren Shire Council Warren Shire Council Warren Shire Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council Warrumbungle Shire Council

In attendance

Greg Lamont, Executive Officer (Minute Taker); Liza Schiff (Melting Pot Planning); Roy Butler (MP Barwon accompanied by Senior Policy Officer Troy Leonard and Brett Cooke from Phil Donato's office – MP Orange) and Ross De Rango (Electric Vehicle Council, Tim McMinn (DPE-Hydrogen Hub) by zoom.

1. Welcome by Chair.

The Acting Chair, Councillor Michael Banasik welcomed members to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 9.20am. Chair asked all delegates to introduce themselves and outline why their Council is a member of MERC. Delegates were amazed with the level of investment in mining & renewable energy projects in their LGA's.

What was interesting were the Councils that were setting up their own energy sources eg Mid Western Regional Council's Megawatt Solar Farm; Wollongong City Council has a Renewable Energy Action Plan and Blayney but projects are being held up by Essential Energy approvals.

A welcome address to delegates was provided by the Mayor of Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, highlighting the level of investment in tourism and in mining in and renewable energy in the region with the Council leading by example by undertaking the following projects:-

Airport carports with solar on them; Aquatic Centre has solar energy in place; Wade Park, major sporting facility have plans for energy upgrade; Water Treatment Plant has 450kw solar plant ground mounted; Waste Water Treatment Plant re-use scheme & stormwater harvesting; Civic Centre has roof top solar, EV charging station and plans for EV charging stations in carpark and solar on the Library.

2. Acknowledgement of Country by Chair

"I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land that we meet on today and pay our respects to the Elders past, present & emerging".

3. Apologies.

AGM 1/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Banasik) that the apologies as per the above list be received and noted

4. Disclosures of Interest.

(a) Cr Dom Figliomeni declared his interest as a shareholder in New Hope and Whitehaven mining companies;

AGM 2/2022 Resolved (Loane/Nicholls) that the disclosures of interest and reasons for them be received and noted.

5. Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 27th November 2020.

AGM 3/2020 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Banasik) that the minutes of the Association's Annual General Meeting held on 8th November 2019, be received and noted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6. Business arising from the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 27th November 2020. Nil

7. Chairperson's 2020 Annual Report.

AGM 4/2022 Resolved (Cr Banasik/Cr Miller) that the Chairperson's 2020 Annual Report be received and noted.

8. Executive Officer's 2020 Annual Report.

AGM 5/2022 Resolved (Cr Ferguson/Cr Duffy) that the Executive Officer's 2020 Annual Report be received and noted. The Executive Officer and Executive Committee to discuss MERC's Strategic Plan 2020-2023 core business approach given the rapid expansion and growth of renewable projects in NSW, since the Strategic Plan was adopted in 2020 and due for review in 2023.

9. Election of Chairperson, Deputy Chairpersons and Executive Committee.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS AT 9.30AM

Election Executive Committee

AGM 6/2022 Resolved (Cr Figliomeni/Cr Batten) That the meeting be suspended to allow the Returning Officer to conduct the election of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Officer reported that the nominations for the Executive Committee received by the due date equated to the vacancies for Chair and the two Deputy Chair positions, however there were still three positions vacant for the Executive Committee that need to be sought from delegates.

The Returning Officer (MERC Executive Officer) called for nominations from the floor for positions on the Executive Committee, noting that Cr Figliomeni declined his nomination due to his level of commitments. The Executive Officer announced the result being Councillors Scott Ferguson (Blayney Shire), Dennis Brady (Lachlan Shire) and Denis Todd (Warrumbungle Shire) were duly elected to the Executive Committee of MERC. The results of the election were as follows:

- Chair Cr Michael Banasik (Wollondilly Shire Council;)
- Deputy Chair Cr Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council);
- Deputy Chair Cr Kevin Duffy (Orange City Council);
- Executive Committee -
 - Cr Scott Ferguson (Blayney Shire Council), Cr Dennis Brady (Lachlan Shire Council) and Cr Denis Todd (Warrumbungle Shire Council)

Delegates congratulated the Executive Committee on their appointments

Speaker- Roy Butler, MP Barwon

Roy Butler, Troy Leonard (MP Barwon's office) and Brett Cooke (MP Orange office) entered the meeting at 9.45am and Chair allowed them to address delegates on current regional issues whilst meeting was in suspension.

Matters discussed were:- Resources for Regions Program; Mining, Rural and Business rates changes; Shared Equity in Housing; Energy Projects being held up by Essential Energy approvals; Solar Waste Management toxicity issues; Virtual Power Plants and Voluntary Planning Agreements. Roy undertook to follow the issues up (Essential Energy) and communicate with Executive Officer on them to forward to delegates the results of his representation. Speakers left meeting at 10.10am

RESUMPTION STANDING ORDERS AT 10.10AM

AGM 7/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Figliomeni) that the Association resume the Annual General Meeting business.

10. Financial Statements – 1/7/20 to 30/6/21

AGM 7/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Brady) that the Financial Report for 2020-2021 financial year be referred to the NSW Department of Fair Trading to note, in accordance with the Association Incorporations Act 2009.

11. 2021-2022 Budget

AGM 8/2022 Resolved (Cr Todd/Cr Brady) that the 2021-2022 budget as presented be adopted by the Association.

12. Membership Fees

AGM 9/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Brady) that the Association membership fees for 2021 – 2022 be increased by the rate peg, set by the State Government the previous year, plus GST and this be applied annually. (Note 2021/22 rate peg is 0.07%)

13. 2022 Meeting Dates & Venues

AGM 10/2022 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Miller) that the following meeting cycle be adopted for 2022 – next 2 meetings to be in Sydney (May and August) and November in Dubbo.

14. General Business

Item (a) Delegates appointments - Nil

AGM 11/2022 Resolved (Cr Hall/Cr Moore) that the information in item (a) be noted.

15. Next Meeting of Annual General Meeting.

Refer decisions in Item 12

16. Close. The meeting closed at 11.04am

The minutes (pages 1-4) were confirmed at the Annual General meeting of the Association held on the _____2022 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 18th March 2022

Cr Michael Banasik Chairperson

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB, 243 ANSON ST, ORANGE, 18th MARCH 2022

Present in person

Cr Michael Banasik Cr Phyllis Miller OAM Cr Mathew Deeth Steve Loane OAM Cr Kevin Duffy Cr Jason Hamling Cr Scott Ferguson Cr David Somervaille Kent Boyd Cr Peter Batten Heather Nicholls Brad Cam Cr Mathew Dickerson Murray Wood Cr Dennis Brady Cr Denis Todd

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Apologies

Cr Liz McGlynn Cr Jim Hickey Peter Vlatko Cr Peter Abbott Cr Jarrod Marsden Cr Des Kennedv Cr Andrew Dawson Rebecca Ryan **David Henry** Cath Blakey Ron Zwicker Cr Elaine Bendall Cr Rob Hooke Andrew Johns Greg Tory Cr Jane Keir Mike Urguhart Gary Woodman Cr Ros Jackson Cr Katrina Walker Cr John Stafford Colleen Worthy Cr Aneillo Iannuzzi

Wollondilly Shire Council (Chair) Forbes Shire Council (Dep Chair) Wollondilly Shire Council **Forbes Shire Council** Orange City Council (Dep Chair) Orange City Council Blayney Shire Council (Ex Comm) **Blayney Shire Council** Parkes Shire Council **Cabonne Shire Council Cabonne Shire Council** Mid Western Regional Council **Dubbo Regional Council Dubbo Regional Council** Lachlan Shire Council (Ex Comm) Warrumbungle Shire Council (Ex Comm)

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In attendance

Greg Lamont, Executive Officer (Minute Taker); Liza Schiff (Melting Pot Planning); Roy Butler (MP Barwon accompanied by Senior Policy Officer Tim Leonard and Brett Cooke from Phil Donato's office – MP Orange) and Ross De Rango (Electric Vehicle Council, Tim McMinn (DPE-Hydrogen Hub) by zoom.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB, 243 ANSON ST, ORANGE, 18th MARCH 2022

1. Welcome by Chair.

The Chair, Councillor Michael Banasik, welcomed members to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 11.15am.

2. Acknowledgement of Country by Chair

"I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land that we meet on today and pay our respects to the Elders past, present & emerging".

3. Apologies.

OM 1/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Loane) that the apologies as per the above list be received and noted

4. Disclosures of Interest.

Cr Dom Figliomeni declared an interest as a shareholder in New Hope and Whitehaven mining companies.

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th October 2021

OM 2/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Loane) that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15th October 2021 be received and noted.

6. Business Arising from Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15th October 2021 Nil

7. Receipt of the Notes on the Executive Committee Meeting held on 14th March 2022

OM 3/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Duffy) that consideration of the notes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 14th March 2022 be deferred until after the Executive Officer provides a background report on the items & recommendations.

The Executive Officer went through the items in his report that related to matters on the Agenda for this meeting prior to consideration of the notes.

OM 4/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Banasik) that the notes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 14th March 2022 be received and noted.

- 8. Business Arising from the Notes of Executive Committee Meeting held on 14th March 2022 - Nil
- 9. Delegates Reports Nil.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS AT 11.02AM

OM 5/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Duffy) that the meeting be suspended at 11.02am to receive the presentations from the two speakers via zoom.

10. Speakers:

(a) Ross de Rango – Electric Vehicle Council

Spoke on 'Local Government and the transition to EV's" outlining fuel savings; the phenomenal uptake of EV's; energy and distance travelled; charging at home

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT ORANGE EX SERVICES CLUB, 243 ANSON ST, ORANGE, 18th MARCH 2022

options; charging on the go; the layers of government (Federal, State and Local Government) and where they play; Council fleets- start with light vehicles with known usage patterns; Moreland and Casey City Councils in Victoria examples of EV's used in pool vehicles and waste removal; public EV charging facilities in NSW; NRMA to roll out EV drive days as example of consumer education; some wider considerations – content for the EV's needs to be mined from copper, lithium, nickel and what about hydrogen? (Slides were distributed to all delegates prior to the presentation).

(b)Cr Mathew Dickerson – Mayor Dubbo Regional Council

Spoke on the practical aspects of having Electric Vehicles after Ross' presentation and on how Dubbo Regional Council is introducing renewable energy options to save energy costs plus the future of EV's. He also provided his mayoral Electric Vehicle for delegates to drive – a Hyundai Ioniq 5 EV.

(c) Tim McMinn & Michael Probert – DPE, Hydrogen Hub.

Outlined what the NSW State Government is doing with Hydrogen to build on the work of the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. A copy of the government's Hydrogen Strategy will be forwarded with the March Newsletter along with the link to the green hydrogen site for hydrogen powered garbage trucks. (Slides when available will be distributed to delegates).

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AT 12.30PM

OM 5/2022 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Brady) that standing orders be resumed at 12.30am to continue the meeting.

11. Executive Officer's Report – Dealt with in Item 7

12. General Business

(a) Essential Energy Delays

OM 6/2022 Resolved (Loane/Cr Batten) that:

- the Association write to the Minister for Energy Hon Matt Kean, outlining the processing delays being caused by the under resourced Essential Energy in processing energy supply applications being experienced in regional NSW which are bogging down the construction of renewable energy developments; and
- 2. requesting that he intervene to ensure the level of service from Essential Energy is urgently improved to rectify the situation in (1).

(b) Life Memberships

OM 7/2022 Resolved (Cr Duffy/Cr Brady) that consideration of the nominations for life memberships for Owen Hasler and Peter Shinton be referred to the next Executive Committee meeting as per protocol.

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(c) Departing Delegates & Australia Day Honours

OM 8/2022 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Ferguson) that the Association forward letters of appreciation to departing delegates and letters of congratulations to delegates that received recent Australia Day honours.

Close – the meeting closed at 12.35pm

The minutes (pages 1-4) were confirmed at a meeting of the Ordinary Meeting held on the May 2022 and are a concise and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary General meeting held on 18th March 2022.

Cr Michael Banasik Chairperson

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga Friday 25 February 2022

Meeting opened at 11:28am

PRESENT

Cr David McCann Coolamon Shire Council	
Tony Donoghue PSM Coolamon Shire Council	
Courtney Armstrong Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr Charlie Sheahan Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Co	ouncil
Cr Leigh Bowden Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Co	
Cr Tony Quinn Greater Hume Shire Council	
Steven Pinnuck Greater Hume Shire Council	
Luke Taberners Junee Shire Council	Alternate Delegate
Cr Greg Verdon Lockhart Shire Council	J
Peter Veneris Lockhart Shire Council	
Cr Matthew Stadtmiller Goldenfields Water	
Aaron Drenovski Goldenfields Water	
Cr Rick Firman OAM Temora Shire Council – CHAIRMAN	
Gary Lavelle PSM Temora Shire Council	
Julie Briggs REROC	
Kate Hardy REROC	
Claire Garrett REROC	
Andrew Trenaman Riverina Joint Organisation	
Matthew Dudley REROC/RAMJO	

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cr N Smith, J Davis, Cr B Monaghan, R Smith, G Butler, R Whiting and P McMurray.

Moved Cr T Quinn seconded P Veneris that the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved P Veneris, seconded Cr G Verdon that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

At the November Board meeting, the Board resolved to hold-over the election of the Deputy Chair and the appointment of the REROC Executive until the first Board meeting after the Local Government election. J. Briggs acted as Returning Officer for the election of the Deputy Chairperson.

Election of the Deputy Chairperson

J Briggs called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson for the ensuing term.

Cr N Smith was nominated by Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr D McCann.

There being no further nominations, J Briggs declared Cr N Smith elected as Deputy Chairperson of REROC for the ensuing term.

Appointment of the Board Executive

Bland	Ray Smith
Coolamon	Tony Donoghue (Treasurer)
Coolamon	Cr D McCann
Cootamundra	Cr Charlie Sheahan
Greater Hume	Steven Pinnuck
Junee	Cr Neil Smith
Lockhart	Peter Veneris
Temora	Cr Rick Firman

Moved Cr T Quinn, seconded S Pinnuck that the above nominated Board members be appointed to the REROC Executive for the ensuing term.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the new Ministers – Following the announcement of the new NSW Ministry, personalised letters were sent to all new NSW Ministers in December prior to the Christmas office closure.

Moved Cr T Quinn, seconded Cr C Sheahan that the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The report was tabled. J Briggs raised the following with Members:

The Regional Social Housing Project – we are looking to run this project in conjunction with a Community Housing provider. The Executive will begin work on a scope for the EOI.

Meeting with the Minister for Planning, Hon Anthony Roberts MP – Cr Firman, S Pinnuck and the CEO met with the Minister and his adviser via Teams on 10 February. The meeting discussed the proposed changes to Infrastructure Contributions Charges, the Regional Housing Strategy, the \$30 million Kickstart Fund, the Manufactured Homes Regulations and REROC's proposal to run a Regional Social Housing project in conjunction with a Community Housing Provider.

Moved G Lavelle, seconded Cr D McCann that the Board write to the Minister to thank him for the meeting, reiterate the issues that were raised and provide a copy of the Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy.

CARRIED

Southern Lights – the project is now being managed by CNSWJO. The current focus is on the potential roll-out of Smart Technology. There have been on-going delays from Essential Energy's end with regard to the Business Case, however, EE's stance appears to be that the Smarts are of little benefit to them and consequently the cost should be met by the councils.

IPART Review of the DNSP Licence Provisions – Our response on behalf of Southern Lights focused on the licence provisions that are tied to public lighting. SSROC also wrote to IPART advising that they supported the Southern Lights' submission.

Moved Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr T Quinn that REROC endorse the Southern Lights' submission to the IPART Review on DNSP Licence Provisions.

CARRIED

Review of the Public Lighting Code – a full review of the Code is continuing, and members of the Southern Lights Project have divided into groups to deal with specific issues. The Code allows for councils to keep the DNSPs accountable for their actions.

Rail Interface Agreements – this has been a difficult negotiation and REROC has made it very clear that Member Councils will not sign the contract as it currently stands because councils are unable to fulfil its contractual obligations. UGL have now embarked on State-wide consultations with councils focused on the requirements of Transport for NSW's Third-Party Works Procedure.

Moved Cr G Verdon, seconded S Pinnuck that REROC endorse the submission to UGL in relation to the formation of Road Rail Interface Agreements and further there is a comparison between the ARTC template and the UGL template.

CARRIED

Stewardship for Consumer Electrical and Electronic Products Discussion Paper – we have received an extension for this submission until 11 March 2022. There are concerns around the expansion of the service to "anything with a cord", given the difficulties that are currently experienced disposing of e-waste. REROC features in the Discussion Paper released by the Government.

Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy – final report was presented to the Board for adoption.

Moved Cr D McCann, seconded Cr C Sheahan that REROC endorse the Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy with copies of the Strategy to be forwarded to Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Western NSW, Local Members, LGNSW, RDA-Riverina and local stakeholders.

CARRIED

Draft Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline – this was released just before Christmas however we only became aware of it in February. A copy was provided to the Board. Submissions were due on Monday 28 Feb however we have received an extension for our submission until 11 March 2022.

Moved T Donoghue, seconded Cr T Quinn that REROC work with the Riverina JO to lodge a response to the Guideline.

CARRIED

REROC Meeting at Parliament House – it was agreed that REROC undertake to arrange a visit to State Parliament House on 12 May 2022.

Moved P Veneris, seconded Cr D McCann that REROC arrange a visit to Parliament House on 12 May 2022.

CARRIED

Moved Cr C Sheahan, seconded S Pinnuck that the CEO Report be received.

CARRIED

RESOURCE SHARING REPORT

The report was tabled. J Briggs raised the following issues with members:

Southern Lights – Ausgrid and Endeavour will have Smart Lights deployed and functioning by the end of the year for the councils in their Sydney footprint, this is very disappointing for the Southern Lights group who have been working for over 3 years to have the same Smart Communications deployed but have met with constant barriers by Essential Energy. We have organised for Mrs D Taylor from Bathurst City Council to conduct a workshop on bill and inventory reading for the REROC councils.

Planning Technical Group – The Group was addressed by Amanda Harvey, Executive Director for Local Strategies and Plan Making at DPE spoke about Local Environment Plan Making Guidelines.

Workforce Development – the Group is continuing to act as the Steering Committee for the Skills Shortages Project.

Water and Wastewater – the Group will be visiting the new STP at Gundagai on 21 April.

Energy Management Group – a report on the Sustainable Councils and Communities Program was provided by Mr M Caddey, our SCC Project Officer. We received a \$25,000 grant from SCC to assist meeting the cost of the consultant to advise on the Large Site retail Energy contract. The consultant has now met with all participating REROC councils. Unfortunately, we have lost Mr Caddey who has taken on a new role at DPE.

Moved Cr D McCann, seconded T Donoghue that REROC write to Mr M Caddey to thank him for his work as our Project Officer on the Sustainable Councils and Communities project.

CARRIED

Energy and Innovation Conference – the March event has been cancelled due to low numbers and a new conference program will be developed for a conference to be run on 14-15 September 2022. There will be a shift with the new conference, away from Local Government and more towards community and business.

Build a Bridge – the Camp will run from 26-28 April. The Board is invited to attend at any time across the three days. IPWEA and Riverina Water are sponsors of the event.

Councillor Professional Development Training – we are looking at running training in early May for the new councillors.

Moved Cr C Sheahan, seconded S Pinnuck that the professional development training be organised for early May.

CARRIED

Moved P Veneris, seconded Cr T Quinn that the Resource Sharing report be received.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was tabled by T Donoghue, with the following issues raised:

- Income is down due to conferences not running; however, we are still in a healthy position.
- 2022/23 Budget was presented to the Board, with membership options discussed.
- 0.7% flat rate increase for REROC Membership be accepted.

Moved T Donoghue, seconded Cr C Sheahan the Finance Report be received and that the proposed increase in REROC Membership fees be adopted.

CARRIED

Mrs Courtney Armstrong left the meeting at 11:43am

WASTE FORUM REPORT

The report was tabled. K Hardy raised the following issues with members:

No Time to Waste Conference – the conference will be held on 9-10 March at The Range Function Centre. Unfortunately, Minister Evans advised that he is no longer able to attend as Keynote speaker for Day One. We have had good response to the conference with great support from businesses with sponsorship and Trade Stand attendance.

Say No to Plastics Expo – the expo is being run simultaneously with the Waste Conference through a grant we received for NSW Small Business Month.

Waste Metal Tenders – we are in the process of checking through all documentation we have received to date from the contractor as we have found some discrepancies in some of the Participating Councils' collections. We will update the Board on this at the April meeting.

Kindy Kits – 1,559 Kindy Kits were distributed across the Region to schools who had placed orders. The Board was also given a Kindy Kit for reference.

CRC Education and Communication Plan – we have had great coverage on both Prime 7 and WIN Network through the large sporting events at the start of the year. We are also advertising at the Temora Cinema and on community radio in Bland, Greater Hume and Temora. Our Community and Landfill surveys will also commence over the coming weeks.

Safe Sharps – there has been no progress on our requests for funding however, the CEO did have a positive conversation with Diabetes NSW during the week.

Waste Consultation Papers – we are currently involved in a number of consultations for Discussion Papers that are currently out for review. Copies were provided to the Board.

Moved Cr D McCann, seconded Cr C Sheahan that the Waste Forum report be received. CARRIED

YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK REPORT

The report was tabled. K Hardy raised the following issues with members:

Youth and Community Development – the group has been assisting REROC by collating names for businesses to contact for the upcoming 'Say No to Plastics' Expo. They have also been liaising with Mr P Worsfold, RivJO Project Co-ordinator for the Start Your Career Here program to run some Career workshops as school holiday programs.

Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum 2022 – the March event was postponed due to COVID restrictions impacting on the schools' ability to attend. The new date for the Forum is 31 August 2022 at The Range Function Centre, Wagga Wagga. The Hon Ben Franklin, NSW Minister for Arts, Youth and First Nations will open the event.

We have applied for grant funding to assist with the cost of the event and are once again requesting that REROC Member Councils assist with the costs by contributing \$500 per Member Council.

Moved T Donoghue, seconded Mc D McCann that REROC Member Councils contribute \$500 each to assist with the funding of the 2022 Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum which is being held in Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 31 August 2022.

CARRIED

Moved by Cr T Quinn, seconded G Lavelle that REROC write to Wagga Wagga City Council requesting that they contribute \$1,000 to assist with the funding of the 2022 Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum which is being held in Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 31 August 2022.

CARRIED

Moved Cr C Sheahan, seconded Cr D McCann that the Youth & Community Development Network report be received.

CARRIED

PROCUREMENT REPORT

The report was tabled. K Hardy raised the following issues with Members:

Electricity Tender – all of the REROC Participating Councils have met with the appointed consultant, Presync to discuss their large sites and load forecasts for the PPA. A delegation of authority for the General Manager to accept the successful tenderer has been sent to each of the Participating Councils to take to their next council meeting. This is a requirement of the PPA due to the tight timeframes and the volatility of the energy market and the need to lock in contracts quickly. The Participating Councils will also all be meeting with Shell Energy to discuss their Small Sites contract.

Moved Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr D McCann that the Procurement report be received.

CARRIED

REGIONAL CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT REPORT

Matthew Dudley spoke to his written report:

- The project was due to end on 30 June this year, however, the EPA is now looking to extend funding for a further 12 months. The EPA will be developed a framework and KPIs for the program during the extension period.
- SEPP55 this long-waited policy has been released as the SEPP, Resilience and Hazards A discussion paper will be released but there will be no changes to the SEPP55 in the way that contaminated land is dealt with.

Moved P Veneris seconded S Pinnuck that the Contaminated Land Management report be noted and received.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Greater Hume has auspiced a motion going to the 2022 LGNSW Conference next week for the Rural Financial Counselling Service. Greater Hume requested support for the motion from the Member Councils attending the Conference.

NEXT MEETING

Friday 22 April at the Rules Club, Wagga Wagga at 11.00a.m.

CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 1:15pm

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Riverina Joint Organisation

Minutes Board Meeting held 25 February 2022 The meeting opened at 9:14am

Present

Tony Donoghue PSM	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr David McCann	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr Charlie Sheahan	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Cr Leigh Bowden	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Observer
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Steve Pinnuck	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Aaron Drenovski	Goldenfields Water County Council	
Cr Matthew Stadtmiller	Goldenfields Water County Council	
Luke Taberner	Junee Shire Council	Alternative Delegate
Cr Greg Verdon	Lockhart Shire Council	
Peter Veneris	Lockhart Shire Council	
Cr Tim Koschel	Riverina Water County Council	
Andrew Crakanthorp	Riverina Water County Council	
Cr Rick Firman OAM	Independent Chairman	
Gary Lavelle PSM	Temora Shire Council	
Cr Graham Sinclair	Temora Shire Council	
Jane Barnes	Regional NSW	
Julie Briggs	Riverina Joint Organisation	
Andrew Trenaman	Riverina Joint Organisation	
Kate Hardy	REROC	
Claire Garrett	REROC	
Courtney Armstrong	Coolamon Shire Council	

1. Apologies

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr T Quinn that the apologies of Cr N Smith, Cr D Tout, P Thompson, J Davis, P McMurray, R Smith, Cr B Monaghan, G Butler and C Templeton be accepted.

2. Election of the Riverina JO Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Resolved on the motion of Cr G Sinclair, seconded Cr D McCann that the Board:

- **1.** Conduct the election of the Chairperson.
- 2. Resolve to have the position of Deputy Chairperson for a term of 2 years and conduct election for the position.

Cr Firman vacated the Chair. J. Briggs acted as Returning Officer for the election.

Election Chairperson

J. Briggs advised that one Nomination had been received for the position of Chairperson.

Cr N Smith nominated Cr R Firman, seconded by Cr G Verdon. Cr R Firman accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Cr Firman was declared the Chairperson of the Riverina Joint Organisation for a term of 2 years.

Election Deputy Chairperson

J. Briggs advised that one Nomination had been received for the position of Deputy Chairperson.

Cr N Smith nominated Cr R Firman, seconded by Cr D McCann. Cr N Smith accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Cr Smith was declared the Deputy Chairperson of the Riverina Joint Organisation for a term of 2 years.

J. Briggs vacated the Chair, Cr Firman returned to the Chair

Cr Matthew Stadtmiller arrived at 9:22am

3. Move to Committee of the Whole

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D McCann, seconded Cr G Sinclair that the Board conduct its business as a Committee of the Whole.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by the Board or staff.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G Sinclair, seconded Cr G Verdon that the minutes of the 12 November 2021 Board meeting be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

6. Business Arising from Previous Board Meetings

Laing O'Rourke Letter of Support – in accordance with the Board resolution of 12 November 2021, a letter of support was provided to Laing O'Rourke. A copy of the letter was included in Attachment Two.

Resolved on the motion of Cr T Quinn, seconded Cr C Sheahan that the Board receive and note the Business Arising.

7. Correspondence

Following the announcement of the new NSW Ministry, personalised letters were sent to all new NSW Ministers in December prior to the Christmas office closure.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D McCann, seconded Cr G Sinclair that the Board receive and note the correspondence.

Chairman

8. Chief Executive Officer Report

8.1 About the Joint Organisation

The CEO delivered a presentation on the background of the Joint Organisation Network, its structure and operation.

8.2 JO Funding Arrangements and Review

JO Review – the report was released at the end of November. Overall, the Board was unhappy with the Report as it failed to address some key concerns including financial sustainability. Concerns were raised in relation to the recommendation that the OLG set KPIs for individual Joint Organisations, given that the Members are meeting the operating costs, not the OLG.

Resolved on the motion of Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr C Sheahan that the JO write a response to the JO Review, specifically raising concerns regarding the first recommendation that the OLG set KPIs for individual JOs. Copies of the response to be sent to the Minister for Local Government, the shadow minister for Local Government, LGNSW, the Country Mayors Association and the relevant State MPs.

8.3 JO Core Activities - Regional Planning

JO Capacity Building Funding

- 1. Freight Project the Project has been completed.
- 2. Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement the Project has been completed.
- **3.** Stage Two Funding a final funding proposal including budgets was sent to the OLG at the end of December for approval.
- Skills Shortages Project this was a Stage One project and will continue with Stage 2 funding.

Paul Worsfold, Project Officer, provided a project report and requested that prior to the end of March, which is the CSU HEC's Census Date that Members re-confirm or amend their program offerings for the Professional Placements Program. Members were also asked to consider participating in a trial for online Professional Placements to be delivered during the CSU Spring Sessions. We are proposing that the online placement be supervised by the JO with individual councils providing support on the actual tasks. Councils should respond by April 7.

5. Leveraging Economic Development Project – this project requires a Steering Committee to provide direction.

Resolved on the motion of Cr D McCann, seconded Cr T Quinn that the Board note the Report on the Stage One JO Capacity Building Projects and endorse the funding proposal for Stage 2.

Resolved on the motion of Cr T Quinn, seconded Cr G Verdon that a steering committee of General Managers be appointed to guide the Leveraging Economic Development project, including appointment of a consultant. Steering Committee members to be:

- Peter Veneris Lockhart Shire Council
- Peter Thompson Wagga Wagga City Council
- Tony Donoghue Coolamon Shire Council

And that the Riverina JO work with Central NSW JO on the Skill Shortages in Local Government Project.

Regional Water Strategy – noted.

Riverina-Murray Regional Plan – noted.

Regional Housing Shortage – final report presented to the Board for adoption. The Board agreed that the action it would initially undertake would be the development of a "build to rent" policy. The project was referred to the JO Working Parties for development.

Resolved on the motion of Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr C Sheahan that the Board endorse the *Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy* and that copies of the Strategy be forwarded to Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Western NSW, Local Members, LGNSW, RDA-Riverina, local stakeholders, Country Mayors and Shadow Ministers.

Cr T Koschel left the meeting at 10:24am

Telecommunications Black Spots – noted

20 Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW – noted.

LGNSW- JO Committee on Local Water Utilities - noted.

7.3 JO Working Party Meetings

The Working Parties have not met since the last Board meeting.

7.4 JO Core Activities – Advocacy and Lobbying

- 1. New NSW Ministers noted.
- 2. *Meeting at Parliament House* Meeting proposed to take place at State Parliament House on Thursday 12 May 2022.

Resolved on the motion of Cr C Sheahan, seconded Cr G Verdon that the Board undertake to meet at State Parliament House on Thursday 12 May 2022.

3. *Meeting with the Minister for Planning, Hon Anthony Roberts MP* – Cr Firman, S Pinnuck and the CEO met with the Minister and his adviser via Teams on 10 February. The meeting discussed the proposed changes to Infrastructure Contributions Charges, the Regional Housing Strategy, the \$30 million Kickstart Fund, the Manufactured Homes Regulations and REROC's proposal to run a Regional Social Housing project in conjunction with a Community Housing Provider.

Resolved on the motion of Cr D McCann, seconded Cr T Quinn that the Board write to the Minister to thank him for the meeting, reiterate the issues that were raised and provide a copy of the Eastern

Riverina Regional Housing Strategy.

4. *Response to the Department of Planning's Review of Infrastructure Contributions* – a response was prepared and submitted to the Review.

Resolved on the motion of Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr G Sinclair that the Board adopt the Response to the Department of Planning's Review of Infrastructure Contributions.

5. **0.7% Rate Peg** – the impact on the Member Councils from the Rate Peg is profound. LGNSW has included a motion for the Conference calling on the Government to urgently intervene to turn over the 0.7% peg.

Resolved on the motion of Cr C Sheahan, seconded Cr G Sinclair that the Board write to the Chair of IPART, Carmel Donnelly PSM, to raise questions about the methodology that IPART is using to determine the rate peg and advise that it is failing Local Government. Copies of the correspondence to be sent to Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Local Government, local State Members of Parliament and LGNSW. It was also agreed that the Board should seek to make personal representations to the Treasurer.

6. **IPART Review of Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Charges** – IPART released the draft Report just prior to Christmas. IPART is proposing benchmarking Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Charges and considering the possibility of imposing an individual DWM Charge peg.

Resolved on the motion of Cr D McCann, seconded Cr T Quinn that the JO prepare a submission to the IPART Review of the Domestic Waste Management Charges.

- 7. ESL/RFS Contributions noted.
- 8. IPART Review of the Essential Works List noted.
- 9. State funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service noted.
- 10. Consultation on the ABS Agricultural Census noted.
- 11. *Certification of Council Engineers* noted.
- 12. NBN Regional Services noted.
- 13. *Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)* a response to the Draft ARIC guidelines was submitted and there has been no further information from OLG. The Board has previously agreed to continue to work on the development of a regional model this year. The JO is currently required to have its own ARIC in place by 4 June.

Resolved on the motion of Cr T Quinn, seconded Cr G Verdon that the JO Board adopt the response to the ARIC Guidelines and that the Governance Working Party consider options for an ARIC for the JO.

- 8.6 JO Core Activities Intergovernmental Co-operation
- Partnership with NSW Spatial Services and RAMJO noted.

- Critical Events Co-ordination Sub-committee noted.
- Regional Leadership Executive (RLE) Group noted.
- Meetings with Murrumbidgee Primary Health District noted.
- JO Executive Officer Meetings noted.

Resolved on the motion of Cr D McCann, seconded Cr G Sinclair that the Board receive the CEO's Report

8. JO Chairman's Report

The JO Chairs have not met since early November, it is proposed that they meet in Sydney on 25 March 2022.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G Verdon, seconded Cr T Quinn that the Board receive and note the Chairman's Report.

9. Finance Report

- 1. *Employment of New Trainee* the Board welcomed the new trainee, Andrew Trenaman to the JO.
- 2. Draft Budget 2022-23 the Draft Budget was reviewed by the Board. The Budget proposes an increase in membership fees that mirrors 0.7% rate peg.
- 3. Year to Date Financial Report the Financial Report was presented to the Board.
- 4. Audit 2022 the Audit is underway.

Resolved on the motion of Cr T Quinn, seconded Cr D McCann that the Board adopt the draft Budget and Membership Fees for 2022-23 and that the Board receive the Year-to-Date Finance Report.

10. Governance

1. Appointment of Working Parties – the JO has two Working Parties, Governance and Operations. The Board agreed that the new appointments to each Working Party for the ensuing year would be:

Operations Working Party

- Cr R Firman
- R Smith
- Cr D McCann
- Cr C Sheahan
- Cr M Stadtmiller
- A Crakanthorp

Chairman

CEO

- S Pinnuck
- G Lavelle
- Cr G Verdon
- Wagga and Junee representatives to be advised

Governance Working Party

- Cr R Firman
- Cr B Monaghan
- T Donoghue
- Cr B Sinclair
- P McMurray
- A Drenovski
- Cr T Koschel
- Cr T Quinn
- P Veneris
- Wagga and Junee representatives to be advised.

Resolved on the motion of Cr C Sheahan, seconded Cr T Quinn that the above members make up the Governance and Operations Working Parties and that Cr B Monaghan chair the Governance Working Party and Cr D McCann chair the Operations Working Party.

- 2. Appointment to the JO Telecommunications' Sub-committee to be determined.
- 3. **Review of the JO Charter** –the JO's Charter be initially reviewed by the Governance Working Party with recommendations to go to the April Board meeting.
- 4. JO Strategic Plan it was agreed that work on the new Strategic Plan should commence in July.
- 5. Annual Performance Statement noted.

Resolved on the motion of Cr C Sheahan, seconded Cr G Sinclair that The Board make appointments to the JO Working Parties and refer the Review of the JO Charter to the Governance Working Party for recommendations to be made to the April Board meeting on any amendments.

11. Urgent Business without Notice

Remuneration for Deputy Mayors - Cr Charlie Sheahan advised that a late motion has been put to the LGNSW Conference on remuneration for Deputy Mayors. Mayor Sheahan encouraged the Members attending the Conference to support the motion.

Cr Tim Koschel returned to the meeting at 10:57am

Cr Rick Firman, Chairman welcomed all of the Mayors to the Riverina Joint Organisation and invited the new Mayors from Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume and Lockhart to introduce themselves to the Board.

Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at the Rules Club on Friday 25 February 2022

Cr Rick Firman, Chairman welcomed the new Chairs of the two Water County Councils, Cr Matthew Stadtmiller and Cr T Koschel and invited them to introduce themselves to the Board.

12. Resolution to Move out of Committee of the Whole

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G Sinclair, seconded Cr D McCann that the Board move a motion to move out of Committee of the Whole.

13. Next Board Meeting

The Board of the Riverina JO will next meet on Friday, 22 April 2022 at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga.

Meeting closed at 11:06am



UNGARIE ADVANCEMENT GROUP MEETING AUSTRALIA DAY PLANNING & AWARDS held Wednesday 12 January 2022 @ Ungarie C.W.A. Rooms.

Meeting Opened: 7.10pm

Present: Carol Barrett, Les Williams, Kerry Keatley, Wendy Keatley, Vanessa Williams.

Australia Day Award Categories for 2022:

- * Citizens of the Year
- * Community Group of the Year
- * Community Service Group of the Year
- * Junior Sports Person
- * Community Pride Award- New Award.

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Nominations:

* <u>Citizen of the Year Award</u> – Joint Nomination for Citizens of the Year (2022) Les Williams & Carol Barrett for keeping Ungarie's Postal service going following the passing of Post Master, Jeffery de Rozario.

* <u>Community Group of the Year</u> – Ungarie Pre-Loved Team, led by Kristy McClintock for fund raising for Ungarie Community Groups throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic. Since 2020, up to January 2022, Ungarie Pre-Loved has raised in excess of \$17,500, all of which has been donated back into the Ungarie Community.

* <u>Community Service Group of the Year</u> – Ungarie Community Postal Agency Team for ensuring the continuation of the Mail Services in the Ungarie area since the passing of Jeffery de Rozario. In addition to Les Williams and Carol Barrett, the Ungarie Community Postal Agency team has included Brenton (Buster) Clarke, Ray McKenzie, Wally Wales, Janice Pratt, and Jett Brew.

* Junior Sports Person – Hugh Williams is a worthy recipient of the Junior Sports Person Award, having excelled in School Sports, local Community Sports and Representative Sports Events during 2021/2022. Hugh did not just specialise in just one Sport, but was successful in at least 4 different sports.

* <u>Ungarie Community Pride</u> (New Award for 2022)- The Ungarie Advancement Group, and the residents of Ungarie would like to commend Will Whiting for the great mural he commissioned on his building in Ungarie Street, that shows his pride in the history of Ungarie. This pride in our local Community should be acknowledged and encouraged, hence the new award.

UNGARIE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

With Covid restrictions, holding our usual Australia Day Breakfast at the Memorial Hall could be quite difficult, particularly with our limited number of volunteers. The Bland Shire Council is holding a Pool Party on Australia Day. It is planned to hold Ungarie's Australia Day Celebrations at the Pool Party, the advantages being that the Pool will be responsible for monitoring the Covid requirements, plus the Party is sponsored by the Bland Shire Council, with entry to the Pool being free, and a free BBQ supplied.

The Advancement Group will need to communicate with Rebecca O'Donnell at Bland Shire Council, and ask for permission to make some Australia Day Awards at the Pool Party. We will also need to ask about the times for the Pool Party so that we can advertise.

Kerry Keatley is to speak to Craig Sutton regarding us combining our Australia Day Celebrations with their Pool Party.

Carol Barrett to purchase photo frames for the Australia Day Award certificates. Brony Mason to be asked to print the Award Certificates once again.

* Bland Shire Council Australia Day Awards- Presentation of the Bland Shire Council Awards is being held on the evening of Tuesday 25th January @ the new Trivoli Theatre in West Wyalong. Kerry said that while he cannot tell the meeting what award the Ungarie Community Postal Agency team had been nominated for, he asked that Carol, Les and Wally please attend the Awards Night.

Meeting Closed.

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UNGARIE ADVANCEMENT GROUP GENERAL MEETING held WEDNESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2022 @ the UNGARIE C.W.A. ROOMS.

Meeting Opened: 7.10pm

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Present: Carol Barrett, Anne Wells, Wendy Keatley, Kerry Keatley, Vanessa Williams, Pam Brewer, Lindsey Henley.

Apologies: Les Williams, Mary Gregg, Claire Delaney.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were read:

Moved that the Minutes be accepted as read: Vanessa Williams 2nd: Wendy Keatley. Passed.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

* Maintenance of Museum Grounds- Don Duncan asked the Council workers if they could spray out of the Museum. However, they did quite a poor job of spraying, so Lindsey Henley sprayed the area again.

* Showgrounds Amenities Block- Unfortunately, the construction of a new amenities block is currently at a standstill as the Council has been unable to find tradespeople to undertake the work.

* Water Refill Station from Goldenfields Water- Following the suggestion of getting a water bubbler reinstalled in Bing Wallder Park, Vanessa has found that Goldenfields Water donates a Water Refill Station to each Council, each year. We could appeal to Bland Shire Council to allow Ungarie to have the Water Refill Station.

Treasurers Report: In the Treasurers absence, the report has been prepared by the Secretary.

Accounts for Payment- Invoice 153893 from Vanessa Williams Reimbursement for Purchases made for Australia Day 2022- Sausage Sizzle at the

Pool Party.	
Ungarie Butchery -	\$214.00
Bernardi's-	<u>\$ 53.60</u>
Total	\$267.60
Reimbursement for Carol Barrett-	
Photo frames for Ungarie's Australia Day Awards	\$ 34.95
Printer Cartridge	\$ 36.95
Total	\$ 71.90

Moved that Accounts be Paid- Carol Barrett 2nd- Wendy Keatley Passed.
Moved that the Treasurers Report be accepted as presented- Carol Barrett 2nd- Vanessa Williams Passed.

General Business

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* <u>Town Maintenance</u> - The streets and roadside verges around Ungarie have become very overgrown with weeds, and there has been little or no upkeep by Council. Graham McCubbin has said that Council workers have been given a directive that they are only permitted to spray with Roundup, which is ineffective against many of the weeds. Local residents have been taking the issue of Town Maintenance into their own hands, mowing, whipper snippering and weeding in the main street to keep the town presentable.

*Zone judging for Royal Rural Women in Ungarie – The Ungarie Show Society has been chosen to Host the 2022 Zone Judging for the Rural Women's Competition (formally the Miss Showgirl Competition). The judging will be held at the Ungarie Memorial Hall on the 26th February 2022.

Unfortunately, the area near the Memorial Hall is in poor condition, with the road surface collapsed, dust from trucks parking, as well as an accumulation of wet grain on the road just out front of the Hall. Until just recently it was also overgrown with weeds, however a local resident mowed the entire stretch of roadside from the Central Hotel to past the Memorial Hall. The maintenance of the road is the responsibility of the State Government, however the Council could be requested to do a general tidy up.

*Council in Ungarie on Monday 14th February- Council workers did come to Ungarie to mow on Monday, however the result was not great. Unfortunately, Council workers only get one day /week per village to try and keep the places tidy. With the wetter than usual season, the workers cannot keep up with the mowing much less any other maintenance work, and Ungarie is not the only village is looking in a poor state of repair.

*<u>Working Bee to clean-up Ungarie</u>- To be held this Sunday, 20th February 2022, commencing at 9.00am. The Advancement Group will challenge people to clean up in front of their homes, and if they require help to do this, we would ask them to please ask for help.

*<u>New Pump Track up & operational</u>- The pump track is a transportable track suitable for push bikes and scooters. It has been set up in Henderson Park, up near the Retirement Village. The track is already being used by local children, however the ground around the track needs some work. It is over run with catheads and khaki weed, plus it requires some seating to allow people to be able to rest in the shade. Although Henderson Park has not been used for some time, with the Pump Track now located there, it needs to be maintained as a Park, including giving the entrance archway a new coat of paint.

*Ungarie Museum Meeting- Bland Shire Council Museum Advisor, Margot Jolly, attended the Ungarie Museum on Tuesday 8th February 2022. Ms Jolly advised that a priority for the Museum is to try and keep the Museum clean. When Margot heard that Ungarie would be celebrating 150 Years in September 2022, she suggested that we could work on Story Boards featuring the story associated with 3 or 4 people or places that were pivotal to Ungarie's development as a town. Suggested subjects are Wollongough Station; Ungaree Station; the Henderson Brothers; Max Leckie. The wood panelled wall on the Cafe side should be painted a neutral colour so these Story boards can be displayed to best effect. Margot suggested that Kerry Keatley could ask Council to supply the paint for this project.

Margot Jolly will be returning to the Ungarie Museum on Tuesday 8th March 2022.

*UNGARIE'S 150 YEAR CELEBRATIONS-

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Lindsey Henley's Book- The book is called "A Book of Memories", and features 37 Ungarie residents and their stories. The front cover will have a photo of the White Elephant Water Tank. It is expected that the first print run will be for 500 copies. The launch for "A Book of Memories" will be held on Friday evening at the welcome to the 150 year Celebrations.

The Welcome will be held in the Ungarie Memorial Hall, with a light supper of finger foods served.

Vanessa Williams suggested that to get an indication of the level of interest in Lindsey's book, some forward advertising online could request a show of numbers that people would like to order.

<u>Facebook Page for 150 Year Celebrations</u>- Vanessa has launched a new Facebook Page so that interested people can follow or add their comments to the 150 Year plans.

Vanessa also brought along a list of suggestions for Celebration activities as posted by Judith Mulveney on the new Page.

<u>Celebrations Program of Events</u>- Friday 9th Sept. evening: Welcome to 150 Year Celebrations.

Saturday 10th Sept. morning: Historic Street Walk; have Museum, R.S.L Dugout and R.S.L Park open and manned by volunteers to share the stories; C.W.A. to open their rooms for Morning Teas.

Saturday afternoon: Ungarie Show, and the Grand Parade. Try and get as many local Community Groups to put a float in the Parade.

Sunday 11th Sept.: Breakfast at the Bowling Club; Sunday morning at the Movies. <u>Souvenirs</u>- Due to the expense of having souvenirs made, it was suggested that we could get other groups involved to sell souvenirs as a fund raiser for their organisation.

<u>Donation from Ungarie Pre-Loved</u>- Kristy McClintock has offered the Ungarie Advancement Group a donation of \$500.00 to go towards the 150 Year Celebrations.

As we have this extra money, we could put that towards having souvenirs for the Celebrations. Suggested souvenirs are a remake of the Hand Towels with the Water Tank, White Elephant and 150 Year Celebrations embroidered on it; and a Fridge Magnet of the Big Football.

Meeting Closed @ 8.55pm.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

UNGARIE ADVANCEMENT GROUP GENERAL MEETING- 16TH FEBRUARY 2022

General Account

Opening Balance	\$ 2170.88
Deposits Direct Deposits from Bland Shire Council 23 December 2021 21 January 2022	\$ 2220.75 \$ 2654.47
* Current balance of General Account shown as- This balance is incorrect as the 2x Direct Credits from Bland Shir should have been deposited into POST OFFICE AGENCY Account	
True balance of the General Account is as Opening Balance	<u>\$ 2170.80</u>
Accounts for Payment *Reimbursement to Vanessa Williams (Invoice# 153893) Purchases made by Vanessa for Australia Day 2022 * Reimbursement to Carol Barrett 23/12/2021- Printer Ink Cartridge 36.95 03/01/2022- 5x Document Frames for 2022 Australia Day Awards 34.95 Total Reimbursement to Carol Barrett Total Amount of Accounts	\$ 267.60 <u>\$ 71.90</u> \$ 339.50
Balance for General Account Cash Awaiting Banking	\$ 1831.38 \$ 81.00
New Balance for General Account	\$ 1912.38
GARDEN GROUP ACCOUNT	
Balance as @ 15 th Feb. 2022	<u>\$ 1273.42</u>
POST OFFICE AGENCY ACCOUNT Balance as @ 15 th Feb. 2022 Balance should be	\$ 0.00 \$ 4875.22

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Section 1 - Office of the General Manager

8.1 Bland District Historical Society – Occupancy Agreement



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

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Council is advised that the Occupancy Agreement between the Bland District Historical Society and Bland Shire Council for the Society's occupation of the Wyalong Museum, formerly the Wyalong Court House, is due for renewal prior to 7 October 2022.

The current Agreement has been in place for the past 10 years on the basis that the Society will manage the museum on behalf of the community and that Council will provide a well maintained facility.

Financial Implications

The current annual occupancy fee payable by the Society to Council is \$70.00 inclusive of GST. Council is responsible for payment of charges for electricity, telephone, gas and water.

Obviously, the \$70.00 p.a fee is a token amount as the cost to Council to maintain this facility is well in excess of this amount. The small amount of income earned by the Society from entrance fees is used to cover the cost of their own minor maintenance expenses and improvements to the museum's collections.

Council may wish to consider a slight increase to say \$100.00 p.a with an annual review during the next 10 year period.

Summary

The museum plays an important role in maintaining and enhancing the history of the Bland Shire and it is also a significant tourism attraction for the area. Consequently, it would be beneficial to Council to renew this Agreement for a further 10 year period under the same terms and conditions as in the current Agreement.

- 1. That Council agrees to the renewal of the Occupancy Agreement between Bland Shire Council and the Bland District Historical Society for the Society's tenancy of the former Wyalong Court House;
- 2. That the Agreement be for a further 10 year period commencing on 8 October 2022 under the same terms and conditions as the current Agreement; and
- 3. That the Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority to execute the legal documents associated with the Agreement.

8.2 Bland District Historical Society – Statue of Frederick Neeld



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

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Council is in receipt of a request from the Bland District Historical Society for financial support for the erection of a bronze statue of Frederick Neeld to be located in Herridge Park.

The Society has sourced a sculptor who has provided a quotation of \$15,390.00 to prepare the sculpture which would be the bust of Frederick Neeld placed on a granite pedestal. The cost of the pedestal is approximately \$520.00 and there would be the additional cost of preparing a concrete slab on which to place the statue.

Financial Implications

The current Tourism Promotions budget has a balance of \$23,000.00 and there are no foreseeable promotional activities between now and the end of the financial year. The allocation of funding from this budget for the Frederick Neeld statue would be more than appropriate given the potential tourism attraction of the statue.

Summary

This would certainly be an appropriate project to enhance the area's history of gold and worthy of Council's support.

There will also be a need for the Society to liaise with council staff regarding the exact location of the Statue within Herridge Park

Recommendation:

That Council agrees to fully fund the erection of a statue of Frederick Neeld to be located in Herridge Park and that such funds be allocated from the 2021/2022 Tourism Promotions Budget.

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

8.3 Finance and Investment Report for March 2022



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 Manager Customer & Financial Services

Introduction

The Finance and Investment Report is provided to Council for information and prepared in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Financial Implications STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES, RATES COLLECTIONS AND INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$671,214.01
Business Card	\$30,000.00
	\$701,214.01
Invested Funds	
Fixed Deposits	\$57,700,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$2,253,043.70
	\$59,953,043.70
Net Balance	\$60,654,257.71
Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance	98.84%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.03.2022

SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING APRIL 19, 2022

BALANCE as at 01.03.22	\$3,706,997.68
Add Receipts 14/03/2022 Evolution Mining UG VPA Sign	250,000.00
on Initial Payment 18/03/2022 Evolution Mining Road Maintenance FY22	169,983.00
Receipts under \$150,000	601,832.94
Total Receipts for March 2022	\$1,021,815.94
Less Payments	
Payments over \$150,000	

01/03/2022 Defence Bank Investment	-1,000,000.00
17/03/2022 Rods Earthmoving & Excavation Pty Ltd	-152,840.12
31/03/2022 Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	-606,555.53

Payments under \$150,000	-2,298,203.96
Aged Care	\$ 4,809.93
Bank Fees	\$ 2,314.45
Cemeteries	\$ 3,335.42
Children's Services	\$ 22,289.33
Community	\$ 8,013.39
Construction	\$ 194,477.03
Corporate	\$ 359,926.47
Development Services	\$ 11,769.13
Direct Debits	\$ 1,824.56
Employee	\$ 791,802.61
Fuel/Plant	\$ 107,780.64
Governance	\$ 28,646.03
Insurance	\$ 76,290.02
Investment	\$ 1,000,000.00
Lease	\$ 578.60
Library	\$ 9,779.51
Maintenance	\$ 327,191.81
Roads	\$ 1,048,082.90
Utilities	\$ 57,423.84
Waste	\$ 1,263.94

Total Payments for March 2022

CASH BALANCE

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON 19 APRIL 2022

\$ 350,000.00

<u>\$671,214.01</u>

- \$4,057,599.61

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY AND CERTIFICATION

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period 01 March 2022 to 31 March 2022.

I CERTIFY,

That the accounts included in the accounts summary and totalling as detailed under:-

Payment Type		Voucher No's	Total
Cheques		026148-026156	\$44,209.15
Auto-pay	Creditors	E027495 – E27872	\$3,378,180.11
Auto-pay	Payroll	27/02/22 – 27/03/22	\$631,071.34
Bank Charges &		March 2022	\$2,314.45
Commissions			φ2,014.40
Direct Debits	Repayments & Vehicle		\$1,824.56
	Lease		
			\$4,057,599.61

- 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 preceding monthly period.

.....

Manager Customer and Financial Services

Responsible Accounting Officer

CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL MANAGER

This accounts summary, a copy of which was submitted to each member of Council on the 19th April 2022, 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 **\$4,057,599.61** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 19th April 2022 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

INVESTMENTS

The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 31st March 2022. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

General Account.					
DATE	INVESTED WITH WHOM	INVESTED AMOUNT (\$s)	TERM	YIELD	DATE DUE
14-September- 2021	Bank of QLD (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	367 days	0.38%	16-September- 2022
21-September- 2021	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	365 days	0.35%	21-September- 2022
16-February-2022	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	364 days	0.85%	15-February-2023
01-October-2021	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,500,000.00	734 days	0.60%	05-October-2023
08-September- 2021	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	365 days	0.35%	08-September- 2022
08-September- 2021	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	365 days	0.35%	08-September- 2022
08-September- 2021	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	365 days	0.35%	08-September- 2022
20-January-2022	AMP (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	729 days	1.35%	19-January-2024
16-August-2021	Bank of QLD	1,000,000.00	365 days	0.40%	16-August-2022
11-December- 2020	AMP (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	516 days	0.75%	11-May-2022
08-January-2021	AMP (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	546 days	0.75%	08-July-2022
29-September- 2021	ME Bank (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	365 days	0.40%	29-September- 2022
05-October-2022	NAB (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	365 days	0.35%	05-October-2022
28-April-2021	AMP (Term Deposit)	2,500,000.00	365 days	0.70%	28-April-2022
14-December- 2021	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	730 days	1.10%	14-December- 2023
30-November- 2020	MyState Bank (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	365 days	0.50%	30-November- 2023
23-February-2021	AMP (Term Deposit)	2,500,000.00	548 days	1.35%	23-August-2023
22-October-2021	MyState Bank (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	733 days	0.80%	25-October-2023
28-May-2020	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	1097 days	1.35%	30-May-2023
28-May-2020	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	1460 days	1.50%	27-May-2024
6-August-2020	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	1093 days	1.05%	4-August-2023
30-September- 2020	Northern Territory Treasury	2,000,000.00	1902 days	1.20%	15-December- 2025
07-October-2021	MyState Bank (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	371 days	0.45%	13-October-2022
30-October-2020	Northern Territory Treasury	1,000,000.00	1141 days	0.80%	15-December- 2023
25-January-2022	Macquarie Bank	1,000,000.00	365 days	0.65%	25-January-2023
10-March-2022	Macquarie Bank	2,000,000.00	335 days	0.90%	08-February-2023
03-March-2022	ME Bank (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	370 days	0.85%	08-March-2023
11-May-2021	MyState Bank	1,000,000.00	730 days	0.55%	11-May-2023
24-June-2021	Defence Bank	2,000,000.00	728 days	0.58%	22-June-2023
17-September- 2021	Judo Bank	2,000,000.00	727 days	0.95%	14-September- 2023
30-September- 2021	AMP (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	406 days	0.80%	10-November- 2022
19-October-2021	Judo Bank	2,000,000.00	365 days	0.90%	19-October-2022
30-November- 2021	Auswide Bank	2,000,000.00	365 days	0.78%	30-November- 2022
30-November- 2021	Commonwealth Bank	2,000,000.00	372 days	0.55%	7-December-2022
7-December-2021	Auswide Bank	2,000,000.00	366 days	0.73%	8-December-2022
28-February-2022	Macquarie Bank	2,000,000.00	365 days	0.95%	28-February-2023
01-March-2022	Defence Bank	1,000,000.00	365 days	0.92%	1-March-2023

ANZ Deposit at Call	50,952.03	Cash at Call	
CBA Deposit at Call	2,202,091.67	Cash at Call	
TOTAL:	\$59,953,043.70		

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

RATES REPORT

Below is a summary of outstanding rates

Total rates income levied (2021/22) Rates received as at 31/3/2022 % of rates received to date \$ 10,979,035.88 \$ 8,502,319.97 77.44%

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

Summary

The information provided within this Finance and Investment Report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 as well as Council's financial management policies and procedures. Further, 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 information contained within the Finance and Investment Report for the month of March 2022
- 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 March to 31 March 2022, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$4,057,599.61.

8.4 Confirmation of Additional Special Variation Commencing in 2022/2023



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

DP10.4 The long term financial sustainability of Council is supported through effective and prudent financial management.

Authors: Director Corporate and Community Services Manager Customer and Financial Services

Introduction

This report is to provide Council with further information relating to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) determination of the Rate Peg for the 2022-23 financial year and announcement of an Additional Special Variation Application Process.

Financial Implications

In December 2021, IPART announced that it had set the 2022/23 rate peg at 0.7%, a move that would result in Bland Shire Council receiving a reduction in income of **\$119,408**. Council would also see a reduction in total income of **\$750,000** over the remaining term of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), due to the compounding effect of the loss of the income from next year. This significant reduction in Council revenue will severely impact the organisation's ability to meet community expectations for service delivery and infrastructure maintenance, let alone support any future capital projects designed to benefit the communities within Bland Shire.

Should the recommendation be supported by Council, the expected income from rates in 2022-2023 would be \$7,185,421.

Summary

On 13 December 2021, IPART made the announcement of a rate peg determination of 0.7% for 2022-23 for Bland Shire Council. The increase was well below expectations across the Local Government sector and is the lowest rate peg in many years.

On 8 March, 2022, information was forwarded from the Office of Local Government (OLG) advising IPART would receive an additional round of 2022-23 Special Variation (ASV) applications from councils for the upcoming financial year. At its 22 March meeting, Council resolved to authorises the application by Bland Shire Council for a Special Rate Variation to provide for a 2.4% increase in General Rates Revenue.

Revised information (**Attachment One**) from the Office of Local Government (OLG) and IPART was received on 6 April along with the Application form template. The guidance notes that

A council can apply for either a temporary or permanent ASV which is capped at the lower of:

- 2.5% (including population factor), or
- the council's assumed 2022-23 rate peg in its 2021-22 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documentation (including population factor).

Council's LTFP, which was adopted in 2019, had projected an increase in rates of 2.4% for the 2022/23 Financial year. As this amount is "the lower" of the two limits, Bland Shire would be seeking an increase of 1.7% above the already announce rate peg of 0.7%.

This one-off ASV round is for councils that can demonstrate the need for a special variation to meet the obligations they set for 2022-23 in their Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documentation.

As Council is seeking a permanent special variation, it will also need to demonstrate the financial need for the special variation to be included in their rate base on an ongoing basis. The reason for this is that the increase would allow Council to meet its commitments as already established through the IP&R process several years ago.

Recommendation:

That Bland Shire Council:

- 1. Submit, under section 508(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), an application for a Special Variation of its rates to provide a 2.4% increase in the General Rates Revenue assumed in the Long Term Financial Plan 2019-2029 included as part of the Bland Shire Council Integrated Planning and Reporting process
- 2. Request that such increase be made permanent.
- 3. Notes that should the application be successful that an additional income amount of \$119,408 would be received above the initial \$49,119 afforded from a 0.7% increase and that the collective increase in income from a permanent variation of 2.4% would equate to \$168,408 in the first year.
- 4. Seeks the special variation as it is required to maintain current services provided to ratepayers and residents of Bland Shire and in so doing, council has taken into consideration the impact on ratepayers and the community in 2022-23 and in future years and considers that such an increase is reasonable.



Additional special variations 2022-23 7 April 2022

This Information Paper explains the process for applying for an Additional Special Variation (ASV) for 2022-23 and the information that IPART will require to process a council's application, based on the Office of Local Government's updated ASV Guidelines (22-07).^a

What type of special variation can a council apply for?

A council can apply for either a temporary or permanent ASV which is capped at the lower of:

- 2.5% (including population factor), or
- the council's assumed 2022-23 rate peg in its 2021-22 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documentation (including population factor).

If IPART gives an ASV instrument, the amount specified in that instrument will replace the 2022-23 rate peg. No additional population factor will be added.

What will councils need to provide to IPART for all ASV applications?

Councils will need to provide their 2021-22 IP&R documentation which identifies a budgeted increase in general income above the percentage specified for the council for 2022-23 under section 506 of the Act.

Councils must provide a council resolution that states that the council has resolved to apply for the special variation under section 508(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), and:

- whether the resolution is for a temporary or permanent special variation under section 508(2) of the Act, and
- the additional income that the council will receive if the special variation is approved, and
- why the special variation is required, and
- that the council has considered the impact on ratepayers and the community in 2022-23 and, if permanent, in future years if the special variation is approved, and considers that it is reasonable.

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^a The updated ASV Guidelines set out in Circular 22-07 apply in place of, and supersede, the ASV Guidelines issued in Circular 22-03.

IPART acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationship and celebrate the contributions of First Nations peoples.

What will councils need to demonstrate to IPART for a permanent ASV?

Where a council is applying for a permanent special variation, in addition to providing the above information, the council must demonstrate that it has, in its 2021-22 IP&R documentation, forecast an average Operating Performance Ratio (OPR) of 2% or lower over 2022-23 to 2026-27.

If a council has forecast an average OPR of higher than 2% over the next 5-years it will need to provide other evidence of need.

How can councils provide other evidence of need?

Councils applying for a permanent ASV that need to provide additional evidence of need can demonstrate that the 2% OPR benchmark is too low for that council's circumstances. For example, a council may demonstrate that it needs to maintain a higher OPR to meet its capital funding requirements.

Alternatively, or additionally, a council may submit justifications as to why specific revenue and/or expenses should be included/excluded in the calculation of the OPR. These adjustments can be items that were not included in the council's 2021-22 IP&R documentation due to unforeseen events or changes in circumstance since the adoption of the IP&R documentation.

We will consider the evidence provided by councils that they need to maintain a higher OPR.

IPART has published an updated ASV application form to capture these adjustments. We will also accept applications using the original ASV application form. However, this form does not capture the information required to assess an application proposing that we use an adjusted OPR in our analysis. The original application form also asks for additional information that is no longer necessary. We recommend that applicants use the updated application form to ensure that all information needed to assess against the updated guidelines can be incorporated into IPART's analysis.

How to apply for an ASV

Councils can complete the application form and submit via IPART's Local Government Portal (here). Councils will also be required to provide evidence, such as the LTFP and council resolution, to support their application.

1.1 Timing



Contact person

If you have any questions about this process or the information required, please contact:

Edward Jenkins Edward_jenkins@ipart.nsw.gov.au (02) 9113 7774



8.5 Making of the Rates 2022/2023



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, under Section 497 of 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 hereunder. All Council Rates & Charges are exempt from Goods and services tax (GST).

The rate pegging limit for Ordinary Rates, as advised by The Minister for Local Government, has been set at 0.7% for the 2022/23 rating year. The below recommendations have been calculated on a 0.7% 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 2022/2023 year to allow for inclusion in the 2022/2023 budget preparation. Should Council's application for a Special Rates Variation be approved by IPART, a budget amendment will be submitted at the quarterly budget review.

ORDINARY RATE

A. That it is hereby RECOMMENDED that Ordinary Rates be made for the year commencing on 1 July 2022 on all rateable land within the area of the Council of Bland as follows:

(a) Farmland Rate

A base amount of ninety two dollars (\$92.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero two seven eight two cents (0.002782c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as farmland, the base amount to yield two point nine six percent (2.96%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Farmland rate.

(b) Mining Rate

A base amount of one hundred and ninety four dollars (\$194.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero four six zero one cents (0.004601c) in the dollar on the land value of all land categorised as mining land, the base amount to yield fourteen point six four percent (14.64%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the mining rate.

(c) Gold Mining Rate

A base amount of one hundred and ninety four dollars (\$194.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero three four one four three cents (0.034143c) 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.

B. That it is hereby RECOMMENDED that Ordinary Rates be now made for the year commencing on 1 July 2022 on all rateable land within the area of the Council of Bland as follows:

(a) Residential Rate

A base amount of ninety two dollars (\$92.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero five five three one cents (0.005531c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as residential, the base amount to yield twenty nine point seven nine percent (29.79%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential rate.

(b) Business Rate

A base amount of one hundred and sixty seven dollars (\$167.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero nine three five six cents (0.009356c) in the dollar on the land value of all land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield twenty six point six five percent (26.65%) 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.

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 seven dollars (\$167.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero one one one nine five cents (0.011195c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land, the base amount to yield twenty two point seven six percent (22.76%) 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 ninety four dollars (\$194.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero two zero zero zero seven cents (0.020007) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield eleven point three six percent (11.36%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (West Wyalong/Wyalong) rate.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Recommendation:

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 ninety two dollars (\$92.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero seven nine seven five cents (0.007975c) in the dollar on the land value of rateable land, that is categorised as residential land, the base amount to yield thirty eight point nine five percent (38.95%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (Barmedman) rate.

(b) Business (Barmedman) Rate

A base amount of ninety two dollars (\$92.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero eight seven seven three cents (0.008773c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield thirty four point six one percent (34.61%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (Barmedman) rate.

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 ninety two dollars (\$92.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero four five zero one two cents (0.045012c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land, the base amount to yield thirty six point four five percent (36.45%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (Ungarie) rate.

(b) Business (Ungarie) Rate

A base amount of ninety two dollars (\$92.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero five three three seven one cents (0.053371c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land the base amount to yield twenty five point zero five percent (25.05%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (Ungarie) rate.

8.6 Making of Sewer Rate Charges 2022/2023



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

Recommendation:

SEWER RATE

It is hereby RECOMMENDED that a Sewerage Rate be now made for the year commencing on 1 July 2022 subject to a minimum amount of nine hundred and eighteen dollars (\$918.00) 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 twenty one dollars (\$221.00) 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- \$184.00 for each water closet on the premises and \$97.00 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- \$184.00 for each water closet on the premises and \$97.00 per annum for each cistern serving any urinal on the premises.

Recommendation:

That the Council makes the Sewer Rate charges for the year 2022/2023 for inclusion in the 2022/2023 budget preparation.

8.7 Making of Waste Management Charges 2022/2023



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

DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGE

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 service is available, as follows:

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

Standard 240L domestic service:

Barmedman	\$481.00
Ungarie	\$481.00
West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$481.00
Weethalle	\$481.00
plus \$481.00 per extra collection.	

Standard 120L Domestic Service

West Wyalong/Wyalong Ungarie Barmedman Weethalle plus \$380.00 per extra collection.	\$380.00 \$380.00 \$380.00 \$380.00
(b) Vacant Land able to be built upon	\$41.00

TRADE WASTE SERVICE CHARGE

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 Ungarie Barmedman Weethalle plus \$516.00 per extra collection	\$516.00 \$516.00 \$516.00 \$516.00

Standard 120L Collections:

West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$415.00
Ungarie	\$415.00
Barmedman	\$415.00
Weethalle	\$415.00
plus \$415.00 per extra collection.	

Annual Waste Management Charge

A charge of \$41.00 per property will apply to all properties not within a serviced area for the DWMS, under Section 501 of the Local Government Act.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the Council makes the Waste Management charges for the year 2022/2023 for inclusion in the 2022/2023 budget preparation.

Section 3 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

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

- 8.8 Economic Development Report March 2022
- 8.9 Community Services Report
- 8.10 Bland Shire Library Monthly Update
- 8.11 Children Services March Update
- 8.12 Bland Community Care Services Update
- 8.13 Bland Shire Museum Advisor Report April 2022
- 8.14 Risk and Insurance Update
- 8.15 Technical Services Report
- 8.16 Development Services Activity Report March 2022

8.8 Economic Development Report – March 2022



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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Residential Development – Ungarie Road

Negotiations are still continuing with a prospective developer for this site regarding the estimated cost of the development and the level of support that might be forthcoming from Council.

Residential Development – Russell Street

The developer of this site is currently reassessing the scope of the development with a view of staging the release of residential lots. In addition, the developer is reviewing the drainage issues associated with the site.

Bland Shire Housing Strategy

The final draft strategy, which will include a number of recommendations in regard to future investment in residential development within the Shire, will be presented to the May Council Workshop for further discussion.

Eastern Riverina Regional Housing Strategy

This particular Strategy was an initiative of REROC and will be presented to the May Council Workshop in conjunction with the Bland Shire Housing Strategy.

West Wyalong Business Park

Council's Director of Technical Services has assumed much of the responsibility of this project and Mr. Marsh has been liaising with Miller and James who are the agents acting on Council's behalf in the sale of this land. A subdivision plan is now being prepared based on the negotiations with the various purchasers as all of the lots are of different dimensions in accordance with the needs of the individual purchasers.

Regional Economic Development Strategy

After quite some time of in-action the NSW Government is now resurrecting these strategies with a view of updating their contents following changing priorities:

"Why the REDS will be updated

Since the REDS were released in 2018, the outlook for many regions has changed. For example, the most recent drought, bushfires, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic have shifted priorities across the State. There has also been a range of significant investments to implement the REDS and build a more resilient future."

When more information becomes available it will be presented to Council.

Bland Shire Council is currently in the South West Slopes Region which comprises the Councils of: Bland, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Hilltops, Temora and Weddin.

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

Choc Fest 2022

Bland Shire Council partnered with Business West Wyalong to deliver the Bland Shire's first Easter festival - Choc Fest – on Friday 8 April.

After weeks of meticulous planning, the event featured late night shopping, chocolate prizes and giveaways and entertainment which includes the Easter Bunny, hula hoop performer Dizzy Dilemma and magician Majura Magic.

Despite the awful weather, which included constant rain throughout the night, approximately 500 people braved the conditions to visit Council's Easter Bunny activation at the old Kristy's Cottage building.

The roving magician proved a huge hit with large crowds of young and old patrons gathering in the street to see his range of tricks while Dizzy Dilemma had people of all ages (plus the Easter Bunny) doing the twist along the Main Street.

People who spent \$20 or more at a local business on the night went into the draw to win one of two giant six kilogram chocolate bunnies and a giant Easter hamper. Tracy Grimshaw and Simonne McGrath won the chocolate bunnies while Kim Charpentier picked up the hamper and \$250 worth of Why Leave Town cards.

The Choc Fest initiative was fully funded through the NSW Government's Summer Night Fund.





Youth Paintball Excursion

A group of 20 eager youth will travel to Wagga on Wednesday 13 April for a free paintball and free time excursion. Each participant will get two games of paintball, lunch provided from Grill'd and be given an opportunity to have free time for shopping in the Wagga CBD area. This trip was booked out in less than 24 hours, which demonstrates the huge popularity of this activity. The trip is being offered at a cost of just \$20 with Council being able to drastically subsidise the cost of the excursion as a result of funding received from the state government under the Holiday Break Program.

Movies Till Midnight

Council has partnered with the Tivoli Theatre to bring 'Movies till Midnight' to local youth on Tuesday 19 April. The Tivoli will screen two nineties classic movies – '10 Things I Hate About You' and 'Scream' specifically for local youth, with the cost of movies, snacks and beverages being provided by Council with support for the Holiday Break Program. This activity was coordinated with the assistance of students from West Wyalong High School who were able to vote to select their preferred movies to be shown. The activity has already proved to be popular with over 25 bookings already received for the event. Council's community services staff will be on hand for the event to ensure supervision during the movie screenings.

Pop Up Arcade

Council is hosting a pop up arcade at the West Wyalong Stadium from Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 April. Council's community services staff will work out of the stadium for the duration of the three days to allow young people to access the arcade during this time. A number of retro nineties arcade games will be set up including a pinball machine, a twin racer, dance dance revolution, buck hunter and a 4 player arcade game. Council will also have free slushies available for young people and will hold a free pizza night for local youth.

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

Successful Author Visit

Another very successful author visit in March – supported by a Cowal Partnering Grant. Children's author Oliver Phommavanh visited all nine schools across the Bland Shire, conducted 19 one-hour long sessions, and spoke to some 700 students from Kinder to Year 10 and teaching staff during his five-day residency.

Oliver shared his writing journey and some of his writing tips with the students. He also talked about cultural diversity, a theme that features prominently in his books. Students and teachers alike were captivated with his energy, his humour and his passion for writing, reading and literacy, as well as his massive collection of toys (used as props). A very entertaining five days with feedback overwhelmingly positive.

While here, Oliver took the opportunity to visit some of the local tourist attractions, which he promoted via a live stream.



Return of School Visits

The library welcomed a visit from the West Wyalong Public School Year 1/2 students in March. Library staff read the classic Australian children's book 'Wombat Stew', which the students then discussed as part of their text appreciation exercise. The students received some tips on how to choose a suitable book and spent time exploring the library.

Bland Preschool visited the library with three class groups in April. The three respective groups participated in an Easter themed story-time with storytelling, singing and dancing, an egg and spoon race and a craft activity. The Bland Preschool will return in Term 2 with five group visits booked in.



Local Priority Grant

Library staff have been busy redesigning the library's floor space to create a designated youth area. An electric blue acrylic cut-out "youth hub" sign has been installed with customised furniture ordered. The furniture (still to be delivered) includes a bench 900cm in height with a power / USB port included, stools for the bench, tub chairs and coffee table. The library has also been updating its shelf displays by replacing the old wire book holders and metal bookends with modern premium clear acrylic book holders and bookends and additional magnetic signage. The upgrade has created a more aesthetic environment for patrons and visitors to enjoy.

GOLD Club



Still early days, but a regular group is now starting to form. The group, which meets every second Wednesday at 10.30am, participate in a variety of easy fun mind games and brainteasers including word and picture puzzles, quizzes and much more, all while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. The free one-hour program, which targets seniors 65 years plus, aims to keep seniors' minds active while providing a social outing for them.

LEGO Legends

LEGO Legends is a STEM program aimed at children 5 - 14 years. Lego challenges are posted fortnightly via the library's Facebook page and a face-to-face session held in the library the first Wednesday of each month. Twelve children attended the April session.



Storytime Egg-travaganza!

A busy week prior to the school holidays with three Bland Preschool visits in as many days and a special Easter Storytime session. The children had a fun time with the Easter bunny getting his eggs mixed up (book story), the little chicken who wouldn't lay an egg (felt board story), bunny hokey pokey (dance), egg and spoon race (game), craft (a bunny headband and Easter bag) and an Easter egg hunt. A great end to another school term. Storytime will resume on Thursday 28 April.



Country Women's Association

The Country Women's Association is celebrating its centenary in 2022. Bland Shire Library will host the next meeting of the Bellarwi CWA Branch (date-to-be advised). An exhibition of the local CWA's history will be on display in the library throughout the month of May.

Meetings

The RRL Annual Branch Meeting will be held from 9:30am to 4:00pm on Tuesday 26 April 2022 at the RRL Administration Centre, Wagga Wagga. This meeting is an important opportunity for branch library staff across the region to meet with each other, receive updates on RRL and other industry body activities, discuss matters of mutual interest, and provide important feedback to RRL.

Statistics for March 2022

- 74 Information Requests
- 241 Customer Service Requests this figure includes 34 technology assists
- 152 Computer Usage
- 23 requests for Wi-Fi (ie. mobile device users)
- 187 Visitor Information Requests this figure relates to normal library opening hours and only those enquiries handled by library staff. Includes 25 telephone enquiries
- 165 people (children / parents) attended regular programs designed for children
- 53 people attended regular programs designed for adults
- 24 programs were held in March

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

- 2668 people through the door
- 1625 library items issue this figure consists of 1219 books (1013 adult and 206 junior), 231 large print, 15 magazines, 20 sound recordings, 133 video recordings, 7 kits
- 48 library items reserved (An item is reserved when it is not immediately available to the patron due to that item being on loan, in processing or only available from another RRL branch)
- 19 new members (16 adult and 3 junior)

NB. The above statistics are collected electronically via Libero (LMS) and RFID Technology and deem accurate.

Storytime POD / PC and PAD

The aim of these devices is to provide digital stories and educational activities for young children in a language other than English. However, when parents use and experience technology with their young children, it can promote learning, build important relationships, and help model healthy habits and positive ways to interact with others, play, and learn. The addition of the devices has enhanced the children's area with no apparent detraction from the junior collection. Attached are the quarterly reports (January – March 2022) for each device.





Device 1. Storytime POD


Device 2. Storytime PC



8.11 Children Services March 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 Resource Unit, Vacation Care and Toy Library services)

Author: Children Services Coordinator

General

It has certainly been a very busy month, jam packed with activities and excursions. It's been a long time waiting.....

Covid continued to impact staff, educators and children at Children Services however we have made the best of a tricky situation. Educators and staff have continued to test during these peak times to protect families and children the best way we could. Given the rise in cases all families were advised to keep any unwell children at home and perform RAT's regularly with symptomatic children. CSU educators and Coordinator were very appreciative of the families understanding during these times.

"Save the Koalas" initiative commenced. The community was invited to bring in cans and bottles to be recycled, with all money raised to go towards Koala Conservation. It has been wonderful to see the children so involved. Cans and bottles will be recycled during the school holidays and families advised of our current tally towards our goal, this initiative will be ongoing as part of our sustainability commitment.

It Takes a Village

- Supported playgroups in Weethalle, Barmedman, Tallimba and West Wyalong LALC. Zero attendance at Barmedman. Improved attendance at Weethalle this month
- Organised upcoming ITAV biennial event at Tivoli cinema scheduled for May.
- Attached photos from ITAV playgroup at West Wyalong LALC. Easter themed event and parenting packs were organised for distribution after April Holidays.



Mobile Resource Unit

Ungarie Mobile Preschool and Friday Junior Preschool

During March Educators at each venue supported families as may members of the community were effected by COVID -19, therefore effecting the attendance of children. Through text message, email, kindy hub and conversations (phone and face to face) families could communicate with the educators information or their concerns regarding the illness as well as educators offered information and support to them.

The excursion to Ungarie Central School to participate in the Taronga Zoo Mobile presentation was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.

Families from each venue donated bottles and cans for CSU's 'Save the Koala' project. Each class completed lots of Easter craft in preparation for Easter.

<u>Playgroup</u>

Playgroup returned with West Wyalong venue enrolments continuing to grow, weekly numbers averaging 20 or more children. Attendance at surrounding villages, Tallimba, Weethalle and Ungarie are low, educators are meeting to discuss idea, thoughts and strategies.

Vacation Care

Educators programmed activities for the Easter vacation care program. Due to the requests of excursions, educators programmed activities within West Wyalong such as, Tennis, Football skills, Skate Park, Tivoli Cinema and Spatter Gallery for the children to participate in.

Bland Preschool

Staff Training:

- Inclusion Webinar 5 transition to school for children with disabilities and additional needs
- Inclusion webinar 2 observations and planning for inclusion
- Working towards proficient teacher accreditation session
- Maintaining proficient teacher accreditation session

Staff Meetings:

• Tuesday 29th March

Preschool Enrolments:

- Monday/ Tuesday Bilby: 21 children increasing to 24 term 2
- Wednesday/ Thursday Bilby: 20 children
- Wednesday/ Thursday Gecko: 20 children

Upcoming Events:

- Library visits
- Easter Disco

Parent Committee:

Our parent committee were successful in obtaining a \$15,000 Evolution Grant for our outdoor environment. This money will go towards our custom-built cubby house, upgrade to our play boat as well 2 and 3 wheel scooters and balance bikes.

Bland / Temora Family Day Care

- An Educator tested positive to COVID
- We were finally able to hold our Term1 FDC meeting after having to postpone twice
- FDC playgroup has been very popular, with positive comments from Educators and families



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

Service referrals remain high – currently we are in the process of in-taking 10 new clients with an additional 7 waiting in the My Aged Care portal. Surplus to this there are approximately 4 existing clients that are in the process of undergoing service reviews, in order to receive supplementary services that are to commence this month.

Client satisfaction surveys will be sent out this month to gather feedback on yard maintenance services provided by Bland Community Care, in order to aid in quality control of our services.

Webinars continue on the aged care reforms and the new aged care system – The 'Support at Home Program' will be in place come JUL 2023, replacing all existing programs. Bland Community Care will continue to keep up-to-date with all information to assist us in a smooth transition to the new program.

Current service provision remains steady.

8.13 Bland Shire Museum Advisor Report - April 2022



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

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

Author: Margot Jolly, Museum Advisor

Weethalle Museum - Monday 4 April

Dust, dust, and more dust - we had a interesting time doing a big clean in the back room of the museum! Due to the vagaries of an old building (lots of gaps) the bank has been collecting lots of the west of NSW over the last few years of droughts and generally windy summer days.

So we have decided to tackle each room in turn. The first space to be dealt with is the back room. In the process of moving as much out of the room as possible to allow us to start on the east wall and ceiling, we were thinking of possible future uses of the space. As the largest room in the building, we can make better use of it. The museum needs a dedicated space for storage, especially for textiles. Textiles need to be rested in a dark clean space if we want them to last. A new walled room fitted with shelves could allow this to happen. The remaining space could be used as meeting space, a space to introduce school children to the museum.

Unfortunately during the cleaning it became clear the rear door is in urgent need of replacing. New blinds are being ordered for the window and the door.

There is a large display cabinet in the space. We are hoping to put castors on the bottom to make moving it easier and thus being able to push it against a wall.

So lots of ideas and wee jobs came out of the cleaning working bee ... sorry ladies.





The image on the left is the large cabinet. As it is so large and heavy it has been left out from the wall to provide access. By adding castors, we can get more floor space and make it easier to use. On the right you can see the wall is still in need of washing. The first job was removing the dust.

Building issues are still a concern at Weethalle. Down pipes are down and cleaning the walls highlighted the rubbish coming down from the ceiling. As mentioned above the rear door needs replacing. The timber has become very brittle and has shrunk. Panes of glass are very loose and in danger of falling out.

Wyalong Museum - Tuesday 5 April

We had a varied day at Wyalong Museum – ranging from discussing plans for new spaces and re-gigging displays by adding some colour in the form of old advertisements. Noelene also started the process of packing away the wedding dresses that have been part of a successful exhibition of wedding dresses all connected to a single West Wyalong family.

I was excited to hear the museum had a successful visit with a group of Bland councillors.

To brighten up the display on *Smoking from Days Gone Bye*, Diane was able to find some great old advertising images on the internet. They add interest to the display. She also added some images of Vesta Match Holders and some info on when they were invented. A little research and an image provide information on a great object in the hallway. Pictured is the first iteration. We enlarged the image and text, so visitors do not have to lean over the Mystery Box to read.





On the left the Smoking from Days gone Bye after the addition of some colour. We hope to also raise some of the smaller objects so they can be seen. On the right is The Mystery Box Fortune Telling Machine. It still works! Just bring along your 20c pieces ...

There was no visit to **Ungarie** this week as we are waiting on information from the Council on the inspection of the Hall. I have been talking to Vanessa about preparing pull up banners for use at the celebrations for the 150 years of Ungarie. I have been enjoying the Ungarie's 150 Year Celebrations Facebook page. Well done Vanessa!

Next visit will be 9 & 10 May 2022

8.14 Risk and Insurance Update



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

DP12.4 Review and implement Council policies and comply with WHS and Risk Management requirements

Author: Risk & Insurance Officer

Enterprise Risk Management

Bland Shire Council has been working to implement and refine its Enterprise Risk Management Program. The aim is to ensure better understanding of risks associated with strategy and operations, and facilitate more informed decision-making.

Risk assessments completed

- Cooinda Park Kayak Circuit
- Round up Cool Down Youth event (completed by Rebecca McDonnell community Development Officer)
- Weethalle Country Music Muster

Risk Register Categories

The Risk owners are working to eliminate all high risks however, in some cases, this might not be possible and these will be monitored. Risk owners are able to review, re-evaluate the risk, implement additional resources, controls or changes, identify new or reoccurring trends and training opportunities as well as assign or close out after corrective actions.

Reviews of risk registers can help to:

- Identify potential trends or environmental issues
- Identify and capture risks that may be subject to legislation or business changes,
- Demonstrate to others (regulators, government agencies) that risks are being managed
- Document better safe work procedures
- Achieve safety objective and drive continual improvement

Risk owners are regularly check and amending risk where appropriate.

Total Risks Tally

Risk Area	No. Risks	Above Target	% Above Target	Extreme	High	Moderate	Low
Asset Management	11		9%	0	0	8	3
BSC Contracted Sites	8	0	0	0	0	3	5
Children's Services (CSU)	12	0	0%	0	0	<mark>9</mark>	3
Corp. Services	11	0	0	0	0	<mark>5</mark>	<mark>6</mark>
Crown Lands	8	0	0	0	0	6	2
Depot and Workshop	9	0	0	0	0	<mark>5</mark>	4
Dev. Services	12	0	0	0	0	5	7
Engineering Services	17	0	0	0	0	<mark>15</mark>	<mark>2</mark>
Finance	14	1	7.14%	0	1	8	6
HACC	12	1	8.33%	0	1	8	3
HR	11	1	9.1%	0	0	<mark>7</mark>	<mark>4</mark>
IT	19	0	0	0	0	<mark>10</mark>	<mark>9</mark>
Strategic	15	2	13.3%	0	2	10	3
WW	9	1	11%	0	1	5	3
Aerodrome							
WHS	11	0	0	0	0	5	3
Total	176	8	0	0	6	108	62

* Changes from previous report

Risk Categories



Continuous Improvement Plans (CIP) Final Report

We have recently received our final report on CIP workbooks for the previous year 2020 - 2021, while we rated quite well in most areas a number of areas of concern were raised including

- Claims Management: Procedure to be reviewed and updated
- Stormwater: Stormwater Management Plan to be reviewed and updated
- Trees: Tree Management Strategy to be developed including significant tree register

CIP 2022 Topics

- Roads
- Signs
- Waste Facilities
- Cyber

Incidents

We have had a number of incidents investigated over recent times, these include,

- Bus stop vandalism
- Damage to concrete drain
- Downer water truck damage
- Tractor damage claim
- Weethalle Tip Fire
- Fall on footpath primary school
- BSC water tank incident
- Ungarie guard rail rollover
- Sink hole pine street 25.11.2021
- Youngareen Road car flooded
- Barmedman fall from bike
- Sewer issue Toppy
- Fire pool managers residence
- Broken axle Ungarie Road
- Shade sail damaged in storm (claim pending)
- Fall on footpath
- West Wyalong Tip Fire

Insurance

We are currently working on providing Statewide Mutual renewal information; this constitutes a number of very detailed questionnaires. We have submitted the first one PIL (public liability) and will shortly be submitting the remaining questionnaires, financial lines and general shortly. The questionnaires are heavily weighted on Cyber with many questions.

Insurance claims

We currently have one claim pending; shade sail damaged in storm at the Children's Services Unit. Report included.

8.15 Technical Services Report



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

DP9.1Responsibly 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 14.3.2022

- Graders
 - Alleena Road
 - Williams Crossing Road
 - Buttenshaws Lane
 - Nobbys Road
 - Ariah Park Road
- Gravel Carting
 - Storms Pit/Alleena Road
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Alkaville Lane/Alleena Road
 - Tallimba Road

2. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 21.3.2022

- Graders
 - Alleena Road
 - Ariah Park Road
 - Bena Road
 - Nobbys Lane
 - Buttenshaws Lane
- Gravel Carting
 - Storms Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Tallimba Road

3. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 28.3.2022

Graders

•

- Alleena Road
- Ariah Park Road
- Webbs Lane
- Nobbys Lane
- Gravel Carting
 - Storms Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Tallimba Road/Quandialla Road
 - Shire Roads

4. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 4.4.2022

- Graders
 - Alleena Road
 - Williams Crossing Road
 - Kikoira Road
 - Quandialla Road Stage 2
 - Buttenshaws Lane
 - Gravel Carting
 - Pipers Hill SPA
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Quandialla Road Stage 2

5. Village maintenance

- All parks mown and tidied
- Village main streets swept and rubbish removed
- Trees trimmed and fallen branches picked up
- Village entrances and streets mown and trimmed
- All village park play grounds inspected for safety
- Irrigation checked
- Weed spraying carried out
- Ungarie main st watering system checked

6. Park maintenance

- McCann park, Barnado park and small parks and areas mown, trimmed and maintained
- Council chambers lawns and gardens maintained
- Maintenance to Herridge park, Cooinda park, Wyalong court house
- Lawn and monument cemetery maintenance works carried out
- Public amenities cleaned and maintained
- Playground inspections completed and repairs carried out
- Graves back filled at cemetery and tanks pumped out
- Aero drome inspections and maintenance carried out
- All parks and airport sprayed for weeds

7. Ovals maintenance

- maintenance to sporting ovals and surrounds
- Irrigation checks carried out on all ovals and surrounds
- Broad leaf weeds sprayed at all sports grounds
- Pump filters and sprinklers cleaned inspected and maintained
- Line marking on ovals for sporting groups
- Over sewing and coring of grounds

8. Town maintenance

- Star lane cleaned and tidied
- Town areas mown and trimmed
- Town trees trimmed and watered as needed
- Main street gardens weeded and watered
- Small pot holes repaired in roads cold mix and jet patcher
- Clean out town drains
- Aerodrome slashing inspections and maintenance work carried out
- Back filled low areas on nature strips
- Pre-school maintenance carried out
- Spraying aerodrome and town drains/nature strips
- Back fill wash outs in towns and villages
- Tree planting in town streets
- street tree watering
- vandalism repairs and removal
- footpath grinding of uneven path ways

8.16 Development Services Activity Report - MARCH 2022



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: Manager Development & Regulatory Services

PLANNING AND BUILDING ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The following DA applications were approved during March 2022:

Application No	Description	Location	Consent Authority	Approval Date
DA2022/0022	Electricity Generation Works (Solar Farm)	364 Wargin Road, Wyalong	Regional Planning Panel	16/3/2022
DA2022/0064	Removal of six (6) Trees	14 Hyde Street, West Wyalong	Staff	29/3/2022
DA2022/0068	Demolition of an existing dwelling	55 Court Street, West Wyalong	Staff	16/3/2022
DA2022/0069	New residential storage shed	272 Neeld Street, West Wyalong	Staff	16/3/2022
DA2022/0070	Removal of two (2) trees	1 Fisher Crescent, West Wyalong	Staff	29/3/2022
DA2022/0072	Change of use to a barber's shop	128 Main Street, West Wyalong	Staff	24/3/2022
CDC2022/0005	Inground swimming pool	186 Ungarie Road, West Wyalong	Staff	30/3/2022

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Food Premises

Council staff undertook eight (8) food premises inspections during March 2022.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Dog Attacks

There were **two (2)** dog attacks reported during March 2022. Resulting in **four (4)** infringement notices being issued.

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities March 2022

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

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	1	11
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	1	0
Dumped at Pound	2	3
Surrendered	2	0
Total Animals in Pound	6	14

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	1	0
Euthanased	0	0
Rehoused	3	0
Sold	1	4
Died at Pound	0	0
Stolen	0	0
Escaped	0	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	5	4
Animals in Pound at end of Month	1	10

NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE