

Business Paper

Council Meeting

20 June 2023



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



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.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

| Meeting Dates | Time | Meeting | Location |
|---------------|------|---------|----------|
|---------------|------|---------|----------|

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|---------------------|----------|
| June 2023 | | | |
| 20 June | 6.30pm | Council Meeting | Chambers |
| 22 June | 10am | Goldenfields Water | Temora |
| 23 June | 9am | RIVJO Board Meeting | Wagga |
| 23 June | 11am | REROC Meeting | Wagga |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|------------------|----------|
| July 2023 | | | |
| 4 July | TBA | Council Workshop | Chambers |
| 18 July | 6.30pm | Council Meeting | Chambers |

Blank Page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

5. PRESENTATIONS TO STAFF

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 16 May 2023

6.2 Matters arising from Minutes

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Section 1 - Office of the General Manager

7.1 Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions: June 2023 7

7.2 Councillor Workshops 13

7.3 Land Development Update 14

7.4 Local Government Destination and Visitor Economy Conference 2023 16

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

7.5 Finance and Investment Report for May 2023 18

7.6 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 24

7.7 IPART Proposal on Rate Peg Changes 26

Section 3 – Technical Services

7.8 DA2023/0065 – Business Park Subdivision Application 48

7.9 IPWEA State Roads Congress 61

Section 4 – Reports for Information

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 7.10 | Tourism Update: June 2023 | 70 |
| 7.11 | Bland Shire Library Monthly Update | 83 |
| 7.12 | Children Services May Update | 89 |
| 7.13 | Bland Shire Museum Advisor Report – May 2023 | 95 |
| 7.14 | Technical Services Report | 97 |
| 7.15 | Development Services Activity Report – May 2023 | 100 |

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

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

9.1 Property Purchase 20 Calleen St, West Wyalong

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

The matters and information are the following:

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

9.2 Property Purchase

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

The matters and information are the following:

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

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Section 1 - Office of the General Manager

7.1 Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions: June 2023



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

DP13.2 Develop, implement and promote best practice governance policies and procedures

Author: Executive Assistant

Introduction

The General Manager is responsible for ensuring that Council's policies, decisions and priorities are implemented in a timely and efficient manner, consistent with the goals and objectives of Council. The General Manager provides the management oversight in relation to all information progressing from appropriate staff to Council for consideration via the Business Paper.

After a Council meeting, each resolution is allocated to the General Manager or responsible officer to action in accordance with the intent of the Council decision. Directors then provide feedback to the General Manager as to the progress of these resolutions on a monthly basis through the Manex meeting.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

The Monthly Status Report - Council Meeting Actions includes Council Resolutions up to and including the previous Council Meeting. A note in the status section has been completed by the relevant responsible officer with a reason if available.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Monthly Status Report - Council Meeting Actions: June 2023.

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

| Resolution | Responsible Person | Progress Update |
|---|---|---|
| MARCH 2023 | | |
| <p>Council-related Development Applications Policy</p> <p>15032023 RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. That Council endorse the draft Council-related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy and place the policy on exhibition for period of 28 days from 22 March 2023, and</p> <p>2. Should there be comments received from the community on the draft Council-related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy, a report be prepared and presented to Council.</p> <p>3. Should there be no comment from the community within the 42 day commentary period, Council formally adopt the Council-related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy.</p> | Manager Development & Regulatory Services | <p>28/3: On Exhibition</p> <p>26/4: Adopted</p> |
| APRIL 2023 | | |
| <p>Report – Ungarie Showground – Old Amenities Building, Proposed Demolition and Associated Works</p> <p>12042023 RESOLVED that Council approve the budget allocation of \$20,000.00 from Council's current budget to fund the demolition and waste removal of the old amenities building Ungarie Showground and Sports Complex.</p> | Director Technical Services | <p>9/5: Contractor engaged, demolition underway</p> <p>24/5: complete</p> |
| <p>Planning Proposal – Drag Strip Project</p> <p>14042023 RESOLVED that Council prepare a Planning Proposal for Lots 10 & 11 DP 1141509 for the addition of a recreation facility (outdoor) to Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses in the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011.</p> | Manager Development & Regulatory Services | 9/5: underway |

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

| Resolution | Responsible Person | Progress Update |
|---|---|--|
| Housing Strategy – Planning Proposals 15042023 RESOLVED that Council prepare a Planning Proposal for the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011 to rezone the following: 1. Lots 579, 746, 725, 750, 748, 415, 747, 749, 157, 458, 752 and 751 in DP 753135 and Lot 1 DP 625986 from RU1 Primary Production to R5 Large Lot Residential and amend the Minimum Lot Size for the erection of a dwelling from 200 hectares to a Minimum Lot Size for subdivision of 2 hectares. 2. Lots 3 and 4 in DP 606975 from RU1 Primary Production to R5 Large Lot Residential and amend the Minimum Lot Size for the erection of a dwelling from 200 hectares to a Minimum Lot Size for subdivision of 2 hectares. 3. Lot A in DP 415479, Lots 1, 2 and 3 in DP 1105282, Lot 1 DP1108611, Lot 761 DP 753135 and Lots 10 and 11 in DP 1250908 from R5 Large Lot Residential to R1 General Residential and amend the Minimum Lot Size for subdivision from 2 hectares to 800 square metres. | Manager Development & Regulatory Services | 9/5: underway |
| Property Purchase Lot 2 DP1101248 – Calleen Street 19042023 RESOLVED that Council authorise the General Manager to enter into negotiations to finalise the sale of Lot 2 DP1101248, 22 Calleen St, West Wyalong for the agreed amount. | Director Technical Services | 9/5: negotiations in progress |
| Property Purchase Lot 2 DP710250 And Lot 1134 DP753135 - Shamrock Street 20042023 RESOLVED that Council authorise the General Manager to enter into negotiations to finalise the sale of Lot 2 DP710250 and Lot 1134 DP753135, Shamrock Street, West Wyalong for the agreed amount. | Director Technical Services | 9/5: report to be presented to May Council meeting |

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

| Resolution | Responsible Person | Progress Update |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| MAY 2023 | | |
| <p>Damaging Increase in Emergency Services Levy Costs 02052023 RESOLVED that Council writes to the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treasurer, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Local Government and the local State Member: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expressing Council's strong opposition to the NSW Government's last minute decision to impose an enormous Emergency Services Levy (ESL) cost increase on councils for 2023/24 by scrapping the ESL subsidy for councils and at a time after Council has publicly advertised its Operational Plan and annual budget to the community; b. Noting that as a consequence of the unannounced 73% increase in the State Emergency Service budget and an 18% increase in the Fire and Rescue NSW budget, Council's 3.7% rate increase to provide essential community services and infrastructure has been significantly eroded. c. Advising that the Government's decision may lead to a reduction in important local services and/or the cancellation of necessary infrastructure projects; d. Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. restore the ESL subsidy in 2023/24 ii. urgently introduce legislation to decouple the ESL from the rate peg to enable councils to recover the full cost iii. develop a fairer, more transparent and financially sustainable method of funding critically important emergency services in consultation with local government. iv. that council requests this levy be a separate line item on the rates notice and the charges be passed through to the ratepayers 2. Chair of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) advising that Council's forced emergency services contribution is manifestly disproportionate to the 2023/24 rate cap, which has resulted in additional financial stress. 3. President of LGNSW seeking the Association's ongoing advocacy to bring about a relief in the burden of Councils' emergency services contribution. | General Manager | 22/5: letters prepared and dispatched |

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

| Resolution | Responsible Person | Progress Update |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Adoption of the IP&R Documentation and 2023-2024 Revenue Policy 06052023 RESOLVED that Bland Shire Council adopts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised Operational Plan (including Budget) for the 2023/2024 Financial Year in accordance with s405 of the Local Government Act 1993; The Revenue Policy (including Schedule of Fees and Charges) for the 2023/2024 Financial Year); and The Statement of Rating Structure and their respective short names as contained in the Operational Plan 2023/24 and make the Ordinary Rate and charges, including sewer charges, domestic and trade waste management charges, pursuant to s.494 and s.496 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Waste Management Levy pursuant to s.501 of the Local Government Act 1993 detailed in the tables below; | Acting Director Corporate & Community Services | 30/5: COMPLETE |
| <p>Endorsement of the Barmedman Community Committee, a Section 355 Committee of Council 08052023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive and note the minutes of the Barmedman Community Committee, held on Wednesday 5 April 2023. Endorse the Barmedman Community Committee members in accordance with the Acting Director Corporate and Community Services report for a probationary period of three (3) months. | Acting Director Corporate & Community Services | 30/5: COMPLETE |
| <p>Property Purchase Lot 2 DP710250 and 1134 DP753135 – Shamrock Street 13052023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the sale of Lot 2 DP 7510250 and Lot 1134 DP 753135 West Wyalong NSW to Mid West Fabrication for the agreed price of \$70,000 Including GST. Authorise the Mayor and the General Manager to affix Council's seal, sign and execute the Sale Contract for Lot 2 DP 7510250 and Lot 1134 DP 753135 West Wyalong NSW | Director Technical Services | 30/5: Draft contract reviewed, awaiting amendments |
| <p>Tender – Contract Management and Operation of Holland Park Swimming Pool, West Wyalong and Ungarie Swimming Pool 14052023 RESOLVED that Council award Contract No 8/2023 for the Contract Management and Operation of Holland Park Pool, West Wyalong and Ungarie Pool, to L & R Group to the value of \$569,431.50 (Exc GST) for a three (3) year period with a two (2) year option.</p> | Project Engineer | 18/5: Tenderers notified of outcome |

7.2 Councillor Workshops



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

OP 10.2 Councillors are encouraged to take ownership and a strong leadership role

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Councillors may recall at the September 2022 ordinary meeting of Council the decision to amend the commencement time of Councillor Workshops to 4:00pm or earlier for a trial period of three months.

Since September, monthly workshops have continued to commence at 4:00pm.

Councillor Workshops are an important avenue for Councillors to receive information from Council staff. The information sharing enables staff to prepare sound and well informed reports which informs Council's strategic decisions at subsequent Council meetings.

It is noted that NSW Local Government Elections will once again be upon us in September 2024. These elections are an important part of the democratic process, and ensure council is accountable to the community.

A strong and effective council should reflect the diverse community that they serve and thus important that a diverse range of community members consider nominating at election time.

It is appropriate that council meetings and workshops are scheduled at suitable times to maximise Councillor availability, particularly for those who may also have other personal or full time work commitments.

It is therefore proposed to amend the commencement time of Councillor Workshops to 6:30pm.

Financial Implications

Council staff attending may seek to claim overtime or take time in lieu should they attend these workshops.

Summary

Councillor workshops are an informal gathering of Council and the formal requirements of Council's Code of Meeting Practice do not apply, meaning that workshops are not recorded or webcast on Council's website.

Councillor workshops and briefings are conducted by the General Manager to provide information to councillors and inform Council's effective and strategic decision making at formal meetings of Council.

Recommendation:

That Councillor Workshops start at 6:30pm commencing with the July 2023 workshop.

7.3 Land Development Update



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

OP 9.1 Responsibly manage asset renewal and maintenance for current and future generations

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Residential Development

Councillors may recall, at the May 2022 ordinary meeting it resolved as follows in relation to the development site known as 82 Ungarie Road:

That Council agrees to provide in principle support of the commitment of up to \$1M in infrastructure costs where that infrastructure can be identified as having a wider community benefit than just to this particular site subject to Council approval to provide funding of up to \$1 million dollars toward enabling infrastructure to support residential development within West Wyalong. (Minute No. 08052022)

Over the past 10 months the General Manager has been liaising with various land holders and prospective developers to progress residential development opportunities within West Wyalong.

Earlier this year, the previous NSW Government launched the Growing Regional Economies Fund (GREF), with applications closing on 23 May.

Following liaison with local land holders, developers and real estate agents, rather than just looking at individual development sites, it was considered more appropriate to provide for infrastructure that will underpin the longer term plans for residential development in West Wyalong. Council therefore submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the GREF program to provide for funding for enabling infrastructure across the northern fringe of West Wyalong, which was identified in the Bland Shire Housing Strategy.

Funding is being sought for the design and construction of enabling infrastructure; water supply, road upgrades, power networks, sewer and stormwater extensions; to facilitate the development of housing close to West Wyalong.

The funding program requires a 25% co-contribution.

The project Council has applied for is estimated to cost \$3.9m which includes \$2.9m being sought from the GREF and the \$1m co-contribution from Council.

The funding program has a two-step approach, and should Council be successful in progressing from the EOI, it will be invited to submit a full Business Case. Advice on progressing to phase 2 is expected in late July with submissions then closing in October.

Industrial Development

Progress on the Central Park Estate industrial development is progressing with development approval being sought by way of a separate report to the June Council meeting.

This project has taken some time, and has seen modifications made to suit both prospective purchasers and the developer.

Financial Implications

Council expended \$8,500 Ex GST to have the Expression of Interest prepared for the GREF Program, and subject to the outcome, a further cost of \$21,500 Ex GST should the project progress to a full business case.

These costs shall be subject to the Quarterly Budget Review process.

An allocation has been made for construction of the Central Park Estate in the 2023 - 2024 Operational Plan.

Summary

Funding is being sought to provide for enabling infrastructure to support residential development across the northern fringe of West Wyalong.

The Central Road industrial estate is progressing with the Development Application to be considered by way of separate report to Council in June.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Land Development Update.

7.4 Local Government Destination and Visitor Economy Conference 2023



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

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

Author: Tourism & Administration Officer

The 2023 LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference was held from 29-31 May in Manly, Sydney with the support of Northern Beaches Council and LGNSW. The event held over three-days brought together local government staff, key industry stakeholders and local operators to discuss insights and the ever-changing world facing Visitor Centres and visitor engagement.

Monday kicked off with a choice of 3 breakout sessions, Marketing, Tourism Experiences and The Business of Tourism Showcase.

Attending the Tourism Experience the first speaker, Caroline Geoghegan, shared how the Bondi to Manly Walk was developed in continued collaboration between 6 councils and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Councils to the benefit of the community and attracting visitors for a longer stay.

The second speaker, Kath McKenzie shared information on how to identify new tourism markets for councils. The third speaker, Cindy Elkhouri shared how a community worked together to hold one of Sydney's biggest events, Ramadan Nights Lakemba.

The afternoon session was filled with ideas on how to market tourism experiences through social media effectively with speaker Tod Wright from Three sides Marketing.

The official Welcome Reception was held at the International College of Management, Sydney (ICMS). The building known as "the castle on the hill", the ICMS building is a Manly landmark dating back to the 19th Century and won world-wide acclaim when it was built by the Catholic Church between 1885 and 1889.

Day 2 we were welcomed with a sunrise over the beach and a greeting by the President of LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley AM. In her words: "LGNSW's annual Tourism and Economic Development Conference was designed to equip councils to make the most of opportunities by providing a range of industry experts in one location. "Councils play a significant role in the tourism industry: as tourism operators, destination marketers, visitor information service managers, community planners and place makers, as well as broader responsibilities such as the delivery of public infrastructure and services."

A panel discussion on Reimagining Tourism in your LGA - Challenge or Opportunity followed with more sessions by various speakers covering the topic 'Events-based Tourism – Festivals, Footy and Food (What's the secret to successful and *sustainable* events tourism)', including:-

- Mid-Western Regional Council's engagement with Sports Tourism
- Parkes Shire Council's Elvis Festival
- Northern Beaches Council – Creating sustainable Marquee Events
- Sydney WorldPride Human Rights Conference

The conference included a series of site visits for delegates, focusing on agritourism and the promotion of food trails, wedding tourism, how best to protect, celebrate and share natural spaces and Showcasing Arts, Creativity and Culture.

Before we departed on the site visits the **NSW Tourism Industry Council** announced the **Top Tourism Town Awards** and the day ended with a Conference Dinner which included the announcement of the host council for the LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference 2024 – Wagga Wagga together with Coolamon and Junee Shire.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the update from the 2023 Local Government Destination and Visitor Economy Conference.

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

7.5 Finance and Investment Report for May 2023



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 2021.

Financial Implications

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES, RATES COLLECTIONS AND INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2023.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31st MAY 2023

| ACCOUNT | BALANCE |
|---|------------------------|
| General Fund | \$2,348,329.82 |
| Business Card | \$30,000.00 |
| | \$2,378,329.82 |
| <i>Invested Funds</i> | |
| Fixed Deposits | \$71,204,200.07 |
| Deposits at Call | \$2,321,544.06 |
| | \$73,525,744.13 |
| Net Balance | \$75,874,073.95 |
| Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance | 96.90% |

**STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.05.2023
SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING JUNE 20, 2023**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| BALANCE as at 01.05.23 | \$844,116.90 |
| Add Receipts | |
| <u>Receipts Over \$150,000</u> | |
| 11/05/23 Transfer From Cash at Call | 1,000,000.00 |
| 12/05/23 Evolution Rates | 255,184.25 |
| 17/05/23 QTR 4 F.A.G.S 2 General | 360,799.64 |
| 17/05/23 QTR 4 F.A.G.S 2 Local Roads | 233,892.36 |
| 18/05/23 R4R8-058 Grant | 663,338.56 |
| 19/05/23 LRCI 2 Grant | 310,723.00 |
| 25/05/23 Investment Redemption | 1,000,000.00 |
| <u>Receipts under \$150,000</u> | 2,156,412.05 |
| <i>Total Receipts for May 2023</i> | \$5,980,349.86 |
| Less Payments | |
| <u>Payments over \$150,000</u> | |
| 23/05/23 Credit Union Term Deposit | -1,000,000.00 |
| 30/05/23 Mystate Bank Term Deposit | -1,000,000.00 |
| <u>Payments under \$150,000</u> | -2,476,136.94 |
| Aged Care | \$ 5,314.24 |
| Bank Fees | \$ 1,092.58 |
| Cemeteries | \$ 4,153.82 |
| Children's Services | \$ 16,199.96 |
| Community | \$ 10,475.21 |
| Construction | \$ 206,207.52 |
| Corporate | \$ 296,477.13 |
| Development Services | \$ 3,110.47 |
| Direct Debits | \$ 943.93 |
| Donations | \$ 40.00 |
| Employee | \$ 820,834.34 |
| Governance | \$ 37,541.12 |
| Insurance | \$ 72,590.41 |
| Investments | \$ 2,000,000.00 |
| Library | \$ 2,745.60 |
| Maintenance | \$ 256,730.43 |
| Plant/Fuel | \$ 274,470.41 |
| Roads | \$ 246,489.52 |
| Sewer | \$ 101,959.00 |
| Utilities | \$ 73,349.78 |
| VIC | \$ 41,853.55 |
| Waste | \$ 3,557.92 |
| <i>Total Payments for May 2023</i> | - \$4,476,136.94 |
| CASH BALANCE | <u>\$2,348,329.82</u> |
| Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank | \$ 350,000.00 |

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON 20 JUNE 2023

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY AND CERTIFICATION

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period 01 May 2023 to 31 May 2023.

I CERTIFY,

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

| Payment Type | | Voucher No's | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Cheques | | 026310-026316 | \$40,724.36 |
| Auto-pay | Creditors | E031783 – E032099 | \$3,777,278.65 |
| Auto-pay | Payroll | 30/04/23 – 28/05/23 | \$656,097.42 |
| Bank Charges & Commissions | | May 2023 | \$1,092.58 |
| Direct Debits | Repayments & Vehicle Lease | | 943.93 |
| | | | \$4,476,136.94 |

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 20th June 2023, 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 **\$4,476,136.94** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 20th June 2023 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 May 2023. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

| DATE INVESTED | INVESTED WITH WHOM | INVESTED AMOUNT | TERM | YIELD | DATE DUE |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| 28/05/2020 | Bank of QLD | 2,000,000.00 | 1460 days | 1.50% | 27/05/2024 |
| 6/08/2020 | Bank of QLD | 2,000,000.00 | 1093 days | 1.05% | 4/08/2023 |
| 30/09/2020 | Northern Territory Treasury | 2,000,000.00 | 1902 days | 1.20% | 15/12/2025 |
| 30/10/2020 | Northern Territory Treasury | 1,000,000.00 | 1141 days | 0.80% | 15/12/2023 |
| 30/11/2020 | MyState Bank (Term Deposit) | 2,000,000.00 | 365 days | 0.50% | 30/11/2023 |
| 23/02/2021 | AMP (Term Deposit) | 2,500,000.00 | 548 days | 1.35% | 23/08/2023 |
| 11/05/2021 | MyState Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 730 days | 0.55% | 11/05/2023 |
| 24/06/2021 | Defence Bank | 2,000,000.00 | 728 days | 0.58% | 22/06/2023 |
| 17/09/2021 | Judo Bank | 2,000,000.00 | 727 days | 0.95% | 14/09/2023 |
| 1/10/2021 | NAB (Term Deposit) | 1,500,000.00 | 734 days | 0.60% | 5/10/2023 |
| 22/10/2021 | MyState Bank (Term Deposit) | 2,000,000.00 | 733 days | 0.80% | 25/10/2023 |
| 14/12/2021 | Bank of QLD | 2,000,000.00 | 730 days | 1.10% | 14/12/2023 |
| 20/01/2022 | AMP (Term Deposit) | 1,000,000.00 | 729 days | 1.35% | 19/01/2024 |
| 11/05/2022 | AMP (Term Deposit) | 2,000,000.00 | 365 days | 3.00% | 11/05/2023 |
| 11/08/2022 | AMP (Term Deposit) | 1,000,000.00 | 336 days | 4.15% | 13/07/2023 |
| 16/08/2022 | Bank of QLD | 1,000,000.00 | 365 days | 3.85% | 16/08/2023 |
| 31/08/2022 | Macquarie Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 330 days | 4.11% | 27/07/2023 |
| 8/09/2022 | Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit) | 400,000.00 | 365 days | 3.00% | 8/09/2023 |
| 8/09/2022 | Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit) | 400,000.00 | 365 days | 3.00% | 8/09/2023 |
| 8/09/2022 | Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit) | 400,000.00 | 365 days | 3.00% | 8/09/2023 |
| 8/09/2022 | MyState Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 273 days | 3.90% | 8/06/2023 |
| 16/09/2022 | Bank of QLD (Term Deposit) | 1,000,000.00 | 369 days | 4.20% | 20/09/2023 |
| 21/09/2022 | NAB (Term Deposit) | 1,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.25% | 21/09/2023 |
| 29/09/2022 | Bank of QLD | 2,000,000.00 | 364 days | 4.45% | 28/09/2023 |
| 5/10/2022 | NAB (Term Deposit) | 2,000,000.00 | 371 days | 4.05% | 11/10/2023 |
| 18/10/2022 | Police Bank | 2,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.45% | 18/10/2023 |
| 19/10/2022 | Judo Bank | 2,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.30% | 19/10/2023 |
| 10/11/2022 | AMP (Term Deposit) | 1,000,000.00 | 364 days | 4.75% | 9/11/2023 |
| 17/11/2022 | Australian Unity | 2,000,000.00 | 364 days | 4.40% | 16/11/2023 |
| 30/11/2022 | Auswide Bank | 2,000,000.00 | 358 days | 4.55% | 23/11/2023 |
| 8/12/2022 | Auswide Bank | 2,000,000.00 | 189 days | 4.40% | 15/06/2023 |
| 8/12/2022 | Commonwealth Bank | 2,000,000.00 | 364 days | 4.38% | 7/12/2023 |
| 25/01/2023 | Macquarie Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.35% | 25/01/2024 |
| 25/01/2023 | Auswide Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 176 days | 4.50% | 20/07/2023 |
| 31/01/2023 | Great Southern Bank | 2,500,000.00 | 365 days | 4.65% | 31/01/2024 |
| 8/02/2023 | Defence Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.75% | 8/02/2024 |
| 15/02/2023 | NAB (Term Deposit) | 1,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.90% | 15/02/2024 |
| 16/02/2023 | Defence Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 328 days | 4.85% | 10/01/2024 |
| 28/02/2023 | Macquarie Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.84% | 28/02/2024 |
| 28/02/2023 | Macquarie Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 120 days | 4.26% | 28/06/2023 |
| 1/03/2023 | Defence Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 371 days | 5.00% | 6/03/2024 |
| 6/03/2023 | Defence Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 380 days | 5.00% | 20/03/2024 |
| 8/03/2023 | Bank of QLD | 1,000,000.00 | 370 days | 0.85% | 13/03/2024 |
| 29/03/2023 | AMP | 1,500,000.00 | 365 days | 4.90% | 28/03/2024 |
| 18/04/2023 | AMP | 1,000,000.00 | 358 days | 4.95% | 10/04/2024 |
| 20/04/2023 | MyState Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 363 days | 4.60% | 17/04/2024 |
| 20/04/2023 | Hume Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 370 days | 4.80% | 24/04/2024 |
| 01/05/2023 | Auswide Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 365 days | 4.90% | 03/04/2024 |
| 23/05/2023 | Great Southern Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 365 Days | 5.11% | 22/05/2024 |
| 30/05/2023 | Bank of QLD | 2,000,000.00 | 336 Days | 4.90% | 30/04/2024 |
| 30/05/2023 | MyState Bank | 1,000,000.00 | 365 | 5.10% | 29/05/2024 |
| | ANZ Deposit at Call | 50,957.12 | Cash at Call | | |
| | CBA Deposit at Call | 2,270,586.94 | Cash at Call | | |
| | TOTAL: | \$73,525,744.13 | | | |

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 (2022/23) | \$ 11,177,460.10 |
| Rates received as at 31/05/2023 | \$ 10,486,712.56 |
| % of rates received to date | 93.82% |

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 2021 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 May 2023
 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 May to 31 May 2023, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$4,476,136.94
-

7.6 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal



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

DP10.1 - Ensure Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duty

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (LGRT) released its Annual Report and Determination on 27 April 2023. The report details the minimum and maximum fees to be paid to Councillors and Mayors in New South Wales (NSW) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 (**Attachment One**).

Financial Implications

Fees and payments to the Mayor and Councillors are included within the 2023/2024 Budget. Although Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy states that fees will be paid within the range determined by the LGRT, Council is still required to resolve what the payment level will be.

Summary

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the LG Act) requires the LGRT to report to the Minister for Local Government by 1 May each year on its determination of categories of councils and the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to mayors, councillors, and chairpersons and members of county councils.

The LGRT is also required to make an annual determination on the amount of fees payable to Mayors and Councillors with all Councils in NSW required to annually set their level of fees for both Councillors and the Mayor based upon the outcome of the Tribunal's Determination.

Should Council not fix an annual fee, then the minimum remuneration levels as determined by the LGRT will apply. Bland Shire is placed in the Rural Category for General Purpose Councils – Non-Metropolitan. For comparative purposes, those fees are \$9,850 per annum for Councillors with the Mayoral Allowance being \$10,490. The fees fixed by the Council must be in the range determined by the LGRT and it is mandatory for the fees to be paid to the Mayor and Councillors.

Recommendation:

That Council fix the annual fee for Councillors at the maximum amount allowable, being \$13,030 per Councillor for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 and fix the annual fee for the Mayor at the maximum amount allowable, being \$28,430 for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2023

| Category | Minimum | Maximum |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Major Regional City | 19,760 | 34,330 |
| Major Strategic Area | 19,760 | 34,330 |
| Regional Strategic Area | 19,760 | 32,590 |
| Regional Centre | 14,810 | 26,070 |
| Regional Rural | 9,850 | 21,730 |
| Rural Large | 9,850 | 17,680 |
| Rural | 9,850 | 13,030 |

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2023

| Category | Minimum | Maximum |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Major Regional City | 41,960 | 106,960 |
| Major Strategic Area | 41,960 | 106,960 |
| Regional Strategic Area | 41,960 | 94,950 |
| Regional Centre | 30,820 | 64,390 |
| Regional Rural | 20,980 | 47,420 |
| Rural Large | 15,735 | 37,925 |
| Rural | 10,490 | 28,430 |

7.7 IPART Proposal on Rate Peg Changes



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

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

During the past 12 months, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has consulted widely with ratepayers, councillors, council staff and other stakeholders across NSW about council rates. During the first week of June it released its draft report proposing a number changes to the council rate peg methodology.

Through the consultation process, the Eastern Riverina Organisation of Councils (REROC) and its member Councils were able to attend a workshop in Wagga Wagga in late 2022, and REROC then able to present through a smaller follow-up session on 30 March.

As part of this release, submissions have been sought on the draft document and its recommendations with commentary due to be lodged by 4 July, 2023. The purpose of this report is to determine whether Bland Shire Council wishes to formulate a submission on the draft rate pegging review document.

Financial Implications

Any changes to the existing rate peg methodology will have an impact on Council financially. However, until such time as the final methodology is released, the quantum of that impact is difficult to predict.

Summary

In July 2023, IPART will hold an online public hearing before reviewing feedback and then submitting a final report to the NSW Government in August 2023.

The Draft Report was prepared in response to concerns regarding the current rate peg methodology, particularly how IPART measures the annual change in councils' base costs, including IPART's Local Government Cost Index.

The document proposes a number of changes including:

- Measuring the annual change in councils' base costs (BCC) by three groups instead of one
- Using a new model to measure the annual change in costs in place of the Local Government Cost Index – including employee costs, asset costs and all other operating costs
- Use of 'forward-looking indicators' to estimate change in BCC components
- Make council-specific adjustments for changes in councils' Emergency Services Levy contributions
- Adjustments to capture costs driven by external factors that affect councils
- Inclusion of a population factor to more accurately measure population changes

IPART is also proposing to stage the introduction of the improved methodology as well as to review the rate peg mechanism every five years to ensure it is up to date and fit for purpose.

The Draft Report also recommends that the financial model for councils be investigated to identify improvements.

A list of the Executive Summary as well as the draft decisions, recommendations and findings are included as Attachment One.

A full copy of the Draft report is available on the IPART webpage - <https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/>

Recommendation:

That Council prepare a submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's Draft Report on Rate Pegging supporting the proposed changes as outlined in the document.



Review of the rate peg methodology

Draft Report

June 2023

Local Government »

Acknowledgment of Country

IPART acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We pay respect to Elders both past and present.

We recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationship and celebrate the contributions of First Nations peoples.

Tribunal Members

The Tribunal members for this review are:

Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair
Deborah Cope
Sandra Gamble

Enquiries regarding this document should be directed to a staff member:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Sheridan Rapmund | (02) 9290 8430 |
| Carol Lin | (02) 9113 7786 |

Invitation for submissions

IPART invites comment on this document and encourages all interested parties to provide submissions addressing the matters discussed.

Submissions are due by Tuesday, 4 July 2023

We prefer to receive them electronically via our [online submission form](#).

You can also send comments by mail to:

Review of the rate peg methodology
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop, Sydney NSW 1240

If you require assistance to make a submission (for example, if you would like to make a verbal submission) please contact one of the staff members listed above.

Late submissions may not be accepted at the discretion of the Tribunal. Our normal practice is to make submissions publicly available on our [website](#) as soon as possible after the closing date for submissions. If you wish to view copies of submissions but do not have access to the website, you can make alternative arrangements by telephoning one of the staff members listed above.

We may decide not to publish a submission, for example, if we consider it contains offensive or potentially defamatory information. We generally do not publish sensitive information. If your submission contains information that you do not wish to be publicly disclosed, please let us know when you make the submission. However, it could be disclosed under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) or the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992* (NSW), or where otherwise required by law.

If you would like further information on making a submission, IPART's [submission policy](#) is available on our website.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

IPART's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Further information on IPART can be obtained from [IPART's website](#).

Contents

Foreword from the Chair

Chapter 1

| | |
|---|----------|
| Executive Summary | 1 |
| 1.1 The local government rate peg | 3 |
| 1.2 How we approached this review | 4 |
| 1.3 What we heard through our consultation | 5 |
| 1.4 Our proposed improvements to the rate peg methodology | 7 |
| 1.5 Draft recommendation on investigation of financial model for councils | 8 |
| 1.6 We want to hear from you | 9 |
| 1.7 Our draft decisions, recommendations, and findings | 10 |
| 1.8 Structure of this report | 13 |

Chapter 2

| | |
|---|-----------|
| The role of the rate peg | 14 |
| 2.1 Rates income as a source of funding for council services | 15 |
| 2.2 The rate peg constrains annual increases in rates income | 15 |
| 2.3 The rate peg is just one part of a broader regulatory framework | 16 |
| 2.4 Councils have told us they are concerned about the impact of the rate peg on their financial sustainability | 20 |
| 2.5 Ratepayers expressed concerns about affordability and considered that councils could improve how they communicate with their communities | 20 |
| 2.6 The rate peg should ensure ratepayers pay no more than necessary while enabling councils' rates income to keep pace with changes in their costs | 21 |

Chapter 3

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Improving how we measure changes in councils' base costs | 23 |
| 3.1 Our draft decisions on measuring changes in councils' base costs | 24 |
| 3.2 We propose to replace the Local Government Cost Index with a new Base Cost Change model | 26 |
| 3.3 Developing measures by council group to account for diversity | 32 |
| 3.4 Changing how we measure costs to improve cost-reflectivity and timeliness | 34 |
| 3.5 We propose to release an indicative rate peg around September each year | 44 |
| 3.6 We modelled options for measuring the components of the BCC | 45 |
| 3.7 We considered alternatives to a 3-factor BCC for the 3 regional groups | 48 |

Chapter 4

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Adjusting for the Emergency Services Levy | 50 |
| 4.1 Our draft decisions and findings on capturing the costs of the ESL | 53 |
| 4.2 ESL is an important issue for councils | 54 |
| 4.3 Our proposed methodology aims to better reflect increases faced by individual councils | 57 |
| 4.4 Our ESL factor calculation accounts for councils' full ESL contribution for the year they pay for it | 60 |
| 4.5 We could set individual ESL factors for some councils but not all | 64 |
| 4.6 Transitioning to a new ESL methodology would impact ratepayers | 66 |

Chapter 5

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Capturing external changes outside councils' control | 67 |
| 5.1 Our draft decision on treating external costs | 69 |
| 5.2 Stakeholders had differing views on funding external costs | 69 |
| 5.3 We considered several options for funding external costs | 70 |
| 5.4 We can improve how we capture external costs | 71 |
| 5.5 Climate change, cyber security and providing community facilities are all examples of external costs | 73 |

Chapter 6

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Refining the population factor | 76 |
| 6.1 Our draft decisions on the population factor | 77 |
| 6.2 We will maintain the population factor but make a minor adjustment to improve accuracy | 78 |
| 6.3 Stakeholders raised a range of concerns with the current population factor | 80 |
| 6.4 We considered alternative sources of data | 93 |

Chapter 7

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Retaining the productivity factor | 98 |
| 7.1 Our draft decisions on the productivity factor | 99 |
| 7.2 Stakeholders had mixed views about the productivity factor | 99 |
| 7.3 Efficiency and productivity in the local government sector | 100 |
| 7.4 We will retain the option of including a productivity factor | 101 |
| 7.5 We think there are opportunities to improve productivity across the local government sector | 102 |

Chapter 8

| | |
|---|------------|
| Transition arrangements | 103 |
| 8.1 Our draft decisions would include changes in timing | 104 |
| 8.2 We considered implementation and transition options for our draft decisions | 105 |
| 8.3 Our preference is to implement some changes, but maintain the LGCI for the 2024-25 rate peg | 106 |
| 8.4 Alternative implementation options | 106 |
| 8.5 Comparison between options | 107 |
| 8.6 We propose to undertake regular reviews of our rate peg methodology | 108 |

Chapter 9

| | |
|--|------------|
| Improving the broader regulatory framework | 109 |
| 9.1 Overview of draft recommendation on financial model for councils | 110 |
| 9.2 Measures to improve the equity of the rating system | 111 |
| 9.3 Measures that require further investigation | 115 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Appendix A | |
| Rate peg methodology formula | 124 |
| Appendix B | |
| Alternative options considered | 130 |
| Appendix C | |
| Ratepayer views from surveys and focus groups | 138 |
| C.1 Surveys of community and business ratepayers | 139 |
| C.2 Focus groups with community and business ratepayers | 141 |
| Appendix D | |
| Council financial sustainability | 144 |
| D.1 Our analysis suggests that councils' financial positions deteriorated from 2016-17 to 2020-21 | 145 |
| D.2 Councils rely on own source revenue as well as income from external fundings sources | 148 |
| D.3 Councils have discretion to decide what services to provide, and the appropriate service level | 154 |
| D.4 Our Draft Report discusses options to address financial sustainability concerns through the rate peg methodology and the broader regulatory framework | 155 |
| Appendix E | |
| Climate change cost considerations | 157 |
| E.1 We heard from stakeholders on climate change costs | 158 |
| E.2 Climate change can impact councils' costs | 162 |
| E.3 We considered who should pay for climate change costs | 165 |
| E.4 An integrated approach to climate change across all levels of government is required | 165 |
| Appendix F | |
| Terms of Reference | 168 |

Foreword from the Chair

The 128 councils in NSW are an important part of our democracy and significant providers of essential services. On average they raise about a third of their revenue through rates and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) determines how much each council's total rates revenue can increase each year through the rate peg.

IPART has recently consulted widely with ratepayers, councillors, council staff and other stakeholders across NSW about council rates. Our consultation has been an important part of IPART's current review of the rate peg methodology which is how we calculate the rate peg for each council each year.

When councillors decide they need total rates revenue to increase above the rate peg, they can apply to IPART for a special variation. We have also consulted about 17 council special variation applications, received in February and March 2023, seeking rates increases above the rate peg, including some very large proposed increases.

We want to thank every single person who has come forward and provided feedback. We have considered every issue raised in that consultation.

We have heard that some councils are experiencing financial sustainability problems, which they suggest are related to the current financial model for councils. This is requiring strong financial management and council action to either increase rates or cut services, at a time when many people are less able to afford higher rates or to do without essential council services.

We heard that ratepayers are indeed concerned about cost of living pressures and affordability of rates while they also depend on and value council services.

This has raised the question of whether the funding and financial model for councils is as good as it needs to be, at a time when NSW has faced drought, bushfires, floods, COVID, supply chain disruption, labour shortages, higher inflation and rising interest rates.

Feedback to IPART indicates communities want councils to demonstrate good financial management and provide services that are efficient and value for money, so they can be confident the rates they pay are well used. Councillors, as the representatives of the community, play a key role in holding council management to account, and need the tools and information to do so.

Ratepayers have told us they want to be better consulted about council priorities, so councils deliver good quality services that are needed by their local community. We also heard ratepayers would like more consultation about the way rates are set - so rates are fair, reasonable and affordable.

Some councils have stronger financial sustainability than others. A range of reasons have been suggested for why this is the case. We have heard that the capability, workforce shortages, resources and alternative sources of revenue available to councils are not the same across NSW. Populations, economies, distances and geography are quite varied. Councils are very diverse and we have heard that a 'one size fits all' financial model does not make sense.

Our proposed new rate peg methodology is designed to respond to many of the issues raised in the review so far, including being more forward looking and agile, while recognising the diversity of councils. But it cannot address all the issues people have identified.

The rate peg sets the appropriate movement in a council's existing cost base but does not address the cost base itself. Trying to fix the cost base through the rate peg could potentially lead to unwarranted increases for some councils that could do more to control costs, and insufficient increases for councils with genuine financial need.

In assessing special variation applications, in line with current laws and guidelines, the Tribunal has carefully considered the impact of any increases in rates on individual ratepayers and whether increases in total rates revenue are needed so council services can continue to be provided. We note that, within the total rates revenue approved by IPART, it remains the responsibility of councillors to set rates in a way that takes into account the circumstances of their constituents. Councillors also have the authority to provide hardship programs that lessen the impact on people who cannot afford increased rates.

The Tribunal also questions whether the large special variation applications lodged in February and March indicate the financial model needs closer investigation, if the only way a council is able to address financial sustainability is through seeking substantial rates revenue increases.

The Tribunal believes it would be timely for NSW Government to initiate an independent investigation into the financial model for councils in NSW, including the broader issues highlighted in our draft report on the rate peg methodology.

IPART stands ready to work with the NSW Government, councillors, ratepayers and communities to address the issues we have heard through our consultation over recent months.

Carmel Donnelly PSM
IPART Chairperson

Chapter 1 »

Executive Summary

01

Across NSW, 128 councils provide important goods, services, and facilities to their local communities. For example, they provide local roads, bridges and footpaths; libraries, parks and playgrounds; sporting fields and swimming pools; and public health, childcare, aged care and emergency management services.

Councils fund their operations from a mix of revenue sources. The rates they levy on property owners typically raise around a third of their total income. The rest comes from government grants, development contributions, and user fees and charges.

Councils' main sources of operating income



Rates and annual charges

This includes residential, business, farming, and mining rates, plus any special rates charged by councils, as well as annual charges such as domestic waste management charges.



Grants and development contributions

Councils may receive or apply for state and federal government grants. Councils may also charge developers development contributions to fund local infrastructure necessary to serve the needs of the development.



User fees and charges

Councils can charge for the sale of goods and services, such as parking, child and aged care services, building and regulatory services and private works.

However, local councils and their communities vary widely across the state. For example, councils differ in the size of their Local Government Area (LGA), and the level of the development and local infrastructure in this area. Local communities differ in the size of their population, and their demographic and socio-economic characteristics, needs and preferences for local government services.

This diversity means councils can face significant and often different challenges in managing their revenues and costs to meet their community's needs and ensure their financial sustainability. The recent COVID pandemic, recent economic volatility, bushfires, droughts and floods, and growing climate change and cyber security threats, have increased these challenges. They have also reinforced how important it is for councils to be financially sustainable so they can deliver reliable, safe services that their communities can afford.

1.1 The local government rate peg

Councils have the power to levy rates (and other charges) within the constraints of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and the rating system it establishes. Within this system, councils set the rating structure and calculate the rate levels for each rating category. But the total income they can raise through these rates is regulated in several ways – one of which is the local government rate peg.

The rate peg is the maximum amount in percentage terms by which a council may increase its rates income^a in a year. IPART sets this percentage every year, on behalf of the Minister for Local Government, and has done so since first delegated by the then Minister in 2010.

The purpose of the rate peg is twofold:

1. It allows all councils to automatically increase their rates each year to keep pace with the estimated change in the costs of providing their current services and service levels to households, businesses, and the broader community – that is, their base costs. This helps ensure that they can maintain the scope, quantity and quality of these services over time without undermining their financial sustainability.
2. It also limits the impact of these automatic increases on ratepayers, by ensuring that councils cannot increase their rates by more than the estimated change in their base costs, and that they engage with their communities if they propose a step change in their rates revenue to fund improvements in the scope, quantity or quality of their services.^b

In recent years, concerns about our methodology for setting the rate peg have emerged. These concerns primarily relate to how we measure the annual change in councils' base costs, including our Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). The previous Premier and the then Minister for Local Government asked IPART to review the rate peg methodology, and recommend a methodology that:

- allows councils to vary their general income annually to reflect (as far as possible) changes in the costs of providing local government goods and services due to inflation and other external factors
- continues to include a population factor.^c

^a For almost all councils, general income consists entirely of rates income. For a small number of councils, general income also includes some annual charges such as drainage levies. In our Draft Report and accompanying Information Papers, we use "rates income" to describe general income.

^b This consultation is one of the requirements councils must demonstrate they have met if they apply to IPART for a special variation to the rate peg. They must be granted a special variation to increase their rates income by more than the rate peg.

^c See Appendix F: Terms of Reference which is also available [here](#).

1.2 How we approached this review

We have undertaken extensive consultation for this review and have sought to hear the views of both ratepayers and councils across NSW.

We published an Issues Paper in September 2022 and invited submissions from all interested parties. We received 96 submissions, most of which were from councils and council organisations. We also held 7 public workshops – 3 in-person workshops in Wagga Wagga, Sydney, and Tamworth, and 4 online workshops – in late November and early December 2022.

We undertook our own analysis, sought expert advice, and considered the stakeholder views we heard through our consultation. Given the diversity of these views, we decided to develop a range of options for improving the rate peg methodology and undertake further consultation to test and refine these options before making our draft decisions. The Office of Local Government granted an extension to the review to allow for this further work.

In March and April 2023, we held 4 technical workshops (1 with ratepayers and 3 with representatives from local government including councils and academics). We limited the number of stakeholders we invited to participate in these workshops to allow for a more targeted and technical discussion of the options for each element of the rate peg methodology.

In addition, we engaged ORIMA, a specialist market and social research company, to undertake 2 NSW-wide surveys to better understand the views of residential and business ratepayers. ORIMA carried out these surveys in November 2022 and March-April 2023 respectively. ORIMA also held 5 focus groups – 3 with residential ratepayers and 2 with business ratepayers – to further explore the survey results.

We considered all the feedback we received through this second round of consultation, and made the draft decisions, recommendations and findings set out in this Draft Report.



1.3 What we heard through our consultation

Our consultations highlight that it is in the long-term interests of ratepayers for councils to be financial sustainable and deliver affordable services that their communities want and need.

Councils told us that their primary concern is to achieve and maintain financial sustainability, to use their rates income effectively and efficiently, and to maximise what can be achieved.

Figure 1.1 shows that the interests and objectives of councils and ratepayers are interrelated, and an appropriate rate peg methodology should support the delivery of better outcomes for all stakeholders.

Figure 1.1 Stakeholder interests and objectives for the rate peg



Source: ORIMA, *Rate Peg Focus Groups Research Report*, May 2023, p 2 and IPART.

1.3.1 What we heard from councils

Councils raised a range of specific concerns about the rate peg methodology, which mostly relate to how accurately the methodology measures the change in their base costs. For example, they said to improve the methodology we should:

- improve the LGCI so that it better reflects their actual costs
- address volatility in the rate peg associated with the lag between when the change in the LGCI is measured and when councils apply the resulting rate peg to their rates income
- better account for differences between individual councils and/or council types
- better reflect councils' actual labour costs, including by recognising their need to compete with private and public sector employers to attract and retain staff
- improve the population factor to better reflect changes in councils' base costs associated with population growth

- capture the change in costs due to external factors outside of councils' control – such as the Emergency Services Levy (ESL), climate change and natural disasters, and cyber security.

Councils also raised concerns about the broader regulatory framework, and its impact on their financial sustainability. They identified a range of issues they consider undermine their financial position and limit the effectiveness of the rate peg in maintaining their financial sustainability. For example, they told us that:

- Some councils have been historically underfunded and increasing their rates income by the rate peg each year is not enough to close the gap between their current income and the true cost of delivering their current services.
- Although councils in this position could apply for a special variation to close this gap, some are reluctant to do so as they think the process is resource-intensive and can become a contentious issue.
- Some of the user fees and charges that councils levy but the NSW Government sets (known as statutory charges) have not been adequately indexed over time. As a result, councils have not been able to increase these fees and charges in line with the costs of providing the services, and so ratepayers are effectively subsidising these costs.
- The proportion of land that is exempt from rates within some LGAs is significant. In these areas, the council's rate base may be too narrow to raise enough income to cover the costs of its services, undermining its financial sustainability. In addition, existing ratepayers are effectively subsidising the cost of providing services to exempt properties.
- Some councils would prefer to set rates based on the capital improved value of a property, rather than the unimproved value as currently required. This would more accurately capture the impact of growth within a council's area. It would also share the costs of local government services more equitably across ratepayers.
- In LGAs with high rates of development and population growth, councils must provide additional community facilities that are not being provided by developers or funded through development contributions.
- The rates concession of up to \$250 councils provide pensioners is not indexed, reducing its impact on the affordability of rates for these vulnerable customers. In addition, the NSW Government's requirement that councils fund around half the concession amount increases their costs, particularly in LGAs with a high proportion of pensioners.

1.3.2 What we heard from ratepayers

Ratepayers told us their prime concern was the affordability of their rates, and the impact a new rate peg methodology would have on their cost of living. They also questioned:

- How the rate peg compares to the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Some put the view that council incomes have grown by much greater than the CPI.
- The timing of changes to the methodology. They said changes may not be appropriate in the current economic climate.

- Whether there is an effective measurement of councils' productivity. Many indicated they are not confident councils use the money they collect through rates efficiently.
- Why our review is focusing on the lag in the LGCI. They noted that this lag cuts both ways and councils do not seem to have an issue when inflation is lower than the rate peg.

In the survey, most ratepayers were generally satisfied with the quality and level of services that their council provides. However, they raised some broad concerns about the performance and regulation of councils. For example:

- more than half of all residential and business ratepayers surveyed were concerned about how fairly rates are split across types of ratepayers
- more than 60% of business ratepayers said they were not comfortable trusting their council to keep rates reasonable
- around a third of residential ratepayers said councils' communication about how rates income is used was not good enough.

In the focus groups to further investigate the survey findings it emerged that overall, ratepayers wanted the regulated rate setting framework to reflect the principles of transparency, accountability, efficiency, and fairness. Business ratepayers also wanted more business-like expectations of accountability and performance to be applied to councils.

In addition, the focus groups revealed that:

- there is a widely held view that councils don't use rates income effectively, and therefore ratepayers generally pay more than they need to
- ratepayers have only a general sense of what councils use rates income for, and this is strongly influenced by the services and facilities they can see and personally use
- the opportunity to discuss issues and hear other opinions in an open forum enabled residential ratepayers to better consider the value of paying rates to support council services.

1.4 Our proposed improvements to the rate peg methodology

Based on our analysis and consideration of stakeholder views, we have made draft decision on changes to the rate peg methodology. Our proposed method is simpler than the current method and would result in rate pegs that more accurately reflect changes in the costs NSW councils incur in providing their current services. Under this method, we would:

- Measure the annual change in councils' base costs for 3 groups of councils instead of 1 that includes all NSW councils, to better account for the diversity of councils' base cost patterns. These groups are metropolitan, regional, and rural councils.
- Use a new, simpler model to measure this change instead of the LGCI. This measure, the Base Cost Change (BCC), comprises 3 components that we consider better capture councils' costs:
 - employee costs (primarily wages, including superannuation guarantee)
 - asset costs
 - all other operating costs (including administration, utility costs, insurance).

- Use forward-looking indicators to estimate the change in each BCC component.
- Make an explicit, council-specific adjustment for changes in councils' Emergency Services Levy (ESL) contributions so councils can fund their required contributions to support NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW State Emergency Service, and Rural Fire Service without needing to reduce other council services. Using this method, when changes in the costs of the ESL impact the rate peg, it will be visible to councils, ratepayers, and all stakeholders.
- Make additional adjustments to capture costs driven by external factors that affect councils, where councils have engaged with their community. The costs include managing the impacts of climate change, and cyber security, for example. We are also considering implementing a process through which adjustments for specific external costs could be made for groups of councils that meet certain criteria.
- Continue to add a population factor but use a refined approach to more accurately measure the change in councils' residential populations.
- Continue to consider subtracting a productivity factor if there is evidence of productivity improvements in the local government sector that have not been fully incorporated in the Base Cost Change, noting that the productivity factor has been set to zero in recent years.

We propose to implement the improved methodology in a staged process, with some changes taking place for our decision on the 2024-25 rate peg and the rest for the 2025-26 rate peg. We are interested in stakeholder views on the best and fairest way to implement these changes.

We also propose to review our rate peg methodology every 5 years with a transparent and consultative review process. The review would ensure that our methodology is up to date and fit for purpose.

1.5 Draft recommendation on investigation of financial model for councils

As section 1.3 discussed, throughout our consultations for this review stakeholders have made it clear they have serious concerns about council financial sustainability and affordability of rates in the current cost of living climate.

Our draft decisions on the rate peg methodology may reduce some of these concerns. But many of the issues raised won't be fixed by the rate peg or the special variation process. We consider the financial model for councils needs to be investigated to identify improvements.

IPART is making a draft recommendation that the NSW Government consider commissioning an independent investigation into the financial model for councils in NSW. The investigation could examine the broader issues highlighted by IPART's recent consultation, including financial sustainability, funding, costs and expenditure, financial management and the impact on rates and ratepayers.

Section 9.1 presents some of our draft findings on the current financial model for local government which could be considered as part of the recommended investigation.

1.6 We want to hear from you

We are keen to hear what you think about our draft decisions, recommendations and findings on the rate peg methodology and the broader regulatory framework. These are listed in section 1.7. The questions we particularly seek comment on are also listed in section 1.7.

We will continue to engage with councils, ratepayers, and other stakeholders throughout our review. To have your say, you can:

- provide a submission or feedback to this Draft Report by 4 July 2023
- participate in our public hearing on 18 July 2023.



We will consider all the feedback we receive as well as the results of our analysis, in forming our final recommendations. We will provide our Final Report and recommendations to the Minister for Local Government in August 2023.

Have your say

Your input is critical to our review process.

You can get involved by making a submission, submitting feedback, or attending our public hearing.

We are seeking feedback by **4 July 2023** on our draft decisions, recommendations and findings.

[Submit feedback »](#)

[Register for the public hearing »](#)

1.7 Our draft decisions, recommendations, and findings

Our draft decisions are:

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | To replace the LGCI with a Base Cost Change model with 3 components: | 24 |
| a. | employee costs | 24 |
| b. | asset costs | 24 |
| c. | other operating costs. | 24 |
| 2. | To develop separate Base Cost Change models for 3 council groups: | 24 |
| a. | metropolitan councils (Office of Local Government groups 1,2,3, 6 and 7) | 24 |
| b. | regional councils (Office of Local Government groups 4 and 5) | 24 |
| c. | rural councils (Office of Local Government groups 8 to 11). | 24 |
| 3. | For each council group, calculate the Base Cost Change as follows: | 24 |
| a. | For employee costs, we would use the annual wage increases prescribed by the Local Government (State) Award for the year the rate peg applies, or the Reserve Bank of Australia's forecast change in the Wage Price Index from the most recent Statement on Monetary Policy (averaging the changes over the year to June and December for the year the rate peg applies). We would adjust for changes in the superannuation guarantee in both cases. We are currently consulting on the best approach to measure changes in employee costs (see Seek Comment 1). | 24 |
| b. | For asset costs, we would use the Reserve Bank of Australia's forecast change in the Consumer Price Index from the most recent Statement on Monetary Policy (averaging the changes over the year to June and December for the year the rate peg applies), adjusted to reflect the average difference between changes in the Producer Price Index (Road and bridge construction, NSW) and changes in the Consumer Price Index (All groups, Sydney) over the most recent 5-year period for which data is available. | 24 |
| c. | For other operating costs, we would use the Reserve Bank of Australia's forecast change in the Consumer Price Index from the most recent Statement on Monetary Policy (averaging the changes over the year to June and December for the year the rate peg applies). | 25 |
| d. | Weight the 3 components using the latest 3 years of data obtained from the Financial Data Returns of councils in that group, and update the weights annually. | 25 |
| 4. | To publish indicative rate pegs for councils around September each year (unless input data is not available) and final rate pegs around May each year. | 25 |
| 5. | To include a separate adjustment factor in our rate peg methodology that reflects the annual change in each council's Emergency Services Levy (ESL) contribution. This factor will reflect: | 53 |
| a. | an individual council's contribution, for councils: | 53 |
| | – that are not part of a rural fire district, or | 53 |
| | – that are part of a rural fire district but do not engage in ESL contribution cost sharing arrangements, or | 53 |
| | – are the only council in their rural fire district, or | 53 |
| | – that are part of a rural fire district and engage in ESL contribution cost sharing where we have accurate information about what the council pays. | 53 |
| b. | the weighted average change for each rural fire district, for councils that are part of a rural fire district and engage in ESL contribution cost sharing arrangements where we do not have accurate information about what they pay. | 53 |

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 6. | To set Emergency Services Levy (ESL) factors and a final rate peg for each council in May after ESL contributions for the year the rate peg is to apply are known, so that councils can recover changes in ESL contributions in the year contributions are to be paid. | 53 |
| 7. | To maintain our current approach and make additional adjustments to the rate peg on an as needs basis for external costs (For the Emergency Services Levy, we have made a separate decision - see <i>Draft Decision 5</i>). | 69 |
| 8. | To change the 'change in population' component of the population factor to deduct prison populations from the residential population in a council area and then calculate the growth in the non-prisoner residential population of a council area for the relevant year. We would not make retrospective adjustments for previous population factors. | 77 |
| 9. | To retain the productivity factor in the rate peg methodology and for it to remain as zero by default unless there is evidence to depart from that approach. | 99 |
| 10. | To review our rate peg methodology every five years, unless there is a material change to the sector or the economy, to ensure its stays fit for purpose. | 104 |

Our draft recommendations are:

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | That a local government reference group is established to advise on the implementation of our new rate peg methodology. | 25 |
| 2. | That the NSW Government consider commissioning an independent review of the financial model for councils in NSW including the broader issues raised in this report. | 110 |

We are seeking comment on:

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | What are your views on using one of the following options to measure changes in employee costs in our Base Cost Change model? How can we manage the risks associated with each option when setting the rate peg? | 25 |
| a. | Use annual wage increases prescribed by the Local Government (State) Award for the year the rate peg applies, adjusted to reflect any change in the superannuation guarantee rate. | 25 |
| b. | Use the Reserve Bank of Australia's forecast change in the Wage Price Index from the most recent Statement on Monetary Policy (averaging the changes over the year to June and December for the year the rate peg applies), adjusted to reflect any change in the superannuation guarantee rate. | 25 |
| 2. | Are there any alternative sources of data on employee costs we should further explore? | 25 |
| 3. | Do you support releasing indicative rate pegs for councils in September, and final rate pegs that are updated for councils' Emergency Services Levy contributions in May? | 25 |
| 4. | Do you have further information on arrangements between councils to share Emergency Services Levy (ESL) contribution bills including: | 54 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| a. what these arrangements cover (including whether they cover matters other than ESL contributions), and | 54 |
| b. whether they apply to Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW State Emergency Service ESL contributions, or contributions for only some of those services? | 54 |
| 5. Would councils be able to provide us with timely information on the actual ESL contribution amounts they pay including contribution amounts paid to the: | 54 |
| a. Rural Fire Service | 54 |
| b. Fire and Rescue NSW | 54 |
| c. NSW State Emergency Service? | 54 |
| For example, by providing us with a copy of any cost sharing agreement that sets out the proportion that each council pays. | 54 |
| 6. Would you support IPART establishing a process to develop adjustment factors for groups of councils to increase the rate peg to cover specific external costs? | 69 |
| 7. Would you support measuring only residential supplementary valuations for the population factor? | 78 |
| 8. If you supported using residential supplementary valuations, what data sources would you suggest using? | 78 |
| 9. What implementation option would you prefer for the changes to the rate peg methodology? | 104 |

Our draft finding is:

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Some councils that are part of rural fire districts have entered arrangements with other councils to share the costs of the Rural Fire Service component of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL). They may therefore pay an amount that is different to the ESL contribution set out in their assessment notice. | 53 |
|--|----|

Matters for further consideration:

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. The eligibility of current rate exemptions could be better targeted to improve outcomes for ratepayers and councils. | 111 |
| 2. The use of the Capital Improved Valuation method to levy local council rates could improve the efficiency and equity of rates. | 111 |
| 3. There could be merit in considering whether to introduce an additional constraint (i.e. conditions) on the rate peg to provide confidence to ratepayers that increases are reasonable. | 111 |
| 4. Some councils may not have an adequate rates base and a mechanism should be developed to enable councils found to have insufficient base rates income to achieve financial sustainability. | 111 |
| 5. Statutory charges for services provided by councils may not be recovering the full cost of service provision, such as for development approval fees and stormwater management service charges. | 111 |

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 6. | Councils could be better supported to serve their communities more effectively to build community trust in councils. This could include improvements in how councils undertake and implement their integrated planning and reporting. | 111 |
| 7. | There are opportunities to strengthen council incentives to improve their performance, including considering whether there is merit in a model that would exempt councils that demonstrate an agreed level of performance and consultation with ratepayers from the rate peg. | 111 |

1.8 Structure of this report

This Draft Report explains our consideration of the key issues for this review and our draft decisions and draft recommendations in more detail, including stakeholder views and the other options we considered to address these issues:

- Chapter 2 discusses the role of the rate peg within the broader regulatory framework, and how we have considered this role in developing our draft methodology.
- Chapter 3 focuses on how we measure the change in councils' base costs and how we can improve this approach.
- Chapter 4 discusses our proposed changes to councils funding the Emergency Services Levy.
- Chapter 5 discusses options for capturing changes in councils' base costs due to other external factors, including climate change
- Chapter 6 discusses the population factor, and how we can refine how we account for changes in councils' residential population.
- Chapter 7 outlines our proposed approach for the productivity factor.
- Chapter 8 discusses options for how we might transition from the existing rate peg methodology to our proposed methodology.
- Chapter 9 discusses a range of issues that stakeholders raised about the broader regulatory framework for local government.

This Draft Report also includes 6 appendices:

- Appendix A: Recommended rate peg methodology formula
- Appendix B: Alternative options considered
- Appendix C: Ratepayer survey and focus groups
- Appendix D: Council financial sustainability
- Appendix E: Climate change cost considerations
- Appendix F: Terms of Reference.

Section 3 – Technical Services

7.8 DA2023/0065 – Business Park Subdivision Application



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

DP16.1 Ensure a sustainable environment for current and future generations through effective management and planning for the long term future by ensuring appropriate land is zoned and available to support business and industry growth.

Author: Manager Development and Regulatory Services

Introduction

A development application has been submitted for the subdivision of land located at the corner of Central Road, Wyalong. It is proposed to subdivide the existing four (4) parcels into six (6) new lots. The legal description of the land is Lots 1233, 1243, 1257 and 1133 in DP753135 and Bland Shire Council is the owner of the land.

As this is a Council project the preparation of the development application was undertaken by a qualified town planning consultant, Camilla Rocks, and submitted into the NSW Planning Portal on Council's behalf. An assessment of the development application was carried out by Council staff. To further ensure transparency and compliance with the Council-related Development Applications Policy, the assessment report was peer reviewed by Coolamon's Executive Manager Planning and Environmental Services. A copy of the review is attached.

Financial Implications

Development application fees of \$795.00 are applicable to this application and have been paid in full.

Summary

The application has been referred to Council for determination as the application relates to a Council project and to comply with the Council-related Development Applications Policy.

The assessment of the application has been peer reviewed and is considered to comply with the requirements of Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Recommendation:

That Council approves DA2023/0065 relating to a six (6) lot subdivision on Lots 1233, 1243, 1257 and 1133 in DP753135, Central Road, Wyalong subject to the following conditions:

PART A – ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

General

1. The development must be carried out in accordance with the following plans and documentation listed below and as endorsed by Council, except where amended by other conditions of this development consent:

| Plan No | Issue | Prepared by | Date |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------|-----------|
| Plan of Subdivision | - | Angus Arndell | 24/8/2022 |
| Overview | 1 | C. Downey | 7/12/2022 |
| Statement of Environmental Effects | - | Camilla Rocks | 16/3/2023 |

Notes:

- *Any material alteration to the plans and/or documentation shall be submitted for the approval of Council. Such alterations may require the lodgement of an application to amend the consent under s4.55 of the Act, or a fresh development application. No works, **other than those approved under this consent**, shall be carried out without the prior approval of Council.*
- *Where there is an inconsistency between the documents lodged with this application and the following conditions, the conditions shall prevail to the extent of that inconsistency.*

Erection of signs

2. A sign must be erected in a prominent position on any site on which building work, is being carried out:
 - (a) showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifying authority for the work, and
 - (b) showing the name of the principal contractor (if any) for any building work and a telephone number on which that person may be contacted outside working hours, and
 - (c) stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited.Any such sign is to be maintained while the building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out, but must be removed when the work has been completed.

PART B – REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORKS

Before You Dig Australia

3. Prior to carrying out any works, an enquiry shall be undertaken with Before You Dig Australia for any relevant infrastructure plans.

Section 68 Approvals

4. Prior to the commencement of works – an activity approval is required under Section 68, Part B – 4, 5 and 6, of the Local Government Act 1993 for any public infrastructure sewer/stormwater works, where that work is proposed to be carried out on public or Council owned land.

Traffic and Pedestrian Management Plan

5. The applicant is to prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan that provides necessary direction to traffic or pedestrian movement through or past the work site. The Traffic Management Plan is to be prepared by a suitably qualified person in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Australian Standards and is to be submitted to Council for approval PRIOR to its implementation.

Soil and Water Management Plan

6. The developer is to submit a soil and water management plan for the site. No building, engineering, or excavation work, or topsoil stripping or vegetation removal, is to be carried out in relation to this development until such time as the plan has been approved by Council and the measures detailed in the plan are in place prior to works commencing.

The measures detailed in the plan are to remain in place until all landscaping is completed.

Public Liability Insurance

7. Prior to the commencement of any works on Council or Transport for NSW (TfNSW) controlled land including a public road, the applicant is to affect Public Liability Insurance to the minimum amount of \$20 million. This insurance is to note Council's interest and is to remain current for at least the period from the issue of the Construction Certificate until the issue of a Compliance Certificate or final inspection report for the works. Documentary evidence of the currency of the cover is to be provided to Council prior to the commencement of works within the road reserve.

PART C – REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE ISSUE OF A SUBDIVISION WORKS CERTIFICATE.

Payment of Developer Contribution

8. Pursuant to section 4.17(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Bland Section 94A Development Contributions Plan 2011, a contribution shall be paid to Council, as follows:

| Description | Levy % | Amount Payable |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|
| Commercial/Industrial Development Over \$200,000 | 1% | \$9,000.00 |

The amount to be paid is to be adjusted at the time of actual payment, in accordance with the provisions of the Bland Section 94A Development Contributions Plan. The contribution is to be paid before a Subdivision Works Certificate is issued.

Subdivision Works Certificate – Engineering Works

9. The applicant is to obtain a Subdivision Works Certificate, for the engineering work required by conditions 6, 12, 13, 15,17 & 19

Note: Where Council is the Certifying Authority in relation to engineering works fees will be payable in accordance with Council's Revenue Policy.

Engineering Plans

10. The applicant is to submit three (3) copies of engineering plans, specifications and calculations in relation to Condition(s) 6, 12, 13, 15, 17 & 19

PART D - REQUIREMENTS DURING WORKS

Engineering Inspections

11. The applicant is to arrange an inspection of the development/subdivision works by Council's Technical Services Department, at the following stages of the development. This condition applies notwithstanding any private certification of the engineering works.

| | Inspection | Stage |
|---|--|--|
| A | Road Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Following site regrading, and prior to installation of footway services; * Excavation and trimming of subgrade; * After compaction of sub-base; * After compaction of base, and prior to sealing; * Establishment of line and level for kerb and gutter placement; * Subsoil Drainage; * Road pavement surfacing; * Pavement test results (compaction, strength). |
| B | Drainage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After laying of pipes and prior to backfill; * Pits after rendering openings and installation of step irons. |
| C | Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After laying of mains and prior to backfill; * After laying of services and prior to backfill; * Pressure testing. |
| D | Sewerage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After laying of pipes and prior to backfill; * Main - air pressure testing; * Manhole - water test for infiltration, exfiltration. |
| E | Concrete Footway Crossings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After placing of formwork and reinforcement, and prior to concrete placement; |
| F | New Gate – Rural Crossing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prior to commencement of excavation works. * After compaction of base and prior to sealing * Road pavement surfacing |
| G | Erosion and Sediment Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prior to the installation of erosion measures. |
| H | All Development & or Subdivision Works | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Practical completion. |
| I | Road Openings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Upon completion of works. |

Design New Road To Engineering Standard

12. Shamrock Street is to be designed in accordance with *Bland Shire Council Guidelines for Engineering Works* as an industrial road.

Construct Road Shoulder, Kerb And Gutter

13. The road shoulder is to be constructed and sealed, and the barrier kerbing and guttering, is to be constructed, to include the provision of street drainage where necessary, in Shamrock Street and Central Road, for the full frontage of the subject land.

Site Management

14. The site shall be managed so that:
- (a) No additional filling shall be placed on the land which may impede the flow of flood waters;
 - (b) Any clearing or drainage activities shall not alter the drainage patterns across the site;
 - (c) No landscaping or similar type structures shall be installed which will inhibit the flow of flood waters;
 - (d) Any plant or goods stored upon the site shall be stored in a manner which will not allow pollution of the flood waters;
 - (e) All actions shall be taken upon the site which will minimise the effect of the property upon the flood waters.

Interallotment Drainage

15. The developer is to construct inter allotment drainage to drain all lots not draining naturally to a public road. The drainage system is to include grated inlet pits with a minimum 100 mm diameter pipe connection to all such lots. All drainage works are to comply with the provisions of AS/NZS 3500.

Easement – Storm Water

16. The final survey plan is to show easements in gross to drain water in favour of Council over all storm water drains conveying stormwater.

Note: Council will meet the additional survey and legal costs necessary to comply with this condition.

Reticulation – Subdivision

17. The construction of water and sewerage reticulation is to take place to serve each industrial lot and, where required, each open space lot.

The developer is to construct a 150 mm sewer riser at each property junction; each riser is to be constructed so that the riser cap finishes 150 mm above the finished surface level of each allotment created.

Easement For Sewer

18. The final plan of survey is to show an easement for sewer over all lots affected and in favour of Council. For sewer mains of 300mm or greater diameter, the easement is to be 5 metres wide with the main centrally located.

Sewer Extension

19. A sewer extension is to be constructed to serve the development.

The developer is to construct a 150 mm sewer riser at each property junction; each riser is to be constructed so that the riser cap finishes 150 mm above the finished surface level of each allotment created.

Note: This work will be carried out at full cost to the developer, either by Council or the developer.

Relocate Utility Services

20. The developer is to relocate any utility services if required, at the developer's cost.

Clearance From Power Lines

21. Clearance from power lines is to be provided during and after construction. Minimum distances from power lines are to be maintained.

Environmental Site Management

22. There is to be no burning of waste material, felled trees or other material on the site.

Erosion And Sediment Control

23. Erosion and sediment control measures are to be established prior to commencement of construction and maintained to prevent silt and sediment escaping the site or producing erosion. This work must be carried out and maintained in accordance with the Dept Housing – *Soil and Water Management for Urban Development (The Blue Book)*.

Note: All erosion and sediment control measures must be in place prior to earthworks commencing.

Approved hours of Construction

24. Construction work may only be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Authority – Draft Construction Noise Guideline as identified below:

| Day | Hours |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Monday to Friday | 7:00am to 6:00pm |
| Saturday | 8:00am to 1:00pm |
| Sunday & Public Holidays | Nil |

Note: The principal contractor shall be responsible to instruct and control their sub-contractors regarding the hours of work.

Dust Suppression

25. The applicant will ensure that all machinery and traffic movement areas are continually watered when in use in order to prevent raised dust from becoming a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

Waste

26. All waste associated with the construction works is to be appropriately collected, stored and disposed of at an approved waste facility.

REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO ISSUE OF SUBDIVISION CERTIFICATE

Subdivision Certificate Required

27. A Subdivision Certificate, pursuant to Section 109C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as amended must be obtained from Council, prior to its lodgement with Land Registry Services

The Final Survey Plan (two paper copies and an electronic copy) must be submitted to Council along with the application for Subdivision Certificate and associated checklist.

Note 1: Council will only consider issuing a Subdivision Certificate in relation to this subdivision when it is satisfied that all conditions of development consent have been complied with and the appropriate fee paid.

Note 2: Application for a Subdivision Certificate must be made on the NSW Planning Portal under the 'Post Consent Certificate' tab.

The development (each lot) shall be serviced with electricity, water, gas and telecommunications and prior to the issue of subdivision certificate the following documents shall be submitted to Council to demonstrate that the requirements of the public utility services have been met:

- i) Essential Energy: Notification of Arrangement OR Certificate of Acceptance
- ii) Goldenfields Water County Council: Certificate of Compliance
- iii) Relevant Communications Authority: Notification of Arrangement OR Certificate of Acceptance.

Sewerage Headworks

28. The applicant shall contribute \$5000 per new lot created/per new dwelling, towards sewer head works pursuant to Section 305 of the Water Management Act, 2000, and the Development Servicing Plan (Section 64), before the Subdivision Certificate is issued. The amount applicable will be dependent upon the date on which payment is made and will be as per Council's adopted fees and charges for the financial year in which payment is made.

Works As Executed Plan

29. The applicant is to submit to Council an electronic copy of the works as executed plans for the works required by Condition(s) 6, 12, 13, 15, 17 & 19 in AutoCAD format, latest version.

Note 1: The provision of a table on the works as executed plan which details: the distance from the centre of the downstream manhole/pit to each sideline, house connection, and dead end; the depths to invert; and the length of such sidelines.

Note 2: The provision of information on the works executed plan which details: road levels, road crossfalls & longitudinal grades

Electrical And Telecommunications Authorities – Subdivision

30. The developer is to furnish Council with documentary evidence that arrangements have been made, satisfactory to the appropriate electrical authority and the appropriate telecommunications authority, for the provision of street and pathway lighting and/or for the provision of underground electrical power and/or telephone lines, respectively, to serve each lot.

Note: This information must be submitted before Council will issue the Subdivision Certificate relating to this development.

Goldenfields Water County Council

31. Prior to the release of the Subdivision Certificate a compliance certificate under s306 of the Water Management Act 2000 must be obtained in respect of the development relating to water management works that may be required in connection with the development.

Note 1: 'Water management work' is defined in s283 of the Water Management Act 2000 to a 'water supply work', 'drainage work', 'sewage work' or 'flood work'. These terms are defined in that Act.

Note 2: Goldenfields Water County Council is responsible for issuing compliance certificates and imposing requirements relating to water supply works for development in Council's area – please contact Goldenfields Water County Council to ascertain compliance certificate water supply related requirements. A copy of such a compliance certificate is required prior to release of the Subdivision Certificate.

Note 3: The Council is responsible for issuing compliance certificates and imposing requirements relating to sewerage, drainage and flood works for development in its area.

Note 4: Under s306 of the Water Management Act 2000, Goldenfields Water or the Council, as the case requires, may, as a precondition to the issuing of a compliance certificate, impose a requirement that a payment is made or works are carried out, or both, towards the provision of water supply, sewerage, drainage or flood works.

Note 5: The Section 64 Sewer base figure is \$5000.00 minimum charge per allotment or the cost of works – whichever is the greater.

Note 6: Section 64 contributions shall be indexed in accordance with CPI annually at the commencement of the financial year.

Note 7: The figures outlined in this consent are based on the current rate of CPI. Please be advised that CPI changes on a regular basis and you are advised to contact Council prior to payments being made, to ensure no further CPI increases/decreases have occurred since the date of this consent.

Compliance Certificate – Engineering Works

32. The applicant is to obtain a Compliance Certificate pursuant to Section 109C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as amended, **or inspection report** from either Council or an accredited certifying authority, certifying that the engineering work required by condition(s) 6, 12, 13, 15, 17 & 19 has/have been constructed in accordance with the approved plans.

Note: Where Council is the Certifying Authority in relation to engineering works fees will be payable in accordance with Council's Revenue Policy.

Creation of An Easement

33. The development will require the creation of an easement under Section 88B of the Conveyancing Act 1919:

- a) for drainage of water through proposed Lots 3 and 4. The easement will be in favour of Council, it will have a minimum width of 10 metres and be located as indicated on Plan of Subdivision of Lots 1133,1233,1243 & 1257 DP753135 dated 24/8/22

- b) for drainage of water through proposed lots 4 and 5. The easement will be in favour of Council it will have a minimum width of 5 metres and be located as indicated on Plan of Subdivision of Lots 1133,1233,1243 & 1257 DP753135 dated 24/8/22
- c) for water supply through proposed lots 4 and 5. The easement will be in favour of Council it will have a minimum width of 5 metres and be located as indicated on Plan of Subdivision of Lots 1133,1233,1243 & 1257 DP753135 dated 24/8/22
- d) for drainage of sewerage through proposed lots 4 and 5. The easement will be in favour of Council it will have a minimum width of 5 metres and be located as indicated on Plan of Subdivision of Lots 1133,1233,1243 & 1257 DP753135 dated 24/8/22
- e) for restriction on the use of land over proposed lots 5 and 6. The easement will be in favour of Council it will have a minimum width of 40 metres and be located as indicated on Plan of Subdivision of Lots 1133,1233,1243 & 1257 DP753135 dated 24/8/22

Access

- 34. Designated access/egress driveways are required to be installed to service all proposed allotments prior to the release of the subdivision certificate. All access/egress driveways shall be a minimum of 6 meters wide and constructed as concrete vehicular access prior to the release of the subdivision certificate. The driveways shall be constructed to the satisfaction of Council for the life of the development and must be constructed in accordance with Council requirements.

Asset Protection Zone

- 35. A section 88b instrument is to be created to maintain an APZ of no less than 13 metres along the southern boundary of proposed lot 3 and 11 metres along the eastern boundary of proposed lot 3. The APZ is to be maintained in perpetuity to the standard specified within Table 5.3a and Appendix 4 of Planning for Bushfire Protection.

Bushfire Protection Measures

- 36. Any future landscaping is to comply with table 5.3a of Planning for Bushfire Protection and utility supply is to comply with Table 5.3c of Planning for Bushfire Protection.

Dedication of Road Widening

- 37. The dedication as public road is required of that part of the subject land so indicated on the approved plans.

PART E – REASON FOR CONDITIONS

Conditions of consent have been imposed to:

- 1. Ensure the proposed development:
 - a) achieves the objects of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979;
 - b) complies with the provisions of all relevant environmental planning instruments;
 - c) Is consistent with the aims and objectives of Council's Development Control Plans, Codes and Policies.
- 2. Ensure that the relevant public authorities and the water supply authority have been consulted and their requirements met or arrangements made for the provision of services to the satisfaction of those authorities.

3. Meet the increased demand for public amenities and services attributable to the development in accordance with Section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.
4. Ensure the protection of the amenity and character of land adjoining and in the locality of the proposed development.
5. Minimise any potential adverse environmental, social or economic impacts of the proposed development.
6. Ensure that all traffic, carparking and access requirements arising from the development are addressed.
7. Ensure the development does not conflict with the public interest.

Please contact
Council Ref.
Your Ref.

Mr Colby Farmer
CF:MHP:



T: 02 6930 1800

F: 02 6927 3168

PO Box 101, Coolamon NSW 2701

E: council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au

W: www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

ABN: 32 573 173 265

19th May 2023

Lesley Duncan
Manager Development & Regulatory Services
PO Box 21
West Wyalong NSW 2671

LDuncan@blandshire.nsw.gov.au

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| File: DA 2023/65 | Action |
| Action Officer: mos | tw |
| REC'D | 23 MAY 2023 |
| Copy to: | Bland Shire Council |

E-MAIL

Dear Lesley,

RE: PEER REVIEW – DA2023/65 – Central Road & Neeld Street, Wyalong, NSW

I refer to your email of 18 May 2023 requesting Coolamon Shire Council conduct a peer review of the assessment of DA2023/65, being for a subdivision of 4 lots into 6 for industrial land use purposes, located at Central Road & Neeld Street, Wyalong, NSW, and legally described as Lots 1233, 1243, 1257 & 1133 in DP 753135. It is understood the development is being undertaken on behalf of Council and is located on Council owned land.

A review of the assessment report found all relevant assessment criteria had been adequately considered and the recommended conditions of consent are appropriate, for the proposed development, having regard to the constraints of the site and potential impacts of the development on the adjoining sites and general area, and with the inclusion of the following conditions:

1. **Designated access / egress driveways are required to be installed to service all proposed allotments prior to release of subdivision certificate. All access/egress driveways shall be a minimum of 6 metres wide and constructed as concrete vehicular access prior to the release of subdivision certificate. The driveways shall be constructed to satisfaction of Council for the life of the development and must be constructed in accordance with the requirements of Council's Access Policy.**

NOTE 1: You must contact Council's Engineering Department on 6930 1800 to arrange an inspection and determine required access type prior to undertaking any works to satisfy this condition.

2. **Prior to the release of the Subdivision Certificate a compliance certificate under s306 of the Water Management Act 2000 must be obtained in respect of the development relating to water management works that may be required in connection with the development.**

NOTE 1: *'Water management work' is defined in s283 of the Water Management Act to mean a 'water supply work', 'drainage work', 'sewage work' or 'flood work'. These terms are defined in that Act.*

NOTE 2: *Golden Fields Water County Council is responsible for issuing compliance certificates and imposing requirements relating to water supply works for development in the Council's area – please contact Golden Fields Water County Council to ascertain compliance certificate water supply related requirements. A copy of such a compliance certificate is required prior to release of the Subdivision Certificate.*

NOTE 3: *The Council is responsible for issuing compliance certificates and imposing requirements relating to sewerage, drainage and flood works for development in its area.*

NOTE 4: *Under s306 of the Water Management Act 2000, Golden Fields Water or the Council, as the case requires, may, as a precondition to the issuing of a compliance certificate, impose a requirement that a payment is made or works are carried out, or both, towards the provision of water supply, sewerage, drainage or flood works.*

NOTE 5: *The Section 64 Sewer base figure is \$5000.00 minimum charge per allotment or the cost of works – whichever is the greater.*

NOTE 6: *Section 64 contributions shall be indexed in accordance with CPI annually at the commencement of the financial year.*

NOTE 7: *The figures outlined in this consent are based on the current rate of CPI. Please be advised that CPI changes on a regular basis and you are advised to contact Council prior to payments being made, to ensure no further CPI increases/decreases have occurred since the date of this consent.*

3. *A Subdivision Certificate, pursuant to Section 109C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as amended must be obtained from Council, prior to its lodgement with the Lands Titles Office.*

The Final Survey Plan (two paper copies and an electronic copy) must be submitted to Council along with the application for Subdivision Certificate and associated checklist.

NOTE 1: *Council will only consider issuing a Subdivision Certificate in relation to this subdivision when it is satisfied that all conditions of development consent relating to the subdivision have been complied with and the appropriate fee paid.*

NOTE 2: *Application for a Subdivision Certificate must be made on the NSW Planning Portal under the 'Post Consent Certificate' tab.*

The development (each lot) shall be serviced with electricity, water, gas and telecommunications and prior to the issue of subdivision certificate the

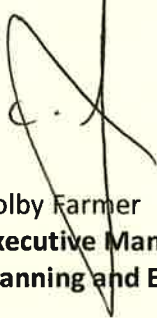
following documents shall be submitted to Council to demonstrate that the requirements of the public utility services have been met:

- i) Essential Energy: Notification of Arrangement OR Certificate of Acceptance***
- ii) Golden Fields Water County Council: Certificate of Compliance***
- iii) Relevant Telecommunications Authority: Notification of Arrangement OR Certificate of Acceptance***

It is recommended that the Development Application be approved, as per the recommendation and conditions of consent contained in the provided s4.15 Assessment Report.

If you require any further information in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6930 1800.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Colby Farmer', written over the printed name and title.

**Colby Farmer
Executive Manager
Planning and Environmental Services**

7.9 IPWEA State Roads Congress



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

DP 5.1 Facilitate the delivery of accessible services and infrastructure.

Author: Director Technical Services

Introduction

On Monday 5 June, Council's Director Technical Services attended the 2023 Local Roads Congress, hosted by the Roads and Transport Directorate and LGNSW.

This year's theme for the Congress was Sustainable Investment with the welcome address being from Cr Darriea Turley AM and key note speakers being:

- The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
- The Hon. John Graham MLC, Minister for Roads
- The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC, Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, and
- The Hon. Sam Faraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

It was pleasing to see some consensus between both the Ministers and Shadow Ministers around putting politics aside and working together in support of achieving sustainable outcomes for transport and road infrastructure for NSW.

The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads spoke around robust grant processes, trying to progress the Roads Classification review as well as looking at improved data flow between Councils and Transport for NSW, especially in the areas of Asset Management. The aim of the data project is to get consistent asset reporting across all the road authorities in NSW.

The Hon. John Graham MLC, Minister for Roads spoke very much around road issues in the metropolitan areas, in particular a focus on local roads rather than a focus on "Mega projects"

Both The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC, Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, and The Hon. Sam Faraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads reflected on the work done by the previous Government and thanked the Councils and communities for work completed in very difficult circumstance with reference to COVID, bushfires and the recent flooding events, while promising to keep the current Government accountable.

A Panel discussion was held with the current Ministers and Shadow Ministers. Several Questions were prepared for the panel being:

- What Barriers are there to embedding betterment into more funding programs?

There was general recognition by all that the current disaster funding criteria are very cumbersome and rigid.

- When will the Road Classification Report be released?

There was discussion around the report as it was classified as a Cabinet in confidence document. There were questions to the Shadow ministers about getting it released with a commitment from the Shadow Ministers that they would seek its release.

- What support would be given to harmonise data management?

There was a commitment to utilise Transport for NSW systems along a Service NSW model.

- Outline measures to be taken at a State level to increase resilience?

The Minister outlined a proposal for further funding along the Pothole round model over the next 2 years for \$390 Million.

- With the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) is there a possibility of review and reduction in the near future?

The Minister said it is not an option to cut funding to the Emergency Services, the current 19% increase will increase in further years. The Government acknowledges there are issues with the levy, however Councils are stuck with it.

At lunch an opportunity was given for a conversation with the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads with discussions centring around standardised data across the roads sector and the benefits that this data could have when it comes to equitable funding.

Warren Sharpe OAM gave a presentation on natural disaster funding. Key takeaways from this presentation were

- Cost of disasters to the economy are forecast to double over the next 40 years
- Existing maintenance and renewal levels are below required levels which then increases susceptibility to damage due to natural disaster
- A statement that Emergency Services should be decoupled from Local Government

Steve Verity, Principle Advisor, Asset Management, IPWEA Australasia spoke around the Road Asset Benchmarking project. This project has been going for 17 years which shows Road condition ratings have improved in that time. They also show the need for good asset management planning. Steve also made reference to the Auditor General Audit on OLG and the shortcomings in the Office. These benchmarking projects provided the data that underpinned the decision of the previous NSW Government funding the Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Local Bridges programs.

Jeff Rorda, Director, Infrastructure, Economy and Property Services, Blue Mountains City Council spoke around current road valuation practices, with comments that the current valuation techniques are aimed more around meeting the financial benchmarks and reducing Depreciation rather than giving true and accurate indications around road conditions.

Sajiv Sathiah, Director, Transport and Infrastructure Policy, ALGA, spoke around the National Heavy Vehicle laws. A proposal that is currently being investigated to streamline Heavy Vehicle access approvals for both Local Government and the trucking industry is an Automated Access system which will give instant access to the routes. The whole road network will need to be assessed so the system can be prepopulated with bottlenecks and conditions. From the trucking industry side all Restricted Access Vehicles would be required to have telematics installed. This would give true visibility on where the networks are being used. This will also allow better informed funding of route upgrades.

As is usual, the day finished with the development of a communique, outlining the priorities that the Congress attendees would like Government to consider into the future.

A copy of this communique is appended to this report for Council's information.

Financial Implications

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the report and endorse the 2023 Local Roads Congress Communique.

2023 NSW Local Roads Congress

Sustainable Investment

The NSW Roads and Transport Directorate, a partnership between Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the NSW Division of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA NSW and ACT), is proud to present the 2023 Local Roads Congress Communiqué.

Local and regional transport infrastructure is critical to the safety, resilience, prosperity, and social well-being of NSW communities. The Local Roads Congress (Congress) emphasises the pivotal role of Local Government in shaping local and regional transport infrastructure in partnership with State and Federal Governments.

The last four years have seen massive disruption to NSW communities, the local road network and associated services, due to extensive damage from natural disasters. These issues have been exacerbated by the impacts of COVID-19, skills and supply shortages, and cost inflation rates significantly outstripping rate pegging and Government funding support. The Congress celebrates the efforts of NSW councils to recover damaged local road infrastructure in challenging times of unprecedented workloads.

The Australian Government reported that without action, the economic cost of natural disasters will increase from \$38B to \$73B per annum by 2060 (National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-25). Local Government must play a major role in improving the resilience of the local road network, recognising that this requires immediate action to facilitate network-wide changes over the medium-long term. Improving the resilience of local roads on a network basis will mitigate the traumatic impacts of natural disasters on affected communities and reduce future costs to all levels of Government. The current overall Government funding models are reactive, insufficient for the scale of the task, inherently inefficient, and poorly aligned to the function of Local Government. The base funding levels do not support the development and retention of a sustainable workforce within Local Government due to an over-reliance on competitive grants. These arrangements do not support proactive infrastructure planning or efficient delivery of projects and services due to funding uncertainty.

The Congress unanimously agreed that a new watershed partnership between Local Government and the NSW and Australian Governments is warranted. This will enable the progression of the local road network toward a sustainable future with the specific goals of improving the safety, social equity, prosperity, liveability, and resilience of NSW communities. The Congress acknowledges this is a shared responsibility and that Local Government must act as a proactive partner to deliver positive outcomes.

2023 NSW Local Roads Congress

Sustainable Investment

NSW Local Government

The Congress acknowledges the need to develop improved network-wide plans to address road safety, resilience, productivity, freight movement, and liveability inclusive of all modes of road-related transport.

The Congress identifies that the current funding model is insufficient to meet the needs of NSW local communities and places unprecedented pressure on the current resources within NSW Local Government. The current inequitable and uncertain Government funding arrangements also creates significant challenges in infrastructure planning over the medium term.

The Congress supports a commitment from Local Government to:

- i) Continue to partner with the NSW and Australian Governments to address current and future challenges to deliver fit-for-purpose local transport infrastructure.
- ii) Develop and implement road network safety plans based on a safe systems approach with specific actions to lower road-related trauma.
- iii) Develop and implement critical infrastructure and resilience plans, including reducing the adverse impacts of natural disasters on local roads and associated infrastructure.
- iv) Integrate the outcomes of road network safety and critical infrastructure resilience plans into local transport network plans, asset and risk management plans, community strategic plans, delivery programs, and operational plans, by reporting to the community via annual reports.
- v) Develop and implement improved workforce plans to address the current and future skills shortages in the professional engineering and skilled infrastructure worker disciplines.
- vi) Work with IPWEA NSW & ACT, LGNSW, the NSW Roads and Transport Directorate, tertiary education, and other providers to ensure the development of suitable training programs focussed on managing overall local road networks as well as efficient delivery of maintenance, renewal, and construction activities to local communities.
- vii) Local government continue to report annually on the State of their Assets as per the ALGA agreed performance measures and verify the accuracy of the data included in the reporting.
- viii) Collaborate with NSW Government to formulate a program dedicated to the replacement of causeways, with the primary objective of enhancing natural disaster resilience through betterment.

2023 NSW Local Roads Congress

Sustainable Investment

NSW Government

The Congress calls on the NSW Government to:

- i) Continue the Fixing Country Bridges Program with a priority on replacing timber bridges. Expand the program to allow for flexibility to improve the resilience of the local road network by including other structures, such as the replacement of major culverts, as well as aging concrete and steel structures.
- ii) Collaborate with Local Government to formulate a program dedicated to the improvement and upgrading of causeways, with the primary objective of enhancing natural disaster resilience through betterment.
- iii) Continue the Fixing Local Roads Program with an annual allocation aligned to the Roads to Recovery distribution formula to provide greater certainty and allow improved short-medium term infrastructure planning by NSW Local Government.
- iv) Continue to provide competitive grants for the improvement of freight outcomes by addressing first and last-mile challenges on the local and regional road network.
- v) Work with LGNSW to negotiate the removal of emergency services levy charges from NSW Councils for the NSW Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, and NSW Fire and Rescue to assist councils to maintain and improve the resilience of Councils roads infrastructure.
- vi) As a matter of urgency, finalise the Regional Roads Transfer and Reclassification Review to provide certainty to Local Government.
- vii) Facilitate an audit of the long-term financial plan of each local government to ensure alignment with the asset management plan lifecycle forecasts that communicate the trade-offs on performance, cost, and risk.
- viii) Work with Local Government to develop a program to strengthen the maintenance, safety, and resilience of the State highway network, giving particular attention to sections that are prone to flooding or experience access limitations during fire incidents.
- ix) Commit to ongoing support for Road Safety initiatives across the entire road network. In particular, to support the development and implementation of Road Safety Strategic Plans at all NSW councils.

2023 NSW Local Roads Congress

Sustainable Investment

Australian and NSW Government

The Congress calls on the Australian and NSW Governments to work together with NSW Local Governments to address the following:

- i) A more sustainable long-term funding model for Local Government with a higher level of base funding support and reduced reliance on individual competitive grants.
- ii) A proactive strategy to address the skills shortage in skilled professional Engineers and infrastructure workers.
- iii) A more sustainable model for Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements in New South Wales for all NSW councils focusing on equity and building back better.
- iv) Develop new guidelines for the Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements to allow increased flexibility to build back better with fast, efficient approval mechanisms that enable timely recovery work post-disaster.
- v) Work with Local Government to ensure improved arrangements are put in place for the provision and ongoing care of roads servicing large-scale green power projects such as wind and solar farms, as well as forestry and mining projects, to reduce the cost shift to Local Government.
- vi) Reduce red tape and provide additional Government resources to enable faster approvals for road infrastructure construction, maintenance, and management, including during disaster recovery works.
- vii) Continue to collaborate with Local Governments, businesses, and the international community to address longer-term climate change.

Australian Government

The Congress calls on the Australian Government to:

- i) Increase the Roads to Recovery Program to \$1B per annum from 2024-25 onwards, as this funding program is regarded by Local Government as the most efficient mechanism and source of funding for local roads.
- ii) Increase the annual Roads to Recovery Program allocations to align with the construction cost index and the growth in the road asset base, ensuring maintenance of funding levels in real terms.
- iii) Revise the Roads to Recovery Statement of Intent to include the development of local road safety and resilience plans, as well as the integration of natural disaster

2023 NSW Local Roads Congress

Sustainable Investment

adaptation strategies into council transport, asset management, long-term financial plans, delivery programs, and annual budgets.

- iv) Allow councils to utilise Roads to Recovery funding to assist in the development of Road Resilience, Road Safety Strategic, and Road Network Management Plans. Funds would be allocated as a one-off 50/50 funding model with a maximum limit of \$50,000 per Council (subject to increasing the overall Roads to Recovery funding).
- v) As a minimum, double the Australian Government's Bridge Renewal Program from \$85m per annum to \$170m per annum to target improving the resilience of local road routes. Prioritise funding for the replacement of timber and hybrid bridges, and other vulnerable structures.
- vi) Provide a financial incentive program to assist Local Government to employ, train and develop new Cadet Engineers.
- vii) Work with professional bodies such as IPWEA Australasia to increase the capacity and skills of public works personnel, with a specific focus on road network planning, road drainage, road pavements, road surfacing, and asset management.
- viii) Work with universities to increase the focus on the whole of road network planning, road drainage, road pavements, road surfacing, and asset management in future Engineering degree course curriculum.
- ix) Continue to support apprenticeship programs to develop new and existing workers in the operational skills required to build and maintain roads.
- x) Support ongoing research into cost-effective, resilient road materials and independent product reviews by specialist organisations such as the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO). Provide appropriate guidelines and training programs to put this research into practice.
- xi) Promote circular economy principles in road infrastructure by incorporating sustainable and innovative technologies that prioritise environmental sustainability. This includes using renewable resources, adopting advanced construction methods, and promoting the use of recycled materials while setting specific targets for reducing carbon emissions and other environmental impacts.
- xii) Provide direct financial assistance to local governments to enable them to adapt their asset management systems to the requirements of HVRR. Specific targets should be established for integrating HVRR into Local Government operations to ensure the efficient use of these resources.

2023 NSW Local Roads Congress

Sustainable Investment

- xiii) Develop robust capacity-building programs and training sessions for Local Government staff engaged in asset management. These programs should focus on improving the understanding of HVRR and its implications for asset management. Measurable outcomes, such as the number of staff trained or improvements in asset management efficiency, can help gauge the success of these programs.
- xiv) Proactively engage with NSW Local Government and the Roads and Transport Directorate in developing the NSLS and HVRR. By setting clear channels for communication and consultation, the needs and experiences of local communities can be better represented in these standards and reforms.

The 2023 NSW Local Roads Congress, under the banner of 'Sustainable Investment', underscores the necessity of strategic investment in local road infrastructure that ensures safety, efficiency, and resilience both now and into the future. We call on all levels of government to take decisive action towards these goals for the ultimate benefit of all NSW residents.

In addition to the key strategies and objectives outlined in this communiqué, the 2023 NSW Local Roads Congress emphasises the importance of continued dialogue and consistent follow-up actions. Sustainable investment is not a one-time decision but a continuous commitment, and the successful implementation of these proposals relies on consistent collaboration and evaluation.

The NSW Local Roads Congress concludes with a strong call to action, urging all stakeholders to unite in their efforts to enhance the local road network, improve safety, foster economic prosperity, and ensure the resilience and well-being of NSW communities. Through this collective commitment and shared responsibility, we can create lasting positive change for the benefit of all.

Section 4 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

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

7.10 - Tourism Update: June 2023

7.11 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update

7.12 - Children Services May Update

7.13 - Bland Shire Museum Advisor Report – May 2023

7.14 - Technical Services Report

7.15 - Development Services Activity Report – May 2023

7.10 Tourism Update: June 2023



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

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

Author: Tourism & Administration Officer

Our History, Our Future Mural

Bland Shire Council was successful in securing funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Phase 3 for a mural in the Main Street, West Wyalong.

Council engaged with Heesco to paint an image that connects with our locals as well as interest our visitors and at the same time tells the story of our past and our future. Our History, Our Future Mural was completed in May 2023.

Heesco is currently Australia's most prolific silo artist to date. He has done a fantastic job with this wonderful piece of artwork showing Bland Shire's history in gold mining and its future in agriculture and community. This mural will form part of the Bland Art Trail.

The current Bland Art Trail booklet is under review to include all new artwork completed in the last couple of years.

The Mural was officially opened by Michael McCormack MP on Friday, 2 June 2023.

Photography Competition

A "Hearts of Gold" Photography Competition opened on Monday 5 June, closing Friday 30 June. The competition calls for artistic photographic interpretations of Bland Shire's "Hearts of Gold" landscapes, people, business, places, experiences or attractions as part of the Hearts of Gold Festival.

Designed to engage the community and surrounds with an opportunity to explore Bland Shire's history, landscapes and people with an interpretation of their meaning of Hearts of Gold.

Finalists will be contacted on 7 July 2023, Winners Announced 15 August 2023, with an opening/exhibition in the Foyer Gallery. The prize money is not big but all finalists' photos will be printed and framed in a wooden A3 frame to be hung in the Foyer Art Exhibition. Photographers can opt to sell the prints. Photos will be on display until the end of November. Sections include: Primary school aged student, Secondary school aged student, Adult 18+ Years with categories to include all, Professional, Amateur and Hobbyist.

Visitor Centre Bland Bulletin

Events for June 2023 have been collated in the Bland Bulletin and distributed to all accommodation venues in the Bland Shire.

Mornings, Melodies & Memories

TALLIMBA

Monday, 5 June
10.30am - 12.00pm
Tallimba Hall

FREE event for Seniors residing within the Tallimba District.
Phone 6979 0287 for more information and to register.

Join us for morning tea and share some memories.

NSW Communities & Justice Bland Shire Council

YOU ARE INVITED, COME JOIN US

3 AND 4 JUNE 2023
West Wyalong Horse Sports

TEAM YARDING

TEAM YARDING & BARREL RACES
NIGHT CHALLENGE AND ENTERTAINMENT ON SATURDAY NIGHT

FULL CANTEN AVAILABLE
Find us on Facebook

For more information contact Greg on 0416103734 or Elise on 0428722858

West Wyalong Rodeo Grounds, Tallimba Road, West Wyalong

The Bland Bulletin
ARTS OF GRIFFITH

JUNE 2023

Foyer Art Exhibition
Upstairs Bland Shire Council Chambers

Take the opportunity for the month of June to view and purchase amazing artworks from our talented local Bland Shire Artists



BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL



PAINT N SIP AT TOPPY TAVERN
MONDAY JUNE 12TH, JOIN IN THE FUN

#artwork #paintnsip #lotsoffun

WEST WYALONG SHOW SOCIETY MARKETS
SATURDAY 10TH JUNE
MCCANN PARK

All Breeds Championship 10 & 11 June 2023.

West Wyalong Kennel Club

West Wyalong Kennel Club will hold 3 All Breeds Championship Shows on 10 & 11 June 2023. Further updates will be provided via our FB page. We are an affiliate with Dogs NSW under ANKC Dogs Australia - promoting purebred, pedigreed dogs.

Perserverance Oval, West Wyalong

West Wyalong Kennel Club

LOVE AGAIN
PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS SAKS HEUGHAN
DESTINY HAS A PLAN
CELINE DION
MAY 11

JOHN FARNHAM
FINDING THE VOICE
IN CINEMAS MAY 18

NEW MOVIES AT TIVOLI

JUNE 2023

SAT 3RD & SUN 4TH
West Wyalong Horse Sports. Team Yarding: Team Yarding & Barrel Races
West Wyalong Rodeo Grounds, Tallimba Rd, West Wyalong.
Night Challenge & Entertainment on Saturday night. Full canteen available.
For further information contact Greg 0416 103 734 or Elise 0428 722 858

MONDAY 5TH
Mornings Melodies & Memories. Tallimba Hall, Tallimba.
Free event for seniors residing within the Tallimba District.
Phone 6979 0287 for more information and to register.

SATURDAY 10TH
West Wyalong Show Society Markets— McCann Park, West Wyalong
9am-1pm For Information Ph: 0448 544 274

SAT 10TH & SUN 11TH
West Wyalong Kennel Club Championship Show. Perserverance Oval, West Wyalong. All Breeds Championship. Visit West Wyalong Kennel Club
Facebook page for further information.

MONDAY 12TH
Paint N Sip. Topy Tavern. Try something new with 'Absolutely Animal' themed painting. For further Information visit splattergalleryonline.com.au or phone 0458 424 225

MONTH OF JUNE
Bland Shire—Foyer Art Exhibition—Upstairs Council Chambers—6 Shire Street, West Wyalong. Local artists work, an opportunity to view and purchase some amazing work. Open Business Hours.
For Information Ph: 6979 0272

Inside The Riverina

The winter edition of Inside The Riverina features Hotels where visitors can enjoy the warmth of the fire and something local. At the White Tank Hotel, visitors can sit at the tables next to a cosy fire while enjoy a good meal and home brewed beer.

The autumn edition was all about wedding venues and features Regal Estate as the perfect choice to have your wedding reception.

AU Traveller Campaign

The Riverina councils have worked together to promote the region in the Australian Traveler campaign. Visit Riverina has been exploring opportunities to participate in this campaign, which aims to promote tourism in Australia and attract more visitors to our regions in The Riverina.

The Australian Traveler currently working towards launching their biggest campaign of the year... '*100 Emerging Destinations & Experiences*' which will be reaching 1.3 million domestic travel intenders (May/June/July)

Historically the '100' is Australian Traveler's annual bestselling edition and with everyone loving a list the print edition will have huge longevity and often will be used as a reference point. This meant the Riverina Murray Region will get more 'bang for your buck' within this extended campaign.

Australian Traveler audience:

- 76.2% Female
- 5.6 domestic trips per annum
- 63.1% aged between 35-64
- 23% spend between \$20-\$40K per household yearly on travel
- 11.3% spend \$41K+ per household yearly on travel
- 35/4% in NSW/25.1% VIC/10.5% QLD/7.9% WA/6.2 SA/2.7% ACT/2.4% TA/0.7% NT

Australian Traveler Platforms:

Readership: 168,000* Quarterly (Distribution 30,000, * [Roy Morgan](#) Figures: March 2021 - March 2022

Website: www.Australiantraveller.Com

410,000 + Unique Views Per Month

Social: [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#)

180,000+

Currently the print media in the AU Traveller Magazine is out and we have receive the digital media as below.

Some socials still to be published.

Statistics for The Riverina will follow after the campaign.

Winter Inside the Riverina



As the chilly winter breeze sweeps through our region, it's time to discover artistic delights, reconnect with nature, cosy up around the fireplace or attend an exciting seasonal event.

Follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates.

Take the Scenic Route



Embark on a picturesque journey through [Narrandera](#) and discover the natural beauty and captivating landscapes that the region has to offer. [Read more](#)



Arts & Culture



From vibrant murals to self-guided art trails and fascinating history, our region offers an abundance of cultural experiences that will leave you inspired and ignite your imagination. [Read more](#)



Cosy Culinary Delights



Enjoy a meal at the [White Tank Hotel](#) in [West Wyalong](#). Book your table near the fireplace and enjoy a home brewed beer with your meal. Open daily for lunch and dinner from 12pm.

Winter Events



The Up2Date Art Exhibition in [Coolamon](#) celebrates a diverse range of artworks by bringing together artists from across the region in all mediums.

[Find out what else is happening across the Riverina this season](#)



Autumn Inside the Riverina



As the autumn season sets in, there's no better time to explore the beauty of regional wedding venues and plan a romantic getaway to the Riverina.

Follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates.

Love is in the Air



The Riverina, with its stunning natural beauty and unique wedding venues, offers a plethora of options for couples looking to tie the knot or plan a romantic getaway. [read more](#)





Regal Estate


Autumn Events



Held annually in July, Australia's largest Art Deco festival celebrates all things from 1910 to 1940 within Leeton's stunning Art Deco buildings, including the iconic, heritage-listed Roxy Theatre. [read more](#)



 [Share](#)

 [Forward](#)





AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLER > NSW > RIVERINA > [THE ULTIMATE RIVERINA ROAD TRIP FOR INCREDIBLE HIDDEN GEMS](#)

The ultimate Riverina road trip for incredible hidden gems

TAHLIA PRITCHARD
Travel Journalist

May 10, 2023 | 7 mins Read



1. [AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLER](#)

2. [NSW](#)

3. [RIVERINA](#)

4. [THE ULTIMATE RIVERINA ROAD TRIP FOR INCREDIBLE HIDDEN GEMS](#)

The ultimate Riverina road trip for incredible hidden gems

TAHLIA PRITCHARD
Travel Journalist

May 10, 2023

7 mins Read



| THIS ARTICLE WAS CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VISIT RIVERINA |

Reconnect with nature, make friends with the locals, try delicious fresh food and escape the hustle and bustle of city life with this quintessential road trip around the Riverina.

Home to the Murrumbidgee River and its waterways, a [Riverina](#) road trip is the best way to see one of Australia's most productive and agriculturally diverse areas, boasting an array of food trails, delicious wineries, friendly towns and natural wonders. From stepping back in time to the picturesque town of West Wyalong, where the main street follows the original bullock tracks built around gold diggings, to exploring the markets and wineries at Leeton and basking in the natural thermal pools of the Snowy Valleys, there are plenty of things to do around the [Riverina](#).



It won't just be the wildlife at Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve you fall in love with.

Stop 1: West Wyalong

Commence your road trip and take in some Aussie history with a stop in [West Wyalong](#). The small town is brimming with hidden historic treasures, and one of the best ways to take it all in is on the self-guided Bland Shire Art Trail ([download the map](#) before you go).

The trail includes silo art, murals and sculptures from local and well-known artists, and is a fun way to study history through art. A lap of the main street is a must, with some of the heritage buildings lining the streets dating back to 1894.



Spot silo art on the Bland Shire Art Trail.

Stop 2: Hay

Just under three hours from West Wyalong lies [Hay](#), a township that boasts a unique selling point: the Hay Plains, which are world-renowned as the flattest place in the southern hemisphere.

Stop off for the night – the region has a [wide array](#) of camping options, but also boasts some incredible farm stays if that's more your style – and make sure to enjoy the most epic sunset of your life.

Take advantage of [free bike hire](#) from the visitor centre to explore town. Later, take in some stargazing in the fresh country air for the ultimate Aussie experience.



Sip wine as the sun goes down in Hay.

Stop 3: Carrathool

Leaving Hay, drive around 40 minutes to arrive at the quaint settlement of Carrathool – a town boasting diverse agriculture, from cotton to vegetables, to sheep.

The best way to get the most out of Carrathool is by spending a day (or two) in nature. Drive to Oolambeyan National Park – a repurposed sheep station – to spot an incredible array of birdlife and visit a historic shearing shed. Locals also love spending a day on Pinkers Beach on the banks of the Murrumbidgee. Pack a fishing rod and swimmers, and enjoy a picnic lunch.

Spend the night at [Corynnia Station Farm Stay](#). Between Goolgowi and Carrathool, experience the outback in style.



View the only lifting bridges built from timber trusses left. (Image: DNSW)

Stop 4: Leeton

At the heart of the Riverina lies [Leeton](#). As you take in the sights of this friendly, modern country town, make sure to stop by heritage-listed [The Roxy](#). Originally opened in 1930, this cinema and community theatre will reopen in 2023 after redevelopment and will be sure to take you back in time.

[Fivebough & Tuckerbill Wetlands](#) is located just three kilometres from Leeton's main street. It's home to abundant birdlife, and you can walk or cycle the woodland and wetlands tracks, stopping at the viewing platforms to take in all the nature. If you're lucky, you might even spot a rare or threatened species.

A visit to [Lillypilly Estate Wines](#), home to some of the Riverina's highest-quality wines, is a must. Pick up some bottles to enjoy.



Watch the local birdlife at Fivebough & Tuckerbill Wetlands.

Stop 5: Narrandera

The town is also home to the [Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve](#). This is an essential stop for all lovers of Australia's cuddly favourite, the koala! Take in the peaceful nature trails and inhale the scent of fresh eucalyptus as you keep an eye out for the adorable marsupials dozing in the trees. The reserve is also home to over 300 species of birds and other Aussie favourites, including kangaroos and emus.

Stop 6: Coolamon

Less than an hour's drive from Narrandera lies [Coolamon Shire](#), which boasts a charming and relaxed country atmosphere with wide open spaces and well-maintained historic architecture. For foodies, a stop at [Coolamon Cheese Co.](#) is a no-brainer; make sure to stop by The Coffee Pedaler at the front of the heritage building to fuel up before taking your pick of award-winning cheeses. Also check out the [Coolamon Up-to-Date Store](#), built as a general store in 1909 and packed with plenty of

character and heritage – inside you'll find an interesting look into retail history.

For a look into the stories of some of Australia's bravest, the [Coolamon Fire Museum](#) is a fascinating stop. For more than three decades, the museum manager has been piecing together a collection of firefighting memorabilia from around the world that tells the story of courageous firefighters, the conditions they work under, and the equipment they use to save lives, properties and towns.



Take your time choosing from many varieties at Coolamon Cheese Co.

Stop 7: Cootamundra-Gundagai

Cootamundra is where cricketing legend Sir Donald Bradman was born, so sports and history buffs must schedule a visit to [Bradman's Birthplace Museum](#), following it up with a stroll along the [Captains Walk](#). After spending a night in your rural retreat, make sure to stop off at Gundagai's hidden gem, [Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece](#), before you drive through to the Snowy Valleys.



Get up close to the animal when you spend a night at Hillview Farmstay.

Stop 8: Snowy Valleys

Just over an hour from the Cootamundra-Gundagai region lies [the Snowy Valleys](#), the perfect place to cap off your road trip of the Riverina region. Set up base for a couple of days because in [Tumut](#), as there are numerous secret gems to explore in the area. [Adelong Falls Gold Mill Ruins](#), a heritage-listed

site just over 20 kilometres from Tumut, is a popular swimming spot during the warmer months, while also boasting a great hiking trail along Adelong Creek for those visiting in the colder months. Enjoy the countryside drive to local favourite [Paddy's River Falls](#) near Tumbarumba, and definitely don't miss a visit to the [Yarrangobilly Caves thermal pool](#). Hidden in the valley, with eucalyptus trees towering overhead, a dip in the natural thermal pool – which stays 27°C all year round – will be an unforgettable experience.



Find a peaceful moment in the Snowy Valleys. (Image: Ollie Khedun)

Plan your epic Riverina road trip at theriverina.com.au.

7.11 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

Mother's Day Activities

Twenty-one children attended Bland Shire Library's after school Mother's Day Craft session on Wednesday 10 May. Participants made a decorative card and created a simple gift from clay. The library's regular Storytime session also featured Mother's Day with the children enjoying a variety of stories and songs about mothers before making a Mother's Day card.



Law Week Webinars

To celebrate Law Week, 15 – 21 May, Bland Shire Library hosted a free daily law webinar delivered by Legal Aid NSW. There was a different topic each day with a panel of legal experts, each of whom provided valuable legal information on the following topics – Scams, renting, traffic fines, employment, and debt. The free webinars held daily from 12pm – 1pm attracted a small audience. However, those in attendance found the webinars helpful.



National Simultaneous Storytime

To celebrate National Simultaneous Storytime, Wednesday 24 May, Bland Shire Library hosted a group of 22 children from the Little Wattle Childcare and Preschool Centre. Bland Shire Library joined other libraries across Australia in simultaneously reading the children's book 'Speedy Sloth'. The group also participated in singing, dancing, and a craft, and were given free time to explore the library.

National Simultaneous Storytime is an initiative of the Australian Libraries and Information Association and held annually with the aim of fostering a sense of community and excitement around reading.



Busy Book for Seniors

Based on the overwhelming success of its free Easter Activities booklet, – the library has produced a Busy Book for its Home Library Service patrons to help keep them occupied and their minds active during the cold winter months. The book contains a variety of puzzles, brainteasers and other activities in a large print format. The books will also be made available for seniors to take home from the library.

Biggest Morning Tea – 25 May

Bland Shire Library hosted a Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday 25 May 2023 for Council staff, Councillors and the community. The event, held to raise funds for Cancer Council, raised \$506. However, the library continued to receive donations after the event, including \$106 from the Rose Garden Community group, which brought the total amount banked to \$700.

To coincide with its Biggest Morning Tea, Bland Shire Library held a Littlest Morning Tea in conjunction with Storytime. A fun morning with stories, singing, music and dance, a Littlest Morning Tea craft followed by morning tea.

Volunteering their time on the day were Jayda Evans and Lily Judd, both Year 10 students at West Wyalong High School. The students did a phenomenal job assisting library staff to prepare for the library's Biggest Morning Tea and regular Thursday morning Storytime plus Littlest Morning Tea.



Preschool Visits in June

Three class groups from the Bland Preschool visited the library in June. The children participated in a Storytime session featuring jungle animals with a focus on what makes each of us different and what makes us alike, friendship and being kind. The children enjoyed reading 'Giraffes Can't Dance' and 'Great Galloping Galott', dancing the Animal Boogie and Wombat Wobble, and making a giraffe hand puppet for craft.



RRL Branch Library Meeting – 30 June

RRL is taking its annual Branch Library Meeting on the road this year and has arranged a bus tour that will depart the RRL Administration Centre at 9:00am and arrive back approximately 3:00pm. The itinerary will include a visit to numerous library branches including Temora Shire Library, as well as the mobile library, with presentations made on the bus and at venues.

July School Holiday Program

The library's July school holiday program is proving popular with a number of sessions already booked out. The program includes:

- Tuesday 4 July, 10.30am – 12pm. Cake decorating with Dagmar McIntyre. Participants have the choice to create either a dragon or a unicorn.
- Wednesday 5 July, 10.30am – 12pm. LEGO Club. Build, create, share and play with Lego.
- Wednesday 12 July, 10.30am – 12pm. Due to popular demand, Dagmar will present a second cake decorating session.
- Thursday 13 July, 10.30am – 11.30am. Sand Art. Experiment with colours, layering techniques and pattern making.
- The library also has a quantity of take-home craft kits. Children can decorate a sleep mask.

Note: The library has already started planning its September school holiday program with the following items coordinated by Riverina Regional Library.

- Mr Snotbottom – Comedian for Kids. *A high paced, energetic 45-minute musical stand-up comedy show centred round all the ooey, gooey, slimy, smelly things kids love. For children aged four and up (date TBA)*
- Matthew Lin – Artist, Illustrator and Designer. *Manga / Anime workshops (one session for junior and one session for youth – date TBA).*

Playwriting Workshop

Bland Shire Library is currently coordinating a Playwriting Workshop targeting Year 9 and 10 students. The workshop to be held in Term 3 (date TBA) will be conducted by the Oddball Theatre, Wagga Wagga. The workshop will cover the basics of story building, how to edit, with a focus on breaking perfectionist habits. West Wyalong High School has already expressed interest while Ungarie Central School is yet to respond.

Indigenous Artefacts Display

An exhibition of indigenous artefacts – a private collection owned by local resident Stan Dodgson – will be available to view in the library from Friday 14 July. Mr Dodgson will also conduct a talk about his collection in July (date TBA). The library would have liked the exhibition during NAIDOC week, which falls within the July school holiday period, but this was not an option. Mr Dodgson's collection will highlight indigenous culture.

To celebrate NAIDOC Week 2 – 9 July, the library will exhibit its extensive collection of indigenous books, which it has been fostering over the past twelve months.

Home Library Service – Update

Bland Shire Library continues to provide a fortnightly Home Library Service. The service is for Bland Shire residents who are permanently or temporarily housebound due to age related frailty, illness and or disability. While the service caters primarily for those residents living within the townships of Wyalong and West Wyalong, the library is happy to look at options and make delivery arrangements where possible for those living outside of Wyalong and West Wyalong. The service currently has nine clients.

Tech Savvy Senior – Update

Bland Shire Library currently provides a weekly two-hour open forum for seniors seeking basic assistance with everyday technology.

The weekly open forum, which averages three people per session, was started as the result of participants' feedback following a 10-week Tech Savvy Senior program conducted in 2021. The majority of enquiries currently relate to the general use of mobile devices (ie. phones and tablets). Having identified a need for more training, Bland Shire Library will conduct a six-week Tech Savvy Senior program commencing June 13 with 15 participants registered. The program will cover a range of topics and include a Scams and Cyber Security session conducted by the National Broadband Network.

LEGO Club – Update

The library is currently reviewing its Lego Club program in light of growing numbers and increased interest in the program. Lego Club is a STEM program held the first Wednesday of each month. The program, which is held after school, for school children aged 5 – 14 years, incorporates mini challenges and free creative time.

To expand the program, the library purchased educational Lego Spike and Lego BricQ Motion kits, which have proved popular with the children.

The library is currently planning to relaunch its online Lego Legends Facebook page, which was initially set up in 2020 during the Covid pandemic. The library ran a monthly Lego challenge based around a theme with prizes awarded to encourage participation. While young Lego enthusiasts can still upload their Lego creations to the Lego Legends Facebook page for people to like and comment on, there has been no set challenges since the commencement of the library's onsite Lego Club.



Knit and Knatter Celebrations



Bland Shire Library's resident knitting group, Knit and Knatter, celebrated two very special birthdays in May. Pearl Woolstencroft (right) turned 101 while Marnie Meacham (left) turned 91. Both Pearl and Marnie are long-term members of Knit and Knatter. The group celebrated with an afternoon tea provided by the library.

Other Programs – Updates

- **Day Book Club** – The library's Day Book Club, which meets the first Monday of each month at 10.30am, is at full capacity with eleven members. Most book clubs have a limit of ten members.
- **GOLD Club** – The library's GOLD Club for seniors is held every second Monday from 2pm and continues to attract a regular group. Designed as a social outing with brain teasers, puzzles, and much more to keep seniors' minds active. To add to the fun, the library has introduced a new segment called What Am I? Participants are given a photo of an old fashion item and have to guess what it is. Lots of fun with this activity, our first photo being a tennis racquet press or clamp (for avid tennis players old enough to remember).
- **Pals of the Pen** – The library's Pals of the Pen is held every second Friday from 10.30am and is attended by a small group of passionate writers. While the group has struggled to attract new (and younger) members, what they lack in numbers, they make up for in enthusiasm.
- **Storytime** – Storytime is an early literacy program held every Thursday from 10.30am for an hour. Designed for 3 – 5 year olds, the program incorporates storytelling, singing, music and dance, games and craft, all based around a theme. Despite a slight decline in attendance due in part to regular attendees now attending preschool and school plus more parents working and using childcare, Storytime continues to attract good numbers.
- **Baby Bounce** – Baby Bounce is an early literacy program held every second Friday from 10.30am. The 30 minute program introduces babies to literacy and a love of the library through nursery rhymes, action songs, interactive play, books and reading. A regular group of mothers and babies attend the program.

Book Deposit Stations

The library continues to maintain a small collection of books at the Barmedman Arts, Craft & Coffee Shop and Weethalle Whistlestop. Both received a changeover of books in June.

ABC Riverina Interview

A live interview with Council's Library Services Coordinator was conducted by Sam Robinson, ABC Riverina, on Tuesday 6 June, 9am. The segment highlighted the library's community jigsaw puzzle and its partnership with the local Mens Shed who constructed a jigsaw puzzle board with organiser for the library.

7.12 Children Services May 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, and Toy Library services)

Author: Children Services Coordinator

Term 2 commenced for all Children Services programs and it proved to be a very busy month indeed with incursions, excursions, University practicum students, Assessment and Rating, community workshops, Dress up/Fundraising days, Reconciliation celebrations, meetings and much, much more.

Authorising Officer, Melissa Nesbitt conducted Preschool's Assessment and Rating early May. It was great to have Melissa here to showcase the fantastic service we offer the Bland Shire community. During the A & R process, Sharon (Coordinator), Carlie (Senior Early Childhood teacher) and Ashley (Educational Leader) conversed and provided documented performance evidence to the Authorising Officer, against the seven quality areas used to form the National Quality Framework (NQF). The NQF includes seven quality areas as below, each quality area has various standards, and each standard has various elements. Needless to say A & R is a lengthy, thorough and exhausting process, as each quality area, standard and element requires evidence through documentation, sight or conversation.

1. Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice (3 standards & 6 elements)
2. Quality Area 2 – Children health and safety (2 standards & 6 elements)
3. Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment (2 standards & 5 elements)
4. Quality Area 4 – Staffing Arrangements (2 standards & 4 elements)
5. Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children (2 standards & 4 elements)
6. Quality Area 6 – Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Community (2 standards & 6 elements)
7. Quality Area 7 – Governance and Leadership (2 standards & 6 elements)

Melissa provided positive feedback about the Preschool service, the Educators and the relationships evident between the children and families. A draft rating outcome will be available early June.

University and High School students –

CSU was fortunate to host two university practicum students throughout May. Melanie Karsten completed her final placement for Swinburne University (with Mel being a permanent Educator at CSU, we are thrilled to know that Mel will be a qualified Early Childhood Teacher by September 2023.) Laura Overall, completed her placement for University of New England. Both students conducted themselves professionally and provided wonderful learning opportunities to the children.

Isabella Darrington joined CSU from West Wyalong High School for a week's work experience. Bella enjoyed her time in the Bilby room, showed a lot of initiative and hopes to study Early Childhood through TAFE/School next year.

Fee Increases –

As per 2023/2024 Revenue Policy all families enrolled in Preschool and Playgroup were informed about the fee increase commencing July 1 2023. The CSU Coordinator proved each Preschool family with a letter outlining these changes and MRU Service Leader advised Playgroup families via text message and signage (due to the varying attendance patterns).

Recruitment/Resignation –

Sadly, Bland Shire Children Service Unit received the resignation from Senior Early Childhood teacher, Carlie Iverach. Carlie has been a valued team member at CSU for over 12 years and will be surely be missed by Educators, children and families. Carlie was successful in her application to teach at St Mary's Catholic School, with her last day at CSU on Thursday 8th June. The Senior Early Childhood Teacher role was advertised and awaiting applications at the time of report. Arrangements have been made with current Educators to see out Term 2, prior to the new teacher commencing.

CSU welcomed two new casual assistants to the service. Belle Spackman (studying Cert III) and Sarah Wood (Cert III). Both Belle and Sarah have settled in well and have been called upon already.

Staff Training –

With the changes to the National Approved Learning Framework coming into play, Educational Leader, Ashley Nicholson attended the "New Early Years Learning Framework" conference in Canberra. Ash found this conference very resourceful and was able to ask many questions. Ash will present new information to Educators at the next staff meeting and help implement the changes.

Sharon Glasgow researched new software platforms to streamline enrolment and documentation processes. Sharon met with providers OWINA to discover their software is all online and meets all Government requirements. Practice sessions will be conducted shortly. The aim to become paper free as part of our sustainability goal. To date, OWINA has been the most cost effective and suitable platform.

Mobile Resource Unit – Service Leader, Kate Spackman **Ungarie Mobile Preschool and Friday Junior Preschool**

May was a busy month for both Ungarie Mobile Preschool and Friday Jnr Preschool with children creating special gifts to celebrate Mother's Day.

During Week Four the children dressed as Pirates and raised \$82.20 toward The Kids Cancer Project.



Ungarie Preschool participated in the National Simultaneous story time by reading The Speedy Sloth at 11:00am (set National time for all Early Childhood Services), Wednesday 24th May and made their own little sloths.

To close out the month Ungarie Preschool went on an excursion to Bland Preschool and joined them for 'Our Mob' incursion. The children enjoyed a book reading, indigenous art and explored artefacts presented by Taylor Hampton, as part of National Reconciliation celebrations.

MRU Enrolments

Wednesday/Thursday Ungarie – 9 children

Friday Gecko class – 18 children

Friday Bilby class – 19 children

Playgroup

Playgroup was popular during May and continued to be well received in the community. Each week there are new enrolments received. On average West Wyalong has 25-30 families each session, and Ungarie averaged 5-8 families each month. Enrolments and attendance was down for village towns (Tallimba and Weethalle), with sessions cancelled and preparation work completed at CSU.



Bland Preschool – Service Leader, Carlie Iverach

Simultaneous Story time: on Wednesday 24th May our service participated in Simultaneous story time. Our special guest for 2023 was, CSU Coordinator, Sharon Glasgow. Sharon read the story to both classes, followed by an Educator guided 'sloth making' craft activity. National Simultaneous Story time (NSS) is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Every year a picture book is chosen which is written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator. It is read simultaneously throughout Australia, in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places. Now in its 23rd year, Simultaneous story time is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that promotes the value of reading and literacy. The chosen Australian book explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Foundation to Year 6. This year's book was 'The Speedy Sloth'.



Parent Involvement Roster: Parents/Special friends were invited into the classroom to interact with their child, the Educators and their child's peers. Capped at 1 hour each session ensured our preschool program continued to flow for the day. The nominated time for volunteers is 9:30am - 10:30am which allowed parents to be involved in inside play and on occasion excursions and incursions.

The Parent roster was well received and a great success in 2022 and during term 1 & 2 of 2023, families have been very receptive and are keen to return their volunteer declarations, which is brilliant.





Preschool Enrolments

Monday/Tuesday Bilby Class – 16 children

Wednesday/Thursday Bilby class – 18 children

Wednesday/Thursday Gecko class – 17 children

Bland / Temora Family Day Care – Service Leader, Tracey DeMamiel

Congratulations to one of our Educators who celebrated 10 years with Bland/Temora Family Day Care this month. What an amazing achievement, providing quality care and education to children and their families in a beautiful home environment. We are so lucky to have an Educator with so much experience in our service.



The children were excited to be back at playgroup after the school holidays. Exploring playdough with rollers and stampers helps children to use their imagination while developing their upper body strength.

Home like environments supports children to explore aspects of identity through role-playing. This month we provided an experience with babies, cots, bottles etc. The children were encouraged to engage in and contribute to shared play experiences, exploring the diversity of cultures and family backgrounds and traditions.



“It takes a village” (ITAV) - Service Leader, Julie Oberg

ITAV supported Playgroup was cancelled at Naradhan and Tallimba this month due to insufficient numbers. This often happens at this time of year due to sowing time. A review of minimum numbers may need to be considered so as to continue to offer services to those who are able to attend.

Supported Playgroups - Venues visited this month: Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) & Bland Children Services Unit (CSU). CSU is a relatively new venue with growing numbers. This month was the largest attended yet with 8 families.

Clare Crosbie is a senior physiotherapist from Therapies for Kids. Clare ran a workshop for families as part of our parenting program commitment. It was held at CSU on the 9th of May with 11 families in attendance. Feedback from families was well received. Clare enjoyed the experience and would like to continue to offer her services.

As it approaches the end of the financial year ITAV staff have been busily inputting in the Data Exchange Portal as part of contract requirements. The Data Exchange portal has two standardised six-monthly periods that cover 1st of January to 30 of June and 1 July to 31st of December. The Data Exchange reflects the two way partnership of information sharing between funding agencies and service providers to enable a more efficient way of improving service delivery and understanding overall outcomes being achieved for families.

Educational packs were continually created for children between the ages of 1 year and above as parents continued to send requests for packs, which is a service offered by ITAV as part of our contractual requirements.



7.14 Bland Shire Museum Advisor Report – May 2023



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

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

Author: Museum Advisor

Wyalong Museum (Monday 1 May)

Due to a busy time organising a community event I did not visit Weethalle this month.

As I was at Wyalong all day we spent the morning doing a workshop on preventative conservation, which is essentially close observation of an object, understanding how it is made, what materials are used then making descisions regarding cleaning that will not adversally effect the fabric of the object and lastly optimum storage and display options.

The objects we used included a lovely Chinese tea caddy, a tea tin and a parchment lampshade and an old mantle clock. The Chinses tea caddy was interesting – we were able to find very similar objects on-line which explained the small holes on the base – our caddy is missing its original feet!

Using saliva we were able to clean the surface without removing any decoation. This was only done in one area.

In the afternoon the team continued to work on showcases in the War Room. It must be noted that the work done in the showcase containing the Fraternal Society regalia is looking excellent!



Ungarie Museum (Tuesday 2 May)

Thank you to Don and Mary for spending the day with me cataloguing. As a team we worked well getting through a lot of objects. Below is a small sample.

One of the most interesting is a mixer for making confectionery. At this point we are assuming it was owned by a local baker. It was made in the United Kingdom and distributed by an Australian company specialising in culinary equipment supplies.

A fun object is the mouse trap with four traps – an Australian invention.



Next visit will be 5 & 6 June 2023.

7.15 Technical Services Report



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

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

Author: Director – Technical Services

1. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 8.5.2023

- Graders
 - Morangorell
 - McMahons Lane
 - South Yalgogrin Road
 - Mangelsdorfs Lane
 - Euratha
- Gravel Carting
 - Pipers Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Shire Roads

2. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 15.5.2023

- Graders
 - Morangorell
 - Murphys Lane
 - Sandy Creek Road
 - Sullivans Lane
 - Euratha
- Gravel Carting
 - Pipers Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Shire Roads

3. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 22.5.2023

- Graders
 - Morangorell
 - Murphys Lane
 - Sandy Creek Road
 - McCartens Lane
 - Koops Lane
- Gravel Carting
 - Pipers Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Shire Roads

4. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 29.5.2023

- Graders
 - East Bland/Pearces Lane
 - Murphys Lane
 - Sandy Creek Road
 - Koops Lane
 - McCartens Lane
- Gravel Carting
 - Pipers Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Shire Roads

5. Village Maintenance

- All parks mown and tidied
- Village main streets rubbish removed
- Trees trimmed and fallen branches picked up
- Village entrances and streets mown and trimmed
- All village park play grounds inspected for safety
- Parks irrigation checked
- Weed spraying carried out
- Ungarie main street watering system checked as required
- Street sweeper working in town and village streets

6. Park Maintenance

- McCann Park, Barnado Park and small parks and areas mown, trimmed and maintained
- Maintenance to Herridge Park, Cooina Park, Wyalong Court House
- Lawn and monument cemetery maintenance works carried out
- Playground inspections completed and repairs carried out
- New play equipment at McCann Park under installation.
- Graves back filled at cemetery and tanks pumped out
- All parks and airport sprayed for weeds
- Manual watering carried out in Barnado and McCann gardens
- Broad area spraying carried out for broad leaf 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
- Line marking on ovals for sporting groups

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 and spraying of town drains
- Aerodrome slashing inspections and maintenance work carried out, roo runs from 630am to 700am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for mines flights
- Back filled low areas on nature strips
- Pre-school maintenance carried out

- Spraying aerodrome and town drains/nature strips as weather allows
- Main drainage in Wyalong cleaned out
- vandalism repairs and removal

9. April/ May 2023 - Biosecurity Weeds/Environmental

- Property Inspections – 12
- Weed of the Month is now published monthly on Council Facebook page.
- Town Spraying - (lanes and drains) Wyalong, West Wyalong, Barmedman, Ungarie, Weethalle, Tallimba, West Wyalong Cemetery.
- Land Fill Spraying – West Wyalong, Ungarie, Barmedman, Weethalle, Kikoira, Naradhan.
- High Risk Pathway Inspection – Mid Western Hwy, 57N, MR231, Goldfields Way, Quandialla Road, MR368, MR371, Mary Gilmore, Newell Highway.
- Council Land Inspections - Sale yards, all landfills.
- Mowing – (mowing and clearing tree suckers, roadside and drains) Bygoo Road, Quandialla Road.
- Spraying (tree suckers) – Mud Hut Rd East/West, Arian Park Road.
- Red Guide post project assessment – Most Red Guide Posted areas (RED ZONES) in the Bland are specifically Spiny Burr Grass infestations. As the seed life for Spiny Burr Grass can be up to 4 to 5 years we designed this project to be assessed at 6 Years. For the past 6 years throughout spring and summer, each site was sprayed within 10 days, without fail, to ensure no grow back could produce seed bank. Each site was inspected by foot at the end of each active season. This year marked 6 years. An inspection of all sites was conducted in April 2023, and the results are very encouraging. Out of 68 sites, 30 were deemed clean and the Red Guide Posts have been removed, 12 sites have been reduced, some from 30 or 40 km down to 500m in length, thus leaving 26 active sites.
- The following Biosecurity weeds and other controls were undertaken:-
 - Spiny Burr Grass – Dundas Road, Weethalle town, Kilkilbertoo Road, Buralyang Road, Blow Clear Road, 57Nth, Kikoira Road, Mid Western Highway, Bygoo Road, Sandy Creek Road, Gunn Road, Sth Yalgogrin Road, Sprys Lane, Johns Lane, Manglesdorfs Lane, Lewes Lane, McCartens Lane, MR371, Marshmans Lane, Wargin Road, Hatelys Lane, Wombyne Road, Pattons Lane, Wilsons Lane, Youngs Lane, Lonergans Lane, Clear Ridge Road, Cottingley Lane, Quandialla Road, Goldfields Way.
 - Bathurst Burr – Nagoon Lane, Dundas Road, Lewes Road, Worners Lane, Mud Hut Road West.
 - Silver Leaf Nightshade – Blow Clear Road, Tallimba Road, Lewes Road, Dundas Road, Tyndalls Lane, 57Nth, MR231, Gardeners Lane, Harts Lane, Bena Road, Crown Camp Road, Youngareen Road, Alkaville Lane, Wombyne Road, Abernatheys Lane, Deacons Lane, Russells Lane, Webbs Lane, Nielsons Lane, McKenzies Lane, Davies Lane, Girral Road, Nagoon Lane, Buddigower Road, Worners Lane, Mud Hut West, Arian Park Road.
 - African Boxthorn – Mud Hut Rd East/West, Buddigower Road, Abernatheys Lane, Alkaville Lane, Crown Camp Road.
 - Galvanised Burr – Webbs Lane, Abernatheys Lane, Womboyne Road, Alkaville Lane, 57 Nth, Bena Road, Crown Camp Road, Mud Hut Road East/West, Buddigower Road.
 - Noogoora Burr – Alkaville Lane, Abernatheys Lane, Dundas Road, Mud Hut Rd West.

7.16 Development Services Activity Report – May 2023



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 May 2023:

| Application No | Description | Location | Consent Authority | Approval Date |
|----------------|---|---|-------------------|---------------|
| DA2023/0054 | Change of Use from Industrial Building to an Indoor Recreation Area (Gymnasium) | 23 Ungarie Road West Wyalong | Staff | 24/05/2023 |
| DA2023/0061 | Commercial Alterations/Additions (Office or Retail) | 93-95 Main Street West Wyalong | Staff | 19/05/2023 |
| DA2023/0067 | Demolition/Decommissioning of Inground Swimming Pool and Removal of one (1) Tree | 25-29 Main Street West Wyalong | Staff | 9/05/2023 |
| DA2023/0069 | Tree Removal – Removal One (1) Tree | Unit 2/51 Grenfell Street West Wyalong | Staff | 15/05/2023 |
| MA2023/0004 | S4.55(1A) Modification Application Accommodation Village including associated Modules, Communal Facilities, Administration Buildings, Access Road, Parking, Fencing and Landscaping | 32 Boundary Street West Wyalong | Staff | 2/05/2023 |
| MA2023/0007 | Modification Application S4.55(1A)) Semi- Detached Dwelling (Consisting of 1x2 Bedroom and 1x 3 Bedroom) & Community Title Subdivision (Creation of Two (2) Additional Lots | 6 North Street West Wyalong | Staff | 18/05/2023 |
| MA2023/0008 | Commercial Alterations/Additions Variation to Public Holiday Trading Hours | 203 Main Street West Wyalong | Staff | 22/05/2023 |
| CDC2023/0006 | Housing Alterations and Additions Inground Swimming Pool | 85 Church Street West Wyalong | Staff | 23/05/2023 |
| CDC2023/0007 | Housing Alterations and Additions Inground Swimming Pool (Private Certifier Determined) | 65 Russell Street West Wyalong | Private Certifier | 22/05/2023 |

Regulatory Activities Update

Dog Attacks

There were no dog attacks reported during May 2023.

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities May 2023

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

| Impounding Activities: | Dogs | Cats |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Animals in pound at start of month | 10 | 1 |
| Incoming Animals | | |
| Transferred from Seizure Activities | 1 | 1 |
| Dumped at Pound | 4 | 2 |
| Surrendered | 4 | 0 |
| Total Animals in Pound | 19 | 4 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Outgoing Animals | | |
| Released to Owner | 1 | 0 |
| Euthanased | 0 | 0 |
| Rehoused | 6 | 2 |
| Sold | 0 | 0 |
| Died at Pound | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen | 0 | 0 |
| Escaped | 0 | 0 |
| Total Animals Leaving Pound | 7 | 2 |
| Animals in Pound at end of Month | 12 | 2 |

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 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Newell Highway Taskforce | 9 May 2023 | ✓ |
| NSW Country Mayors Association | 26 May 2023 | ✓ |
| NSW Public Libraries Association | 4 May 2023 | ✓ |

| Section 355 Committees | Date/s | Minutes Attached |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Barmedman Community Committee | 30 May 2023 | ✓ |
| Mirrool Silo Kick Committee | 14 May 2023 | ✓ |
| Ungarie Advancement Group | 17 May 2023 | ✓ |
| Ungarie Retirement Village | 6 March 2023 | ✓ |

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Committee meeting minutes as presented.



NEWELL HIGHWAY TASKFORCE MEETING

**Minutes of the
Newell Highway Taskforce Meeting
held on**

**Tuesday 09 May 2023
at 10am**

**at Narrandera Shire Council Chambers,
141 East Street Narrandera**

& via TEAMS

Newell Highway Taskforce Committee Meeting Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 09 May at Narrandera Shire Council Chambers and via Teams.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

In Attendance

| Representative | Position | Council |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cr Ken Keith (Chair) | Mayor | Parkes Shire Council |
| Cr Neville Kschenka | Mayor | Narrandera Shire Council |
| Shane Wilson | Deputy General Manager | Narrandera Shire Council |
| Richard Jane | Director Engineering | Forbes Shire Council |
| Cr Brian Mattiske | Councillor | Forbes Shire Council |
| Cr Denis Todd | Councillor | Warrumbungle Shire Council |
| Cr Tony Lord | Councillor | Bland Shire Council |
| Ray Graham | Director Technical Services | Bland Shire Council |
| John Morris | Representative | RNSWHPRTA |
| Peter Dawson | Councillor | Narrandera Shire Council |
| Cr Doug Batten | Mayor | Gilgandra Shire Council |
| Craig Davies | Mayor | Narromine Shire Council |
| Cassandra Jones | Creative Marketing Director | Dubbo Regional Council |
| Alistair Lunn | Regional Director West | Transport for NSW |

Apologies received.

| Representative | Council |
|--|--|
| Cr Matthew Dickerson | Dubbo Regional Council |
| Cr Vicki Etheridge | Dubbo Regional Council |
| John Scarce - General Manager | Murrumbidgee Council |
| Cr Ruth McCrae | Murrumbidgee Council |
| Cr Robert Black | Murrumbidgee Council |
| Justin Pay | Inverell Council |
| Lisa Moon | Newell Highway Promotions Committee |
| Grant Baker - General Manager | Bland Shire Council |
| James Painting A/g Director | Department Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts |
| Matthew Hannan | Berrigan Shire Council |
| Garry Murphy - Director Technical Services | Warrumbungle Shire Council |
| Phyllis Miller | Forbes Shire Council |
| Cr Ron Campbell - Mayor | Narrabri Shire Council |
| David Neeves - General Manager | Gilgandra Shire Council |
| Eloise Chaplin - Director Infrastructure | Narrabri Shire Council |

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Neville Kschenka Mayor Narrandera Shire Council welcomed the Taskforce to Narrandera for the meeting.

Cr Kschenka paid respect to Wiradjuri traditional owners of the land upon which this meeting was being held and acknowledged Elders past, present and emerging.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 September 2022 were received and noted as true and accurate.

Moved Cr Tony Lord, Seconded Cr Neville Kschenka

CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair advised that most matters will be addressed during today's meeting.

6. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Summary

Correspondence was sent to Dubbo Regional Council seeking support for the Newell Highway Promotions Committee. Resent on 05 May 2023 seeking a response.

Response received from Dubbo Regional Council

Council will have one of our destination marketing staff attending the meeting and they will be a part of the Newell Highway Promotions Committee moving forward.

Given the changes to tourism bodies with Destination Central West now being distinct from Country and Outback within which Dubbo sits, it is probably opportune for the Newell Highway group to undertake a strategic review in conjunction with the different tourism agencies under Destination NSW being:

- *Destination Riverina Murray,*
- *Destination Central West and*
- *Destination Country and Outback*

Resolved

To look at the strategic direction of the Newell Highway Promotions Committee at next meeting.

Write to destination NSW to see whether they will still support a local highway-based committee going forward

Moved Cr Tony Lord, Seconded Cr Neville Kschenka

CARRIED

7. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Summary

Comments on loss of parking bays, floodproofing of the section south of Parkes, and standard of various work along the Newell was received from Rod Hannifey - Heavy Vehicle representative. The comments were forwarded to Mr Lunn and addressed during his presentation at the meeting.

The Taskforce Chair advised that correspondence had been received from a Parkes constituent regarding flooding along the Newell Highway at Tichborne. A copy of that letter was provided to Mr Lunn at the meeting.

The following Media releases from local media regarding Newell Highway were also tabled.

Article in Parkes Champion Post 19 December 2022

"With 10,500 tonnes of asphalt and more to do, Newell Highway reopens after 49 days"

Article in Forbes Advocate 20 December 2022

"Newell Highway reopen with works to include 'heavy duty' surface that won't fall apart in future flooding"

Article in Moree Champion 25 January 2023

"Inland Rail upgrades 57 level crossings"

Resolved

That the information be noted.

Moved Cr Denis Todd, Seconded Shane Wilson

CARRIED

8. PRESENTATION FROM TRANSPORT FOR NSW

Executive Summary

Alistair Lunn, Regional Director West •-Community and Place • West Region •Regional and Outer Metropolitan • Transport for NSW was in attendance at the meeting and provided an update on the Newell Highway.

Newell Highway Flood Mitigation - West Wyalong to Forbes

The Australian Government will contribute \$50 million to provide flood mitigation on the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes (bringing total project funding to \$250 million).

The preliminary environmental investigation, initial flood modelling and strategic options are now complete. The next stage of the project is developing the strategic business case and concept design.

The next steps will include extensive community consultation with nearby landholders and key stakeholders such as businesses and the freight industry.

Project update

Detail survey and cadastral survey underway

Concept design has commenced

Communication campaign to update community and seek feedback planned for June 2023

Delivery strategy is being reviewed and developed to provide as timely construction as possible

Inland Grade Separation Program

A total of 32 interfaces with NSW state and regional roads exist along the Inland Rail corridor

22 identified sites are being investigated and prioritised in order of development and construction

The first of six sites for development are:

- Harris Gates (Olympic Hwy near Illabo)

- Tichborne (Newell Hwy near Parkes)

- Castlereagh Hwy (near Curban)

- Tomingley Road (near Narromine)

- Eumungerie Road (near Narromine)

- Oxley Highway (near Collie)

Planning for the remaining sites is underway

AECOM has been awarded the contract for the concept design and environmental assessment of the first 6 sites

Early strategic assessment for the second 6 sites is being undertaken using internal resources

Parkes Bypass

Project Status

Construction of approximately 10.5 kilometres of new highway to bypass the township of Parkes NSW.

All earthworks are underway along the full 10km length of the project –some under NOA controls

Piling works at the Bridge Over Rail and Hartigan Avenue are 90% complete

All blasting on site is now complete

Traffic switch on Henry Parkes Way complete with works now on southern side

90% electrical relocations complete with only one more outage expected

Reconfiguration of Parkes Golf Course is nearing completion

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) was discovered on site in September 2022 in two locations:

two cuttings between Condobolin Road and Painter Street and cutting adjacent Brolgan Road

Following the discovery of NOA work on site was immediately stopped and an Asbestos Management Plan developed in consultation with SafeWork and EPA. This was finalised in February 2023

Works have now recommenced on site with remaining NOA material being excavated and encapsulated in containment cells within the project site.

Works are being undertaken under full asbestos management controls, overseen by a Class A Asbestos Supervisor and Licensed Asbestos

Upcoming Traffic Changes

Works on the existing Newell Highway south of Parkes are expected to commence in the coming months. Concrete barriers will be placed on the Newell Highway to allow construction of the southern tie in. There will also be changes to the northbound overtaking lane south of Parkes to accommodate the changes.

There will be similar changes north of Parkes in the next 5 months to allow the northern tie in to be constructed.

There are other east-west traffic changes occurring including:

Closure of Victoria Street

Closure of Thomas Street for the transportation of NOA. School buses and OSOM >3.5m in width are exempt.

Single lane closures on Henry Parkes Way

Newell Highway Program Alliance Overtaking Lanes

As of May 2023, the Newell Highway Program Alliance has delivered 28 overtaking lanes and all 6 safety projects on the Newell Highway.

The Alliance will deliver 38 overtaking lanes accumulating approximately 60kms in length along the full length of the highway

Project Status

28 overtaking lanes opened to traffic

9 overtaking lanes in construction

1 lane to commence construction on 15May

6 Shoulder widening stimulus projects completed

Upcoming Activities

Project completion Mirool(1 lane) open to traffic and demobilisation to be complete by mid-May.

Project completion Daroobalgie (1 lane) at the end of May.

Project completion Pilliga Rest Area (2 lanes) by the end of June

Project completion Pilliga Sir William Bridges (2 lanes); and Pilliga Dandry (2 lanes) by the end of August

Project completion Gullifers (2 lanes) by the end of September

Start of work at Bundiderry(1 lane) on May 15, this is the last project to be completed in the program.

Overtaking lanes status map May 2023

The new overtaking lanes are expected to provide around 33 minutes of travel time savings along the length of the Newell Highway from the Victorian border to the Queensland border. This will result in the construction of a minimum of 60kilometres of new overtaking lanes to improve safety, reduce travel times, allow more accurate travel planning and improve freight productivity.

New Dubbo Bridge**Project Update**

Major work is now underway to lay the foundations for the New Dubbo Bridge across the Macquarie River in Dubbo.

Piling works are underway with completion expected by the end of 2023, weather permitting.

Utility investigations are also underway at the intersection of River and Bourke Street and Whylandra and Thompson Street.

Wiradjuri Park will close on Thursday 18 May and Transport for NSW will be putting controls in place to protect the park's Aboriginal and cultural heritage throughout construction of the new bridge which is expected to be completed in 2026.

Newell Highway Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrades, Narrabri to Moree (Stage1)**Project Update**

Construction is well underway in **Section 3 (Bellata)**, and **Section 5 (Moree)**.

First of many traffic switches completed in **Section 3** at Bellata and the first traffic switch in **Section 5** expected to occur this month.

Power pole relocation and associated power outages have now been completed in Bellata.

Numerous concrete pours completed including Clarkes Gully.

Ongoing activities include drainage installation and installation of fencing.

Upcoming traffic changes

Upcoming traffic switches including relocating safety barriers and switching traffic onto a new section of the highway just south of Moree from **Sunday 14 May**.

Upcoming essential maintenance works are also scheduled between Narrabri and Moree impacting traffic for the next five weeks. Cumulative traffic delays of up to 15 minutes are expected.

For the safety of workers and motorists, traffic control including lane closures, alternating stop/slow and reduced speed limits of 40 km/h will be in place during work hours at various locations. VMS Boards are in place.

Newell Highway Oxley Highway Intersection Upgrade

Construction for the upgrade to the intersection of the Newell Highway and Oxley Highway near Coonabarabran is expected to commence in 2024, with the new intersection open to traffic by early 2026.

Preliminary investigations have been carried out and a concept design completed.

In regard to comments from Rod Hannifey - Heavy Vehicle representative:

Loss of Parking bays - The two that were removed did not meet sight distance requirements. They are looking with heavy duty pavement at new sites.

Correspondence from Mr John Davis - Tichborne

General concerns with flooding at Tichborne - Number of discussions over the year - New bridge was built with the same capacity as the old bridge over Billabong creek - 20 years ago. Mr Davis has concerns with levy banks and grade separation. They will be doing a full hydrologic study to ensure they are not pushing water in the wrong direction at Tichborne.

The Chair thanked Mr Lunn for his attendance and the update at today's meeting.

NOTED BY THE TASKFORCE

9 DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**Executive Summary**

James Painting A/g Director • Regional NSW & ACT • NSW, ACT and Targeted Roads Branch • Infrastructure Investment Division advised that due to the Federal Budget 2023-24 being released on the night of Tuesday 9 May they would be an apology to today's meeting.

He advised " As such, we expect to be quite busy during the day on Tuesday. There may also be decisions relating to investment in the Newell Highway, which we cannot discuss freely until after the Budget has been announced."

For the information of the Taskforce.

NOTED BY THE TASKFORCE

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussed Fatigue Management for truck drivers.

Write to National Heavy Vehicle Regulator - Road Safety Campaigns & initiatives / Forums / Refresher Competency Training.

Moved Cr Neville Kschenka Seconded John Morris

CARRIED

Taskforce to consider list of priorities for consideration and discussion at proposed Newell Highway at Strategic Workshop

Invite Minister Aitchison and Duncan Gay to a future meeting of the Taskforce, preferably the strategic planning day.

NOTED BY THE TASKFORCE

11 NEXT MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting the Taskforce set down dates for 2023 meetings.

The suggested dates were:

Tuesday 14 March 2023 in Narrandera (*Postponed to 09 May due to State election*)

Tuesday 13 June 2023 in Narrabri including a Strategic Planning session before or after (*Postponed due to day prior is a public Holiday (June long weekend/king's birthday) attendees may need to travel day before on the PH*).

Suggested new date 9.00am start Tuesday 08 August 2023 at Dubbo (Includes Strategic Workshop) Meeting in am - Workshop pm - Possible dinner in the evening prior.

The Hon. Jenny Aitchison (NSW Minister for Transport to be invited to address Taskforce - and attend to Strategic Workshop

Tuesday 12 September 2023 (*Postpone until November to include Meeting and Annual General Meeting*)

Suggested date 14 November 2023 - (Meeting plus Annual General Meeting) - Invite The Hon. Catherine King Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government in Canberra to attend - go through The Hon. Michael McCormack's Office

Resolved

1. Write to Dubbo seeking their support for the next meeting of the Taskforce to be hosted by Dubbo on Tuesday 08 August 2023. The meeting to be followed on the same day by a Strategic Workshop.
2. Once meeting date and venue confirmed an invitation be forwarded to The Hon. Jenny Aitcheson Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to attend.
3. Invitation also to be extended to Duncan Gay to attend meeting and Strategic Workshop
4. Write to The Hon. Michael McCormack seeking assistance with a meeting (Include Annual General Meeting) of the Taskforce in Canberra. Invitation to be extended to The Hon Catherine King Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

The Taskforce were all in favour.

CARRIED

The Chair thank all for their attendance today and closed the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 11.38am

Councils along the Newell

| | |
|---|--|
| Berrigan Shire Council mail@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au | Inverell Shire Council council@inverell.nsw.gov.au |
| Bland Shire Council council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au | Murrumbidgee Council mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au |
| Cabonne Shire Council council@cabonne.nsw.gov.au | Narrabri Shire Council council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au |
| Coonamble Shire Council council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au | Narrandera Shire Council council@narrandera.nsw.gov.au |
| Dubbo Regional Council council@dubbo.nsw.gov.au | Narromine Shire Council mail@narromine.nsw.gov.au |
| Forbes Shire Council forbes@forbes.nsw.gov.au | Parkes Shire Council council@parkes.nsw.gov.au |
| Gilgandra Shire Council council@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au | Temora Shire Council temshire@temora.nsw.gov.au |
| Goondiwindi Shire Council mail@grc.qld.gov.au | Warrumbungle Shire Council info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au |
| Greater Shepparton Council council@shepparton.vic.gov.au | |

Alistair Lunn | Transport for NSW - Regional Director West • Community and Place • West Region • Regional and Outer Metropolitan

Andrew McCluckie | Transport for NSW

Allan Magill | NatRoads

Laura Colley | Inland Rail Regional Liaison Officer • Moree

- Communications and Regional Delivery Section
- Inland Rail Stakeholder and Regional Delivery Branch
- Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects Division

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Heather Parry Director Program Delivery | ARTC - Inland Rail -

James Painting A/G Director • Regional NSW & ACT • NSW, ACT and Targeted Roads Branch • Infrastructure Investment Division



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
PO Box 63 Gunnedah NSW 2380
02 6740 2115
e-mail Council@infogunnedah.com.au
ABN 92 803 490 533

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2023 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.31a.m.

1. **Chairmans Welcome**
2. **Acknowledgement to Country**
We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past and present and emerging. We are committed to providing communities in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are included socially, culturally and economically.
3. **Acknowledgement of Parliamentarians**
The Chairman acknowledged the attendance of several Shadow Ministers and Members of Parliament as observers.
4. **ATTENDANCE:**
Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Tod Redwood, Deputy Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Mr Anthony McMahon, CEO
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Jo Cook, Deputy Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Mr Mark Dicker, General Manager
Bogan Shire Council, Cr Glen Neill, Mayor
Bogan Shire Council, Mr Derek Francis, General Manager
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor

Bourke Shire Council, Ms Leone Brown, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy mayor
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael York, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Coffs Harbour City Council, Cr Paul Amos, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Tim Horan, Mayor
Coonamble Shire Council, Mr Hein Basson, General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Murray Wood, CEO
Dungog Shire Council, Cr John Connors, Mayor
Dungog Shire Council, Mr Gareth Curtis, General Manager
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor
Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Rob Banham, Mayor
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Troy Arandale, Deputy Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Cr Tony Quinn, Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Ms Evelyn Arnold, General Manager
Griffith City Council, Cr John Doug Curran, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Cr Carol Oataway, Mayor
Hay Shire Council, Mr David Webb, General Manager
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Junee Shire Council, Cr Neil Smith, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Leo Hauville, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, CEO
Kyogle Council, Cr Kylie Thomas, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Greg Tory, General Manager
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Lismore City Council, Cr Steve Krieg, Mayor
Lismore City Council, Mr John Walker, General Manager
Lithgow City Council, Cr Maree Statham, Mayor
Lithgow City Council, Mr Craig Butler, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Greg Verdon, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
MidCoast Council, Mr Adrian Panuccio, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor

Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
 Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Nick Tobin, General Manager
 Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor
 Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
 Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager
 Muswellbrook Shire Council, Cr Steve Reynolds, Mayor
 Muswellbrook Shire Council, Derrick Finnigan, General Manager
 Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
 Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
 Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Cameron Lander, Deputy Mayor
 Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
 Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
 Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
 Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
 Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Mr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO
 Shellharbour City Council, Cr Chris Homer, Mayor
 Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
 Shoalhaven City Council, Mr Stephen Dunshea, CEO
 Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
 Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
 Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
 Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor
 Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
 Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
 Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager
 Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
 Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
 Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Alex Waldron, General Manager
 Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
 Uralla Shire Council, Ms Kate Jessep, General Manager
 Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
 Walcha Council, Phil Hood, Acting General Manager
 Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor
 Warren Shire Council, Mr Gary Woodman, General Manager
 Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
 Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
 Weddin Shire Council, Cr Craig Bembrick, Mayor
 Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager
 Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
 Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager
 LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
 LGNSW, Mr Damien Thomas, Director Advocacy
 LGNSW, Mr Shaun McBride
 LGNSW, Bronwen Regan
 ALGA, Cr Linda Scott, President
 OLG, Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary
 OLG, Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development
 RAMJO, Ms Yvonne Lingua, CEO
 CNSWJO, Ms Jenny Bennett

The Hon Leslie Williams - Shadow Minister for Women, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Aboriginal Affairs
 The Hon Wendy Tuckerman – Shadow Minister for Local Government
 The Hon Aileen McDonald – Shadow Minister for Youth Justice
 The Hon Scott Farlow – Shadow Minister for Planning & Public spaces, Housing and Cities
 The Hon Bronnie Taylor – Shadow Minister for Regional Health
 The Hon Gurmeh Singh – Shadow Minister for Tourism, Emergency Services and North Coast
 The Hon Adam Marshall – Member for the Northern Tablelands
 The Hon Kevin Anderson – Shadow Minister for Gaming, Racing, Arts and Heritage
 The Hon Wes Fang – Shadow assistant Minister for Police and Emergency Services
 Mr Michael Kemp – Member for Oxley
 Ms Tanya Thompson – Member for Myall Lakes
 Mr Dave Layzell MP

APOLOGIES:

As submitted Additional apologies received on behalf of Cr Narelle Davis, Mayor Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Mr James Davis, General Manager, Junee Shire Council and Mr David Sherley, General Manager, Bathurst Regional Council

SPECIAL GUESTS:

The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth and Minister for the North Coast
Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Regional Health
Carmel Donnelly, Chair, IPART
The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources
The Hon Sam Faraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister Minister for Crown Lands

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 9 March 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Singleton Council Mayor, Councillor Sue Moore
 Seconded Forbes Shire Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes
 NIL

7. ALGA Update Report

Cr Linda Scott, President, presented her report advising that the Association focused on the Federal budget and advising that Local Government was currently receiving 0.5% of tax instead of the 1.5% tax being sought. There is a 75% hole in FAG Grants which is not being able to be filled. Councils are to receive \$3.1 billion in Financial Assistance Grants over the next twelve months but it is disappointing the government have not delivered on its pre-election promise for "fair increases." Other budget funding was \$484 million in Roads to Recovery funding • \$60 million over three years in supplementary road funding for South Australian councils • \$200 million Thriving Suburbs Program (local governments eligible to apply) • \$150 million Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (local governments eligible to apply) • \$120 million Black Spot Program • Additional \$13.5 million round of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program • \$236 million over 10 years for flood warning infrastructure (rain gauges) • \$10 million for a national waste education campaign. Other subjects addressed were NSW Housing Affordability Reforms, Growing Regions Grants, Disaster recovery Funding, New Bank Closure Protocols, and National General Assembly. A copy of the report was included in the business paper.

RESOLVED That the report be noted

Moved Lachlan Shire Council Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf
Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith

8. LGNSW Update Report

Cr Darriea Turley, President, provided up to date advice regarding the ESL subsidy advising that the subsidy was not allocated this year and a review of the models are to be undertaken. Cr Turley requested Councils to write to their local members and the Minister. The report covered Emergency Services Levy, Red Fleet Update and the IPART Review of Rate Peg Methodology NSW State Election, Cost Shifting Survey, Federal Budget with NSW to Receive \$951.4Million in Financial Assistance Grants and other assistance with Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Skills, Aged Care, Flood and River Gauges, Rental Assistance and Sustainable Urban Development. A copy of the report was included in the business paper.

Resolved That the report be noted

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Tamworth Regional Council Mayor, Councillor Russell Webb

9. Membership

RESOLVED that Bogan Shire Council, Greater Hume Shire Council and MidCoast Council be admitted as members of the Association.

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steve Reynolds

Membership pins were presented to the new members admitted at the 9 March meeting and this meeting and to other members that had not received them.

10. Retirement of Mr Gary Lavell, General Manager, Temora Shire Council

Deputy Chairman Cr Rick Firman thanked Mr Lavell who retires on the 30 June, for his 28 years of service to Temora Shire Council and for his contribution to the Country Mayors Association.

11. Correspondence

Outward

| | |
|--|--|
| Mr Andrew Clennell, Sky News Political Reporter | Thanking for being master of ceremonies at the "Meet the Leaders Forum" on the 21 February 2023 |
| Cr Neil Smith, Mayor, Junee Shire Council | Advising that Junee Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023 |
| Cr Steven Reynolds, Mayor Muswellbrook Shire Council | Advising that Muswellbrook Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023 |
| Cr Barry Holman, Mayor, Bourke Shire Council | Advising that Bourke Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023 |
| Cr Nuatali, Lord Mayor, Newcastle City Council | Thanking her for hosting the welcome function on the 8 March 2023 and updating her on Newcastle's application for associate membership of the Country Mayors Association |
| Mr Craig Carmody, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Newcastle | Thanking him for hosting the Country Mayors meeting on the 9 March 2023 and updating him on the Port of Newcastle's application for associate membership of the Country Mayors Association |
| The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier | Congratulating him on his elevation to the position of Premier and offering an open invitation to address our members at future meetings |
| The Hon Timothy Crakanthorp MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education, The Hon Daniel Mookhay MLC, Treasurer, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government, The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, | Congratulating them on their elevation to the Ministry outlining the CMA's priorities and offering an opportunity to address our members at a future meeting |

| | |
|---|---|
| Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, and Youth, The Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health and Regional Health, and The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW | |
| Department of Fair Trading | Notifying them of the change to the Constitution to create the position of Immediate Past Chairman |
| The Hon Damien Tudehope, MLC, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Treasurer, The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Ms Eleni Petinos MP, Shadow Minister for Finance and Sport, Mr Gurmesh Singh MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Emergency Services and North Coast, The Hon James Griffin MP, Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Customer Service and Digital Government. The Justin Clancy MP, Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Ms Kellie Sloane MP, Shadow Minister for Environment, The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Shadow Minister for | Congratulating them on their elevation to the Shadow Ministry outlining the CMA's priorities and offering an opportunity to address our members at a future meeting |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Gaming, Racing, Arts and Heritage, The Hon Leslie Williams MP, Shadow Minister for Women, Mr Mark Coure MP, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Opposition Leader, Leader of the Liberals, Mr Mark Taylor MP, Shadow Minister for Corrections and Western Sydney, The Hon Matt Kean MP, Shadow Minister for Health, The Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Shadow Minister for Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion, Homelessness and Youth, The Hon Paul Toole MP, Shadow Minister for Police, Ms Robyn Preston MP, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Medical Research, The Hon Sam Faraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning and Western NSW, The Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Shadow Minister for Planning</p> | |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>and Public Spaces, Housing, Cities, Hunter and the Central Coast, The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water and Crown Lands, Mr Tim James MP, Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building, The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Small Business, The Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC, Shadow Minister for Youth Justice, The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Shadow Attorney General, The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Health, Trade and Seniors.</p> | |
| Mr Phillip Donato MP, Member for Orange | Congratulating him on his election to State Parliament and seeking a meeting with him on the 25 May 2023 |
| The Hon Yasmin Catley MP, Minister for Police and Counter- terrorism | Congratulating her on her appointment as Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and seeking a meeting with her on the 25 May 2023 |
| Mr Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon | Congratulating him on his election to State Parliament and seeking a meeting with him on the 25 May 2023 |

Inward

| | |
|--|---|
| Department of Fair Trading | Advising that the changes to the Constitution having the Immediate Past Chairman as a member of the Executive Committee has been registered |
| Mr Greg Warren MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, and | Regarding the CMA priorities for the next election (Copy Attached) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Shadow Minister for Western Sydney | |
| Mr Robert Borsak MLC, Shooters and Fishers and Farmers Party NSW | Advising that they will hold the Government to account regarding Regional NSW (Copy Attached) |

Media Releases

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| Regional NSW Doing the Heavy Lifting |
| Local Government March to the Wall |

RESOLVED THAT THE INFORMATION BE NOTED

Moved Kyogle Council Mayor, Councillor Kylie Thomas
Seconded Mayor, Councillor

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted

Moved Weddin Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Craig Bembrick
Seconded Junee Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Neil Smith

13. The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homlessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth and Minister for the North Coast

The Minister hoped that this meeting would be the start of ongoing conversations with Country Mayors. She undertook to give clear and honest and direct answers to matters referred to her. Collaboration can be fruitful between government and councils. Water authorities are aware that councils in regional and rural areas are water utilities and need support through a partnership with the government and state water authorities, based on honesty to provide a more reliable water supply. The government wishes to lift the quality of town water supplies. Housing shortages particularly housing for key workers needs to be addressed. If any council has land that can be developed for housing please lets talk.

The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

The Minister has already had meetings with several councils. Integrated plans that look at people first are important. Reclassifications of roads is a great opportunity. Unfortunately in 2019 it was unfunded and in some cases councils have had to wait up to 8 years for their reclassification. Things have now moved on. Disaster Recovery funding has changed the way councils are looking at reclassifications so priorities are changing. The Government wants to give councils the cash now rather than having to wait. The city was getting \$5 for every \$1 that the country was getting in road funding. This has now been addressed and regional NSW will be getting double what it is now plus emergency repair funds.

Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Regional Health

Closing the gap for aboriginal health regional health is a priority. The NSW Government is committed to regional NSW and wants it to have parity with metropolitan areas. Dr John McGirr MP has been appointed Chairman of a select committee to oversee Rural Health Inquiry recommendations and the financial implications. The Health workforce is a high priority with the intention of employing 1,200 additional nurses and 500 paramedics. Those studying Health Care Degrees can receive a \$4000 subsidy per year for 4 years providing they comply with work requirements. The threat of workforce burnout is real and a taskforce has been established and has commenced work looking at the needs of health staff. Access to health care has improved using technology in country areas. The Rural Generalist Service supports country GP's.

The presentations were followed by Question and Answers from members

14. Carmel Donnelly, Chair, IPART

The Ratepayer Review Terms of Reference commenced 30 August 2022, followed by an issues paper and workshops with a draft report due early June 2023 and a final report to the Minister in August 2023. There have been 96 submissions and 2881 resident/ratepayer respondents. Council feedback has included abolishing rate pegging, current model doesn't support council financial sustainability, labour cost changes should be based on the Local Government award and other suggestions. Ratepayer submissions included affordability and cost of living and Councils financial affordability, and Councils financial management and efficiency. Affordability of rates is the most important consideration and residents have positive views about the services provided by councils. Council technical workshops propose the rate peg should include change in base costs, population factor, ESL factor, productivity factor and other adjustments which IPART are looking at as options.

15. The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources

The leader of the Nationals introduced his Shadow Minister Team who are representing NSW on the cost of government. Funds committed by the previous Coalition Government are unspent and still available and the opposition is working to keep those funds for the purpose for which they were allocated. They are putting the money where their mouth is.

The Hon Sam Faraway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

The Coalitions top commitment is the state of the roads and in opposition they want to highlight what programs should be continued and not be diverted. The Minister this morning did not mention betterment. The Coalition in Government had significantly more funds allocated to regional NSW including \$1.6billion to improve the road system, compared to the current government. It is understood that the Seniors Travel Card and Regional Apprenticeship and University Travel Card will be chopped in the September budget.

The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water, and Shadow Minister for Crown Lands

Hosted 5 Cootamundra summits which has helped her to understand the Local Government sector. The Government has introduced an amendment to the Sydney Water Act and regional and rural NSW's 1.8 million water customers have been left out. Water NSW was also left out of the proposed legislation. The Opposition is now putting forward a number of amendments and the legislation has currently been removed. Water infrastructure and water planning is being deferred. It is critical that funding be provided for water services projects. A lot of work on priorities for Crown Land needs to be done.

The presentations were followed by Question and Answers from members

15. Scholarship Program Update

RESOLVED That the amended Scholarship program be adopted

1. The NSW CMA Scholarship be allocated to the finalist Runner-up Council of the A R Bluett Memorial Award Winner (Rural/Regional Category)
2. Implement for 2023 at November AGM
3. The Council must be a current, Financial Member of NSW CMA
4. In the first year, that a \$5,000 Scholarship be offered to a Trainee/Apprentice/Degree of a Member Council (NSW CMA) amplifying the 'Grow our Own' Staff position NSW CMA Members have.
5. This Scholarship would assist with expenses such as accommodation, tools, textbooks, travel, and other relevant costs associated with their TAFE, University or similar courses relating to their employment at their respective member Council.
6. Scholarship funds will be presented in full to the recipient at the AGM in November.
7. Should the Runner Up of the Bluett Award not be a current financial member of NSW CMA, they be given the opportunity to join (enhancing membership numbers).
8. The inaugural Scholarship be funded out of NSW CMA reserves. Subsequent years, to be determined (eg: special Scholarship Levy added to existing membership fee)
- 9.. A Special Plaque to be presented, acknowledging the Scholarship Recipient (NSW CMA logo, Recipient's name and date etc). The Recipient would also present to the NSW CMA Members about their career and how the funds may assist. Further, the Recipient to be invited back at another future meeting of NSW CMA, to present a written report to the Members, on how the Scholarship actually assisted them during the year. This places responsibility on the Recipient and should only enhance the Members commitment to continuing with the concept of awarding a Scholarship.
10. It is expected that the Runner-up Council will pay for the travel accommodation costs associated with the scholarship recipient to attend appropriate meetings of the Country Mayors Association.
11. A caveat be placed on the Scholarship Recipient that if the Recipient discontinues their course/s, the Scholarship ceases, effective at the time of advice. If they discontinue studies within six months from presentation of scholarship unexpended funds to be returned to CMA.

12. The Scholarship Sub-Committee conducts a review, after the first year of awarding a Scholarship and make recommendations to the Executive and members on potential improvements/restructuring that may be required

Moved Forbes Shire Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconder Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith

16. Aligning Membership Criteria of CMA with LGNSW

A MOTION was moved by Forbes Shire Council seconded by Singleton Council that the CMA membership be aligned with the LGNSW Regional and Rural membership.

The motion was LOST

17. Country Mayors Association Associate Members

RESOLVED That the following new clauses be added to the Constitution
6. Those Councils, for Profit Organisations and not for Profit Organisations that are not eligible under clause 3 and 3a. Clause 4 conditions apply to obtain Associate Membership

7. Associate Members will not have voting rights at Annual General Meetings or at any other time a membership vote is taken

8. Associate Members will be encouraged to attend, Annual General Meetings, forums, study tours and any other events that promote CMA's objectives

Clause 10 be amended by the inclusion of the words "Associate Membership of for Profit Organisations shall be set at 200% of the full fee and not for Profit Organisations shall be set at 75% of the full fee" after the words "full fee in line four"

Moved Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith
Seconded Singleton Council Mayor, Councillor Sue Moore

18. Rural Councils Victoria Forum Echuca 14 July

Rural Councils Victoria have extended an invitation to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to attend their Forum at Echuca as complimentary Guests. The Executive Committee have resolved that any costs incurred be paid by the CMA

RESOLVED That the information be noted

Moved Junelee Shire Mayor, Councillor Neil Smith
Seconded Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steve Reynolds

19. Review of Pensioner Rebate Subsidy

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association advocate to the State Government for a more realistic and timely indexing process for pensioner concessions and rebates to assist pensioners in paying their Council rates and

charges. This advocacy is to include increased funding support from the State Government for the cost of providing pensioner rebates

Moved Ballina Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Cadwallader
Seconded Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steve Reynolds

20. Daylight Saving

RESOLVED That Day Light Saving be reduced to four months of the year starting on the first weekend in November and finishing in the last weekend in February to be implemented no later than November 2023.

Moved Lachan Shire Council Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf
Seconded Kyogle Council Mayor, Councillor Kylie Thomas

21. Gifts for Future Presenters

The Executive Committee has received quotations for the supply of Country Mayors ties, scarf's and pens and has agreed to purchase 50 ties and scarf's at a cost of \$3,185.00 and 100 pens with logo and engraving for \$850.00. Invited guests will be offered a gift for attending our meetings and members are encouraged to purchase these items at cost.

RESOLVED that the information be noted

Moved Narromine Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Craig Davies
Seconded Kyogle Council Mayor, Councillor Kylie Thomas

22. The Accounting Treatment of RFS Assets

RESOLVED That the NSW Country Mayors Association

1. Confirms its strong position that local councils do not control RFS assets and therefore should not have to account for RFS assets in their financial statements
2. Rejects outright NSW Treasury's current policy position that the State Government does not control the RFS assets and that Local Government therefore does

3. Rejects and dismisses any argument that vesting under the RFS Act equates to control in terms of accounting standards (where 'substance over form' sees control in the accounting sense sitting squarely with the RFS)

4. Rejects outright the Auditor General's position that she must audit in accordance with Treasury's policy position instead of Australian Accounting standards, noting also that the AG is supposed to be independent of government, not a voice for government

5. Writes to the Premier of NSW and the NSW Parliamentary Accounts Committee to ask that they

- (i). immediately investigate the basis behind all 40 Councils' qualified financial statements for YE 21/22 (especially given that nothing changed in YE 21/22 from prior years when absolutely NO Councils were qualified for having accounting policies that did not account for RFS assets), and

(ii). Immediately investigate statutory remedies that enshrine in legislation the reality regarding control of RFS assets, being that RFS assets are entirely controlled by the NSW RFS.

Moved Leeton Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Tony Reneker
Seconded Lachlan Shire Council Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf

23. CMA November Meeting

CMA meeting dates are organized around Parliamentary sitting days. Our August meeting complies with those dates but the 3 November does not as the sitting days are the 21-23 November 2023

RESOLVED That the AGM and General Meeting in November be held on the 24 November 2023

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Leeton Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Tony Reneker

24. Launch of Country Mayors Association Website

The Chairman advised that in accordance with the CMA resolution of the 9 March 2023 the website has now been developed and is online "nswcountrymayors.com.au" and invited all to connect. The Chairman walked through each of the tabs of Publications, Media, Events, Advocacy, Members, Annual Survey and Contacts. The website will be updated regularly.

25. Survey Results

The priority survey forwarded to members closed on Friday 19 May 2023. The results are as follows

Q1 - 90% of our members responded to the annual survey

Q2 - New top five issues as ranked by our members are;

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Housing
3. Labour Shortages
4. Transport and Roads
5. Health

Q3 - New top five emerging issues as ranked by our members

1. Planning
2. Disaster Preparedness
3. Renewable Energy
4. Water Security
5. Infrastructure – Crime, Law and Order

Q4 - At full value more than 2,000 positions vacant over 71 Regional Councils in NSW

Q5 - 85% of our members that completed the survey have in the past two years or will within the next five years undertake a Special Rate Variation

Q6 - 39 responses to our request for further advocacy positions

26. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 4 August 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.26pm.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW



SOUTH-WEST ZONE MEETING

10:00am, Thursday 4 May 2023

Narrandera Library, 39 – 51 East Street, Narrandera

| Delegates Attended in person | Delegates Attended online |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anne Nevins | Adele Casey |
| Chrissy Bolton | Andrea Curr |
| Carina Clement | Penny Howse |
| Rachel Cody | Tracey Fraser |
| Michelle Head | Susan Kane |
| Cr Cathy Maslin | Wendy Manning |
| Katrina Roe | Cr Aaron Nicholls |
| Cr David Thurley | John Williams |
| Karen Wendt | Cr Dallas Tout |
| Cr Michael Kidd | Chris Robson |
| Cr Tracey Lewis | Cathy Lange |

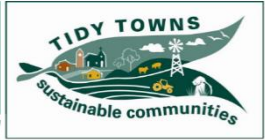
| Meeting | |
|---------|--|
| 1. | Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country AlburyCity acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians of the land in which we live and work and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, culture, tradition and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contribute to our community. |
| 2 | Apologies Cr Tracy Pearce- Brambley, Zac Armstrong, Beth Rothe, Camille Cullinan, Cr Mary Dodds, Cr Faith Bryce, Cr Pam Halliburton, Snowy Valley Councillors. Cr Clarke, Cr Carly Marriot, Cr Amelia Parkin. A motion to accept the apologies was received from Karen Wendt and seconded by Sue Killham <div style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</div> |
| 3 | Introductions – all attendees introduced themselves |
| 4 | Confirmation of Minutes and business arising from the meeting held on 21 September 2022 at Albury A motion to endorse the minutes of the previous meeting was received from Sue Killham and Seconded by Carina Clement <div style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</div> |
| 5 | State Library of NSW Report Presented by Andrea Curr |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | Copy of report attached to minutes |
| 6 | NSW Public Libraries Association Report Presented by Adele Casey Copy of report attached |
| 7 | SWITCH 2023 – 8-11 November @ Penrith Panthers (Adele Casey) Refer to NSW Public Libraries Association Report attached |
| 8 | Birth to Five - Read and Thrive (Adele Casey) Refer to NSW Public Libraries Association Report Attached |
| 9 | South-West Zone Strategic Plan (2022-2027) Presented by Carina Clement - All actions on track Copy of Plan attached |
| 10 | South-West Zone Digital Library Report Presented by Katrina Roe RRL Copy of Report and Statistics attached |
| 11 | Trove funding update (Adele Casey) Board is continuing their work regarding Trove. A Town Hall meeting with NSWPLA members is planned for late June. Refer to NSW Public Association Report attached. |
| General Business | |
| 12 | Library round-up Carina (Albury) – Ready for change over to new Library Management System – Spydus – Hosting Sydney Writers Festival Live and Local program in late May. Chrissy (Wagga) – One book One Wagga is going well with the dinner on 19 May with Robbie Arnott / <i>Limberlost</i> – Recently hosted a successful event for HSC Students in partnership with UAC (Universities Admissions Centre). Sue (Narrandera) – the Junior area has been updated thanks to grant funding – New mobile shared with Carrathol- Programs are picking up Lego club (grant funded FRRR), Centerlink/employment agency - Solar installed Rachel (Leeton) – Youth week festival was popular, attendance at storytimes is growing, new furniture throughout the library- launch of Big Bang Club (STEM program) today with 4 schools involved. Cr Malsem (Coolamon) – School holiday program was popular – attendance to Mobile Library is growing Karen (RRL) – Been busy supporting other libraries across the zone with their transition to new LMS Spydus Ann (Berrigan) – Libraries are now in the Strategic Development team – Continuing to use Libero LMS – Ann is planning to retire later this year. Chris (Griffith) – Karen has extended her maternity leave for another 12 months, Chris will be continuing as Library Manager – have been live with Spydus for 1 week – great HSC explained event with UAC – recently hosted 2 authors: Alison Daddo / <i>Queen Menopause</i> and Jeremy Lachlan/ <i>Jane Doe and the Cradle of All Worlds</i> – Hosting a selection of Law Week Webinars. Tracey (Wentworth) – Tracey is the new Library Manager – Recently held a Mermaid Storytime that was popular – have moved to Spydus LMS – 3 new part time team members – Rebrand of Library and their services |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| | <p>Susan Kane (Greater Hume) – Lots of popular programs: Easter Egg competition, storytime, knitting group, After school tech sessions and games – Holbrook library has completed Public Library Infrastructure Grant program next Henty Library</p> <p>Cr Nicholls (Corowa) – School holiday programs were popular - Pop up card making – Friends of the Library Book Sale did well – still recovering from the flooding late last year.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Other General Business</p> <p>Adele (PLN) – Standard meeting guidelines with the new PLNSW logo have been developed. ACTION- Adele to distribute the template.</p> <p>Cr Maslin – query about SW Zone Welcome Pack (referred to in strategic plan). This can be found on the NSWPLA website under Member Resources. NSWPLA NSW Public Libraries Association</p> |
| 13 | Next Meeting – Thursday 7 September (online) |
| Meeting Close - 11:09am | |

Barmedman Community Committee

A Section 355 Committee of Bland Shire Council, NSW



Barmedman Community Committee Meeting held Tuesday 30th May, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting held at Barmedman Bowling Club, Queen St. Barmedman, 2668

Present: Belinda Hall, Chris Stanmore, Victoria Middleton, Shirley Clay, Gary Brouwer, Christine Inman.

Apologies: John Lynch, Keith Edwards, Pat Wells

Minutes: Minutes from the Extraordinary Meeting held on 5th April were emailed to Council on 6th April, and emailed to all committee members on 10th April.
Moved: Belinda Hall. Seconded: Chris Stanmore. Crd.

Business Arising: 1. General Business.

Correspondence: None.

Leesa Bryant, Acting Director Corporate & Community Services, Bland Shire Council, has confirmed Council's endorsement of the executive committee elected at the extraordinary meeting held 5th April, 2023 at the Barmedman Bowling Club.

The Executive Committee is:

President/Safety Officer: **Belinda Hall**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Victoria Middleton**

Vice President: **Chris Stanmore**

Council to arrange a Safety & Council Induction in the near future.

General Committee Members:

Resignation: Marilyn Moore. Our thanks to Marilyn for her many years volunteering with the committee.

New Members: Christine Inman. Welcome to Christine.

Current general members: Shirley Clay, Gary Brouwer, Christine Inman, John Lynch, Keith Edwards, Pat Wells.

General Business:

1. Belinda and Victoria met with Grant Baker, Leesa Bryant and Alison Balind from Council last week to discuss banking arrangements and other matters. Leesa Bryant advised that she will organise a Commonwealth bank account (West Wyalong) to be opened for our Committee and the funds transferred from Westpac Temora. There will not be a Treasurer's Report until then. However, there is \$6676.42 in the bank account. \$40 in cash to be banked from campers. The bank statement is to March 2023. The account name will be changed to Barmedman Community Committee, a section 355 Committee

of Bland Shire Council, NSW, as per Council.

Alison Balind said that entry into the 'Tidy Towns' competition is not mandatory, so we will not be entering this year. Shirley mentioned that we have won an award in the Tidy Towns previously.

Christine wondered why we can't enter it this year. Victoria explained that there is not much time to the deadline.

Belinda advised that the executive committee is on a 3-month probation with Council.

Shirley mentioned that Council holds a forum for Barmedman community to have a say with issues and suggestions. She will advise when she has a date.

2. Project: The Courthouse –

- Grant application through Council for repairs
- cleaning the courthouse - ask for volunteer help
- purchase basic cleaning supplies
- painting courthouse fence
- photographic and planning assessment audit after cleaning
- Upgrade back room for community use, such as meetings, groups, rug-making, arts and crafts.

Belinda advises that the cleaning of the courthouse has to be done before the repairs are undertaken by council. The keys need to be signed for if someone wants access and the keys need to remain with an executive committee member.

Shirley mentioned that when the funds are available in the bank then we will ask for volunteers to assist.

Belinda said that the loom has been moved to the courthouse. The loom can be used in the 'Sisters' room' for community/craft projects.

Christine Inman moved to add the Courthouse project to the committee projects. Seconded by Gary Brouwer. Crd.

3. Project: Sports ground garden from the Post Office donation

- When bank account is opened the purchase of trees/plants etc
- Volunteers requested for this project

Victoria Middleton moved to add the Sports ground garden project to the committee projects. Seconded by Belinda Hall. Crd.

4. Looking after the 8 blisters (Queen Street verge gardens) with Marilyn's departure.

Victoria Middleton and Christine Inman have volunteered to maintain 4 blisters each. They will clean up and prune them. Perhaps add, basil, coriander and succulents, Gary mentioned.

5. Give a 355 Committee Report to the community: Newsletter/Blog

Victoria advised that Belinda is creating a community blog to not only involve Barmedman in 355 Committee events, but to be an information page about us to potential tourists and a marketing outlet to acknowledge businesses

who support events and projects/donations etc.

Belinda said she will proceed with the Barmedman Blog and do a sub-section of the 355 Committee.

6. **Barmedman Arts & Craft Coffee Shop** assistance of funds.

Victoria said that as Keith is absent from the meeting, we will not be able to discuss the assistance of Arts & Crafts Coffee Shop.

7. Shirley suggested that our **meetings** be held at 4pm the last Tuesday of the month. Next meeting to be held on 27th June, 2023.

Moved by Shirley Clay. Seconded by Gary. Crd.

8. **Barmedman Show (Sept).** Christine wants us to investigate us doing it.

Shirley said that it has been 8 years since the last show. An emergency meeting was held then, but only 3 people came to offer help, and a lot of people are needed to do it. Belinda mentioned Arianah Park show, but Shirley noted that we don't have the population willing to commit to it and Wagga had trouble doing their shows and they are a city.

Belinda offered that it could be a different show, perhaps specific to something.

All members agreed that the Committee will not pursue the Barmedman Show.

9. **The Tractor Pull.** Gary brought up the popularity of the Tractor Pull. Belinda and Gary will investigate the Tractor Pull elsewhere. Shirley said they started in Quambatook and are on a circuit. Gary said that Kevin is still interested.

10. **Queen Street Footpath Markets in Spring.**

Shirley advised that markets have not been successful in the past, possibly because West Wyalong hold regular markets and stall holders need to know they will make up their travel expenses.

Victoria suggested we do a themed market under the Queen Street awnings and advertise to camping/traveller websites.

Gary suggested to hold it in the Spring. Victoria noted that we have to plan a date around harvest. (Perhaps first week of September).

Moved by Gary Brouwer. Seconded by Victoria Middleton. Crd.

11. **Fundraising Competitions.**

Belinda said that competitions should be held for fundraising.

Victoria mentioned an art competition and Gary said that we could ask for artists to recreate original artworks. Belinda said that if we have an art competition, we can hang the entries and winners up as showcased artwork.

Moved by Gary Brouwer. Seconded by Belinda Hall. Crd.

12. **Sports Ground maintenance.** Gary has done a cursory clean with the high pressure hose and noticed wasp nests in the toilets.

Chris said the water runs back from the toilet and the Council have fixed it.

Gary said we need the stainless-steel urinals thoroughly cleaned. Gary noted the toilet paper is being stolen. Victoria mentioned that at the meeting with Council, Council said they will address the issue of supplying and fitting a secure toilet paper dispenser in both toilets.

Gary mentioned that the campers go to the Wikicampers website and he has updated the website which gives all the functions of our campsites. Campers told him that the \$10 fee is too cheap.

13. Christine asked about selling cheap products for **Food Bank**. Anne Shubert from the Arts & Crafts Coffee Shop is organising the Food Bank. Shirley mentioned that there will be an announcement when ready.

Belinda Hall Closed the Meeting at 6:53 pm.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 27th June, 2023, at 4:00 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Mirrool Silo Kick Committee

Sunday 14/05/23

Meeting Commenced: 17.00

Present: As per attendance sheet attached

Apologies: Joe Catlin, Graham & Leah Maxwell, Jack Maguire, Jack Fisher, Liz Walsh, .

President

Opened Meeting

Treasurers Report

Bruce Baker advised of the financial position of the committee so that we could decide who to donate to this year

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Not reviewed.

New Business

- Meeting was called to discuss the donations being made this year following a successful fund raising due to the Silo Kick Day. It was decided that we would donate \$15,000 to CanAssist in Ardlethan and a further \$5000 to Sharon Gordon due to the passing of her husband

- Bruce Baker moved that we transfer \$10,000 from the working account into the savings account. Chris Wolski seconded.
- Discussion was had about the sponsors luncheon. This will be held at Mirrool Hotel on the 18th June 2023 starting at 12pm.
- J Scott to draft the invitation and get signed by Jason as President. This will be a hot sit down meal with Brett and Bonnie to donate some lamb and Mirrool Hotel to supply pork and chicken and the rest of the meal. Cost will be \$25 per head including a dessert.
- Jason and J Scott to decide who was being invited
- J Scott was asked if he could draft and send out the sponsors letters by the end of June
- J Scott also told the meeting that he has sold the hotel and therefore was resigning as secretary.

NEXT MEETING – 07/06/2023 @ 15.00 at Mirrool Hotel

No more business – Meeting closed 18.00

UNGARIE ADVANCEMENT GROUP GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 17th May 2023

held in the Ungarie C.W.A. Rooms

Meeting Opened: 7.05pm

Present: Brony Mason, Pam Brewer, Carol Barrett, Kerry Keatley, Vanessa Williams and Alvin Tan

Apologies: Robyn Sherd-McVey, Wendy Keatley

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were read.

Moved that they be accepted as read: Carol Barrett, 2nd Pam Brewer Passed

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Discussion:

- Kerry clarified that our meeting minutes are distributed to Councillors, but are not actually read out at Council meeting.
- Ungarie PreLoved were happy to donate the TV to us, but Robyn has been unable to get it to work. **Vanessa will have a look at it to see if she can get it working.**
- Big Football fading issue: Kerry is still trying to contact Andy Gordon about this.
- Cracks in Wood Sculpture: Kerry got on to Brandon who replied with a text. He said the wood will settle after its first summer, and the cracks should close up in the cooler weather. If they don't, they can be filled with coloured putty. Give it a few months and contact him if there are still problems.
- OPTUS have blocked Alvin's phone, although he did get the Post Office phone working, finally
- 150th Celebration invoicing issues
 - Bland Shire Council GM Grant Baker replied to Vanessa's enquiries in an email
 - Council billed us \$11,973.25 for the Book of Memories and it has been paid
 - Ben Murrells hasn't been paid for Brandon's accommodation and meals, and the Draught Horse team's meals (Grant Baker told Vanessa to send the invoice to him)
 - Peter Cox (scriptwriter) didn't get paid as he did not have an ABN
 - Ross Harmer didn't get paid for the costumes but is happy to wear that cost as everything else went so well
 - Brandon's sculpture and travel cost \$11,466.40
 - Kerry Keatley still owed \$2180 for extra polo shirts and caps
 - Everyone else has been paid
- OH&S Risk Management Workshop: GM Grant Baker read our last minutes and will follow up about training for committee members. Kerry said we need to be accredited before the Council will give us the finished signs for the main street gardens.
- Work on widening the bridge has recommenced and should be complete in a couple of weeks.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ungarie Advancement Group Account Balance as of 17/5/23

\$8,464.90

Ungarie Historical Society Account as of 17/5/23

\$6518.35 (unchanged)

Garden Account as of 17/5/23

\$1044.64 (unchanged)

Moved that the Reports be accepted and accounts passed for payment.

Kerry Keatley to be reimbursed \$2180 for extra caps and polo shirts bought for the 150th Celebration.

Moved Carol Barrett, 2nd. Pam Brewer. Passed

CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from Grant Baker, BSC GM to Vanessa (already discussed in Business Arising)
- Margot Jolly's Museum Advisor Reports for March and May (none for April) read out and passed around
- Robyn Sherd-McVey's email correspondence with Margot Jolly and Marina Uys (BSC) read out

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion

- Museum:
 - This month's opening was quite successful. Will open first Sunday of each month.
 - Old machinery out the back of the museum is not under cover and weathering
 - **Kerry Keatley to look into the possibility of renovating/bracing the old Gaol**
- POST OFFICE PUBLIC MEETING
 - Carol Barrett requested that the Advancement Group support a public meeting to discuss the future of Ungarie's Community Postal Agency
 - She tendered a draft flyer for the meeting, which points out that she and her team have kept the PO running for over 92 weeks, but they now need to hand over to a new CPA and team. Training will be involved, and personnel needed for mail runs.
 - Carol also tendered an information sheet outlining the situation at the CPA and the issues with Probate which are hindering the sale of the PO and handover to new operators. It also points out that Australia Post arranged to make a payment of \$780/month to keep the Agency doors open and mail sorted, but the Agency has actually only been receiving \$395/month.
 - Contracts for mail runs have been renewed recently.
 - There is strong interest in purchasing the Agency, but the need for the Probate issue to be resolved is preventing this.
 - **Moved that a public meeting to discuss the future of the Ungarie Post Office be held on Monday the 29th of May in the Memorial Hall, starting at 7pm. Moved Carol Barrett, 2nd Vanessa Williams**
 - Carol will invite Pat O'Kane to be present to speak.
 - Vanessa will do promotional work (facebook, notice boards, school news).
 - Carol to inform Council of the meeting, with representatives invited to attend
- Rob Anderson introduced himself: he and his wife have moved here from Coffs Harbour, having bought the old National Bank residence.
- Alvin Tan spoke some more on OPTUS
 - Those with 3G or 4G (with no VOLTE – Voice Over Long Term Evolution) can not make voice calls. OPTUS will not deal with him as he is no longer a customer of theirs. Many other locals have also shifted away from OPTUS
 - He contacted the Regional Hub (NSW Farmers) and they have taken his detail
 - He called the Department of Communications in Canberra, but no resolution
 - OPTUS claim they are under no obligation to fix the tower (TELSTRA must provide landline/mobile service for their customers)
 - Only option left is to contact a politician to find if there is legislation saying that OPTUS must repair equipment: **Alvin will contact local member Michael McCormack, and will draft up a notice warning of the coming 3G closure (Telstra in June 2023, and OPTUS in September 2024) to ensure locals are aware of the issue.**
- Pigeon problem: pigeons are multiplying in town. **Contact Council re control measures.**

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 16/8/23

MEETING CLOSED at 8.35pm

UNGARIE RETIREMENT VILLAGE
GENERAL MEETING- MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023
Held at the Ungarie Central Hotel

Meeting Opened: 7.10pm

Present: Carol Barrett, Harry Rowling, Robyn Sherd, John Barron, Kerry Keatley, Graham Ward, Michelle Potter.

Apologies: Anthony Archibald.

With Les Williams currently unavailable, the Meeting was chaired by Harry Rowling.

Harry congratulated Les Williams on the job that he has done whilst President of the Ungarie Retirement Village.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting were read.

Moved that these minutes be accepted as read: Harry Rowling
2nd: Kerry Keatley
Passed.

Treasurers Report

Current Balance \$84,773.45

Term Deposit has been closed.

Books were audited, as per Council requirements, and Financial Report submitted to Council by 31st August 2022.

Moved that Treasurers Report be accepted: Kerry Keatley
2nd: Graham Ward.
Passed.

Correspondence

Out going- 9th June 2022- Letter to Ms Pauline Cullen of Warialda re her request for a residency application form for Kurrapark Lodge Retirement Village.

We explained that residency is not automatically granted, and applications must go before the Committee for approval. Letter also explained that “Kurrapark Lodge” was set up to cater for the Community of Ungarie, and the needs of local residents will be given 1st consideration.

13th July 2022- Residency Application forms sent to Helen Cattle and Janice Whiley.

Incoming- Letter from Ms Pauline Cullen of Warialda. Very critical of the Retirement Village Committee. Claimed that she was told that she could move into

the village. Committee members strongly dispute her claims as all applications require a completed application form be submitted before approval is granted, and the vacant unit in question was still being refurbished when Ms Cullen visited, and was not ready for anyone to move in.

* Completed Residency Application Forms received from Helen Cattle and Janice Whiley.

Motion moved: The applications for Residency as submitted by Mrs Helen Cattle and Mrs Janice Whiley be accepted.

Moved: Carol Barrett

2nd: Kerry Keatley
Passed.

General Meeting Closed: 7.17pm

General Meeting followed immediately by AGM.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the UNGARIE RETIREMENT VILLAGE
MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023

Minutes of the Previous AGM were read.

Moved that they be Accepted as read: Kerry Keatley

2nd: John Barron
Passed.

ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman- Harry Rowling

Moved: Kerry Keatley

2nd: John Barron.
Passed.

Secretary- Carol Barrett stood down as Secretary.

New Secretary- Michelle Potter

Moved: Carol Barrett

2nd: Harry Rowling
Passed.

Treasurer- Kerry Keatley

Moved: Harry Rowling

2nd: Graham Ward
Passed.

Vice President- Graham Ward

Moved: Harry Rowling

2nd: John Barron

Passed.

General Business

* **Bank Signatories-** Outgoing Secretary, Carol Barrett, and retiring President Les Williams will be removed as signatories. The new signatories to be President Harry Rowling, Secretary Michelle Potter, Treasurer Kerry Keatley. The Account will operate as 2 to sign. As it is sometimes difficult to find a second Committee member to co-sign, it was suggested that the Vice President, Graham Ward, be also added as a signatory to the Bank Account.

Moved: Kerry Keatley

nd

2 : Carol Barrett

Passed.

* **Renovation Work to Units 5 & 6-** Majority of building work has now been completed, as well as the painting of the interior of the Units, and the fitting of new stoves. All that needs to be done now is the electrical work, fitting of safety rails in bathroom, and the plumber to finalise fitting the toilets in both units.

It is expected that the Units should be ready for Helen Cattle, and Janice Whiley to move in by the end of the month.

* **Split System Air Conditioners for all 6 Units-** Local Electrician, Ryan McClintock has supplied a quote for the supply and fitting of the 6 Split System Air Conditioners.

Motion moved that Ryan McClintock's quote be accepted.

Moved: Kerry Keatley

nd

2 : Harry Rowling

Passed.

* **Retirement Village requires Handyman-** The Retirement Village Committee feels that they require a Handyman to attend to maintenance issues around the Village. It was suggested that a meeting be held once a month to talk to residents about issues with the buildings. The Committee would then contact the Handyman to do the repairs.

Motion: The Retirement Village Committee to hire a Handyman to attend to basic building maintenance.

Moved: Graham Ward

2nd: John Barron

Passed.

* **More Undercover Parking required at Village-** Once the 2 new residents move into the Village, there will be 6 vehicles at the facility, however only 4 undercover parking spaces. Committee to check with Council about the approval process needed to erect another carport to accommodate the additional 2 vehicles.

* **Footpath Safety-** Robyn Sherd asked about the safety issues with some of the footpaths at the Village that the Council Safety Officer had looked at last year. The Committee will endeavour to find out which areas need to be repaired or improved.

* **Problems with spiders and bugs-** Some of the residents have been experiencing problems with spiders and bugs in their units.

Motion: That the Retirement Village be sprayed by Green Pestie to control spiders and other insects.

Moved: Harry Rowling

2nd: Jack Barron

Passed.

Meeting Closed 8.01pm.