

Business Paper
Council Meeting
19 December 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
December 2023			
19 December	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Chambers

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT**
2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
3. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE**
4. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**
5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
 - 5.1 Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 21 November 2023
 - 5.2 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 5 December 2023
 - 5.2 Matters arising from Minutes
6. **REPORTS FROM STAFF**
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7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

8. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

- 8.1 Property Purchase – 20 Calleen Street 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*

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Section 1 – Executive Services

6.1 Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions: December 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: December 2023.

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
JUNE 2023		
Property Sale 20 Calleen St, West Wyalong 14062023 RESOLVED that Council authorise the General Manager to enter into negotiations for the sale of 20 Calleen St West Wyalong.	Director Technical Services	12/7: negotiations commenced, see report to this meeting
AUGUST 2023		
Tender – Town and Village Entrance Signage 16082023 RESOLVED that Council award the tender for the design, manufacture and installation of new town and village entrance signage to the Church Communities Australia t/a Danthonia Designs to the value of \$227,862.00 (Ex GST) subject to variations.	Director Technical Services	5/10: purchase order raised 7/11: sign manufacturing and delivery underway 13/12: installation underway - Completed
General Manager Annual Performance Review for period ending 30 June 2023 20082023 RESOLVED: 1. That Council note the report of the Performance Review Panel 2. The matter of the appropriateness of the General Manager's Total Remuneration Package be subject to a further report to Council.	General Manager	5/10: Awaiting further report
SEPTEMBER 2023		
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 11092023 RESOLVED that Council endorse and submit applications to the Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 for the following projects: 1. Under Part A of the Program Totalling \$1,878,827 Project Budget (\$) Pound Replacement 640,000 RSL Walk - completion 220,000 West Wyalong Pool works 245,000 Rugby Union / Camp Draft precinct recycled water supply 410,000 Rose Garden 157,000 Building works 186,827 2. Under Part B of the program Totalling \$1,067,021 Road Location Cost Estimate (\$) Quandialla 42km from Newell Hwy 100,000	Director Technical Services	9/10 Projects lodged with LRCI awaiting approval 13/12: Approval for projects received. Project planning commenced Completed

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
Quandialla 46km from Newell Hwy 320,000		
Quandialla 57km from Newell Hwy 200,000		
Bartels 5.7km from Newell Hwy 210,000		
Morangarell 14.8km from Quandialla Rd 237,021		

OCTOBER 2023		
<p>Renovation Costs - Community Care Building 09102023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <p>a) Notes the information contained within the report on Renovation Costs for the Community Care Building.</p> <p>b) Approve those unexpended funds for completion of landscaping works identified as part of the initial project remain until such time as the work is undertaken.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>15/11: Landscaping work will commence in the New Year following the return of Council's Building Maintenance Officer who has carriage of site works.</p>
<p>Riverina Regional Library Mobile Library Services 11102023 RESOLVED that:</p> <p>a) Council endorse the proposal to deliver library services to the communities of Barmedman, Ungarie, Weethalle and Tallimba as part of the Riverina Regional Libraries Mobile Library schedule from July 2024.</p> <p>b) Council include a financial allocation within the 2024-2025 Budget to cover the anticipated costs of the improved library services.</p> <p>c) Ongoing funding of the Mobile Library Services be funded from the Community Enhancement Fund.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>15/11: Riverina Regional Library has been advised of Council's intention to implement the Mobile Library Service. Additional discussions to be held on service specifics following input from Councillors.</p>
<p>Strengthening Communities Application – Skin Check Truck 12102023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <p>a) refuse the application for funding of the Skin Check Truck visit under the Strengthening Communities Fund.</p> <p>b) acknowledge the significant positive outcomes, access to this service would provide, and further explore opportunities for implementing a five-year program of visits by the Skin Check Truck in partnership with Evolution Mining.</p> <p>c) make provisions for funding the project for a five-year period as part of its annual budget processes.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>15/11: Applicant advised of Council decision and plan to implement more frequent/longer visits to Bland Shire. 13/12 Contact to be made directly with Skin Check early in 2024 to identify future visit dates and locations.</p>
<p>Additional Permitted Use, West Wyalong Airport Planning Proposal - Drag Strip Project 15102023 RESOLVED that Council:</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>7/11: Planning Proposal has received a gateway determination from Dept of Planning. Council is working through the next steps</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
1) endorse the Additional Permitted Use, West Wyalong Airport Planning Proposal for referral to the Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination; 2) delegate the General Manager to make changes to the Planning Proposal if required by the Department of Planning and Environment so long as the objectives of the proposal are achieved; and 3) delegate the General Manager to commence public exhibition of the Planning Proposal if required by the Department of Planning and Environment.		
NOVEMBER 2023		
Ordinary Meeting held on 17 October 2023 01112023 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 17 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record of proceedings with the following amendment: “Council Meeting and Workshop Dates 2024. That Council adopt the Council Meeting and Workshop Schedule for 2024 as provided in Attachment A with an amendment to reschedule the proposed August 6 Workshop to July 30.”	Executive Assistant	12/12: amendments noted, confirmed minutes uploaded. COMPLETE

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Annual Report 2022/23 03112023 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council receives and notes the Bland Shire Council Annual Report for the year 2022/23. 2. That the Annual Report be amended to include Councillor Workshop attendance. 3. The 2022/23 Bland Shire Council Annual Report be published on Council's website. 4. The NSW Office of Local Government be advised accordingly. 	Executive Assistant	12/12: Councillor Workshop attendance information included, Annual Report published and OLG advised on 28 November. COMPLETE
<p>Christmas 2023 – Council Closure 04112023 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council note the closure of council offices from midday (12 noon) on Thursday 21 December 2023 and reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024. 2. That the Mayor and General Manager are delegated authority to deal with any urgent matters during the Christmas and New Year period for 2023 – 2024. 	General Manager	13/12: closure advertised. COMPLETE
<p>Carry Forward Works 2022/23 07112023 RESOLVED that Council approve the requested budget balances, as detailed in the Carry Forward document, for the amount of \$229,660 to be carried forward to the 2023/24 financial period.</p>	Director Corporate & Community Services	13/12 COMPLETED
<p>Councillor Superannuation Contributions 09112023 RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Council determine to make superannuation contribution payments to Councillors starting 22 November 2023 in accordance with the Superannuation Guarantee requirements. b) Superannuation contribution payments for Councillors be taken into account when developing and adopting future Annual Budgets and the Long-Term Financial Plan. c) A budget adjustment to accommodate costs associated with payment of Superannuation for Councillors be made at the December quarterly review. d) Councillors' superannuation contribution payments be included in the Councillors Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities policy. 	Director Corporate & Community Services	13/12: Reminder sent to Councillors on requirements to identify Superannuation Fund by 19/12.

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Strengthening Communities Application – West Wyalong Hospital Auxiliary 10112023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <p>A) Refuse the application for funding of the West Wyalong Hospital Auxiliary under the Strengthening Communities Fund in the amount of \$1,224.</p> <p>B) Provide a one-off donation in the amount of \$1,500 with funds to be allocated from Council's Christmas Decorations budget.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>13/12 Event held 10/12. COMPLETED</p>
<p>Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund 14112023 RESOLVED that Council endorse the General Manager's signing and execution of the Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund funding deed variation for an extra \$6,481,778.00 (ex GST).</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>13/12 Completed</p>
<p>MA2024/0001 - S4.55(2) Modification of approved DA2022/0004 Electricity Generating Works (5MW Solar Farm) 15112023 RESOLVED that Council approves MA2024/0001 - S4.55(2) Modification of approved Electricity Generating Works (5MW Solar Farm) to include four (4) Battery Energy Storage System units and relocation of the operations and maintenance shed subject to the conditions.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>13/12 Completed – Approval granted under conditions</p>
<p>Property Purchase 19112023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegate the General Manager, Mayor or their delegate to purchase the property up to the valuation price agreed. 2. If successful that Council delegate the General Manager and the Mayor to enter into a contract to purchase the property. 3. That the purchase be funded from the Economic Development Reserve. 4. Upon successful purchase classify the land as operational land. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>13/12 Negotiations for block unsuccessful, other party offered above delegated authority and accepted by seller. Completed</p>

6.2 Delegates Report – LGNSW Conference



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

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

Author: General Manager

Introduction

The 2023 Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Conference was held at the Grand Pavillion, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse Rosehill from Sunday 12 November to Tuesday 14 November. The Conference was attended by Mayor Monaghan (voting delegate), Councillor Crowe, the General Manager and Director Corporate and Community Services.

Council resolved on 19 September 2023 to submit 2 Motions to the Conference for consideration.

The Conference is the annual policy-making event for NSW Councils and the pre-eminent event on the Local Government calendar where Councillors have the opportunity to come together to share ideas, and debate issues that shape the way we are governed and build connections with Councillors and General Managers from across NSW, to learn from the adversity of recent years.

Information

The Conference was attended by in excess of 800 delegates from across NSW. The highlights of the program were:-

Sunday 12 November

- Key note presentation
 - Kristy McBain MP Commonwealth Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
- Panel Discussion – The Housing Crisis, Lets Collaborate on Solutions Forum
- Official Opening by Councillor Darriea Turley AM (President LGNSW)
- Welcome Reception

Monday 13 November

- Welcome Address by Councillor Darriea Turley AM (President LGNSW)
- Address from Ron Hoenig MP, NSW Minister for Local Government
- ALGA Presentation by Councillor Linda Scott (President ALGA)
- Business Session (consideration of motions) chaired by Councillor Darriea Turley AM (President LGNSW)
- Conference Dinner

Tuesday 14 November

- Keynote presentations and panel session (Financial Sustainability for Councils)
 - Carmel Donnelly (Chair IPART)
 - Dr Amanda Cohn MLC (Greens Spokesperson for Local Government)
 - David Mehan MP (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer)
- Address from Mark Speakman MP (NSW Leader of the Opposition)
- Keynote presentation by Mark McCrindle (Towards 2035: Securing our future workforce)
- Panel session (Sourcing our future workforce from under-employed markets)
 - Tig Armstrong (Work and Stay)

- Helen McCabe (Future Women and Jobs Academy)
- Jane Spring AM (Chair Disability Council NSW)
- Keynote presentation by Marion Terrill, Grattan Institute (Towards a sustainable road funding model for Local Government)

The presentation by the Grattan Institute was very informative and reaffirmed the need for greater funding from government to help address local roads, particularly in the bush.

The report recommends that federal government stop favouring densely populated states with its funding arrangements and reduce the funding that goes to councils that have the ability to generate significant own source revenue.

Federal and state governments should also help under-resourced councils manage their road networks, by establishing a national road hierarchy, minimum service standards, and basic data specifications for councils to follow.

In the days following the conference the federal government announced an increase in Roads to Recovery funding to \$1 Billion (from \$500 million) a year, an increase in Black Spot funding from \$110 million to \$140 million per year.

Council submitted 2 Motions to the Conference, from Councillors on the following issues: -

1. Council co-contribution to disaster grant funding to improve assets
2. Emergency services levy – recognition on council rate notices

1. Council co-contribution to disaster grant funding to improve assets

The motion proposed by Council was included as a Category 1 Motion and as Item 98 in the business paper for consideration by the conference. Unfortunately, preceding items took considerably more time, and the conference only considered up to Item 95. The remaining items are to be considered by the LGNSW Board at a future meeting.

2. Emergency services levy – recognition on council rate notices

The motion proposed by Council was included as a Category 2 Motion which are not proposed for debate as they are existing LGNSW policy, supported by previous conference resolutions, the subject of recent representation by LGNSW or of an operational nature. Item X13 included the following note from LGNSW:-

This motion is consistent with LGNSW Policy Platform position 1.9 and is the subject of recent and ongoing advocacy. LGNSW has long advocated for the introduction of a broad-based property levy to replace the Emergency Services Levy on both insurance policies and councils, with NSW now the only state that does not fund its emergency services through a broad-based property levy.

A feature of the Conference was the announcement of the A R Bluett Memorial Awards which were announced during the conference with the 2023 winners being: -

- Inner West Council – City and Regional Category
- Singleton Council – Rural Category

The A R Bluett Memorial Award has been awarded annually since 1945 in memory of Albert Robert Bluett and has previously been awarded to Bland Shire Council. AR Bluett was an outstanding figure in local government, serving as the Secretary and Solicitor to the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW for 30 years and one of the architects of the Local Government Act of 1919.

The Conference included a trade display providing sponsors and other exhibitors an opportunity to promote their organisation or agency and network with delegates during refreshment breaks (teas and lunch).

Recommendation:

That the Delegates Report for the 2023 LGNSW Conference be received and noted.

6.3 Hearts of Gold Festival 2023



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

DP3.1 Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups

Author: Executive Assistant

Introduction

Council was allocated grant funding totalling \$239,000 under the Reconnecting Regional NSW - Community Events Program (RRN-CEP) for the Bringing Bland to Life – 6 Community Driven Events to Breathe Life Back into Bland project.

The community put forward several ideas at the May 2022 Community Reference Group meeting. All proposals received from the community were then presented to a Council Workshop from which a schedule of events was developed. Among the proposals was an idea to deliver a Cooina Waters Festival and a Hearts of Gold Festival. It was suggested by Council that these two events merge into one to create the Hearts of Gold Festival.

Council staff worked with the proponents of these events to merge their ideas into a weekend long festival format. An application was submitted under the RRN-CEP for the delivery of a number of events proposed for 17–19 March 2023. The addition of the Guinness World Record (GWR) attempt secured Evolution Cowal on board as a major sponsor for the weekend.

In December 2022 a grant variation request was lodged due to Council's limited staff resources. The variation sought to extend the project completion date and reallocate the approved funds to cover costs for the appointment of an event manager. At the same time Council received advice from the NSW Government advising of a “blanket” extension of time for all projects under the RRN-CEP Program to January 2024.

The event was rescheduled from March to 13-15 October 2023. The event proponents joined Council staff in April 2023 to convene the “Hearts of Gold Festival Working Party” and commence planning and preparations for the event. The proponents of the activities at Cooina Waters withdrew their proposal and involvement in the event resulting in a further variation to the scope. The working party was made up of representatives from the original festival proponents' group, Evolution Mining, Regal Estate and Council staff. As the grant recipient, Council was ultimately responsible for the festival and associated activities.

Opportunities for artists, community groups, schools and buskers to submit an Expression of Interest to contribute to the Festival program was encouraged and well supported resulting in a weekend full of activities.

Council staff and representatives of the Festival committee participated in a 7 week online regional event management training program. This program provided skills development and event management resources, tools and templates.

Financial Implications

The six events approved under the NSW Government Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program had a combined total budget of \$239,651 and funds remaining at the completion of each event could be used for other approved events within the program. With the other five events completed a further variation was lodged to realign the event scope and reallocate the balance of funds to the Hearts of Gold Festival being the final event to be delivered under the funding program.

The original total approved grant amount for the Hearts of Gold Festival was \$119,651. The variation to reallocate the balance of funds from the total approved grant resulted in an overall allocation of \$158,028 to the 2023 Hearts of Gold Festival.

The sponsorship from Evolution Cowal resulted in them taking the lead role in funding and the organising of the GWR attempt in liaison with the festival proponents. This activity was not included in the event scope under the grant application.

The original event budget did not allow for the allocation of any costs for Council's in-kind contributions. These costs however have been allocated and funded from the grant.

The final cost for the delivery of the 2023 Hearts of Gold Festival is \$158,854.

With the incorporation of Council's in-kind contributions and additional resources needed this is an overspend of \$826.

Summary

Hearts of Gold 2023 was a resounding success! Overall, there was overwhelming support and engagement from the community and visitors alike. The activities held throughout the weekend attracted numbers that exceeded all expectations. This resulted in adjustments to the programming and increased demand for logistics and resources to ensure the safe and effective delivery of the event.

The Council staff involved in the successful delivery of this event are extremely proud of their contributions and the enjoyment evidenced in the community. They worked tirelessly alongside the other members of the Hearts of Gold Festival Working Party developing strong working relationships over the many months of planning for the event and collectively achieved great outcomes for the Bland Shire community.

The bringing together of Council and community representatives to deliver the event and attendance at the regional events management training has provided capacity building opportunities for community members and ultimately Council that is hoped will drive future event activities within Bland Shire.

The festival activities included in the grant funding scope included:

- Community Fun Night
- Drone Show
- Main Street Activities
- Golden Gala at Regal Estate
- Colour Run and Breakfast

Council also initiated the photography competition and a local shopping promotion launched in the lead up to the festival.

Other business and community led activities and events held and promoted in conjunction with the festival included:

- Seek Fitness Spin Bike Challenge
- Wishart Gallery Art Exhibition and Resin Art Workshops
- Volunteer Gardeners Open Day
- Tom's Toys and Treasures
- Behind the Gate Collectables

Councillors may recall previous advice that the event proponents are not part of an incorporated group/committee and have no insurance. Since the festival, the Hearts of Gold Committee has commenced the process of establishing a formal identity for delivering community events into the future.

A post event review process has been undertaken and the Hearts of Gold Committee have collated a summary document of the events held and feedback received, this is attached for further information.

The final report under the Reconnecting Regional NSW - Community Events Program (RRN-CEP) for the Bringing Bland to Life – 6 Community Driven Events to Breathe Life Back into Bland project is due by April 2024 and is on track for completion ahead of the deadline.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the final report on the 2023 Hearts of Gold Festival.

Hearts of Gold Festival Report

The Hearts of Gold Festival was held on the weekend 13th, 14th, 15th October 2023. This event was created to give our Shire an opportunity to have a yearly event that achieves the following:

Brings the community together.

Gives us something to look forward to

Brings Tourism to the town.

Injects funds into the town and local businesses.

Gives community groups the chance to hold a fundraiser / open day.

Makes the community feel like a community, showcasing our “Hearts of Gold” and for those families that are visiting or are here temporarily for work, considering staying long term.

We believe this Festival achieved all of the above, it certainly exceeded the committee’s expectations and gave us the drive to make this an annual event.

Friday Family Fun Night:

-2955 people in attendance.

Of those, from the questionnaire we conducted on the front gate, these are the statistics:

70% from Postcode 2671

9.5% from postcode 2669

2.2% from postcode 2650

2.2% from postcode 2668

2.3% from postcode 2666

The rest have 10 or less people coming from the following postcodes:

2428, 4357, 2158, 2640, 2018, 2794, 2140, 2152, 2587, 2530, 2805, 2290, 2721, 2753, 2795, 2093, 2330, 2261, 3960, 2227, 2701, 2833, 2681, 2830, 2820, 2615, 3803, 2664, 2540, 2621, 2739, 2665, 2871, 3720, 3840, 2350, 2877, 2218, 2327, 2673, 2810, 2799, and, 6 from Denmark!

- When asked the question “Would you be here if it was not for free?”
93.6% answered yes. 6.1% answered no. 6 people said it would depend on cost.

- When asked the question “How did you hear about this event?”
 - Social Media – 50%
 - Word of Mouth – 39%
 - Newspaper - 3.9%
 - Radio - 2.3%
 - Other - 4.5%

- When asked the question if they are attending any other events over the weekend:

Brunch and Browse	- 47%
Guinness World Record Attempt	- 15%
Regal Estate Golden Gala	- 3.7%
Colour Run	- 21%
Other Community events	- 12.4%

After the Festival had concluded, we conducted an online survey through Survey Monkey for all members of the community to fill out to give us some feedback. We had 48 responses. Please note not all respondents completed every question.

Please rate the Family Fun Night out of 10:

- 10 – 28 people
- 9 – 6 people
- 8 – 8 people
- 7 – 1 person
- 6 – 3 people
- 5 – 1 person
- 0 responses for 4, 3, 2, 1.

Please tick the Free Entertainment available on the Family Fun Night that you enjoyed most. (Can tick more than one answer)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Jumping Castles | - 40% |
| Dodgem Cars | -46.67% |
| Merry Go Round | -26.67% |
| Trampolines | -31.11% |
| Aladdin Ride | -20% |
| Mechanical Bull | - 31.11% |
| Stilt Walkers | - 42.22% |
| Sandpit | - 11.11% |
| Lawn Games | - 15.56% |
| Drone Show | - 91.11% |

We also asked for feedback on their most favourite and least favourite elements of the evening. The overwhelming feedback was that the atmosphere and event was excellent, however most people had an issue with the wait times for food. We started contacting food vans about 12 months in advance, and in total we contacted around 100 different providers. A lot of them weren't willing to book when we couldn't give accurate numbers, as they must consider their base costs, including travel.

As we didn't know how many people were attending, a lot of food vans were not interested in attending as it wasn't worth the risk. We liaised with professional caterers who advised us the formula to work out the correct number of vans to the number of people attending. We based this number off 1000 people as we believed that was how many would attend. 3 months out from the event we were still under 1,000 tickets sold. Even 3 weeks out, we were at 1350 tickets sold. We could have never predicted the 3,000 tickets sold in total.

We rang as many as vans we could at this late date, but they all understandably had other events booked in by then.

We now have a base number for future years and can more accurately cater to this, so this issue shouldn't arise again.

- Feedback from Security was that it was a night with no incidents, everyone was on their best behaviour, and everyone was having a good time. He said our community was a great bunch of people. (Which we already knew!)
- Community groups on the evening were:
 - West Wyalong Rugby League Club made \$6,000 from the bar.
 - West Wyalong Public School P&C made \$1200 from Glow Stick sales.
 - St Mary's school Community Council made a profit, amount not disclosed.

Platform, the sensory space hired from Eastern Riverina Arts was also a huge success, with 553 participants on the night. Some visitor comments:

- Participant, 9 years old "That was magnificent!"
- Parent: oh, we'll need this quiet space later!"
- Grandparent, 'This is genuinely amazing. I just want to curl up in here and never leave!
- This is so important; I work in a dementia ward and wish we had a space like this!
- Participant, 13 years old: This is my favourite! I have autism and if I get a bit overwhelmed, I'll come back here.

Feedback from Kelly's Coaches:

Pete: I have spoken with our drivers, and they all said they were very happy with how the night panned out with the buses. Plenty of room for our buses to park, passengers got on and off easily. All ran very smoothly. Well done to your team.

Saturday Brunch and Browse:

Brunch and Browse was another successful event with a huge amount of people attending.

Feedback from multiple businesses was that they made at least 25% above their usual profits for not only the day, but the week leading up to the festival.

One business stated they had their best weekend ever, and bought their staff presents to say thank you for working so hard.

The Shopping promo that was offered saw over 420 entries into the draw, which meant that was minimum of 1260 purchases locally.

Community Groups that attended and benefited from the event:

West Wyalong Show Society

Spinners and Weavers

The Shaka Project

Hospital Auxiliary

Spin Bike Challenge - \$15,000 raised for Can Assist

The stage at Thom's corner saw many local talents, schools and choirs' book in and perform. Claudia Hopper and Jane Hopper co-ordinated the booking of the stage and was a positive opportunity for her to have some experience in event organisation. This stage drew many families and locals in to watch performances.

Local businesses embraced the theme with most businesses dressing their shops in Hearts of Gold.

Survey Monkey results:

"Please rate the Saturday morning Brunch and Browse event overall out of 10:

10 – 17 people

9 – 4 people

8 – 8 people

7 – 4 people

6 – 4 people

5 – 3 people

3 – 1 person.

No results for 4, 2, 1.

Please tick the free entertainment available on the Saturday Brunch and Browse that you enjoyed most. (Can tick more than one answer)

Jumping Castles	– 51.61%
Petting Zoo	- 51.61%
Face Painting	- 48.39%
Pooka Roaming Entertainment (Balloon Sculptor)	– 41.94%
Stilt Walkers	- 61.29%
Lawn Games	- 9.68%

The general feedback was it was a fun morning with plenty to do, however they would have liked it to have more stall holders. We do sympathise with this, and we believe, now that we have our first year under our belt, that word of mouth will get out and next year will be bigger and better.

Guinness World Record Attempt:

This was a mammoth task to pull together, and the amount of work behind the scenes took up over half of the full festival's organisation. GWR rules and regulations were almost impossible to follow, and this almost fell over multiple times as it was almost – too hard.

The fact that this was pulled together, and we were successful, from an organisers point of view, shows that if we can do that, we can do anything. The enormity of the work is not understood by most people.

This element of the festival will be a once off, we do not have the funds or the hours to repeat this at this point in time.

Evolution worked as hard as us in pulling this together, and Renee Pettit and Lynsey Reilly were the main organisers. Thank you to them for their hard work.

Feedback from the GWR Adjudicator was that this was one of the most organised attempts he has attended and that he got an opportunity to enjoy the event instead of scrambling to complete paperwork, as we have already ticked most boxes.

Feedback from participants was it was lots of fun, a unique opportunity, and had a feeling of being a part of something special.

The goal of this event was to put West Wyalong on the international map, and we believe we did so with a successful Guinness World Record.

Regal Estate Golden Gala

Michelle Wheatley did an incredible job of organising the Golden Gala. Michelle attended most of our council meetings and helped, not only with her event, but with the entire weekend. She was generous, giving and always positive and bubbly. She was a pleasure to work with.

The night opened Regal Estates business to showcase the event side of their business, and as a result of the Golden Gala, Michelle said she has received many bookings for future events. The HoG Festival helped their business with exposure and promotion.

Participants had a very positive experience, and the feedback was that it was a beautiful backdrop and a special night, they had a lot of fun. Well done Michelle and Regal Estate.

Sunday Colour Fun Run

West Wyalong Rugby Union Club made \$2550 profit from the Colour Run.

Hospital Auxiliary made \$1500 from the BBQ.

The numbers for this event exceeded expectations and we had 252 registrations, about half of this amount pre booked only. Even with the unexpected amount, the Rugby Union Club pulled off a very successful event and to watch the excitement and joy on the children's faces was beautiful.

Bland Shire Council coincided the opening of the Ninja Park and Bike Track with the Colour Run which gave the opportunity for everyone to enjoy a free sausage sandwich. Thank you, Bland Shire Council.

West Wyalong Volunteer Gardeners Event

West Wyalong Volunteer Gardeners held an open gardens event, with multiple homes opening their doors, as well as a fashion parade, all outfits from Vinnies. This was a very successful event and they raised \$5,000 for Can Assist. Thank you and well done to this committee.

Overall:

The committee believes that every aspect of the festival was a huge success and, other than a few tweaks here and there, we believe that the formula of the weekend worked well and catered to a broad range of demographics within the community. We are thrilled with how the weekend went and it gave us the drive to deliver this to the community on a yearly basis.

The Hearts of Gold Festival reached national coverage with Greg Granger attending the full weekend with "Travelling Oz" TV show, which aired on Channel SevenTwo on November 18th. This painted our whole town in an extremely positive light. Thank you to Marina Uys for organising Greg to attend, it added a whole layer of special to the weekend.

Survey Monkey:

“What is the likelihood of you coming back next year?”

I can't wait for next year 89.17%

I'm not sure whether I will come back next year 4.58%

I will not be attending next year 0.00%

Other 6.25%

(“Other” comments – “We are relocating so potentially won't be back only due to that.”
“Look forward to the event pending what's planned.”)

What was your Favourite moment of the Festival? (These are some of the comments, a lot were very similar.)

Drone Show x 8 responses

Family Fun Night x 10 responses

The enjoyment and support of the Community.

The atmosphere of the festival – it was great.

The food, music, and Family time.

Family Fun Night – we loved seeing how much fun our kids had!

Saturday morning walking the streets.

Just having something on in town was great! And it will only get better so well done!

The excitement on everyone's faces.

We loved the Colour run.

The way it brought the community together and seeing everyone get amongst it!

Gala night at the winery!

It was all fantastic, well done to the committee.

All of it was such a great family weekend, better than our local show.

This is some of the feedback and comments we received from people after the festival.

- The Festival was amazing! Our family from out of town rated it very highly and our kids keep asking when the next one is. It's exactly what our town needed. Thankyou!
- I've been involved in a lot of my town events and considering it was your first one, omg job well done! It was FABULOUS! It can only get bigger and better.
- An awesome effort and so great that you could help other community organisations along the way. We all enjoyed it so much.

- A truly wonderful festival.
- Congratulations to you all. A huge effort and a spectacular weekend. You catered for everyone and look how it turned out.
- Congratulations ladies, you did West Wyalong proud.
- Our kids had an absolute ball and are sad it is no longer festival weekend. Thank you so much.
- What a CREW! Absolutely fabulous weekend. Thank you so much as a resident and a business owner.

The committee would like to address the issue of the date clash with the Mirrool Silo Kick.

We held fortnightly meetings with council for most of the time on the lead up to the festival, being 18 months. When we were discussing the October date, we checked the council calendar and there was nothing booked in for that weekend. We announced the festival dates almost exactly a year in advance, in October 2022. This was announced on Bland Shire Council Facebook page, and no one flagged the date clash with us then. We didn't know it was a date clash, and that the Mirrool Silo Kick was even happening, until about 5 weeks out from the festival. By then it was obviously too late to do anything about it. If we had known earlier, we could have investigated options to accommodate both events.

Also, moving forward, we respect that the Mirrool Silo Kick has been happening for many years, so we have decided to support other local events and move our festival to the third weekend in October, being 18th, 19th, 20th October 2024.

6.4 Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Committee



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

DP4.1. Facilitate Council events to build social capital and a sense of belonging within the community

Author: General Manager

Introduction

The Australia Day Awards Committee meeting was held at the Bland Shire Council Chambers on Tuesday 12 December.

As per the Terms of Reference, after structured discussion the committee made a series of recommendations regarding the Australia Day Award recipients for the consideration of Council.

The recommendations are contained within the confidential minutes of the meeting and have been provided under separate cover for Council's consideration.

Arrangements are currently being made for a Mayoral Function on the evening prior to Australia Day, and Council staff are coordinating the Australia Day Breakfast event in conjunction with West Wyalong Lions Club.

Financial Implications

Australia Day Awards are funded from within existing budgetary allocations.

Summary

The Committee has made a series of recommendations regarding the recipients of the 2024 Australia Day Awards for the consideration of Council.

Recommendation:

1. That the minutes of the Australia Day Awards Committee meeting held on 12 December 2023, be received and noted.
 2. That the Australia Day Awards Committee recommended recipients of the 2024 Australia Day Awards, be adopted by Council.
-

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

6.5 Finance and Investment Report for November 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 NOVEMBER 2023.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2023

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$6,742,101.93
Business Card	\$30,000.00
	\$6,772,101.93
<i>Invested Funds</i>	
Fixed Deposits	\$73,200,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$6,085,445.68
	\$79,285,445.68
Net Balance	\$86,057,547.61
Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance	92.13%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 30.11.2023

SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING DECEMBER 19, 2023

BALANCE as at 01.11.23 **\$5,881,647.93**

Add Receipts

Receipts Over \$150,000

02/11/23 DPE Flood OLG23-060 Flood	1,000,000.00
09/11/23 Transfer from CAC	1,000,000.00
16/11/23 Australian Unity Term Deposit Redempt.	2,000,000.00
24/11/23 Evolution - Rates	264,624.25
29/11/23 Transport NSW RERRF Grant Funding	6,481,778.00
30/11/23 Bulk Rates Payment	236,423.65
30/11/23 Transfer to CAC	-4,000,000.00

Receipts Under \$150,000 2,395,751.42

Total Receipts for November 2023 **\$9,378,577.32**

Less Payments

Payments over \$150,000

01/11/23 Rods Earthmoving & Excavation	-223,564.00
07/11/23 GP Evans & Englert	-354,743.13
09/11/23 Stabilised Pavements of Australia	-1,652,066.63
09/11/23 NSW Rural Fire Service	-150,404.64
16/11/23 Police Financial Services TD	-1,000,000.00
30/11/23 Australian Unity Bank TD	-2,000,000.00
30/11/23 JUDO Bank TD	-1,000,000.00

Payments under \$150,000 -2,137,344.92

Aged Care	\$10,774.19
Bank Fees	1,301.66
Cemeteries	\$3,539.04
Children's Services	\$20,986.16
Community	\$125,231.84
Construction	\$111,774.14
Corporate	\$707,226.55
Development Services	\$100,290.29
Donation	\$5,454.42
Direct Debits	\$11,144.92
Employee	\$656,743.23
Governance	\$60,593.16
Insurance	\$64,928.14
Investments	\$4,000,000.00
Library	\$134.85
Maintenance	\$380,253.91
Plant/Fuel	\$197,641.51
Roads	\$1,985,987.24

Utilities	\$62,109.53
VIC	\$11,257.92
Waste	\$395.62
Weeds	\$355.00

Total Payments for November 2023

- **\$8,518,123.32**

CASH BALANCE

\$6,742,101.93

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank

\$ 350,000.00

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY AND CERTIFICATION

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period 01 November 2023 to 30 November 2023.

I CERTIFY,

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

Payment Type	Voucher No's	Total
Cheques	026369-026384	\$10,189.87
Auto-pay	Creditors E033724 – E034116	\$7,952,463.71
Auto-pay	Payroll 05/11/23 – 26/11/23	\$543,023.16
Bank Charges & Commissions	November 2023	\$1,301.66
Direct Debits	Repayments & Vehicle Lease	11,144.92
		\$8,518,123.32

1. Are fully supported by vouchers and invoices and have been fully registered.
2. The responsible officer concerned has certified that the goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered to order and/or that the services for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered according to order.

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

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

.....
Manager Customer and Financial
Services Responsible Accounting Officer

CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL MANAGER

This accounts summary, a copy of which was submitted to each member of Council on the 19th December 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 **\$8,518,123.32** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 19th December 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 30th November 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
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
14/12/2021	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	730 days	1.10%	14/12/2023
20/01/2022	AMP	1,000,000.00	729 days	1.35%	19/01/2024
8/12/2022	Commonwealth Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	4.38%	7/12/2023
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	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
1/03/2023	Defence Bank	1,000,000.00	371 days	5.00%	1/03/2024
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	371 days	4.80%	13/03/2024
29/03/2023	AMP	1,500,000.00	365 days	4.90%	28/03/2024
4/04/2023	Auswide Bank	1,000,000.00	365 days	4.90%	3/04/2024
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
11/05/2023	MyState Bank	1,000,000.00	223 days	5.00%	20/12/2023
11/05/2023	AMP	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.00%	9/05/2024
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 days	5.10%	29/05/2024
8/06/2023	MyState Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.45%	6/06/2024
15/06/2023	Auswide Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.40%	13/06/2024
22/06/2023	Defence Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.55%	20/06/2024

28/06/2023	Judo Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.75%	26/06/2024
29/06/2023	Judo Bank	2,000,000.00	369 days	5.75%	2/07/2024
6/07/2023	Australian Unity	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.75%	5/07/2024
13/07/2023	AMP	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.75%	11/07/2024
20/07/2023	Heritage Bank	1,000,000.00	363 Days	5.75%	17/07/2024
27/07/2023	Macquarie Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.11%	25/07/2024
16/08/2023	Bank of QLD	1,000,000.00	358 days	4.95%	8/08/2024
23/08/2023	AMP	2,500,000.00	364 days	5.40%	21/08/2024
4/09/2023	Great Southern Bank	1,000,000.00	360 days	5.22%	29/08/2024
8/09/2023	Bendigo Bank	400,000.00	365 days	4.90%	8/09/2024
8/09/2023	Bendigo Bank	400,000.00	365 days	4.90%	8/09/2024
8/09/2023	Bendigo Bank	400,000.00	365 days	4.90%	8/09/2024
14/09/2023	NAB	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.15%	12/09/2024
20/09/2023	NAB	1,000,000.00	330 days	5.15%	15/08/2024
21/09/2023	NAB	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.30%	20/09/2024
28/09/2023	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.20%	26/09/2024
5/10/2023	NAB	1,500,000.00	364 days	5.25%	3/10/2024
11/10/2023	NAB	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.15%	9/10/2024
18/10/2023	Police Bank	2,000,000.00	287 days	5.10%	31/07/2024
19/10/2023	NAB	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.20%	17/10/2024
25/10/2023	Police Bank	2,000,000.00	365 days	5.05%	24/10/2024
9/11/2023	AMP	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.35%	7/11/2024
16/11/2023	BankVic	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.45%	14/11/2024
23/11/2023	Auswide Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.45%	21/11/2024
30/11/2023	MyState Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.40%	28/11/2024
30/11/2023	Judo Bank	1,000,000.00	168 days	5.40%	16/05/2024
30/11/2023	Australian Unity	2,000,000.00	329 days	5.45%	24/10/2024
	ANZ Deposit at Call	50,959.66	Cash at Call		
	CBA Deposit at Call	6,034,486.02	Cash at Call		
	TOTAL:	\$79,285,445.68			

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 (2023/24)	\$ 11,562,664.39
Rates received as at 30/11/2023	\$ 6,393,906.39
% of rates received to date	55.30%

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 November 2023
 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 November to 30 November 2023, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$8,518,123.32
-

6.6 Adoption of Revised Investment Policy



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

Strategy 13.2 Develop, implement and promote best practice governance policies and procedures

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to submit the revised Investment Policy (**Attachment One**) which is being presented to Council for formal adoption following a review of the previous document adopted in May 2018.

Financial Implications

The financial implications in relation to this policy are purely governed by the guidance included within as to proportion of investments lodged with particularly ranked Authorised Deposit-taking Institution (ADIs)

Summary

The Investment Policy is generally reviewed each term of Council.

Apart from updating of details in relation to current Ministerial Investment Orders, the document has been unchanged since it was last reviewed.

Given that the content is unchanged, there is no requirement for it to be placed on public exhibition. As a result, the attached is presented for formal adoption by Council.

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the revised Investment Policy.

POLICY STATEMENT

INVESTMENT POLICY

AUTHORISATION

POLICY TYPE: <i>(Council or Operational)</i>	Council
POLICY LOCATION: <i>(eg. Corporate, Engineering, etc.)</i>	Corporate
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: <i>(by position title)</i>	Director Corporate & Community Services
AUTHORISED BY: <i>(GM or Director Title)</i>	
DATE ADOPTED:	
ADOPTED BY: <i>(Manex or Council)</i>	
MINUTE NO: <i>(If required)</i>	
REVIEW DUE DATE: <i>(Four years unless statutorily required sooner)</i>	November 2027
REVISION NUMBER:	3
RELATIONSHIP TO THE CSP:	This policy supports Council's Delivery Program Strategy 10.4 The long-term financial sustainability of Council is supported through effective and prudent financial management

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS <i>Include names of former policies that this policy will replace if applicable</i>	AMENDED BY <i>(Where required)</i>
0	16/11/2010	Original Document	
1	15/5/2018		Director Corporate & Community Services
2		Reformat to new policy template.	

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed within four (4) years from the date of adoption or as required in the event of legislative changes. The Policy may also be changed as a result of other amendments that are to the advantage that Council and in the spirit of this Policy. Any amendment to the Policy must be by way of a Council Resolution.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the investing of Council funds at the most favourable rate of interest available at the time, whilst having due consideration of risk and security for that investment type and ensuring that Council's liquidity requirements are being met.

2. Scope:

This policy applies to the investment of all funds not required for immediate operational needs in the General Fund and the Sewer Fund.

3. Outcomes:

Council has three main objectives for its investment portfolio:

- To secure both principal and interest
- To maintain sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements and
- To achieve a market average rate of return in line with Council's risk tolerance.

4. Roles and Responsibilities:

Delegation of Authority:

Authority for implementation of the Investment Policy is delegated by Council to the General Manager in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

The General Manager has authority to invest surplus funds and may delegate this function to the Director of Corporate and Community Services, Manager Customer and Financial Services and Finance Staff ("Council Officers"). Council Officers investing funds on behalf of Council must do so in accordance with this policy.

Council Officers delegated authority to administer Council's investments shall be recorded and required to acknowledge they have received a copy of this policy and understand their obligations in this role.

Prudent Person Standard:

The investments will be managed with the care, diligence, and skill that a prudent person would exercise. As trustees of public monies, officers are to manage Council's investment portfolios to safeguard the portfolio in accordance with the spirit of this Investment Policy, and not for speculative purposes.

5. Definitions:

Authorised Deposit-taking Institution (ADI) – are corporations authorised in the Banking Act 1959 (Commonwealth) to take deposits from customers. ADI's include banks, building societies and credit unions all of which are regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

Bank Bill Swap Rate – the compilation and average rate of market rates supplied by domestic banks relating to multiple maturities of bank bills.

Bills of Exchange – Is an unconditional order in writing, addressed by one person to another, signed by the person giving it, requiring the person to whom it is addressed to pay on demand, or at a fixed or determinable time in the future, a sum certain in money to or to the order specified person, or to bearer.

Debentures – A debt security usually secured by a fixed or floating charge over an underlying asset or pool of assets. Debentures are normally issued by companies in return for medium and long-term investment funds.

TCorp – means NSW Treasury Corporation.

Term Deposits (or Deposits) – are non-tradable investments offered by ADI's with varying maturity dates (normally one month to 60 months) and at a rate set at the outset. Interest is normally payable upon maturity or if the term is longer than 12 months, annually from the investment date. Penalties apply if the funds are withdrawn before maturity and a notice period of 31 days is usually required.

6. Legislation and Supporting Documents:

All investments are to be made in accordance with:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- Ministerial Investment Order
- Australian Accounting Standards
- Office of Local Government Circulars
- OLG Investment Policy Guidelines
- Bills of Exchange Act 1909
- Banking Act 1959

7. Attachments: Policy Procedure

7.1 Approved Investments:

Investments are limited to those allowed by the most current Ministerial Investment Order issued by the NSW Minister for Local Government.

7.2 Prohibited Investments:

In accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order, this investment policy prohibits but is not limited to any investment carried out for speculative purposes including;

- Derivative based investments;
- Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially nil or negative cash flow
- Stand alone securities issued that have underlying futures, options, forward contracts and swaps of any kind.

This policy also prohibits the use of borrowing to invest.

7.3 Risk Management Guidelines

Investments under consideration are to be assessed considering the following key criteria:

- Preservation of Capital – the requirement for preventing losses in an investment portfolio's total value (considering the time value of money)
- Diversification – setting limits to the amounts invested with a particular financial institution or government authority to reduce credit risk.
- Credit Risk – the risk that a Council investment fails to pay the interest and or repay the principal of an investment.
- Market Risk – the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of an investment will fluctuate due to changes in market prices.
- Liquidity Risk – the risk an investor is unable to redeem the investment at a fair price within a timely period; and
- Maturity Risk – the risk relating to the length of term to maturity of the investment. The larger the term, the greater the length of exposure and risk to market volatilities.

For the purpose of this Policy, "Major Banks" include ANZ, CBA, NAB, Westpac and their wholly owned and explicitly guaranteed subsidiaries.

7.4 Credit Ratings Category Limits

The maximum limits in each category are as follows:

Long Term Rating	Maximum Percentage of Total Portfolio
AAA to AA- or any Major Bank	100%
A+ to A-	80%
BBB+ to BBB	70%
BBB- and Unrated	10%

The individual ADI credit guidelines are as follows:

Long Term Rating	Maximum Percentage of Total Portfolio
AAA to AA- or any Major Bank	40%
A+ to A-	30%
BBB+ to BBB	25%
BBB- and Unrated	5%

Term to Maturity Framework

The portfolio is to be invested with the following term to maturity constraints:

Maturity Band	Minimum Portfolio Exposure	Maximum Portfolio Exposure
0-12 months	20%	100%
1-3 years	0%	70%
3-5 years	0%	30%
Over 5 years	0%	10%

Note: Investments that have been “grandfathered” under changes to Legislative Requirements and/or changes to Council’s Investment Policy are not included in the Overall Portfolio Term to Maturity Limits of this Policy.

7.4 Investment Advisor:

Any firm or individual acting as Council’s investment advisor must be approved by Council and with the exception of TCorp, licensed by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. The advisor must be independent and have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to investment products being recommended and be free to choose the most appropriate product within the terms and conditions of the investment policy.

The independent advisor is required to provide written confirmation that they do not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the investments they are recommending or reviewing, including that they are not receiving any commissions or other benefits in relation to the investments being recommended or reviewed.

7.5 Ethics and Conflicts of Interest:

Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council’s investment portfolio. This policy requires officers to disclose any conflict of interest to the General Manager.

7.6 Reporting and Reviewing of Investments:

Documentary evidence must be held for each investment and details thereof maintained in the Investment Register.

The documentary evidence must provide Council legal title to the investment. Certificates must be obtained from the financial institutions confirming the amounts of investment held on the Council’s behalf as at 30 June each year and reconciled to the Investment Register.

All investments are to be appropriately recorded in Council’s financial records and reconciled monthly. A monthly report will be provided to Council.

6.7 Report on Bland Shire Council Code of Conduct Statistics



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: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

Council has a statutory obligation to report information in relation to any Code of Conduct Complaints made against Councillors or the General Manager on an annual basis. This report serves to assist Council in meeting this obligation.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

Under Section 11 of the Procedures for the Administration of the Bland Shire Code of Conduct 2020, Council's Complaints Co-ordinator (Director Corporate and Community Services) must within 3 months of the end of September each year (by 31 December), report statistics in relation to any Code of Conduct complaints made about Councillors and/or the General Manager to both Council and the Office of Local Government (OLG). The reporting period applicable to this report is from 1 September 2022 until 31 August 2023.

The presentation of the Code of Conduct Complaints Report is an important accountability mechanism that provides local communities with a valuable insight into the performance of their councils. Council did not receive any Code of Conduct complaints about Councillors and/or the General Manager during the reporting period.

A full list of the reporting document is included with this report as **Attachment 1**. This information was provided to the Officer of Local Government electronically on Friday, 8 December 2023.

Recommendation:

That Council notes:

1. That there were no Code of Conduct complaints made about Councillors or the General Manager during the period of 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023, and
 2. That these statistics have been reported to the Office of Local Government in accordance with the Procedures for Administering the Model Code of Conduct.
-

Attachment 1

Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2022-23 Bland Shire Council		
Number of Complaints		
1	The total number of complaints received in the reporting period about councillors and the General Manager (GM) under the code of conduct from the following sources:	
i	Community	<input type="text" value="0"/>
ii	Other Councillors	<input type="text" value="0"/>
iii	General Manager	<input type="text" value="0"/>
iv	Other Council Staff	<input type="text" value="0"/>
2	The total number of complaints finalised about councillors and the GM under the code of conduct in the following periods:	
i	3 Months	<input type="text" value="0"/>
ii	6 Months	<input type="text" value="0"/>
iii	9 Months	<input type="text" value="0"/>
iv	12 Months	<input type="text" value="0"/>
v	Over 12 months	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Overview of Complaints and Cost		

3	a	The number of complaints finalised at the outset by alternative means by the GM or Mayor	0
	b	The number of complaints referred to the Office of Local Government (OLG) under a special complaints management arrangement	0
	c	The number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer	0
	d	The number of code of conduct complaints finalised at preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	e	The number of code of conduct complaints referred back to GM or Mayor for resolution after preliminary assessment by conduct reviewer	0
	f	The number of finalised code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer	0
	g	Cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints via preliminary assesment	0
	h	Progressed to full investigation by a conduct reviewer	0
	i	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be no breach	0
	j	The number of finalised complaints investigated where there was found to be a breach	0
	k	The number of complaints referred by the GM or Mayor to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police	
	i	ICAC	0
	ii	NSW Ombudsman	0
	ii	OLG	0
	i		0

i	Police	0
v		
v	Other Agency (please specify)	0
	<input type="text"/>	
l	The number of complaints being investigated that are not yet finalised	0
m	The total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints within the period made about councillors and the GM including staff costs	0

Preliminary Assessment Statistics

4	The number of complaints determined by the conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage by each of the following actions:	
a	To take no action (clause 6.13(a) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
b	To resolve the complaint by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(b) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
c	To refer the matter back to the GM or the Mayor, for resolution by alternative and appropriate strategies (clause 6.13(c) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
d	To refer the matter to another agency or body such as the ICAC, the NSW Ombudsman, OLG or the Police (clause 6.13(d) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
e	To investigate the matter (clause 6.13(e) of the 2020 Procedures)	0
f	Other action (please specify)	0
	<input type="text"/>	

Investigation Statistics

5 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was **no breach**, in which the following recommendations were made:

a That the council revise its policies or procedures

b That a person or persons undertake training or other education (clause 7.40 of the 2020 Procedures)

6 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there **was a breach** in which the following recommendations were made:

a That the council revise any of its policies or procedures (clause 7.39 of the 2020 Procedures)

b In the case of a breach by the GM, that action be taken under the GM's contract for the breach (clause 7.37(a) of the 2020 Procedures)

c In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 (clause 7.37(b) of the 2020 Procedures)

d In the case of a breach by a councillor, that the councillor be formally censured for the breach under section 440G of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the matter be referred to OLG for further action (clause 7.37(c) of the 2020 Procedures)

7 Matter referred or resolved after commencement of an investigation (clause 7.20 of the 2020 Procedures)

Categories of misconduct

8 The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach with respect to each of the following categories of conduct:

a General conduct (Part 3)

b Non-pecuniary conflict of interest (Part 5)

c	Personal benefit (Part 6)	0
d	Relationship between council officials (Part 7)	0
e	Access to information and resources (Part 8)	0
Outcome of determinations		
9	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination that there was a breach in which the council:	
a	Adopted the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	0
b	Failed to adopt the independent conduct reviewers recommendation	0
10	The number of investigated complaints resulting in a determination where:	
a	The external conduct reviewers decision was overturned by OLG	0
b	Council's response to the external conduct reviewers recommendation was overturned by OLG	0
11	Date Code of Conduct data was presented to council	19/12/23

6.8 Riverina Regional Library Dispute Update



Our People – Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life of the residents

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

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

As a member of the Riverina Regional Library (RRL) collective, Bland Shire has been party to a lengthy dispute along with other member Councils following a decision by Wagga Wagga City Council to withdraw from the organisation. This report provides Council with an update on the arbitration proceedings as it stands following the partial award by the Arbitrator on 21 November, 2023.

Financial Implications

The costs to the remaining RRL member Councils (with the exception of Leeton Shire) to take this matter to arbitration to date is in the vicinity of \$230,000.

Summary

Attached is a report which has been prepared on behalf of the RRL Executive Council, being Coolamon Shire Council. This report will be tabled at the open meeting of Coolamon Council scheduled for 21 December 2023.

The attached report provides a comprehensive overview of the progress of this matter and references a number of confidential documents which will be provided to Councillors separately. The documents relate specifically to the arbitration proceedings.

Recommendation:

That Council notes for information the report to be presented to the Riverina Regional Library Executive Council.

ARBITRATION BETWEEN WAGGA WAGGA CITY COUNCIL AND REMAINING RRL MEMBER COUNCILS CONCERNING THE RRL DEED OF AGREEMENT 2018-2022 AND DISPUTE REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

Author:

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report.

Report

RRL history

Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) was the foundation council when it collaborated with the shires of Coolamon, Kyeamba, Lockhart, Mitchell and Tumut to establish the Riverina Regional Library (RRL) on 13 July 1978. The organisation has been an incredible success story having experienced continued growth due to its propensity to aggregate capacity and achieve exceptional economies of scale. RRL has grown to become the largest regional library service in NSW in terms of member councils. RRL now serves the 19 library branches of 10 member councils of Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Federation, Greater Hume, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Snowy Valleys and Temora.

RRL operates under the Library Act, 1939 and in accordance with s12(2) of the Act, WWCC was the appointed Executive Council since RRL's inception and continued to hold this position until WWCC withdrew from RRL on 30 June 2022. Coolamon Shire Council was appointed as Executive Council from 1 July 2022.

The RRL model is simple. The RRL Administration Centre (located in Wagga Wagga) undertakes the majority of support services including procurement and distribution of collections, provision and support of an automated library management system, creation of library programs, and a weekly delivery service to all council areas to maximise the resource sharing capacity of RRL. The RRL mobile library service is provided for six of the member councils and visits 21 communities.

The great majority of regional cities in NSW are part of a regional library collaborative for the political and financial advantages they provide including Lismore, Tamworth, Orange, Dubbo, Newcastle, Griffith and others.

WWCC made the decision to withdraw from RRL on 13 September 2021 in favour of a standalone library service. WWCC is seeking an unentitled share of RRL assets that have been accrued over many years through scrupulous financial oversight by both RRL management and the RRL Advisory Committee. This includes funds held in reserve on behalf of RRL for known future costs (eg, replacement of the mobile library vehicle and trailer, office equipment, and IT software/hardware).

Background to arbitration

WWCC provided a Notice of Intent¹ to the then Executive Director of the RRL on 26 June 2020 of its intention to withdraw from the RRL on 30 June 2022. This advice was provided in accordance with clause 11 of the RRL Deed of Agreement: Entry and Exit of Parties.

Although the Notice of Intent was provided using clause 11 Entry and Exit of Parties of the RRL Deed of Agreement, the General Manager of WWCC advised that he intended to apply a distribution of assets formula akin to clause 13 of the RRL Deed of Agreement: Dissolution.

Because the remaining RRL member councils and WWCC have a difference of opinion about how the assets of the organisation should be distributed upon the withdrawal of WWCC, RRL wrote to the Head of Public Library Services at State Library of NSW (SLNSW) seeking their assistance in clarifying the matter by means of advice from the Crown Solicitor. The Head of Public Library Services wrote in reply that: *"...the questions are reasonably straightforward. I do not think at this stage that a referral to the Crown Solicitor is necessary... What happens after the expiry of the Deed of Agreement 2018-2022 is not set out in the Deed of Agreement. The State Library stands ready to assist all parties reach a satisfactory conclusion when the time comes."*

At its meeting held on 30 March 2022, the RRL Advisory Committee authorised the General Manager of the incoming Executive Council, Coolamon Shire Council (CSC), to enter into an arbitration process under s12 of the RRL Deed of Agreement: Dispute Resolution, and to act on behalf of the remaining member councils in relation to the arbitration process and associated negotiations. Accordingly, a request that an arbitrator be appointed to consider the matter on behalf of RRL remaining councils was sent to SLNSW.

The dispute resolution process involved the appointment of legal representatives by both parties to compile a claim to be considered by an independent arbitrator appointed by the SLNSW in accordance with s12(5) of the NSW Library Act.

The dispute resolution costs are shared by the parties to the dispute in accordance with the Arbitration Agreement² signed on 13 September 2022. RRL appointed Kell Moore Solicitors (Albury), acting on behalf of the remaining RRL member councils while WWCC appointed RGSLAW (Sydney).

Negotiation proposals prior to arbitration

Since the Notice of Intent was issued in June 2020, RRL management worked with the RRL Advisory Committee through a series of working party meetings to review future operating models including membership contributions. The committee endorsed a revised operating model that reduced membership contributions for WWCC and removed the base contribution that had been in place since 2003 (originally \$100K) to recognise the benefits derived by WWCC as the Executive Council and its position as a regional and cultural centre.

This new member contributions model was endorsed by the RRL Advisory Committee in contrast to a proposed 'pick and mix' model suggested by WWCC. The 'pick and mix' model was unanimously rejected by the remaining member councils as it was considered that it would reduce service levels and increase costs due to loss of economies of scale – resulting in sub-optimal outcomes for RRL member councils and their libraries. WWCC did not accept the revised contributions model which provided a 15% reduction in membership contributions from 1 July 2022.

Further meetings were held with member council General Managers as late as October 2021 where agreement was reached to offer WWCC a substantial reduction in membership contributions in an effort to entice them to retain their membership. WWCC refused an offer from RRL to reduce their membership contributions by 36%. This offer saw each of the smaller member councils agreeing to pay a higher membership contribution to retain WWCC as a RRL member council.

Transfer of business

The RRL Advisory Committee, at its meeting held on 31 March 2021, received an RRL Member Councils' Position Statement endorsed by remaining councils as a record of their strong support for the organisation and an acknowledgement of its 40+ year history as an exemplar of local government collaboration.

The 4 November 2021 meeting endorsed the appointment of Coolamon Shire Council as Executive Council from 1 July 2022, and a future operating model under a renewed RRL Deed of Agreement 2022-2026 in substantially the same terms as the previous Agreement.

The financial, administration and governance functions of RRL were transferred to the new Executive Council on 1 July 2022. By this time, many of the systems and services provided or supported by WWCC (eg, email domain, telephony, server management) had already been moved 'in-house' to the RRL Administration Centre, making the separation and transfer seamless.

WWCC continues to hold the accumulated cash and equivalent assets on behalf of RRL pending the outcome of the dispute resolution process. The draft RRL Financial Statements prepared by WWCC as at 30 June 2022, set this amount at approximately \$3.4M.

This amount approximately represents:

- \$704K in ELE – this must be transferred with the employees
- \$201K in employee separation – this must be paid out to the employees
- \$519K building reserve – held for new/upgrade to building
- \$930K mobile reserve – for purchase of new mobile
- \$351K other – general operational needs
- \$743K unrestricted cash

A single payment of \$200K was transferred from WWCC to the CSC on 1 July 2022 to ensure continuity of business in the short term. Eight RRL staff were transferred over to the new Executive Council while six positions were made redundant under a new organisational structure.

The employee leave entitlements (ELE) required to be held in reserve for transferred staff amounts to approximately \$167K, leaving only \$33K for the continuity of business. RRL's legal representatives formally requested a further payment of funds from WWCC on 29 May 2023, but to date no response has been received.

On 1 July 2022, WWCC advised CSC that, as WWCC is the registered owner of the mobile library truck, they did not give authority for CSC to have possession or use of the truck and ordered it off the road immediately. The terms offered by WWCC to CSC to lease the truck and trailer at the rate of \$3,567.18 per month were not agreed to by the remaining member councils.

Correspondence between the parties' legal representatives followed, including a letter to the SLNSW from Kell Moore Solicitors urging that the arbitration matter be expedited. Further to this, a meeting organised by the Riverina Joint Organisation and RRL Advisory Committee, was held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga, on 13 July 2022 for the parties to state their respective positions on the matters of WWCC withdrawal from RRL, and the transfer of the mobile library from the previous Executive Council to the new Executive Council.

The meeting culminated in WWCC agreeing to lease the trailer to CSC for a nominal rate of \$10 per annum. This lease agreement was executed by the parties on 15 July 2022. An extraordinary meeting of the RRL Advisory Committee was held immediately after this meeting, whereupon a resolution to purchase a new prime mover was endorsed. The mobile library returned to service on 25 July 2022 having been out of service for almost four weeks.

RRL Financial Statements 2021/22 and 2022/23

The RRL Financial Statements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 remain in draft, pending the outcome of the arbitration process.

RRL has requested that WWCC provide the finalised financial statements for 2021/22, subject to some changes identified in the attached letters^{6,7,8}, however the latest letter from RRL to WWCC dated 15 December 2022 remains unanswered. RRL has also sent numerous email requests to WWCC for financial information to assist with preparation of the 2022/23 Financial Statements. These requests have also been ignored by WWCC.

There are many financial unknowns related to RRL transactions since 1 July 2022 including payout of staff leave entitlements, interest earned, and other expenses. WWCC also sold the previous mobile library prime mover at auction on 15 November 2022 for \$80,000. WWCC is yet to provide details of the net proceeds of sale to RRL.

RRL Administration Centre and Mobile Library Storage

RRL member councils lease the RRL Administration Centre building at 2 Galing Place from WWCC. The lease began on 21 April 2016 with options to renew for 2 further 5-year periods. The current 5-year lease is due to be renewed for its second and final 5-year period on 30 September 2026 – taking the final lease date to 30 September 2031.

In the interest of financial probity, the RRL Advisory Committee endorsed the transfer of \$500K from the unrestricted RRL reserve fund to the RRL building reserve on 31 March 2021 with a view to providing options for any future RRL accommodation needs that may arise beyond 30 September 2031, or sooner should the current lease arrangements be disputed by WWCC.

The mobile library is currently parked at a yard lot location in Copland Street - out in the open on a dirt platform. This is a far cry from the previous location at Glenfield Road where it was parked inside a storage shed with water facilities for cleaning the truck and trailer. The rental for the current location is \$190 per week. The location is not ideal, however, despite exhaustive attempts to find a more suitable location, this has so far been unsuccessful. The mobile library trailer (at 11 years of age) is also due for replacement now.

The above matters are included in this report to provide a picture of the organisation's known future costs and to highlight that the retention of reserve funds accrued over many years by and for RRL is critical to the future financial viability of the organisation.

Arbitration

Since the initiation of proceedings before the SLNSW appointed arbitrator, the Hon. Arthur Emmett AO KC, a number of documents have been served between the parties. See arbitration documents^{3,4,5,9,10,11,12,13,16,17,18} attached to this report.

The matter was set down for hearing beginning on 18 September 2023 at 3rd Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers in Sydney, with all eleven witnesses for RRL required to attend and give evidence orally. The hearing began at 10:00am on Monday 18 September and concluded on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 11:30am.

Representatives for WWCC and RRL provided oral closing submissions on 24 October 2023.

Pre and Post Arbitration Settlement Offers

Prior to the arbitration hearing, and following consultation with the General Managers of remaining RRL member councils, it was agreed that Coolamon Shire Council (acting on behalf of RRL) would extend a 'without prejudice' offer to settle the matter with WWCC.

A letter of offer¹⁴ was forwarded to WWCC on 14 September 2023 submitting that WWCC retain an amount of \$670K in full and final settlement. This amount was determined as follows:

- \$280K – amount owed under clause 11 of the Deed of Agreement after liabilities are paid and employee leave entitlements are accurately dispersed
- \$250K – 48% of the building reserve (*WWCC's RRL membership proportion*)
- \$140K – 15% of the mobile library reserve (*WWCC's mobile library membership proportion*)

The deadline for WWCC to accept the offer on Friday 15 September 2023 passed without response.

Following the arbitration hearing, the same offer¹⁵ was re-put to WWCC on 26 September 2023 in an effort to resolve the matter and reduce demands on the resources of both parties that could potentially be put toward a settlement. Again, the deadline for WWCC to accept the offer on 3 October 2023 passed without response.

Partial Award

The arbitrator handed down his decision or Partial Award¹⁸ on 21 November 2023. The Partial Award declared that:

1. On its proper construction, the Disputed Document was not notice under clause 11.2 of the Library Agreement of the intention of Wagga Council to withdraw from the Library Agreement,
2. Clause 13 of the Library Agreement does not apply directly,
3. The Library Agreement does not contain an implied term that, upon its expiry on 30 June 2022, in circumstances where one or more of the Member Councils does not enter into a subsequent agreement in relation to the RRL, each Member Council as at 30 June 2022 would be entitled to share in the assets of the RRL and be liable for a portion of the liabilities and contingent liabilities of the RRL as if the RRL had been dissolved pursuant to clause 13 of the Library Agreement,
4. The Library Agreement does not contain an implied term that, upon its expiry on 30 June 2022, in circumstances where one or more of the Member Councils does not enter into a subsequent agreement in relation to the RRL, each Member Council as at 30 June 2022 would be entitled to share in the assets of the RRL and be liable for a portion of the liabilities and contingent liabilities of the RRL as on a dissolution of a partnership at general law.

Although the result rejects the relevant points of claim of both parties, the arbitrator has concluded that the distribution of assets is yet to be determined according to principles of general law, and it will be necessary to hear the parties further as to the final solution of all issues between them.

Whilst on first reading it can be concluded that there are no winners from this finding - as the dispute is no better off from its starting point, it can be asserted that the claims brought by WWCC against RRL remaining councils have been lost. WWCC was taking action against the remaining councils to divide the assets as per clause 13 (dissolution) of the agreement, and it was remaining councils' position that clause 11.2 (withdrawal) applied.

The finding is disappointing in that it does not provide any outcome and may require further submissions, but it vindicates the remaining councils' position that RRL is a continuing entity (not dissolved) and WWCC is just choosing to no longer be a member.

Where to from here?

Following consultation with RRL's legal representatives, due consideration has been given to costs incurred so far and potential costs to progress this matter further before the arbitrator. It has been determined that the best way forward in the first instance is to re-put the settlement offer made to WWCC previously on 14 and 26 September 2023. On this occasion the offer will be open for a period of at least 28 days to allow due consideration and negotiation if necessary.

At this point in time RRL remaining councils have incurred legal costs in the vicinity of \$230K+ to defend this matter and it is suspected that WWCC's legal costs would be substantially more; given it engaged the services of two barristers and two lawyers to represent the Council.

It is the position of RRL remaining councils that this latest offer (based on the previous offers) is a generous one – especially given that the arbitrator has rejected all claims to WWCC's entitlements under clause 13 of the Agreement, and stated in his findings that: *"... the situation is more comparable to one which a Member Council withdraws from the Library Agreement and accordingly the distribution in clause 11 may be a more obvious one to apply."*

RRL member councils remain hopeful that this offer will be met with a willingness from WWCC to agree to an outcome, or at least a response. Throughout the entire process and well before arbitration proceedings commenced, RRL has always been willing to find a compromise in this matter without resorting to a legal stoush, but WWCC has not been receptive to reaching this point. Unfortunately, RRL has been left with little choice throughout, as WWCC holds the finances as per their previous Executive Council role.

WWCC seems to be intent on not only withdrawing from RRL, but also disrupting the organisation's financial future in the process. This is as frustrating as it is disappointing for the continuing member councils. It is also discouraging for the surrounding councils to see WWCC turning its back on the very councils whose constituents sustain the Wagga Wagga economy through their support of retail, educational, sporting, cultural and recreational activities.

RRL will also be turning its head to future compositions of the RRL Deed of Agreement. Following the withdrawal of WWCC in June 2022, the current 2022-2026 iteration of the Agreement was strengthened to ensure that a council which withdraws from the agreement *or does not continue its membership of the RRL at the conclusion of the Agreement* is aware of their entitlements under clause 11. However, the arbitration process has identified some further omissions and/or disparities in the Agreement that require further review. RRL will engage its legal representatives to assist in this regard.

Indeed, the Head of Public Library Services gave an address at the NSW Public Libraries Association Conference in November 2023 admitting that regional library agreements (upon which is the RRL Deed of Agreement is based) were deficient, and that the Crown Solicitor is currently drawing up a more robust agreement template.

Despite the disappointment of WWCC's decision to withdraw from RRL, the continuing member councils are committed to the ongoing operation of this very successful collaborative organisation. Some 18 months on from WWCC withdrawal, RRL has welcomed a new member council, Leeton Shire Council, on 1 July 2022 and operated with a cash profit.

Confidential Attachments

1. Notice of Intent from WWCC to RRL – 26 June 2020
2. Arbitration Agreement – 13 September 2022
3. WWCC Points of Claim – served 25 August 2022
4. RRL Points of Defence – served 30 September 2022
5. WWCC Points of Reply – served November 2022
6. Letter from RRL to WWCC – 24 October 2022
7. Letter from WWCC to RRL – 5 December 2022
8. Letter from RRL to WWCC – 15 December 2022
9. WWCC Evidence in Chief – served 8 February 2023
10. RRL Evidence in Chief – served 15 May 2023
11. WWCC Evidence in Reply – served 18 July 2023
12. WWCC Opening Submissions – served 1 September 2023
13. RRL Opening Submissions – served 11 September 2023
14. Letter from Kell Moore to RGSLAW – 14 September 2023
15. Letter from Kell Moore to RGSLAW – 26 September 2023
16. RRL Closing Submissions – served 13 October 2023
17. WWCC Closing Submissions – served 20 October 2023
18. Arbitrator's Partial Award – dated 21 November 2023

6.9 Wyalong School of Arts and Hall Committee MoU



Our People - Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life of the residents

DP 3.1 Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

Bland Shire Council's Section 355 Committees are required to meet specific actions as set out in the Committee Manual in relation to the provision of meeting minutes and financial reports following each meeting held. One of the requirements is for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the committee and the Council which sets out areas of responsibility.

Financial Implications

The implications for Council in relation to financial matters are set out within the Section 355 Committee Manual.

Summary

Following a review of the Section 355 Committee Manual in 2021, Council adopted a revised process for the management of its committees to allow for a clear division of responsibilities and specific Terms of Reference under which committees are expected to operate.

As part of this process an MoU was established for each of Council's Section 355 Committees to review and amend as best suits their particular area of responsibility.

The Wyalong School of Arts and Hall Committee has reviewed the MoU and it has been duly signed by the current President and Treasurer. It is presented to Council for its endorsement and to authorise Council's signatories to the agreement.

Recommendation:

That Council:

- a) Endorses the minutes of the Wyalong School of Arts and Hall Committee held on 20 November 2023.
 - b) Authorises the General Manager or his delegate and one other staff member to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Committee and Council.
-

WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS & HALL COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 20 NOVEMBER 2023

VENUE: WYALONG HALL

Meeting opened at: 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Gerard Payne, Bev Fury, Michelle Lamb, Ron Good, Heather Good, Amanda Stitt

APOLOGIES: Des Lamb, Kerry Tait, Richard Tait

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Read by Bev Fury

Moved: Bev Fury

Seconded: Heather Good

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Read by Bev Fury

Moved: Bev Fury

Seconded: Amanda Stitt

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter to Bland Shire Council re Memorandum of Understanding, cleaning products and sealing of parking area.
2. Reply from Bland Shire Council to above letter.
3. Letter to Bland Shire Council re Memorandum of Understanding, request for further Cleaning Products, Carpark Sealing, toilet signage and invoice for Hall hire by Morning Melodies.

Moved: Bev Fury

Seconded: Michelle Lamb

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

1. Memorandum of Understanding
After discussion it was moved that we accept the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Acceptance

Moved: Amanda Stitt

Seconded: Heather Good

2. Fire Hydrant
Ron Good advised that the fire hydrant has been attended to.
3. Cleaning products

Bev Fury advised that cleaning products have been received from Council and will request Council provide additional products of bleach and disinfectant.

4. Toilet sign

Letter has been sent to Council in relation to this but as yet no response.

5. Projector and screen

Bev Fury to follow up with Des Lamb in relation to this.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

It was noted that some of the chairs have either broken or missing stoppers. Bev Fury to purchase new stoppers for chairs to help prevent marking of newly sanded floor.

Amanda advised that the Hall will be used by the Wyalong Advancement Group for their markets on 25 November if the weather is unsuitable for markets to be held outdoors.

Ron advised that the pigeon netting on the left hand side top eave on the School of Arts building needs to be fixed.

Discussion was had in relation to the condition of some of the ceiling tiles. Bev Fury advised that Dave Wardell of Council knows about this and has stated that it would be fixed. Bev to follow up with Council.

Discussion was had in relation to painting of stage area now that floor has been re-sanded. Bev Fury to write to Council requesting that this be painted.

It was noted that the lock on the front door is very loose. Bev Fury to arrange for locksmith to check locks on all doors and arrange for any repairs/replacement necessary.

Discussion was had on where to place lock box with keys. It was decided that this should probably be place on left hand side of front door. Bev to check with George Collins in relation to this.

Bev Fury mentioned that Ron Good had previously advised that the defibrillator was coming away from the wall at the side of Hall. Ron said he had pushed back in, but it did need to be looked at.

Bev Fury advised that she would write to Council in relation to the following:

- (a) Pigeon netting;
- (b) Ceiling tiles;
- (c) Painting of stage area;
- (d) Defibrillator;
- (e) Request Council's permission for location of lock box;
- (f) Acceptance of Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference.

Moved: Ron Good

Seconded: Gerard Payne

Next meeting: 26 February at 6.30 pm

Meeting closed: 6.30 pm



CBA # 2137						
OPENING BANK BALANCE AS AT 19/08/2023						\$8,235.26
INCOME						
Date	Received From	Description	Amount of Invoice	GST	Amount received/paid	
30/08/2023		Hall Hire	\$160.00	\$14.55	\$160.00	\$8,395.26
3/10/2023	Community Radio	Rent	\$60.00	\$5.45	\$60.00	\$8,455.26
3/10/2023	Community Radio	Rent	\$60.00	\$5.45	\$60.00	\$8,515.26
1/11/2023	Community Radio	Rent	\$60.00	\$5.45	\$60.00	\$8,575.26
10/11/2023	AEC	Hall Hire	\$1,100.00	\$100.00	\$1,100.00	\$9,675.26
16/11/2023	Bland Shire Council		\$160.00	\$0.00	\$160.00	\$9,835.26
	Total GST received			\$30.91		
Total income 20/08/2023 to 19/11/2023						\$1,600.00
EXPENDITURE						
Date	Paid To					
30/08/2023	Bland Shire Council	GST Reconciliatin	\$34.00		\$34.00	\$9,801.26
17/09/2023	G Payne	Refund for Lock Box (The Lock Shop)	\$290.00	\$26.36	\$290.00	\$9,511.26
Totalexpenditures 20/08/2023 to 19/11/2023						\$324.00
BALANCE AS AT 20/11/2023						\$9,511.26

WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HALL – TERMS OF REFERENCE

To manage the facility known as Wyalong School of Arts and Hall at Wyalong including:

- The care, control and management of the Wyalong School of Arts and Hall.
- To recommend to Council the fees and charges for the use of the facility
- Collect any charges and fees fixed by Council for the use of the facilities, to raise funds for the purpose and objectives of the Committee.
- To use such funds as the Council may from time to time vote to the Committee to undertake works within the facilities.
- To make the facility available to and safe for all members of the public consistent with the purpose for which the facility was originally constructed. Any restriction to this availability is to be approved by Council
- To meet any charges which may be made from time to time for electricity, water and any other service charges in respect to the operation of the facility
- To maintain the facility to the satisfaction of the General Manager
 - Structural alterations and permanent installations require relevant Council building and planning approval prior to commencement of work
 - Council approval is to be obtained for major maintenance, improvements or extensions to the facility prior to issuing the contract for the commencement of any such work. Such works are to be to the satisfaction of the General Manager
- To permit authorised Council officers to enter the premises at any reasonable hour for the purpose of carrying out work or inspections at times of emergency when entry is necessary, and to supply a set of keys to Council for these purposes.
- Arrange the repair and maintenance of the facility and grounds, either by voluntary labour or otherwise.



**BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH**

**WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HALL COMMITTEE
A SECTION 355 COMMITTEE OF BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Bland Shire Council (known as "the Council") will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (known as "MoU") with Wyalong School of Arts and Hall Committee
- 1.2 Committee to ensure that both Committee representatives, user groups and the Council have a clear understanding of their rights and obligations in relation to the facilities.
- 1.3 The breakup of the obligations regarding the main maintenance items are outlined in schedule 2.

2. Use of Facility

- 2.1 Council grants the Wyalong School of Arts and Hall Committee (known as "the Committee") the right to maintain the Wyalong School of Arts Building (known as "the facility") also known as Topy Hall
The name and address of the Occupant are to be shown in Schedule 1.
- 2.2 The Occupant acknowledges that Council may also permit use of the facility (when the Occupant is not using the facility).
- 2.3 Council will not allow access to another party in relation to the recreation ground/facility without first informing the Committee in writing, except in the case of emergency.

3. Term of MoU

- 3.1 This MoU is in force until the Committee ceases to exist as an organisation or until it is terminated by the Committee or the Council.

4. Standard Conditions

- 4.1 The Committee must comply with all relevant conditions in the attached Standard Conditions.
- 4.2 The Committee's particular attention is drawn to the health provisions in the Standard Conditions.

5. Bookings

- 5.1 All bookings for the recreation ground/facility(s) are to be handled by the Section 355 Committee

6. Insurance and Indemnity

- 6.1 The Committee should insure its own contents or other assets which are located in or on the facility from time to time.
- 6.2 The Committee shall not do anything or allow anything to be done which might result in any insurance relating to the recreation ground/facility becoming void or voidable.

7. Termination

- 7.1 The Committee may terminate this MoU by giving four weeks' notice in writing to the Council of its intention to terminate.
- 7.2 Such notice is to be accompanied by a copy of a resolution of the whole Committee carried at an Ordinary or Extraordinary meeting of the Committee.
- 7.3 The Council may withdraw the right to occupy at any time (hence terminate this MoU), subject to giving four weeks' notice in writing to the Committee.
- 7.4 Such notice is to be accompanied by a copy of a resolution to that effect of the whole Council carried at an Ordinary or Extraordinary meeting of the Bland Shire Council.
- 7.5 This MoU may be terminated upon receipt of a notice in the event of a breach.

8. Communication

- 8.1 Communication between Bland Shire Council and the Committee will be by way of the identified Committee Liaison Officer/s and Council's Section 355 Liaison Officer as set out in Schedule 1.

9. Authorisation

Signed as an agreement between Bland Shire Council and Wyalong School of Arts and Hall Committee, A Section 355 Committee of Bland Shire Council.

**WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HALL
COMMITTEE, A SECTION 355 COMMITTEE OF BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

NAME: Gerard Payne COMMITTEE POSITION: President

NAME: Beverley Fosy COMMITTEE POSITION: Treasurer

DATE: 20/11/2023

BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

NAME: _____ COUNCIL POSITION: _____

NAME: _____ COUNCIL POSITION: _____

DATE: _____

SCHEDULE 1

ITEM 1: Name and Addresses of "The Occupant"

Wyalong School of Arts and Hall Committee:

ITEM 2: Period of Custodial Use

FROM.....TO.....

ITEM3: Committee Liaison Officer

NAME: Gerard Payne COMMITTEE POSITION: President

NAME: Bev Furg COMMITTEE POSITION: Treasurer

ITEM 4: Special Conditions and/or Requirements

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SCHEDULE 2

MAIN MAINTENANCE ITEMS

MAINTENANCE ITEM	COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY	COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY
Garbage services	Put out garbage bins for collection	Provision of bins
Mains supply of gas and electricity (other than the playing field lights)	Pays invoices sent by Council	Pays all bills
Building alterations	Determine and document specific needs of the building relating to any requests to Council for building alterations. Submit approved works DA if required	Assess all requests submitted and, if approved by Council and if monies are available, ensure satisfactory completion of work by responsible parties. Process DA.
Curtains, blinds and window fittings, solar film	Installation, if required	No responsibility
Fixtures and appliances not installed by the Council	Regular cleaning and repair	No responsibility
Ceilings	Regular cleaning and repairs due to misuse	Major repair and/or replacement due to structural faults, age, etc. as monies are made available
Doors (incl. cupboard doors, door fittings, closers and screens)	Regular cleaning and repair due to misuse (with the same hardware)	Replacement due to age or structural fault
Electrical wiring and fittings in building	Repair and replacement due to misuse - must be undertaken by licensed electrical contractor	All building wiring from main supply to and including switchboard, power points, switches and light fittings
Fire extinguishers	Fill when discharged due to misuse	Testing, maintenance and replacement due to age
Fire panel	No responsibility, report any faults	Testing, maintenance and rectification of any problems
Floor surfaces and coverings	All regular cleaning and minor maintenance	Replacement due to age or compliance
Window glass and flyscreens	Clean and replace internal breakages, with compliant glass and wire	Replace externally, if breakages occurs due to vandalism
Vandalism	No external responsibility, report any issues	Removal of graffiti from external areas and undertake necessary repairs
Keys and locks	Responsible for keys issued by Council - no copying of keys	Purchase, install and maintain all locks

MAINTENANCE ITEM	COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY	COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY
Pest inspection	Internal inspection and treatment of any infestation as required	Annual internal and external inspection if required
Fences	Repair minor damage. Report major damage or misuse.	Undertake major maintenance and replace when necessary
Light globes and fittings (external)	Replacement of general lighting globes	Replacement and maintenance of security lighting where installed by Council
Accessible light globes (internal)	Replacement	No responsibility
Plumbing and fixtures	Internal repairs and any add-on fixtures not standard in the building, leaking taps and cisterns, replacement of washers	Repair and renewal of all external plumbing, leaking pipes
Plumbing waste pipes, drains and storm water pits	Keep clear of foreign objects, mud etc. and clear if blocked by these materials	General maintenance, stormwater and sewer blockages/facility drains
Other permanent fixtures	Regular cleaning of all fixtures and repair/or replace due to misuse	Handrails/disability access fixtures
Hygiene	To keep all areas in a clean and hygienic state	No responsibility
Painting	Internal painting if damaged through misuse, to match existing	Internal and external painting as per manufacturers recommendations as needed
Roofs, guttering and skylights	Regular gutter cleaning	All maintenance and repair as required
Walls	Regular cleaning and repair of damage through misuse or wear and tear	Structural maintenance
Building external	Keep clean and small maintenance works	General major maintenance
Food handling areas and equipment	To comply with relevant health legislations and maintain equipment required by legislation	No responsibility
Lawns, yards and gardens	Prune trees to ensure they do not overhang roof or pathways, mow lawns, maintain gardens and keep site tidy Removal of any rubbish	No responsibility
Sporting fields	Repair all damage. For example damage to fences, gates, seats, plant materials, and score board. Must conduct a safety check before use. Must have an emergency action plan.	No responsibility

MAINTENANCE ITEM	COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY	COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY
	Must ensure no glass is allowed on the surface	
Facilities	Ensure that facilities are neat and tidy at all times. Must use the facilities in accordance with the law	Maintenance of permanent structures
Storage	Council undertakes no responsibility for the property of any user which is placed or stored on/in the facilities	No responsibility
Access	Must allow the Council, its employees, contractors or Council approved persons, right of entry at all times including inspection of the facilities, buildings to any other premises, and carrying out maintenance or building works.	No responsibility
Toilets (not showground)	Must keep in a clean and hygienic state including arrangement of septic pump out/cleaning. All defects must be reported to Council.	Supply cleaning products. Maintain buildings and ancillary attachments. Maintain septic systems.
Toilets (showground)	Must keep all areas in a clean and hygienic state including arrangement of septic pump out/cleaning. Maintain all ancillary attachments and wall painting.	Supply cleaning products. Structural maintenance of buildings. Maintain septic systems.
New trees	Water and maintain	Plant as appropriate and within budget
General town maintenance	Complete all small maintenance issues required on Council property (eg. Light bulbs, tap washers etc.). Report to Council any major issues	Repair major issues on Council property within budget. Mow public areas and town entries. Major pruning of trees and shrubs as needed
Cemetery and Landfill	No responsibility	Maintenance and operation

6.10 Strengthening Communities Application – Barmedman Development Association Inc.



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

DP2 - Develop and support community partnerships to increase a sense of safety and wellbeing within the community

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

Council has received an application under the Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) from the Barmedman Development Association Incorporated seeking funds for a new defibrillator for the Barmedman Community.

Financial Implications

The amount requested from Council is \$1,000. There is currently \$32,890 remaining in the Strengthening Communities Fund.

Summary

This proposed purchase has the potential to be a life-saving community service and is worthy of support. Council's current Delivery Program has clear objectives around the health and provision of services to the community as well as development of partnerships to facilitate healthy outcomes.

It is proposed by the applicant that the defibrillator would be a replacement for the existing device located at the Barmedman Police Station. The old device would be re-installed at another location within the village.

Under the guidelines for the Strengthening Communities Fund, this application does meet the criteria and for this reason, funding for the project from this program is recommended to be approved.

Recommendation:

That Council approves the application for funding of the Barmedman Development Association Incorporated for an amount of \$1,000 under the Strengthening Communities Fund.

6.11 Australia Day Funding – Village Community Events



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

DP4.1- Facilitate Council events to build social capital and a sense of belonging within the community

Author: Community Development Officer

Introduction

Council has been approached by a number of village community members for financial assistance to hold an Australia Day Event throughout our village communities on Friday 26 January 2024.

Australia Day presents us with the opportunity to come together, reflect and remind ourselves about everything that is great about our community – where we have come from, what we have now, and what lies ahead.

Council will provide financial support up to the amount of \$300 for the villages of Barmedman, Mirrool, Tallimba, Ungarie and Weethalle to contribute towards an Australia Day event. Payments will be made upon receipt of invoices to a maximum of \$300.

Financial Implications

There is currently \$8,790 remaining in the Community Meetings and Functions including Australia day operational budget.

Summary

Council has supported the popular Australia Day events in the past, with positive feedback received from those who have attended.

This request meets objectives set out in Councils Community Strategic Plan.

Recommendation:

That Council receive, note and endorse the donations to communities as contained within the Australia Day Funding – Village Community Events report.

6.12 Barmedman Community Committee



Our People - Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life of the residents

DP 3.1 Develop and support a strong sense of community, providing advice and support to community groups

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

Bland Shire Council's Section 355 Committees are required to meet specific actions as set out in the Committee Manual in relation to the provision of meeting minutes and financial reports following each meeting held. This report services to provide context to the recently submitted minutes of the Barmedman Community Committee (**Attachment One**) as they relate to the actions taken by Council staff.

Financial Implications

The implications for Council in relation to financial matters are yet to be determined.

Summary

The current Barmedman Community Committee was established earlier this year through a resolution of Council. The Committee consists of a number of enthusiastic volunteers who have a desire to improve the Barmedman township for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike.

Since the committee's formation, the responsible officers have been diligent in providing minutes of committee meetings and have identified a number of activities they wish to pursue to improve their local community. However, it has become apparent from the minutes of the most recent meeting of the committee that there exists some issues in the requirement to meet Council processes.

Email correspondence to the committee from Council staff was sent on 11 December seeking to clarify some of the matters raised within the committee minutes. This email addressed what appeared to be gaps in the correspondence listed in the minutes as well as explanation for some items raised within the General Business. The proposed amendments were as follows:

MISSING CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward:

- Email sent 30/10/23 – email relating to purchase of a jetwasher advising that Council's preference was to use a local supplier where possible as well as to be in a position to claim the GST costs. Email also offered to assist with the purchase through Council's purchasing officer.
- Email sent 31/10/23 – requesting further information in relation to the purchase of jetwasher and how the transaction would occur.
- Email sent 31/10/23 - requesting annual reporting information.
- Email sent 2/11/23 to Committee in relation to the water access in Queen Street including alternative options for installing a water connection. The email stated that funds would need to be found. Indicated that other requests had been refused due to logistical and cost issues.
- 2/11/23 - Separate email sent to Committee Chair in relation to the purchase of high-pressure washer advising of potential issues.

- 28/11/23 – email sent to Committee Chair and Secretary/Treasurer with updates regarding Memorandum of Understanding, advice of the Courthouse Project requiring costings for it to progress and requirement for audited statements to be provided as per the Section 355 Committee Manual.

COMMENTARY ON GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 1 – Information provided in email sent 2/11/23 which suggested alternatives to the installation of water connections.

Item 3 – Advice on yearly donation is stated within the Section 355 Committee Manual which was adopted by Bland Shire Council in May 2021. The new manual was adopted to increase accountability from all Section 355 Committees in relation to the expenditure of ratepayer funds. While it may have been the case where committees were provided funds without supplying audited statements previously, this was not best practice and was changed with implementation of the May 2021 process.

Item 6 – The Courthouse proposal prepared by the Committee Chair was received via email on 4 September 2023. Council Considered the list of projects for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Round 4 at its workshop on 5 September 2023. The Courthouse proposal was raised however, without being costed properly, it was not considered as part of the projects adopted by Council at its meeting on 19 September 2023. Shortly after this date Council's Building Maintenance Officer went on extended leave and, as a result, has not had the opportunity to obtain quotations for the required work.

Item 7 – Promotion of any Community Event is possible through the provision of information to Council either via email or through the Council website's Upcoming Events listing page.

While the passion of the Community Committee is to be applauded, it would appear that some members do not fully understand the resourcing and time constraints placed upon Council staff which can impact their responsiveness.

Recommendation:

That Council receive the report for information and notes the minutes of the Barmedman Community Committee held on Tuesday 28 November 2023 .

Barmedman Community Committee



MINUTES for Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 28th November, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

At: Barmedman Bowling Club, Queen St. Barmedman, 2668

Present: Belinda Hall (Remote), Victoria Middleton, Gary Brouwer, Christine Inman, Pat Wells, Shirley Clay and Tony Martin

Apologies: John Lynch, Keith Edwards.

Minutes: **Motion** to endorse October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Moved: Pat Wells. **Seconded:** Belinda Hall.

Crd.

Business Arising: To General Business:

Correspondence: Outward: 18/10 Meeting Minutes (17/10) emailed to all members and council.

27/10-5/11 Belinda emailed the Committee and Council about the purchase of a high-pressure hose. (See General Business).

1/11 Victoria emailed Leesa/Council the amended income reporting statements for August and September.

2/11 Victoria emailed contact details and rec Ground sign measurements to Alison Balind & Council.

27/11 Victoria emailed October Income Reporting to Council

27/11 Belinda emailed Alison Balind about the \$5000 yearly Council donation to the Committee and the Courthouse Repair & Renovation Proposal.

28/11 Victoria emailed Origin requesting they waive the electricity charges (\$573.89) on the account and reduce the charge to \$200.94.

Inward: 31/10 Email from Leesa Bryant advising the GST claim on camping fees in the Income Report.

Treasurer's Report: **Motion** to endorse the Treasurer's Report of October, 2023.

Moved: Shirley Clay. **Seconded:** Christine Inman.

Crd.

General Business:

1. High Pressure Hose purchase. The Jet USA high pressure hose has arrived and is available to be used for cleaning the queen street shops footpaths and the rec

- ground amenities. To be stored in the amenities block at the rec ground. Final cost was \$442.00, with extra 2 yrs warranty. Belinda noted that whoever uses it on Queen street will have to have access to a hose and pay for the water, as council have advised the cost of fitting a tap will cost \$10-\$15,000 and won't approved it.
2. The Queen St Corner Block on Loftus St is for sale. Belinda asked the committee is we thought Barmedman residents would like to purchase the land to use it instead of it going to private buyers. Victoria suggested an ad in the paper to see if there is interest. It is in a good location and we don't want another investor who lives outside. We could get a grant.
 3. Yearly Council Donation. Belinda believes it is clear that council want to obstruct us from being successful, even though she and Victoria have spent hours on paperwork and financials for the donation for the 355. Belinda noted that we are always chasing council for updates. Pat noted the Tidy Towns committee used to receive the donation without income reporting for a long time, then Glenda, a retired accountant, did the end of year reports, and may be able to assist.
Motion to ask Glenda to assist with the reports.
Moved: Gary Brouwer. **Seconded:** Belinda. Crd
 4. Belinda talked about asking for internet access to Council. Shirley said all 355 committees are under the same council rules. Gary mentioned a council meeting coming up soon.
 5. Shirley has spoken to Marilyn about the 355 committee's trailer, which she has been using to carry water for the Queen st verges. Marilyn will take the trailer to a location of our choosing but we need to buy spraying facilities for the trailer. Victoria mentioned that we ask council to quote.
 6. The Courthouse Project. Alison Balind advised by email that without the costings, they couldn't decide on the project and won't support it. Council will try to get the costings when the appropriate person is back from holidays. Belinda is despondent about Council's attitude and lack of communication regarding projects etc. Christine mentioned that council need to change their attitude, because we are looking after their assets and they should be proactive and support us.
 7. Christine spoke about the opportunity to show council about our community spirit with the 150 years anniversary, and to make them accountable for promoting an event within their district.
 8. Electricity Bill—see Outward Correspondence.
 9. Report from John Lynch that there are 44-gallon drums at the rec ground playground which are not emptied by council and smelly, and he has been trying to empty them. Pat Wells will ask Brendan to take them to the tip and we should replace them with a wheelie bin.
 10. Pat to pick up the rec ground sign from council which is ready.
 11. Christine asked Belinda about the cleaning for the courthouse and a time frame. Belinda will advise when she is back.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 27th February, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Location: Barmedman Bowling Club, Queen St, Barmedman

Meeting Closed: 5.50pm

6.13 Mornings, Melodies & Memories Update



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

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

Author: Community Development Officer

Mornings, Melodies and Memories

On Saturday 2 December 2023, Council hosted the final scheduled event under the Mornings, Melodies and Memories program at the West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club with approximately 136 attendees. Participants enjoyed a two-course banquet style lunch catered by the Jade Tea House Restaurant and were entertained by the very popular Craig Giles.

Throughout this event, special mention was made to staff involved in running the program, to local performers Claudia Hopper, Leah Brohan and Ben O’Kane, to all the community groups who either provided venues or catered for the morning teas’ and special thanks to community volunteer Amanda Stitt who attended approximately 95% of sessions held throughout the year and became a very valued member of the team.



Throughout this program, staff collected handprints from participants, which have been made into a community wide art project. Claire Cummings from Splatter Gallery was engaged to assist in creating the final piece which was unveiled at the event. This artwork symbolises that we are all part of the one community. The artwork will be on display at Bland Shire Council as part of the foyer art display.

Council staff will continue to collaborate and edit all the footage and photographs taken throughout the program into the new year along with the collection of recipes that will form a community cookbook.

Verbal feedback collected so far from participants, community members and volunteers has all been positive and most have commented on the enjoyment that this program brings and requests have been made from many participants for the program to continue on a regular basis.

Feedback forms have been posted out to registered participants encouraging all positive and negative comments to be provided. Once forms have been received, a further report will be

presented to Council for consideration. This report will also provide details of how the project could continue and where funds could be drawn to support its delivery. As a project fund by the Department of Communities and Justice through its Reducing Social Isolation in Seniors program, those allocated funds could only be utilised during the project period.

The table below indicates the average number of attendees at each location:

LOCATION	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	AVERAGE
Barmedman	9	9
Mirrool	5	7
Tallimba	4	9
Ungarie	8	8
West Wyalong/Wyalong	6	63
Weethalle	10	7

Total Number of individual attendees throughout the program is approximately 204.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the information contained within the Mornings, Melodies and Memories update.

Section 3 – Technical Services

6.14 Alcohol Free Zones - West Wyalong and Wyalong



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: Manager Development and Regulatory Services

Introduction

Two Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) have been in place in Wyalong and West Wyalong since 1994, and have been widely supported by the local police, business community and members of the public. The objective of AFZs is to prevent antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related violence in public areas to improve public safety.

Section 644B(4) of the *Local Government Act (the Act) 1993* enables Council to re-establish an AFZ in accordance with the Act and applicable guidelines for further periods each not exceeding 4 years. An AFZ may comprise either or both of the following:

- (a) A public road or part of a public road;
- (b) A public place that is a car park or part of a car park.

AFZ's are enforced by the police. Any person observed to be drinking alcohol in an AFZ may have the alcohol in their possession immediately seized, tipped out or otherwise disposed of.

The Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones (the Guidelines) supports larger AFZs in rural and remote towns, primarily located adjacent to outlets supplying alcohol where drinkers may congregate on public roads, footpaths or car parks.

Public consultation on proposal to re-establish alcohol-free zone

In accordance with section 644A of the Act, Council will place a notice in the local newspaper to bring the notice to the attention of members of the public concerned to –

- (a) declare that it proposes to (re)establish a AFZs, indicating the location of the zones and the proposed period for which it will operate, and
- (b) state the place, the dates and the times during which a copy of the proposal may be inspected, and
- (c) invite representations and objections from persons and groups within the area, indicating that any representations or objections by them must be made within 30 days after the date on which the notice is published.

Council must consult and provide a copy of its proposal to each of the following persons, indicating that any representations or objections by the person must be made within 30 days after the date on which the copy is given—

- (a) the Police Local Area Commander and the officer in charge of the police station (if different) within or nearest to the proposed AFZ,
- (b) each holder of a licence in force under the *Liquor Act 2007* for premises that border on, or adjoin or are adjacent to, the proposed AFZ.

(c) any known organisation representing identifiable Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse group/s within the local area.

Bland Shire Council (Council) is not required by the Act or Guidelines to send a copy of the AFZs proposal to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board (the Board), however Council can voluntarily advise the Board to seek the Board's views on the proposed AFZs.

At the conclusion of the consultation process, Council must consider all representations, submissions or objections received. Council may, by resolution, adopt the proposal (with or without modifications) to re-establish the AFZs. The resolution itself will establish the AFZs.

Financial Implications

It is proposed to use adhesive labels to update the existing AFZs signage, where possible. It is expected that costs will be approximately \$300 if replacement signs are not required.

Summary

The proposed Alcohol Free Zones are the same configuration as the existing zones (see attachment to this report). Once the consultation period has concluded, any representations or submissions received will be reviewed prior to the adoption of the proposal and the submission of a further report to Council.

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to re-establish two Alcohol Free Zones in Wyalong and West Wyalong and place the proposal on public exhibition for a period of thirty (30) days for comment.

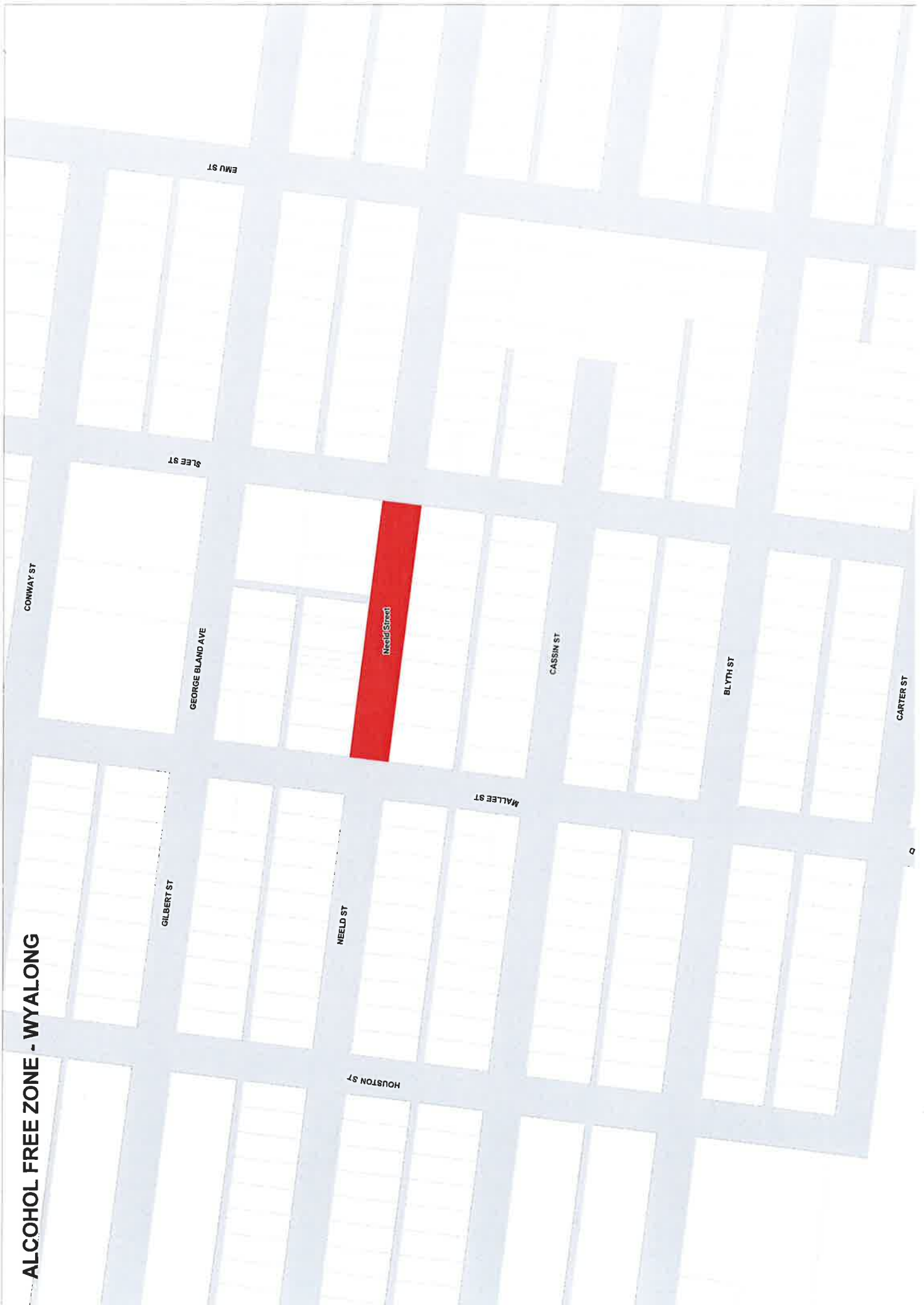
Referenced documents:

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol – Free Zones – February 2009
- Council Circular 10-33 – Alcohol Prohibited Areas – Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993
- Department of Planning and Environment – Alcohol free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas in SNW – Fact Sheet 2022.

ALCOHOL FREE ZONE - WEST WYALONG



ALCOHOL FREE ZONE - WYALONG



6.15 Tivoli Theatre – Sewer System



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

DP5.1 Facilitate the delivery of accessible services and infrastructure

Author: Director Technical Services

Introduction

In early 2020, Council commenced work on the upgrades to the Masonic building at 16 to 18 Court St in West Wyalong. These works were part of a grant funded project to develop a community theatre in West Wyalong now known as the Tivoli.

Since the theatre commenced operations there have been issues with the drainage in the ladies toilets, with constant backing up and flooding on the floors.

In October 2023 Council staff attended the site with a plumber where the cause of the problem was determined to be related to the installation of the new sewer line to enable the development of the new units in England St. Prior to the relocation of this sewer main, there were 2 sewer connections for the Masonic lodge building, the main line which was mapped and the second line which fed the ladies toilets which was unmapped and not obvious. The second line was required as the ladies toilets would not be able to be connected to the main connection and still achieve fall.

Since the sewer line was relocated the ladies toilet connection has been flowing into the blocked off old main which has been working like a tank. The line is now full and causing the line to backup into the ladies toilets causing some flooding.

The most effective method of rectifying this system was to reconnect this line into the existing connection which required a pump due to the difference in heights.

Financial Implications

To date costs incurred by the West Wyalong Community Theatre include the plumbing repairs including the new connection, new piping and the pump system as well as a new electrical connection to the pump. The theatre group is still investigating costs to undertake repairs to the concrete area outside the theatre where the excavation for the new pump and restoration of the other excavations occurred. To date invoices have been received and paid for by the West Wyalong Community Theatre totalling \$15,295.20 (including GST), the restoration of the trenches and concrete area is anticipated to be in the order of \$850 with invoices still pending. To cover all costs it is recommended that Council set an upper limit to the value of \$20,000 Including GST payable on invoice.

As the issue relates to the Sewer Main relocation, it is appropriate that these costs are covered within the sewer main maintenance budget with an amendment to be requested during the December quarterly budget review process.

Summary

In October the West Wyalong Community Theatre engaged a plumber to investigate the issue, the plumber excavated key locations on site and found the second connection and contacted Council. After investigating on site it was determined that the best solution was to connect the

ladies toilet line into the existing connection with the installation of a pump as the required levels would not allow gravity flow.

This repair incurred significant cost to the West Wyalong Community Theatre at no fault of their own or the owners of the building, being the Masonic Lodge. The second connection was not obvious and would not be expected and was not at the fault of the developer who undertook the development of the England St units. Council authorised the sewer main relocation prior to it becoming commissioned.

It is therefore reasonable that Council reimburse the West Wyalong Community Theatre for the expenses incurred

Recommendation:

That Council contribute up to \$20,000 to the West Wyalong Community Theatre for the expenses incurred in the repair of the sewer connection from the revised sewer maintenance budget, payable on presentation of invoice.

6.16 Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification



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

DP5.1 Facilitate the delivery of accessible services and infrastructure

Author: Director Technical Services

Introduction

In September 2022, all agriculture ministers in Australia agreed to work towards mandatory implementation of Sheep and Goat eIDs (Electronic Identification) nationwide by 1 January 2025.

The NSW Government is working with the industry to facilitate the implementation of a NSW and national sheep and goat individual electronic identification system.

As part of the implementation in NSW Primary producers, processors, saleyards and stock and station agents may be eligible for the rebate which will supplement the cost of purchasing and installing eID tagging systems. Council in conjunction with the West Wyalong Agents have submitted an application under this program which was successful with Council receiving \$48,000 to undertake the installation.

Financial Implications

\$48,000.00 of Grant income will be included in Council's next Quarterly Budget review, resulting in no changes to Council's budgeted net result.

Summary

Up until the announcement of the eID requirement, goat and sheep traceability has been undertaken on a mob-based system, where the mob is traced through the National Vendor Declaration. The new eID system will involve each individual animal being traced from birth through the sale process to the final destination.

As the Australian state ministers for agriculture have agreed to have eID implemented for Sheep and Goats nationwide with implementation required by January 2025. To meet the deadline council will commence the installation of a technology in the West Wyalong saleyards utilising grant funding received. This will involve the installation of readers, modifications to the yards and associated technology. The Agents Association in West Wyalong will remain responsible for the running of the facility and the data collection and reporting as required under the new Scheme.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the successful grant application for the installation of Electronic Identification (eID) technology to enable sheep scanning at the West Wyalong saleyards.

6.17 Active Transport Plan - Public Exhibition



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

DP5.1 Facilitate the delivery of accessible services and infrastructure

Author: Director Technical Services

Introduction

Council has received funding from Transport for NSW under the Get NSW Active Program for \$59,980 to develop an Active Transport Plan in line with the State Government Active Transport Strategy. The intention of this strategy is to encourage walking and bike riding, known as active transport. The strategy provides a plan to guide planning, investment and priority actions for active transport across NSW.

Financial Implications

The Active Transport Plan is fully funded under the Get NSW Active Program to a value of \$59,980.

Summary

Earlier this year Bland Shire Council was successful in securing funding under the Get NSW Active program to develop and Active Transport Plan. Council engaged Bitzious Consulting to develop this plan on Council's behalf.

On Tuesday 24 October a community session was held where the consultants received positive and constructive feedback on the needs of each of the communities covered by the plan. The draft plan includes gaps in our current infrastructure including missing paths, substandard paths, impediments to effective use of these paths as well as a list of priorities to inform Council moving forward. Part of the feedback already received relates to the title of the Plan, it was felt that the title did not convey the content and intention of the plan adequately. It is suggested as an alternative title the plan be called the Active Movement Strategy. The intention is for Council to endorse the strategy to go to public consultation for the period to 26 February 2024.

During this public consultation phase, Council will make contact with community groups including sporting bodies and wherever possible to try and attend community meetings to promote the plan, the plans will also be available at Council for viewing.

Recommendation:

1. That Council endorse the draft Bland Shire Active Movement Strategy and place on public exhibition until 26 February 2024 seeking feedback.
 2. At the finalisation of the public consultation phase a further report will be prepared and presented to Council.
-

6.18 Goldenfields Water County Council MOU



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

Goldenfields Water County Council (GWCC) is the water supply authority for the communities within the Bland Shire as well as communities from Cootamundra, Junee, Coolamon, Temora.

Under the Water Management Act 2000, all development proposals that will connect or amend a water connection must include an application for a Water Management Act certificate. Under the Water Management Act, the water authority (in this case GWCC) has statutory timeframes in which they must respond to applications for these certificates.

As Bland Shire Council is the consent authority for development within the Bland Shire, GWCC have requested that it be notified of any future development within Bland Shire that has the potential to impact its water network via increased utilisation or where the network requires upgrades to cater for the development. To facilitate this and to communicate the expectations GWCC have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between their constituent Council's and themselves.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

The MOU proposed by GWCC outlines with some detail the types of development that it wishes Council to refer to it, rather than Council referring every Development Application. GWCC have also requested that Council agree to place a condition in the condition of consent requiring a Certificate of Compliance, as well as a Copy of the conditions of consent being supplied to GWCC after the development has been determined.

The MOU sets out standard timeframes that allow both sides to process the applications and meet their statutory obligations without being onerous.

Council's planning team has reviewed the MOU, has no issue with the content and welcomes the clarifications that the MOU brings.

Recommendation:

That Council authorise the Mayor and the General Manager to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Goldenfields Water County Council.

6.19 DA2024/0016 – Commercial Alterations & Additions - Painting external façade of Heritage listed building



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

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

Author: Planning & Compliance Officer

Introduction

Bland Shire Council (Council) received a Development Application from owners and applicant Reap Orange Pty Ltd, seeking consent to paint the external façade of a heritage listed building at 93-95 Main Street, West Wyalong (“the subject building”).

The subject building is listed under *Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011*. The listing includes 93-95 Main Street, West Wyalong and adjoining property 97-99 Main Street, West Wyalong (Lot 138 DP 753135).



Subject Building



Adjoining property

Councils previously appointed Heritage Advisor reported the subject building was constructed in 1931 and was formerly known as ‘The Wyalong Grain buildings, Harts, Palmer & Coves’ owing to the tenants at particular times.

The following is an extract from the NSW State Heritage Inventory:






Statement of Significance:

A prominent two storey façade with a rendered finish, piers and decorated parapet, the building is an important element in the streetscape. The two shopfronts retain their integrity and are rare within the street.

Council adopted the 1998 West Wyalong Main Street Heritage Study (the study) to provide guidance in assessing heritage matters in a consistent manner to preserve and enhance the heritage items within the Bland Shire Council local government area.

The subject building was identified in the study as making a critical contribution to the streetscape, regarded as having exceptional character. The representative and indicative colour scheme of the era of the building, as identified in the study, is Inter-War Period (1915-1940). Three alternate colour schemes are provided within the report for each period. Selection of a preferred scheme should be considerate of the adjoining buildings, and consistent with Councils advice.

The proposed colour scheme, as detailed in the below table, 'is a contemporary reinterpretation of heritage colours, as noted in the Heritage Impact Statement Letter provided by P.A. Duggan Architect & Heritage Consultant.

Element	Colour	
Front wall and pilasters	Porters Blue Reef	
Raised mouldings (window sills, parapet coping, cornice)	Porters Blue Reef	
Parapet lettering '1931'	Natural white	
First floor window frames and sashes	Porters Blue Reef	
Entry door frames	Porters Aniseed	
Entry door leaves	Porters Aniseed	
Awning	Porters Blue Reef	
Shop window frames	Natural brass finish	

The proposed colour scheme is a substantial variation from Council's Strategic Planning & Local Policies relating to local heritage and the colours identified by the study for the Inter-War Period.

The subject building is listed as a group listing with adjoining premises 97-99 Main Street, West Wyalong.

The proposed colour scheme is unsympathetic to the adjoining building which was painted in 2020/2021 as per agreed colour scheme provided by Council's Heritage Advisor. The colour scheme of the adjoining premises is representative of the era of the building in the Inter-War Period. The proposed colour scheme is not considered to enhance the heritage character of the subject building or streetscape.

Financial Implications

Council has received payment of Development Application fees totalling \$129.00.

Summary

The application has been referred to Council for determination as the proposed colour scheme significantly varies to Council's Strategic Planning & Local Policies relating to local heritage.

The proposed colour scheme is inconsistent with the Inter-War Period (1915-1940) of the building within our local area, which will detract from the heritage significance of the building, streetscape and is unsympathetic to adjoining heritage items in the locality. Therefore, the development application shall not be supported.

Recommendation:

That Council refuse DA2024/0016 - Commercial Alterations & Additions - Painting external façade of Heritage listed building, as the proposed colour scheme is inconsistent with Council's Strategic Planning & Local Policies relating to local heritage and detracts from the heritage significance of the building and adjoining heritage items in the locality.

Section 4 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

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

6.20 - Media and Communications Report

6.21 - Community Development Report

6.22 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update

6.23 - Children Services November Update

6.24 - Bland Community Care Services Update

6.25 - Bland Shire Museum Advisor Report – November 2023

6.26 - Technical Services Report

6.27 - Development & Regulatory Services Activity Report – November 2023

6.20 Media and Communications Report



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

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

Author: Media and Communications Officer

Communication and Engagement Strategy

Currently Council staff are in the process of creating a Communication and Engagement Strategy, tracking to be introduced at the February Council meeting. This document has been in development over several months and has included extensive research. A staff survey was completed to assess the failures in internal communications within the organisation, with an in-depth review of previous Council communication documents and policies. The Media and Communication Officer has also met with several other Council staff to discuss areas for improvement in both communication strategies and engagement strategies with consideration given to the various challenges facing engagement and communication in this community.

The Media and Communications Officer is also undertaking the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) IAP2's Engagement Certificate to assist in the development of this document. A draft document is currently being prepared, with the document to initially be sent to other staff members for internal review before being presented.

While creating this document, the Media and Communications Officer has also prepared two updated draft Policies and two updated procedures. This process has been completed with extensive research into the practises, policies and procedures of other comparable Councils and communities with consideration given to the challenges of this Council and Community.

Council Website

Additionally, the Council website has been under review for the past several months. The Media and Communications Officer has met with website designers and providers to compare market value of this service, however internal review of content is required before taking further steps. To assist in this process, the Media and Communications Officer has completed a manual audit of the entire website, noting the content across the site that will need to be updated or removed. The next step in this process is to meet with each department and sift through the content that will remain, be updated, or removed prior to engaging an organisation to create a site map.

Currently Council's website provider is OpenCities and staff have met with OpenCities on multiple occasions to discuss updating the website on the current platform, and the potential for adding additional features. The Media and Communications Officer has also met with other external function providers to assess the need for a multilingual chat box on the website, an accessibility scanner for the website and an information bank for media and communication materials. When the website re-design is ready to be presented for budget consideration, these additional external features will be assessed according to benefit and cost before considering presenting them as a portion to be added to the total website re-design costs.

GM Column

The weekly GM Column has received positive feedback on social media, as has the four project updates posts that were made this month. It is noted that feedback is consistently positive regarding individual projects, however roads are often mentioned as points for improvement. The Media and Communications Officer has been working with the new Advocate editor to provide information on several Shire related activities for their inclusion in the Advocate as editorials. Amongst these is the Benches in Star Lane that were made and installed by the Men's Shed, and the work that Council staff did over the weekend of 11 November in response to storm damage.

Information was also provided for a media release by Goldenfield's Water on the West Wyalong Water Security Project and for a media release by Steph Cooke regarding the recent funding allocation from the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF).

Information on the Library's website has been updated and will continue to undergo updates in the coming months, as has information on the Childrens Services Unit pages.

Social Media/website Statistics

There are currently 17 upcoming community events advertised on the website and 9 positions vacant.

The Facebook page had a reach of 9,937 people this past month with 33 new likes and 45 published posts. The average reaction, comment and shares was 13 per post for November.

6.21 Community Development Report



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

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

Author: Community Development Officer

Meetings

Bland Shire Council hosted an Interagency meeting in West Wyalong on Wednesday 1 November. The aim of the group is to promote in partnerships the emotional, social, cultural and physical wellbeing of all individuals within the Bland Shire. All Community Service groups and agencies that operate in the Bland Shire as identified in the Bland Shire Community Services Directory are eligible to be members of the Interagency Committee. Discussions were held around the organisation of a Community Expo to be held in the Bland Shire. The expo will be held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 to coincide with Seniors Week, with a time and location still to be confirmed.

On Tuesday 14 November the Community Development Officer attended a Riverina-Murray Youth Development Officer Meeting in Griffith which was a great opportunity to network with other Council staff working in the Youth Space. Workshops were provided by the team from Sonder/Habitus and was very helpful and inspiring with collective ideas amongst the group regarding possible Youth Week activities.

On Thursday 30 November the Community Development Officer travelled to Temora to meet with Tim Kurylowicz, Executive Director Eastern Riverina Arts to discuss potential grant opportunities and collate contact details for possible artists to assist, particularly with youth workshops and art works in the near future.



School Holiday Activities

Bland Shire Council has been successful in receiving funding from the NSW Government to support a Youth Pool Party to be held on the last day of school, Wednesday 20 December 2023 at Holland Park Pool from 5pm-8pm. Free entry, water slide and inflatable will be available along with food and drinks for the youth of the Bland Shire.

The grant will also include free NRMA driving lessons for L plate drivers to be held in West Wyalong Thursday 18 and Friday 19 January 2024.





Carols by Candlelight

Bland Shire Council staff assisted the West Wyalong Hospital Auxiliary in presenting Carols by Candlelight held on Sunday 10 December 2023. This year the location was to be moved to McCann Park given that Council’s Christmas decorations form a good atmosphere for the event. However, due to weather concerns the event was relocated to the West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club. Santa and Mrs Clause made an appearance prior to the carols commencing thanks to Western Wheelers Car Club who organised and provided a back drop for Santa and Mrs Clause photos to be taken by the public.

Christmas Lights Map

Bland Shire Council’s Media and Communications Officer has distributed the annual Christmas Lights Display Map, which is available via Council’s Facebook page and Website. This year, Council is calling for the community to vote on their favourite Christmas Lights Display and the winner of the People’s choice award will be announced on 21 December 2023. The winner will receive a \$100 Why Leave Town card, and bragging rights until next year.

Australia Day 2024

Preparations for Australia Day 2024 are underway with Council receiving a grant from the Australia Day Council enabling Council to provide a free Community Breakfast, catered by the West Wyalong Lions Club from 7am on Friday 26 January 2024. The Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Ceremony will follow from 8am with special guest, Robyn Moore announced as the Bland Shire Australia Day Ambassador for 2024. Ms Moore was to attend the 2023 Australia Day activities but was prevented from doing so due to Covid.



Bland Shire Council will also be providing Australia Day Pool Parties at Holland Park Pool and Ungarie Pool from 12pm-5pm, including free pool entry, free inflatable use at both pools and free waterslide at Holland Park Pool. These events have been assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council.

6.22 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

Overwhelming Response to Christmas Food and Gifts Appeal

Since the launch of its Christmas Food and Gifts Appeal at the start of November, the library has been overwhelmed with donations from the community. The Appeal supports the local St Vincent de Paul Society in providing hampers and gifts to those families in need. The final donations were received on Friday 15 December 2023.

Also supporting the library in collecting for the Appeal is the Bland Preschool and St Mary's War Memorial School.

It should be noted that the Appeal also provides a great opportunity for parents to educate their children about the art of giving.



HSC Lockin – 15 November

In partnership with the West Wyalong High School, Bland Shire Library hosted a successful HSC Lock-in on Wednesday 15 November 2023, 5pm – 6.30pm. The session was attended by eighteen Year 11 students, plus teaching staff. The aim of the program was to prepare the students for their final year at school and support them in completing the Higher School Certificate in 2024.

The program included:

- A presentation by the Library Services Coordinator on HSC resources available through the library.
- Former students imparted valuable study tips and advice to the students.
- A Mental health advocate gave the students tips on ways to look after their mental health and wellbeing through healthy eating and exercise. She also demonstrated yoga techniques for relaxation and stress relief.
- The West Wyalong High School Youth Outreach Support Officer, spoke about the support services available to students.

The evening concluded with a light supper provided by the High School and students presented with an information pack courtesy of the library and a token gift bag supplied by the school.



Student Work Placement 13 – 17 November

Bland Shire Library recently hosted a Year 10 student for a five-day work placement. The student, who lives locally, but attends school in Wagga Wagga, assisted library staff with a range of tasks including customer service, circulation duties, program planning, promotional displays, and marketing projects.

Bland Shire Library supports work placements, as work experience helps students develop their job-ready skills and discover more about what different workplaces are like.



2023-24 Summer Reading Club Launch – 22 November

Bland Shire Library launched its annual Summer Reading Club 40-Day Challenge on Wednesday 22 November 2023.

The library received 80 registrations although registrations will continue to be taken up until 5pm Wednesday 20 December 2023.

Participants attending the launch received their reading packs in readiness for December 1, when the reading challenge officially commenced. The children enjoyed a special cake and cookies, made specifically for the occasion, and partook in a lolly guessing competition and some other fun games.

The launch also acknowledged the program's sponsors Evolution Mining – Cowal Gold Operations, Leisure & Recreation Group (Holland Park Pool), What's Cookin, and French Hot Bread Bakery.



Day Book Club – Final Meeting for 2023

Monday 4 December, 10.30am – Day Book Club met for the final time in 2023. This year, the group (which is currently at full capacity – 10 members), focused on reading and discussing a selection of Australian works. Day Book Club, held monthly, will reconvene Monday 5 February 2024.



Celebrating Christmas with Kurrajong Lifestyle Choice – 23 November

Bland Shire Library hosted a visit from Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices staff and their clients on Thursday 23 November. A wonderful fun-filled afternoon starting with lunch, followed by Christmas bon bons, Gift Exchange game, and a Christmas craft activity.



Reptiles on the Go

Bland Shire Library will host two one-hour sessions of Reptiles on the Go! to be held in the Council Chambers on Monday 8 January 2024 at 10.30am and 11.30am respectively. While there is no minimum or maximum age limit, attendance numbers for each session will be capped, as the sessions are hands-on, but also to safeguard the animals. Entry will be a gold coin donation with all money raised going to support WIRES (Riverina).

Author Visit 4 – 8 March 2024

Bland Shire Library is pleased to confirm that it will host a visit by indigenous creator Dub Leffler. Dub – an illustrator, writer, animator, and mixed media artist working in the arts through books, film, television, muralism, and art education – will visit the Bland Shire from 4 March to 8 March 2024.

A schedule encompassing all nine schools located within the Bland Shire (nearly 700 students Kinder to Year 10) will be drafted once all return forms have been received. It is anticipated that a draft schedule will be forwarded to the schools for comment prior to the end Term 4 and finalised the first week of the new school year.

Little Wattle Visit

Bland Shire Library hosted a preschool group from Little Wattle on Wednesday 6 December. The children were provided a Christmas themed storytime which included some fun Christmas stories, Christmas songs, music and dance eg. When Santa Got Stuck in the Chimney, and a Christmas craft. At the completion, the children enjoyed free time exploring the library before returning to Little Wattle with a box of Christmas lolly bags.



LEGO Club – Celebrating 2023

Wednesday 6 December, 3.30pm – Lego Club celebrated the end of another year with a Christmas Lego Party. The children enjoyed Lego building, party games, party food, and each participant received a small token gift. The library also held a Christmas Lego challenge in November with the winner announced at the party. The STEM program devised for children up to 14 years is held monthly. Lego Club will resume Wednesday 7 February 2024.



Summer Reading Club Off to a Great Start

The library has been a hive of activity since launching its annual Summer Reading Club 40-Day Challenge. Participants have been visiting the library to find our resident Elf, SRC painted rocks, and complete a number of other challenges, all part of the Summer Reading Club Bingo Challenge.



New Memberships

20 new members registered in November – the major numbers being children and youth.

Christmas Closure

Bland Shire Library will close 12pm Thursday 21 December 2023 and re-open 10am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Bland Shire Library staff would like to take this opportunity to thank Council's senior management and the Councillors for their ongoing support throughout the year and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

6.23 Children Services November 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

November was very hectic with so many things crammed into one short month. Term 4 commenced, and the service staff have not slowed down since.

Open day – CSU Educators held an Open Day for all children and families that will be attending a CSU service in 2024. Over 15 families attended and had access to classroom teachers, educators and a tour of the building, the children also had their face painted and spent the morning playing inside and out. This was well received with parents advising how helpful it was as an introduction and preview of the year ahead. Thank you to all Educators and staff that attended on Saturday 25h November, the community certainly appreciated you giving up a Saturday morning.

Professional Development – The KU Support Officer popped in for a brief visit with the CSU Coordinator to observe classroom practises and support Educators with techniques and strategies within the classroom. CSU were invited to host a Sector Capacity evening in 2024, allowing various Early Childhood Teachers and Educators the opportunity to meet, chat and brainstorm ideas to promote inclusive practises in the Early Childhood profession. CSU quickly accepted this offer and look forward to meeting other Educators from surrounding towns, along with KU Support Officer, giving CSU an opportunity to showcase not only our wonderful service, facility but knowledgeable educators also.

Positions vacant –

Positions were offered and secured in November including a Full time Cert III trainee position who has settled well and enjoyed getting to know the educators and children. CSU has also secured 2 x Diploma trainees to commence in 2024. A School Based Apprenticeship Trainee (SBAT) position has also been filled with the successful applicant commence in in January. The trainee will work one day at CSU and complete their Cert III whilst at school. CSU is thrilled to support local high school children and continue to build a strong relationship with West Wyalong High School, thanks to AnnMarie Forster for supporting these students. Lastly, a Senior Early Childhood teacher has been secured who will join CSU in January 2024. The successful applicant is currently working at CSU on their final university placement. This was a great opportunity to see the applicant in action, prior to offering a permanent teaching position. All educators at CSU are excited for 2024. It will be an amazing, yet super busy year!

Other –

Director Day was celebrated on Friday 10 November. Educators surprised the Coordinator with a special gift (educator contributions), acknowledging her leadership and support.

CSU had 2 x work experience students join the team for a week. One from West Wyalong High School who visited from 30 October to 3 November and another from St Francis College in Leeton who came along from 20 to 24 November. Both students enjoyed their time at CSU and participated well within the classroom.

Bland Preschool – CSU Coordinator

November was an extremely busy month.

All Preschool classes attended the library for the final time in 2023. As always, the library staff provided a fabulous experience to the children. They participated in story time, dances, games and craft. The library should be extremely proud of the service offered.

Wednesday/Thursday Bilby class was invited along to the Wyalong Public School Concert. They thoroughly enjoyed this and commented how great the students performed and danced. Thank you, Wyalong Public School, for inviting us to attend and congratulations on a great performance.

Congratulations to the Bland Preschool, Bland Shire Mobile Resource Unit and Family Day Care children and educators that rocked it at the CSU Christmas Concert. CSU received such positive feedback from families and the community. All children practiced and practiced their dance routines and songs. Educators worked extremely hard to provide families a ‘showcase spectacular’ and they certainly delivered. The concert was a successful community event, with over 400 people packed into the S & C Club on Wednesday 29 November.

Each class performed brilliantly. The Pre Kindy classes graduated in their cap and gown and received their very own Preschool graduation certificate. Graduating CSU educators were also acknowledged and celebrated with a certificate. This year CSU congratulated Megan Daly, Melanie Karsten and Jordyn Heffernan (Early Childhood Teachers), Kate Spackman (Diploma) and Tayah Glasgow and Hayley Wallace (Cert III). CSU is blessed to have so many passionate educators on staff.



Mobile Resource Unit – Service Leader

Ungarie Mobile Preschool and Friday Junior Preschool

Ungarie Mobile Preschool began the term with an excursion to Bland Shire Library. Together with 'Story Time' the children enjoyed stories, craft, dancing and morning tea with the community. With Christmas around the corner, Christmas decorations, craft and games have begun. Junior Preschool also has had an excursion to Bland Shire Library and a trip to West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club for concert rehearsal.

MRU Playgroup

The warmer weather and with harvest finishing early, playgroups in West Wyalong, Weethalle and Ungarie have been popular with families coming to catch up, engage in activities with their children whilst being in a child friendly environment.



Bland / Temora Family Day Care – Service Leader

Book Week was held in November with over \$700 of books sold to our families and the community. Holding this Book Fair each year, earns us points which we can then use to purchase further books and resources for FDC.

Educators are busy finalising their enrolments for next year, with most of them already full. Families have commented on how much they love Family Day Care and try to book their babies in as soon as they are born.

Playgroup in both West Wyalong and Temora was again well attended. Children enjoyed exploring the variety of experiences provided and joining in the dancing and interactive stories. Educators again commented on how they are loving playgroup for the children and themselves being able to network with each other. One educator also commented on how she is taking ideas of the group-times being held at playgroup and is now providing this in her program.

Concert Practice provided an opportunity for our West Wyalong and Weethalle Educators, along with their children, to practice their dancing together for the first time. We also used this chance to have a picnic at Herridge Park where the children had lots of fun.

The CSU Concert was an outstanding success and our little West Wyalong and Weethalle FDC children and babies performed exceptionally well. Thank you to our Educators for putting in the effort and encouragement with the children to stand up on stage and dance their little hearts out.

FDC Enrolments:

Permanent enrolments – 40 children

Casual enrolments – 17 children



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

Playgroups:

Tallimba – Tallimba Hall – 2 families in attendance.

Ungarie CWA Hall – 5 families in attendance. This was ITAV’s first playgroup without Bland Mobile Resource Unit (MRU) in attendance to help support interactions with an established MRU playgroup.

Bland Children Services Unit (CSU) – 5 families in attendance.

Naradhan playgroup – cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

Educational Packs: Christmas theme during the months of November and December.

Parenting Programs: Links for The Triple P (Positive Parenting Programs) were provided via the ITAV Facebook page. The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program is a parenting and family support system designed to help children realise their potential. Families in Australia with children under 12 can now get FREE Triple P Online. Triple P is designed to be with parents on every step of their journey, providing help and guidance to families when they need it. It aims to create supportive family environments, and to prevent, as well as treat, behavioural and emotional problems in children and teenagers.

Toy Library: New toys were acquired for the Toy Library. Positive feedback so far with one parent commenting “My daughter didn’t want to bring the piggy back!” End of year stocktake is approaching with information sent to Toy library clients advising the need to return items.

6.24 Bland Community Care Services Update



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

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

Author: Acting Community Care Coordinator

General Update:

Intakes under CHSP have slowed down due to staffing constraints. COMPACKS and TACP referrals however have continued at a steady rate.

Group Updates:

Bland Blokes continue to meet on a weekly basis. New members are welcome to attend and join in for a cuppa and chat with like-minded people. The Bland Blokes remain at 6 attendees.

Wednesday Activity Day continues weekly. Group numbers have recently been reduced to 15 regular attendees, one of these attends on a fortnightly basis rather than weekly.

Attendance (including our volunteer):

Wednesday 1 November – 10 attendees

Wednesday 8 November 2023 – 10 attendees

Wednesday 15 November 2023 – 10 attendees

Wednesday 22 November 2023 – Cancelled due to staff shortage

Wednesday 29 November 2023 – 6 attendees due to the rain, attendees from the village did not want to come.

Early in November, Wednesday Activity Day enjoyed a theme day for Melbourne Cup. Activities included a Melbourne Cup quiz, horseshoe throw and a Melbourne Cup true or false quiz.

On 15 November Wednesday attendees enjoyed a visit from Little Wattle where they played Play-Doh, coloured in and enjoyed some singing performances.

Participants enjoy a mix of cognitive and physical activities in the morning, are provided a “home cooked” meal for lunch and play bingo in the afternoon. Recent lunch menu has consisted of roast chicken, spaghetti, fish and chicken schnitzel. All meals served with vegetables or salad.



Gentle Exercises are held each Thursday morning and afternoon with participants enjoying the gentle exercise program followed by a cuppa and chat.

The morning session is doing well with regularly high numbers. We have increased the numbers for the afternoon session to 9 attendees however they are still not attending regularly. This will be reviewed in the new year.

The exercise group enjoyed an excursion to Wyalong School on 2 November where they enjoyed the "Topsy Dance Concert 2023". Seven attendees went and had a fabulous time.



6.25 Bland Shire Museum Advisor Report – November 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

Weethalle Museum (Monday 20 November morning)

A couple of hours were spent cleaning the front room of the Museum, including polishing the trophies in the new cabinet.

Part of the process of cleaning, besides improving conditions and improving presentation of the museum, is checking the condition of the objects, correcting records and generally become acquainted with the collection. This becomes useful when it comes to writing labels and interpretation, rearranging objects to make visually engaging displays and identifying any environmental or storage issues.

The new cabinet ensures the trophies are better protected from the conditions in the museum. It will lessen dust and temperature change – hopefully slowing down tarnishing.

Once the trophies were polished, as best we could – considering several have been loved to the point of silver loss – we turned our attentions to the timber screens and counter of the old bank. We removed objects that had no relevance to that area. Then dusted and cleaned the surface and the objects. We identified several pieces of old furniture that are very damaged and frankly, irrelevant to the display in the front room. These will be removed, when possible next year along with other furniture that has not held up in the tough conditions. These will be listed on a deaccession report and noted on collection records.



Wyalong Museum (Monday 20 afternoon)

Another busy afternoon at Wyalong Museum updating a display in the Military Room. A showcase there is now displaying a great collection of trophies related to sports in West Wyalong, including a collection of Fred Kalm's tennis awards. Diane Redman was kept busy blowing up images and mounting them to add to the display. Thank you to Museum volunteers, Noelene, Lavinia, Lyall, Diane and Stuart for your assistance in hot conditions.

This rejig has put on display objects that have been in storage for a while, which is excellent, plus renews knowledge of the collection for the managers.

One of the trophies put on display is the Dinkum Cup, which comes with a great community story. After WWI the kids of the town had a rugby league competition with each team coming from either the east side of the main street or the west side. An old pot became the trophy for the competition until they managed to raise enough from donations to purchase a better one. This is a brief telling of the tale – pop up to the museum to get all the details!

Great to see the new exhibition focused on the local fire services in town and the Christmas themed change over in the Kitchen.



Ungarie Museum (Tuesday 21 November)

Another full day of cataloguing objects. Thankfully it was not too hot, but we can feel it coming... Volunteers were prepared for my arrival with sheets and objects laid out ready for work. And as usual there were some interesting ones amongst the expected objects.

One is a very solid timber box. It came from the collection of objects given to the museum when the Westpac Bank closed in Ungarie. These boxes are solidly made as they were containers for new coins coming to the bank from the Commonwealth of Australia Mint, pre decimal so before March 1966. The box was then used to house local parish maps and an index book which contained a guide to finding account holders properties – very important no doubt as most were mortgaged to the bank.

The other objects I am showcasing below are a lovely set of pokerwork vases and a local St Joseph's School Sports medal.



Next visit 2024 – days to be confirmed.

6.26 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. ROADS MAINTENANCE

Works Undertaken November 2023

- **Maintenance Grading**

Roads:

- Winnunga Rd (Awaiting gravel to complete)
- Humby Rd (In progress)
- Younga Plains Rd (In progress)
- Browns Lane (Almost complete)
- Grahams Lane (Almost complete)
- Sullivans Lane
- Weja Rd (Awaiting gravel to complete)
- Monument Flats (Awaiting gravel to complete)
- Koops Lane
- Cattles Lane
- Lewes Rd

- **Flood Damage Repairs**

Roads

- Younga Plains Rd
- Sullivans Lane
- Koops Lane

- **Sealed Road Patching Works**

Roads

- Councils Bitumen Patching Truck has been working along all Regional/Rural sealed Roads
- Urban roads in West Wyalong & Weethalle

- **Gravel Resheeting**

Roads

- Grahams Lane
- Sullivans Lane
- Koops Lane
- Lewes Rd

Works Planned December 2023

- **Maintenance Grading**

Roads

- Winnunga Rd
- Abernathy's Lane
- Stidwells Lane
- Williams Crossing Rd
- Humby Rd
- Younga Plains Rd (In progress)
- Browns Lane (Almost complete)
- Danahers Lane

- **Flood Damage Repairs**

Roads

- Monument Flats
- Waarbilla Rd
- Williams Crossing Rd
- Younga Plains Rd
- Stidwells Lane

- **Gravel Resheeting**

Roads

- Grahams Lane (Almost complete)
- Waarbilla Rd
- Williams Crossing
- Hately's Lane
- Golden Hills Rd

2. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Villages / Works Undertaken – Schedule for October

- **Monday's – Weethalle + Tallimba**

Clean toilets; Mow and whipper snip town/parks and cemetery; Tree trimming; Spray drains

- **Tuesday's – Ungarie**

Mow and whipper snip sporting field; Push mow and whipper-snip park; Mow and whipper-snip town areas; Tree trimming; Spray for weeds; Park inspection

- **Wednesday's - Barmedman**

Mow and whipper snip parks and towns; Sweep main street gutter; Tree trimming; Park inspection

- **Thursday's - Ungarie**

Mow and whipper snip sporting field; Push mow and whipper-snip park; Mow and whipper-snip town areas; Tree trimming; Spray for weeds; Park inspection

- **Friday's – Weethalle**

Clean toilets; Mow whipper-snip

3. PARK MAINTENANCE

Mow whipper-snip and edge all Parks

Check irrigation

Park inspection

Weed gardens

Trim trees

Fix water leaks

4. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

- Mow whipper snip and edge cemetery
- Check graves once dug
- Check backfill once back filled
- Check irrigation
- Back fill graves when they sink
- Fix irrigation pipes when they have been hit

5. SPORTING FIELDS MAINTENANCE

- Mow whipper-snip all sporting fields
- Check irrigation
- Fix water leaks
- Check the tanks have water in them for watering
- Line mark for cricket and little A's
- Spray for weeds

6. TOWN MAINTENANCE - GENERAL

- Mow and whipper snip town street
- Mow and whipper snip pre school
- Spray weeds around town
- Water newly planted trees
- Laid turf up around ninja park
- Trim street trees
- Water main street hedges
- Set up for the Hearts of Gold Festival
- Uncover sewer manhole lids
- Mow and whipper snip council chambers grounds
- Grind footpaths to remove trip hazards
- Street sweep Urban streets
- Airport Safety inspection (Tuesday Wednesday Thursday)

7. MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Industrial Estate

Works done and completed to date.

- Central Road and Shamrock Street subgrade is completed. Construction of the subbase layer is in progress, about 60% completed.
- The drainage pipe on Central Road is in progress.
- The external surveyor is working closely with contractor.
- Contractor still waiting for geotechnical report for the base layer DGB20 gravel.
- Killard Group has started watermain construction, works completed 30%.
- Sewer and other services still to be proceed.

Works to be done in next month.

- To finalise the drainage and complete base DGB20 layer construction.
- Completed water main construction and to start sewer component prior to complete drainage open channel.
- To engage contractors for other services (telecommunication, electricity).

Issues

- We have a recognised discrepancy in survey setout due to potential data interchange between old and new (corrected) projection system. Data was analysed and corrected to the best of our knowledge. The minimum data variation was adopted and no changes to current construction workload noted.
- Location of existing optic fibre cable has caused small adjustment to the drainage pipe level on Central Road. This situation is corrected and no delay in construction recorded.
- The delay in sewer; Killard Group have withdrawn from sewer construction due to external scheduling issues, seeking quotations from local plumbers to do the installation.

Flood Damage Claim

To date, Council staff have inspected all the flood damaged roads within Bland Shire with 229 instances of flood damage across approximately 130 roads being approved, with approximately 11 instances outstanding waiting on a determination by Transport for NSW.

The value of the flood damage approved to date is as follows:

- Councils claim under storm event AGRN 1034 for Emergency works \$69,222
- Council's claim under storm event AGRN 1034 for Essential Public Asset Reconstruction - \$2,067,550 (noting there are still some outstanding items yet to be assessed)
- Council's co-contribution is \$64,223

Drag Strip Project

The Planning Proposal is progressing along. Development application is being worked on and will be ready to submit when the planning proposal is completed in the new year.

Tender documentation development is underway ready for advertising when development application has been determined.

Netball Court Project

When the works began the pavement underneath the existing netball courts was not adequate to support the heavy equipment that was working on the project. Investigations revealed that water was infiltrating the base from trenches along the edges. This required the unsuitable (wet) pavement material to be removed and replaced with a more suitable material. This has been completed and asphalt layers have been installed. The drainage grates on the eastern side have been renewed.

Works to be completed

- Final linemarking
- Concrete border near cricket nets
- Installation of goal posts

The project is expected to be completed on Friday 15 December.

6.27 Development & Regulatory Services Activity Report – November 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 of Development and Regulatory Services

Planning and Building Activities Update

The following DA applications were approved during November 2023:

Application No	Location	Description	Consent Authority	Approval Date
DA2024/0012	12-20 Barnado Street, West Wyalong	Demolition Existing Coolroom – Alterations & Additions to Commercial Development – Installation of Fire Safety Doors.	Staff	7/11/2023
DA2024/0015	25 Cedar Street, West Wyalong	Residential Alterations & Additions - Attached Patio to Rear of House	Staff	8/11/2023
DA2024/0018	Bellarwi Road, West Wyalong	Construction of New Dwelling, Attached Garage & Inground Swimming Pool	Staff	23/11/2023
DA2024/0019	31 Blyth Street, Wyalong	Tree Removal	Staff	27/11/2023
DA2024/0020	48 Wollongough Street, Ungarie	Commercial Alterations & Additions - Demolition of Existing Ancillary Accommodation Block	Staff	28/11/2023

Other applications approved during November 2023:

- Three (3) Construction Certificates.
- One (1) Local Government Act application
- One (1) Occupation Certificate issued.

Inspections carried out during November 2023:

Swimming Pool Compliance	9
Swimming Pool Public Health	7
Building	27
On-site Sewer Management	3
Food	2

Regulatory Activities Update

Dog Attacks

One (1) dog attack was reported during November 2023. Four of the five dogs involved in the attack were declared dangerous and subsequently euthanised.

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities November 2023

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	7	1
Returned to Owner	3	0

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	1	0
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	7	1
Dumped at Pound	1	4
Surrendered	6	1
Total Animals in Pound	15	6

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	3	0
Euthanised	4	1
Rehoused (Rescued)	5	4
Sold	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Stolen	0	0
Escaped	0	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	12	5
Animals in Pound at end of Month	3	1

Penalty infringement Notices issued:

Description	No. issued
Owner of dog which rushes at/attacks/bites/harasses/chase any person/Animal	1
Companion Animal (other) not registered as prescribed- 1st Offence	3
Total	4

GIS Activities Update

- **Drone Photography for Business Park Development:** Captured detailed progression shot, providing valuable insights into the development stages of the new business park.
- **Cemetery Database Finalization:** Near completion of the cemetery database project, aiming to enhance public accessibility and provide a comprehensive digital repository of cemetery records.
- **Georeferencing Sewer Data:** Make amendments to existing sewer data to ensure accuracy and reliability.
- **Collaboration with Spatial Services NSW:** Strengthened our partnership through productive data sharing and updated agreements, enhancing our GIS capabilities and data accuracy.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES



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

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

Committee	Date/s	Minutes Attached
Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee	7 November 2023	✓
Country Mayors Association	24 November 2023	✓
MERC	7 December 2023	✓

Section 355 Committee	Date/s	Minutes Attached
Mirrool Silo Kick Committee	16 August 2023	✓

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Committee meeting minutes as presented.

-
1. **WELCOME** – Meeting opened at 1.30pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee members: Melissa Boxhall – Chair (Temora Shire Council), Elizabeth Smith (Temora Shire Council), Cr. Tony Lord (Bland Shire Council).

Staff: Grant Baker (Bland Shire Council), Alison Balind (Bland Shire Council), Leesa Bryant (Bland Shire Council), David Wardell (Bland Shire Council).

Guests: Brad Bohun (Crowe), Stephen Bunting (Morrison Low)

2. **APOLOGIES** – Min Lee (Audit Office of NSW)

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 4 July 2023 be endorsed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith **SECONDED:** Melissa Boxall

4. **MATTERS ARISING** - Nil

5. **FINAL MANAGEMENT LETTER, CONDUCT OF AUDIT AND ENGAGEMENT CLOSING REPORT 2023**

RESOLVED

THAT the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Notes for information contained within the Final Management Letter, Conduct of Audit and Engagement Closing reports for 2023 from the NSW Audit Office.
2. Supports the resolution of Bland Shire Council to accept the qualification as detailed in the document due to staff adhering to Council's adopted *Position Statement on the Accounting Treatment of Rural Fire Service Assets*.
3. Consider at the next meeting feedback from Bland Shire Officers in relation to timing and processes for finalisation of statements following consultation with the Alliance.

MOVED: Melissa Boxall **SECONDED:** Elizabeth Smith

6. **INTERNAL AUDIT – INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING (IP&R) PROCESSES**

RESOLVED

THAT the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note the information contained within the Internal Audit of Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Processes at Bland Shire Council and endorses the management commentary and timeframes provided with the inclusion of Annual Report recommendations.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith **SECONDED:** Cr Tony Lord

7. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

RESOLVED

THAT the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes the progress against recommendations from previous Internal Audit reports and recommends removal of completed matters.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith **SECONDED:** Cr Tony Lord

8. BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

RESOLVED

THAT the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes for information the Enterprise Risks and Insurances Update of 1 November 2023.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith **SECONDED:** Melissa Boxhall

**9. CYBER HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIPs) QUARTERLY REPORT
AND 2023 NSW GOVERNMENT CYBER THREAT REPORT**

RESOLVED

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note for information the August 2023 Quarterly Cyber Hygiene Improvement Program (CHIPs) Report and 2023 NSW Government Cyber Threat Report.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith **SECONDED:** Cr Tony Lord

10. MEETING DATES

The next Bland Shire Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting is proposed for 2pm, Tuesday 5 March 2024.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING: 2.35pm



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
Gunnedah Shire Council, PO Box 63,
Gunnedah NSW 2380
Contact: (02) 6740 2100
Email: jamiechaffey@infogunnedah.com.au

AGM Minutes

FRIDAY, 24 November 2023, Theatre, Parliament House, Sydney

The meeting opened at 8.55 am

- 1. Chairman's 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. Attendance from Local Government**

Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Jess Jennings, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Mr David Sherley, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
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
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor
Bourke Shire Council, Ms Leone Brown, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Mr Jay Nankivell, General Manager
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor
Byron Shire Council, Mr Mark Arnold, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Central Darling Shire Council, Mr Robert Stewart, Administrator
Central Darling Shire Council, Mr Gregory Hill, General Manager
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 Paul Gallagher, General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor
Cowra Shire Council, Mr Paul Devery, General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Eurobodalla Shire Council, Cr Mat Hatcher, Mayor
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Forbes Shire Council, Ms Haley Gould
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Matt Hearn
Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor
Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager
Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Rob Banham, Mayor
Glen Innes Severn Council, Mr Bernard Smith, General Manager
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Peter Walker, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO
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
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor
Hilltops Council, Mr Anthony O'Reilly, General Manager
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Mr Brett McInness, General Manager
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
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Deputy Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Kelvin Tytherleigh, General Manager
Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Ruth McRae, Mayor
Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Darrell Tiemens, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Kschenka, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Narromine Shire Council, Ms Jane Redden, General Manager
Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
Orange City Council, Mr David Waddell, General Manager
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
Port Stephens Council, Mr Tim Crosdale, General Manager
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Mr Matthew Hyde, General Manager
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Judy Coates, Deputy Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Ms Melissa Boxall, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Ms Alex Waldron, CEO
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Toni Averay, General Manager
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Phil Hood, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Paul Best, Deputy Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council, Cr Matt Gould, Mayor
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr David Reynolds, CEO
LGNSW, Mr Damien Thomas, Director, Advocacy
LGNSW Ms Bronwen Regan, Manager Strategy

Apologies:

As submitted

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Adjourned Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

5. Chairman's Report

Chairman Cr Jamie Chaffey outlined the years highlights and thanked everybody for their support during the term.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman's report be received and noted

Moved - Gunnedah Shire Council Councillor - Jamie Chaffey

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

6. Secretaries Report – Financial Report

RESOLVED: That the financial reports for the 2022/23 year as tabled be accepted

Moved Narrandera Shire Council Councillor Neville Kschenka

Seconded Singleton Council Councillor Sue Moore

7. Endorsement of Hosting Non-Metropolitan Meetings in 2024

Mayor Phyllis Miller Forbes Shire Council and Mayor Leo Hauville Kempsey Shire Council spoke on their submissions.

RESOLVED:

That the submissions submitted by Forbes Shire Council for a non- metropolitan meeting on the 8-9 April 2024 and from Kempsey Shire Council for a non- metropolitan meeting on the 13-14 June 2024 be endorsed.

Moved - Goulburn Mulwaree Council Councillor - Peter Walker

Seconded - Glen Innes Severn Council - Councillor Ron Banham

8. Returning Officer

RESOLVED:

That the Returning Officer for the conduct of the elections be the Secretary Mr Eric Growth

Moved - Singleton Council Councillor - Sue Moore

Seconded - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

9. Election of Executive Member

Three nominations were received for the vacant Executive Committee position. Nominations were received from Cr Rod Banham, Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Federation Council and Cr Steve Reynolds, Muswellbrook Shire Council. Ballot papers were distributed and a count of the ballot papers was conducted by the Returning Officer. The meeting continued

10. Signatories to CMA Bank Accounts

RESOLVED:

That the signatories to the CMA Bank Accounts No 260210575727 and No 250210246625 be Mr Eric Growth General Manager, Mr Kalana Tennakoon Manager Finance, and Ms Kelly Stidworthy Director Corporate Services of Gunnedah Shire Council

Moved - Cowra Shire Council Councillor - Ruth Fagan

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

11. Appointment of Secretariat for 2024

RESOLVED:

That Regional Development Australia Inland Northern NSW be appointed as the Secretariat for 2024

Moved - Inverell Shire Council Councillor - Paul Harmon

Seconded - Glen Innes Severn Council Councillor - Ron Banham

12. Setting of Annual Membership Fees

RESOLVED:

That the fees for the 2023/24 year be set at \$1,500 for Councils with a population of 10,000 and over, and Councils with a population of less than 10,000 paying 75% \$1,125.

Moved - Armidale Regional Council Councillor - Sam Coupland
Seconded - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

13. Meeting Dates for 2023

RESOLVED:

That the meeting dates for 2024 be 22 March, 10 May, 9 August and 15 November

Moved - Bland Shire Council Councillor - Brian Monaghan
Seconded - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

14. Executive

Following the count of the votes Cr Patrick Bourke was declared elected to the Executive for the 2023/24 year

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 am.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW

www.nswcountrymayors.com.au



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

*Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
Gunnedah Shire Council, PO Box 63,
Gunnedah NSW 2380
Contact: (02) 6740 2100
Email: jamiechaffey@infogunnedah.com.au*

Minutes

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 24 November 2023 Theatrette, Parliament House, Sydney

The meeting opened at 8.32 am

1. Chairman's 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. Attendance from Local Government

Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King, Mayor
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Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Jess Jennings, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Mr David Sherley, General Manager
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Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager
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 Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
 Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
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 Forbes Shire Council, Ms Haley Gould
 Forbes Shire Council, Mr Matt Hearn
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 Glen Innes Severn Council, Mr Bernard Smith General Manager
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 Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO
 Greater Hume Council, Cr Tony Quinn, Mayor
 Greater Hume Council, Ms Evelyn Arnold, General Manager
 Griffith City Council, Cr John Doug Curran, Mayor
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 Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, CEO
 Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Deputy Mayor
 Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
 Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
 Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
 Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
 MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
 Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor
 Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
 Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
 Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Kelvin Tytherleigh, General Manager
 Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Ruth McRae, Mayor
 Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager
 Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Darrell Tiemens, Mayor
 Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
 Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Kschenka, Mayor
 Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager
 Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
 Narromine Shire Council, Ms Jane Redden, General Manager
 Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
 Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
 Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
 Orange City Council, Mr David Waddell, General Manager
 Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith
 Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
 Port Stephens Council, Mr Tim Crosdale, General Manager
 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO

Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Mr Matthew Hyde, General Manager
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Judy Coates, Deputy Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Ms Melissa Boxall, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Ms Alex Waldron, CEO
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Toni Averay, General Manager
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Phil Hood, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Paul Best, Deputy Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council, Cr Matt Gould, Mayor
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr David Reynolds, CEO
LGNSW, Mr Damien Thomas, Director, Advocacy
LGNSW Ms Bronwen Regan, Manager Strategy

Parliamentarian Attendance

Hon Jenny Aitchison MP – Member for Maitland
Hon Adam Marshall – Member for Northern Tablelands
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC,
Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC
Hon Aileen McDonald MLC
Hon Jacqui Munro MLC
Dr Amanda Cohn, MLC
Mr Dave Layzell MP, Member for Upper Hunter
Mrs Tanya Thompson MP, Member for Myall Lakes
Mr Michael Regan MP, Member for Wakehurst

Apologies:

As submitted

Special Guests Speakers:

The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast
The Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of The Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources
The Hon Damien Tudehope MLC, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations
The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Crown Land

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the General Meeting held on 4 August 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

Seconded - Singleton Council Councillor - Sue Moore

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Nil

6. LGNSW Update Report

Cr Darriea Turley, President, LGNSW, introduced the new Board Members Rural/Regional and provided advice on the work of LGNSW since the CMA August meeting including LGNSW Annual Conference 2023 held on the 12-14 November, the IPART Review of rate pegging methodology, Adam Marshalls private members bill on the red fleet, protecting local water utilities parliamentary inquiry, funding for disaster recovery in the Central West, Biodiversity Conservation Act, housing roundtable proposal , select committee to examine Remote, Rural and Regional Health and funding boost for councils for walking and cycling gaps

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Moved - LGNSW President Councillor - Darriea Turley

Seconded - Shoalhaven City Council Councillor - Amanda Findley

7. ALGA Update Report

A written report was submitted by Cr Linda Scott, President, ALGA, outlining initiatives including the Grattan Institute report on local roads funding, new national packaging reforms, Local Roads Transport and Infrastructure Congress, Minister Bowen attending local governments climate change breakfast, and the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Moved - Parkes Shire Council Councillor - Ken Keith

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

8. Membership

RESOLVED:

That Central Darling Shire Council be admitted as a member of the Association.

Moved - Inverell Shire Council Councillor - Paul Harmon

Seconded - Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Councillor - Kenrick Winchester

9. Correspondence

Outward

Lord Mayor Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Newcastle City Castle	Advising that Newcastle City Council has been admitted to the Association as an Associate Member
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Cr Rick Firman, Chairman, Riverina Eastern Organisation of Councils	Advising that Riverina Eastern Organisation of Councils has been admitted to the Association as an Associate Member
Cr Matt Gould, Mayor Wollondilly Shire Council,	Advising that Wollondilly Shire Council has been admitted as a member of the Association
Cr Jay Suvaal, Mayor, Cessnock City Council	Advising that Cessnock City Council has been admitted as a member of the Association
The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier	Inviting him to present at the 24 November meeting
The Hon Penny Sharp MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural resources The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Leader of the Opposition The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Small Business Mr Simon Draper, CEO, NSW Reconstruction Authority	Thanking them for their presentations to the 4 August 2023 meeting
The Hon Pru Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning, Shadow Minister for Western NSW The Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Mr Justin Clancy MP, Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Professor Mary O'Kane AC, Chair, Australian Universities Accord The Hon Fiona Nash, Commonwealth Regional Education Commissioner	Inviting them to be guest presenters at the Skills Forum to be held on the 23 November 2023
The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Leader of the Opposition The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources The Hon Damien Tudehope MLC,	Inviting them to be guest presenters at the General Meeting to be held on the 24 November 2023

Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations Shadow Treasurer	
Mr Michael Sharpe, Director, AUZUS Forum, Chairman, Nuclear Taskforce	Chairman accepting invitation to join the advisory board of the Nuclear Taskforce
To all NSW Parliamentarians	Inviting them to attend meetings of Country Mayors Association
Dr Joe McGirr MP, Member for Wagga Wagga, Chairman Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health Professor Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner, Australian Department of Health and Aged Care Dr Michael Holland MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Secretary for Regional Health Ms Jill Ludford, Acting Deputy Secretary, NSW Regional Health Division, Chief Executive Murrumbidgee Local Health District Mr Jeremy Mitchell, Director Engagement, Rural Doctors Network Professor Len Bruce, Executive Director of Medical Services, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, and General Manager Wagga Wagga Base Hospital Dr Adam Yoosuff, Director of Primary Healthcare, Murrumbidgee Local health District Ms Christine Stephens Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery, Murrumbidgee Local Health District Hon Michael McCormack MP, Member for Riverina Ms Tanya Thompson MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health Mr Brendon Cutmore, Director Information and Performance Support, NSW Regional Health Division Ms Michelle Maxwell, Director Strategy, Governance and Delivery, NSW Regional Health Division Mr Matthew Thompson, Staff Specialist Geriatrician, Murrumbidgee Local Health District Ms Rosemary Garthwaite, District Manager for Aged Care, Murrumbidgee Local Health District	Thanking them for their presentations at the Wagga Wagga health Forum on the 14/15 September 2023

Inward

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged care	Regarding the Distribution Priority Area (DPOA) changes
The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC Shadow Minister for Families and Communities, Shadow Minister for Disability Inclusion, Shadow Minister for	Thanking the Association for forwarding its priorities document

Homelessness, Shadow Minister for Youth	
Office of Local Government	Regarding Rural Fire Services Assets and Qualified Audit Reports for 2021/2022

Media Releases

CMA Demands Equity for the Regions in the September Budget
Overwhelming Support for Private Members Bill
And the Winner is Western Sydney
Councils Seeking Answers to Growing Health Concerns
Joint Call for Parliamentary Inquiry to Address Crime in Regional NSW
Country Women's Association Backs CMA Call for Inquiry into crime, Law and Order in Regional NSW

Submissions, Communique, Action Required

Submission Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023
Submission Inquiry into Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation
Report on Crime, Law and Order, Regional and Rural NSW
Cr Phyllis Miller and GM Steve Loane Forbes Shire, on behalf of Country Mayors, appearing before the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee 2 Inquiry into the current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land and water quality in NSW
Communique September Rural health Forum
Communique 4 August 2023 meeting
Action Required Adam Marshall Private Members Bill Red Fleet

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted

Moved - Gunnedah Shire Council Councillor - Jamie Chaffey

Seconded - Kempsey Shire Council Councillor - Leo Hauville

10. Signing of updated MOU between Country Mayors Association and LGNSW

The MOU was signed by Cr Darriea Turley, President Local Government NSW and Cr Jamie Chaffey, Chairman Country Mayors Association of NSW for a further two years.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 8.55am to hold the Annual General Meeting

The General Meeting was recommenced at 9.35am

11. Financial Report

RESOLVED:

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

Moved - Singleton Council Councillor - Sue Moore

Seconded - Parkes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

12. The Hon Damien Tudehope MLC, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

The Country Mayors Association is a united advocacy group and the opposition appreciates its input. As a previous Minister for small business during the drought periods in 2019-2021 he travelled extensively in regional and rural NSW and worked with the communities. Drought has a continuing affect on small communities due to lack of spending. As a government they invested heavily in regional NSW as a way of creating jobs and renewing the economy.

In the last two weeks the Federal Government has shown it has little idea on how to stimulate the economy announcing the cutting of funding drastically of projects that will affect local government. How does the State Government plan when the Commonwealth does not involve them in the discussions. This will have a continuing impact on local communities. Regional NSW will be left behind and regional communities should not have an unfair reduction because of this. A lot of work is being done with renewable energy zones but communities are not being consulted.

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

The government is working on drought preparedness and what they can do as they don't want to do things on the eleventh hour. The Minister has been touring NSW to make sure communities are aware of the possibilities of drought in 2024. Free places for water technicians have been announced and Water NSW has been working with local authorities in respect of dams. The Government wants to replenish funding for water fund projects.

Some projects approved in 2019 and subsequent years have not been started. These need to get going and if councils are having problems preventing work starting such as conditions let's talk about it and negotiate. Mental Health will be challenging and people will struggle as we move into drier conditions. Housing is a priority for the Government and we know that the regionals are important. There is a dedicated fund for regional housing and we are looking at social housing modules for short term housing solutions.

14. The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier

The most important thing a government can do is listen. The last 12 months have been challenging with disasters and other events. The budget includes \$3.8billion for health, \$3.4billion for education, and \$8.2billion for cost of living measures and the success of NSW depends on regional NSW. Agriculture alone adds \$23billion to the economy. The Government wants to see long time success with jobs and financial sustainability of local government is important. A hightech metal strategy is being introduced and transition to a renewable energy economy is taking place. The government wants to listen to regional and rural NSW and when parliament is not sitting the Premier tries to visit country centres.

15. Presentation of Scholarship Award

The Country Mayors Scholarship Award is to be awarded to a staff member of the runner up Council of the Regional and Rural Bluett Award. The award was presented to Haley Gould, Forbes Shire Council.

16. Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

The Minister outlined the doubling of funds for Roads to Recovery from \$500million to \$1billion, the commitment to Black Spots from \$100million to \$150million and the Renewing Bridges Program and the Community Infrastructure Program being combined with a budget of \$1billion.

17. The Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education

There is a lot of work to be done in skills and a lot of opportunities in reskilling as well as training school leavers. TAFE has had a tough decade but the government is working with TAFE to be more pertinent to their communities. Australia wide 213,000 people need to gain skills over the next 7 years. The National Skills Agreement with the Commonwealth is a five year agreement which gives certainty to TAFE and a VET review is being undertaken.

Closing the Gap is a high priority. Equality and access will provide opportunities for rural NSW. There is a large backlog of maintenance works of TAFE's and additional funds are being allocated. A strategic look at what TAFE's skills are and what is to be provided to their communities is being undertaken.

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

With multiculturalism we can do better with the State and Commonwealth working together. Immigrant families could get a visa to stay with family members and there would not be any need for additional housing. It was very disappointing to see the Federal Government quitting projects of importance such as the Great Western Highway and other important projects. The State Government needs to direct more funding to regional NSW. The Resources for Regions needs to be allocated extra resources. Councils have spent large amounts of money for funding applications. The Opposition will fight for the programs introduced by the Coalition Government that have been abandoned to be reintroduced.

19. Regional Development Trust Advisory Council

RESOLVED:

That Country Mayors make representations to the NSW Government seeking advice on what representation local Government such as LGNSW and/or Country Mayors will have on the Regional Development Trust Advisory Council

Moved - Gilgandra Shire Council Councillor - Doug Batten
Seconded - Armidale Regional Council Councillor - Sam Coupland

20. Presentation To Secretariat Allan Burgess

A presentation was made to the Retiring Secretariat Allan Burgess in recognition of his service to the Association.

21. Recognition of Departing Mayor Cr John Medcalf

A presentation was made to Cr John Medcalf for his work as a delegate to the Association and his contribution to the Executive Committee

22. The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water Shadow Minister For Crown Lands

The Shadow Ministers plan was to bring forward projects and concerns with the new Minister with the hope that the Labor Government would pick up where the coalition finished but that has not happened. The Sydney and Hunter Water Act needs amendments to it and the coalition is making representations to the Inquiry. The Coalition is also making representations to the Water Initiative. The Murray Darling Basin Plan has been rewritten to give the Commonwealth more scope to buy back water.

The Wyangala Dam wall raising has been axed that would have provided water security and flood mitigation. The Safe and Secure Water Program is a major failure for the regions. With Regional Water Strategies the robustness of the strategies are in doubt. There is a fear that the Government doesn't understand that water is important for growth and security. The Coalition would like to work with Country Mayors members to identify what are the top three water security areas of each council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.04pm.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW

For further information, contact Cr Jamie Chaffey on 0467 402 412

www.nswcountrymayors.com.au

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2023. IN THE CLUB YORK BOARD ROOM, 99 YORK ST, SYDNEY, NSW

Present

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chair)	Orange City Council
Cr Phyllis Miller OAM (Dep Chair)	Forbes Shire Council
Cr Dennis Brady (Deputy	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr Denis Todd	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr Chris Roylance	Forbes Shire Council
Greg Lamont (as the minute taker)	MERC - Executive Officer
Michael Askew & Martin Rush	FTG

1. Welcome

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Duffy welcomed Executive Committee members, FTG key persons Michael & Martin and opened the meeting at 2.05pm

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land that the meeting was held on and paid his respects to the Elders past, present & emerging.

3. Apologies

EM 18/2023 Resolved (Cr Todd/Cr Brady) That the apologies of Cr McGlynn, Cr Scott Ferguson be received and noted.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests – Nil

5. Executive Officer's Report

(a) For Information

- i. **Correspondence**
- ii. **Finance Report – 1st July – 30th September 2023**
- iii. **Meetings with Ministers & Senior Government Staff**
- iv. **Membership of MERC**
- v. **Submissions**
- vi. **Progress Report on Outstanding Decisions of Association**
- vii. **Progress Report on Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Actions**
- viii. **Renewable Energy Zones Update**
- ix. **Resources Energy Industry & Innovation Forum Dubbo 5-7th June 2024**

Martin & Michael left the room at 2.55pm returned at 3.05pm as Item 5(b)ii was discussed

EM 19/2023 Resolved (Cr Todd/Cr Miller that Items (a) i-xi that the information be noted.

(b) For decision:

i. Fees for AGM Meeting

EM 20/2023 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Miller) That the Executive Committee has recommended that the fees for 2024/2025 be increased by 5% based on the IPART rate peg setting, adjusting for population growth for 2024-25 financial year, ranging from 4.5-5.5%.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2023. IN THE CLUB YORK BOARD ROOM, 99 YORK ST, SYDNEY, NSW

ii. Appointment of Future Together Group

EM 21/2023 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Brady)

- 1 That the Association endorse the following actions by the Executive Committee:
 - (a) the engagement of the Future Together Group for the next 12 months from 8th December 2023 until 7th December 2024 to provide Executive Officer Services as per the contract.
 - (b) acceptance of the fee for services being \$124,000 plus GST, for 21 hours pw, payable monthly with the provision for reimbursement of reasonable expenses for accommodation, meals, and travel as approved by the Chair.
 - (c) the signing of the contract by the Chair on behalf of the Executive Committee and MERC.
2. That the Executive Officer's contract (Greg Lamont) be extended until 18th December 2023 to allow sufficient time for transition to FTG, as outlined.
3. That authority be given to Future Together Group "key persons" (Martin Rush and Dr Michael Askew) to be the new signatories to act on behalf of the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils' NSW Inc. on the CBA bank account, Visa Debit Card, Commbiz Internet banking system and Beyond Bank Investment account transactions to replace Greg Lamont and/or Julie Goodwin.
4. That authority be given to Future Together Group (FTG) to carry out the functions of Public Officer for the Association Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW and Department of Fair Trading and ATO be advised accordingly of names.

iii. Review of MERC by FTG & TPA

EM 22/2023 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Brady) that the 90 Day Action Plan proposed by Executive Officer be endorsed and presented to delegates on 8th December as information.

iv. Submission on Regional Development Act 2004 with NSWMC

EM 23/2023 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Todd) that the Association join with NSW Minerals Council to prepare a submission on the review of the Regional Development Act 2004

6. General Business

(a) Location/dates for next meetings in 2024

(b) Life Memberships – That the information that Owen Hasler be noted.

(c) Executive Officer Presentation

EM 24/2023 Resolved That the Association invite the EO to attend the next Association meeting in February 2024 to acknowledge services rendered.

7. Close – the meeting closed at 4.30pm.

The minutes (pages 1-2) were confirmed at the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 8th December 2023 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 7th December 2023.

.....Cr Kevin Duffy,
Chairperson

Meeting Minutes
Mirrool Silo Kick Committee
AGM 16/08/2023

Meeting Commenced: 6.30pm

Present: As per attached attendance sheets

Apologies: Joe Catlin, Liz Walsh, Erin Wolski, Brett Prentice, Mark and Hannah Maguire

President: Jason Bryce declared all positions vacant.

President:

Liz McGlynn nominated Jason Bryce

Jason Accepted

Vice President:

Jason nominated Graeme Maxwell and Brett O'Hare

Jason and Brett accepted.

Treasure:

Liz McGlynn nominated Bruce Baker

Bruce accepted.

Secretary:

Tania Bryce nominated Leah Maxwell

Leah Accepted

Jason Bryce declared all positions filled.

Treasures Report: Bruce table the report

Bruce moved that the report be accepted.

Seconded by Liz McGlynn

AGM closed at 6.55.

The general meeting commenced at 7pm.

Mirrool Silo Kick Challenge Committee
Mirrool NSW 2665 (Att. Bruce Baker)

Grant Baker
General Manager,
Bland Shire Council.
31st July 2023

As previously discussed, could Bland Shire Council investigate and proceed with: -

1. The installation of a streetlight between the Newell highway and the Mirrool hotel, to facilitate safety and identification.
2. The establishment of a heritage walk that identifies the former buildings and their owners in the historic village of Mirrool. The aim is to preserve the history of the village.

Kind Regards

Bruce Baker (on behalf of the Mirrool Silo Kick Committee)

MIRROOL SILO KICK

Bank Reconciliation

30 JUNE 2023

Opening Balance

Cheque Account	20,750.17
Cash Reserve Account	18,684.77
	<u>39,434.94</u>
	<u>39,434.94</u>

Add Income 84,343.00

Less Expenses 46,383.27

Closing Balance **77,394.67** c/c

Balances As per Statements

Cheque Account	63,519.85
Cash Reserve Account	18,874.82
	<u>82,394.67</u> c/c

Less O/S Cheques (5,000.00)

Balance **77,394.67** c/c

MIRROOL SILO KICK

INCOME & EXPENSES SUMMARY

30 JUNE 2023

Income

Can Assist	535.00
Calcutta	2,700.00 ✓
Donations	0.00
Donation Box	2,106.70 ✓
Donation Powered Sites	12,088.00 ✓
Drummuster	0.00
Float Rebanked	3,000.00 ✓
Interest	190.05 ✓
BBQ/Canteen	3,157.00 ✓
Raffle	1,529.00 ✓
Prize Money Rebanked	3,900.00 ✓
Miscellaneous Income	0.00
Silent Auction	1,579.00 ✓
Standpipe	0.00
Stubbie Holders	1,153.25 ✓
Auction	13,900.00 ✓
Sponsorship	33,975.00 ✓
Tip & Park Maintenance	4,530.00 ✓
Total Income	84,343.00

Expenses

Accountant	374.00 ✓
Advertising	94.38 ✓
Auction Expenses	0.00
BBQ Supplies	1,931.56 ✓
Cleaning/Products	6,946.41 ✓
Donation	20,484.00 ✓
Float	3,000.00 ✓
Fuel	1,646.19 ✓
Gas	583.50 ✓
Miscellaneous	172.45 ✓
Prize Money	6,300.00 ✓
Town Projects & Equipment Purchases	4,823.76 ✓
Trophies & Engraving	0.00
Water - Standpipe	27.02 ✓
Total Expenses	46,383.27

Net Profit/(Loss)

\$ 37,959.73

Westpac Community Solutions One

Account Name
MIRROOL SILO KICK CHALLENGE



THE TREASURER MR BRUCE BAKER
MIRROOL SILO KICK CHALLENGE
8 DEAKIN ST
MIRROOL NSW 2665

016

Customer ID
5638 8129 **MIRROOL SILO KICK CHALLENGE**

BSB
032-763

Account Number
140 796

Opening Balance	+ \$74,781.35
Total Credits	+ \$5,774.30
Total Debits	- \$17,035.80
Closing Balance	+ \$63,519.85

TRANSACTIONS

Please check all entries on this statement and promptly inform Westpac of any possible error or unauthorised transaction

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
31/05/23	STATEMENT OPENING BALANCE			74,781.35
06/06/23	Deposit Temora NSW		997.65	75,779.00
06/06/23	Withdrawal/Cheque 200966	450.00		75,329.00
09/06/23	Withdrawal/Cheque 200967	92.40		75,236.60
19/06/23	Withdrawal/Cheque 200968	90.00		75,146.60
19/06/23	Withdrawal/Cheque 200969	90.40		75,056.20
19/06/23	Withdrawal/Cheque 200972	913.00		74,143.20
21/06/23	Deposit Leah Maxwell G Maxwell		3,425.00	77,568.20
30/06/23	Deposit Temora NSW		1,351.65	78,919.85
30/06/23	Withdrawal/Cheque 200973	15,000.00		63,919.85
30/06/23	Withdrawal/Cheque 200974	400.00		63,519.85
30/06/23	CLOSING BALANCE			63,519.85

CONVENIENCE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Use Online, Mobile or Tablet Banking to pay bills, transfer funds, check your account balances and much more



590172 / 6000714 / 182 013270PCPW



Account activity

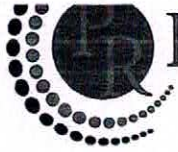
Westpac Community
Solutions Cash Reserve
032-763 179041

\$18,874.82

- [Account details](#)
- [Statements](#)
- [Account settings](#)
- [Activate card](#)
- [Exports and reports](#)

[Advanced search](#)

Date ▼	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance ¹
30 Jun 2023	INTEREST PAID		\$22.98	\$18,874.82
31 May 2023	INTEREST PAID		\$23.96	\$18,851.84
28 Apr 2023	INTEREST PAID		\$19.47	\$18,827.88
31 Mar 2023	INTEREST PAID		\$20.66	\$18,808.41
28 Feb 2023	INTEREST PAID		\$16.91	\$18,787.75
31 Jan 2023	INTEREST PAID		\$18.90	\$18,770.84
30 Dec 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$16.88	\$18,751.94
30 Nov 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$15.69	\$18,735.06
31 Oct 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$14.16	\$18,719.37
30 Sep 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$10.49	\$18,705.21
31 Aug 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$7.57	\$18,694.72
29 Jul 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$2.38	\$18,687.15
30 Jun 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$1.53	\$18,684.77
31 May 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$0.80	\$18,683.24
29 Apr 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$0.14	\$18,682.44
31 Mar 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$0.15	\$18,682.30
28 Feb 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$0.14	\$18,682.15
31 Jan 2022	INTEREST PAID		\$0.15	\$18,682.01



Paisley Robertson
Accountants

Natalie Payton B.Bus., CPA
CONSULTANT
Michael Graham B.Bus., FCPA
www.paisleyrobertson.com.au
ABN 23 899 321 658

15 August 2023

The Treasurer
Mirrool Silo Kick Challenge Committee
C/- Bruce Baker
8 Deakin St
MIRROOL NSW 2665

Dear Bruce,

We have examined the books and records for the Mirrool Silo Kick.

We note that the records have been kept very well and you should be congratulated for your efforts.

Upon investigation of the records we conclude that everything has been reported true and correct.

We thank you for the opportunity to examine your records.

We enclose our fee for undertaking the examination, less our donation of service.

Should you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Yours Faithfully
PAISLEY ROBERTSON PTY LTD
CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

Bernadette A West

13 Forsyth Street / PO Box 675
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Paisley Robertson Pty Ltd
is a CPA Practice

2 INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME

Sales of <u>Auction/Silent Auction</u>	<u>15,479</u>
Sales of <u>Powered Site/Donation Box</u>	<u>14,195</u>
Fees/Rentals	<u> </u>
Admissions <u>Calcutta</u>	<u>2,700-</u>
Donations <u>Afternoon tea/Can Assist</u>	<u>535-</u>
Membership/Subscriptions	<u> </u>
Grant from <u>Prize Money Rebanked</u>	<u>3,900-</u>
Grant from <u>Float Rebanked</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Interest	<u>190-</u>
Interest on Term Deposits/Investments	<u> </u>
Raffles	<u>1,529</u>
Street Stalls <u>BBO</u>	<u>3,157</u>
Refund of Rates	<u> </u>
Other e.g. Shows/Bingo/Catering etc	
<u>Sponsorship</u>	<u>3,397.5</u>
<u>Tips Park Maintenance</u>	<u>4,530</u>
<u>Stubbie Holders</u>	<u>1,153</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 84,343</u>

EXPENDITURE

Rent Accountant	<u>374.</u>
Advertising	<u>94</u>
Interest Fuel	<u>1646</u>
Telephone Cleaning Expenses	<u>6946</u>
Electricity Gas	<u>584</u>
Rates (land) BBQ Supplies	<u>1932</u>
Rates (water)	<u>27</u>
Postages & Stationery	<u> </u>
Bank & Government Charges	<u> </u>
Repairs & Maintenance / Town Projects	<u>4824.</u>
Purchases of _____ (eg for sale of books)	<u> </u>
Purchases of _____	<u> </u>
Insurance	<u> </u>
Prizes Moneys	<u>6300</u>
Depreciation.	<u> </u>
Other	<u> </u>
Donations	<u>20484</u>
Float	<u>3000</u>
Miscellaneous	<u>172</u>
Total	<u>\$46383</u>
<u>Surplus</u> / (Deficit)	<u>\$37960</u>

Date 16/8/2023 Treasurer Bruce Baker
 Audited By Bernadette West Contact No 69772655
 (Honorary)
 Signature B W Baker

APPENDIX 13 VOLUNTEER ATTENDANCE REGISTER

16/8/23

VOLUNTEER ATTENDANCE REGISTER					
Volunteers Name	Volunteers Signature	Contact Details	Location and Activity	Date/Time On	Date/Time Off
Tracey Bowyer		0427 071394	MIRROOL	6.40	
J Van Doorn		0418280448	MIRROOL	6.40	
Chris Abbott		0499595129	MIRROOL	6.40	
CRISTINE MAXWELL		0428752682	MIRROOL	6.41	
DREW CHAZ		0427741255	"	6.41	
Bruce BAKER		0428741267	"	"	
Beverly Baker		0428741267	"	"	
Lynne Velez		68821068	BSL		
Tara Bryan		040775210	MIRROOL	6.41	
Leah Maxwell		0427752680	MIRROOL	"	

MIRROOL SILO KICK

INCOME & EXPENSES SUMMARY

30 JUNE 2023

Income

Can Assist	535.00
Calcutta	2,700.00
Donations	0.00
Donation Box	2,106.70
Donation Powered Sites	12,088.00
Drummuster	0.00
Float Rebanked	3,000.00
Interest	190.05
BBQ/Canteen	3,157.00
Raffle	1,529.00
Prize Money Rebanked	3,900.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00
Silent Auction	1,579.00
Standpipe	0.00
Stubbie Holders	1,153.25
Auction	13,900.00
Sponsorship	33,975.00
Tip & Park Maintenance	4,530.00
Total Income	84,343.00

Expenses

Accountant	374.00
Advertising	94.38
Auction Expenses	0.00
BBQ Supplies	1,931.56
Cleaning/Products	6,946.41
Donation	20,484.00
Float	3,000.00
Fuel	1,646.19
Gas	583.50
Miscellaneous	172.45
Prize Money	6,300.00
Town Projects & Equipment Purchases	4,823.76
Trophies & Engraving	0.00
Water - Standpipe	27.02
Total Expenses	46,383.27

Net Profit/(Loss)

\$ 37,959.73

MIRROOL SILO KICK
Bank Reconciliation
30 JUNE 2023

Opening Balance

Cheque Account	20,750.17
Cash Reserve Account	18,684.77
	<u>39,434.94</u>
	<u>39,434.94</u>

Add Income 84,343.00

Less Expenses 46,383.27

Closing Balance **77,394.67** c/c

Balances As per Statements

Cheque Account	63,519.85
Cash Reserve Account	18,874.82
	<u>82,394.67</u> c/c
Less O/S Cheques	(5,000.00)
Balance	<u><u>77,394.67</u></u> c/c

Meeting Minutes
Mirrool Silo Kick Committee Wednesday
16/08/2023

Meeting commenced 7.40

Present: As per attendance sheet.

Apologies: Joe Catlin, Liz Walsh, Erin Wolski, Brett Prentice, Mark and Hannah Maguire.

President: Jason Bryce opened meeting, AGM was held and all positions were filled. Jason Bryce remains president, Graeme Maxwell Vice president, Bruce Baker treasurer and Leah Maxwell secretary.

Treasures Report: Bruce tabled the report during the AGM, Seconded by Liz McGlynn

Previous meeting Minutes:

- Read by Leah Maxwell – passed by Jason Bryce **General**

Business from previous meeting:

- Chris Wolski to ask StockPro for donation or sponsorship and display
- Liam Martin impossible to reach during finals footy so might need to move away from him.
- AGM was held prior to general meeting, all positions were filled as above

- Liz Tabled the letter to council regarding the lights – waiting on their response.-
- Liz McGlynn to get in touch with West Wyalong signage for a quote on plaques.
- Johan is looking at repairs to memorabilia shed – ongoing item
- A working bee was held and a lot of work was completed thank you to everyone who helped out.
- Bruce Baker tabled the T and C's from the 355 meeting, Committee agreed with the T's and C's
- Tracey and Yohan have organised a band
- Brett and Bear to source meat for BBQ – Brett has a quote from coolamon butchery, Tania can get a quote from Spacky. Andrew Baker is out.
- Jason to confirm a price of \$4000, for a 20ft shipping container, Liz McGlynn moved for Jason to go ahead and purchase one if he finds suitable container between meetings. Seconded by Leah Maxwell
- Amanda Prentice has organised a coffee van, Mug Shot from Temora.
- Chris to ask footy club to lend us a TV screen for advertising
- Bland Shire Safety Officer needs a letter to notify of the kick, Liz McGlynn to draft up the letter – Bruce has this sorted.

Meeting Closed 8pm.