

Business Paper
Council Meeting
19 September 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
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September 2023			
13 September	11.00am	RFS Bushfire Management Committee	Temora
15 September	10.00am	Country Mayors Assoc – Regional Health Forum	Wagga
19 September	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Chambers
29 September	9.30am	Riverina Joint Organisation	Virtual

October 2023			
3 October	4.00pm	Council Workshop	Chambers
13 October	2.00pm	REROC	Virtual
17 October	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Chambers
28 October	10.00am	Lachlan Regional Transport Committee	Grenfell

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Council Meeting Agenda

19 September 2023
commencing at 6:30PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE
4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
5. PRESENTATIONS – HEARTS OF GOLD PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
 - 6.1 Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 15 August 2023
 - 6.2 Matters arising from Minutes
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8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

- 9.1 Property Purchase 205-211 Main St West Wyalong
Local Government Act 1993 (Section 10A(2))
The matters and information are the following:
c) information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Section 1 - Office of the General Manager

7.1 Election of Mayor



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

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

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Local Government Elections were held in December 2021, following multiple postponements due to the Covid 19 pandemic from September 2020. In accordance with section 290 (1)(b) of the Local Government Act (1993) Council is required to hold a mid-term Mayoral election in September 2023.

The Mayor elected in September 2023 will hold their office until the local government election is held on 14 September 2024.

Therefore, Bland Shire Council will receive nominations and elect from its Councillors a Mayor who will undertake the roles and responsibilities of this position for the next twelve months.

Risk Implications

Division 2 (s225-230) of the Local Government Act (1993) details the role and election of the Mayor by the elected body. At Bland Shire Council, the person elected to the office of Mayor is by the Councillors from among their number.

Council's Code of Meeting Practice Clause 11.9 states:-

'Voting at a meeting, including voting in an election at a meeting, is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system). However, the council may resolve that the voting in any election by councillors for mayor or deputy mayor is to be by secret ballot.'

Clause 394 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) notes that if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is to be elected by the councillors of an area, the election is to be in accordance with Schedule 7. Schedule 7 prescribes the procedure for conducting an election of the Mayor by Councillors. A copy of which has been provided to Councillors along with a blank nomination form for completion.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

In accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) Part 1 the General Manager is the returning officer.

Councillors may be nominated without notice for election as Mayor and must be made in writing by 2 or more Councillors (1 of whom may be the nominee) and is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.

The nomination is to be delivered to or sent to the General Manager and the names of the nominees will be announced at the Council meeting.

Recommendation:

1. That Council accept the nomination(s) for Mayor, and
 2. That if more than one nomination is received for the position of Mayor the method of voting is by open means (such as on voices or show of hands).
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7.2 Election of Deputy Mayor



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

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

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Local Government Elections were held in December 2021, following multiple postponements due to the Covid 19 pandemic from September 2020. In accordance with section 290 (1)(b) of the Local Government Act (1993) Council is required to hold a mid-term Mayoral election in September 2023.

At the January 2022 meeting of Council the Deputy Mayor of Bland Shire Council was elected “for the Mayoral term”.

Therefore, Bland Shire Council will receive nominations and elect from its Councillors a Deputy Mayor who will undertake the roles and responsibilities of this position for the next twelve months.

The Deputy Mayor may exercise any function of the Mayor at the request of the Mayor or if the Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of Mayor.

Risk Implications

Division 2 (s231) of the Local Government Act (1993), states Council may elect a Deputy Mayor for the same or shorter term as the Mayor.

Bland Shire Council resolved at the January 2022 extra ordinary meeting of Council, that:-
The Deputy Mayor be elected for the Mayoral term. (Minute 09012022)

Council’s Code of Meeting Practice Clause 11.9 states:-

‘Voting at a meeting, including voting in an election at a meeting, is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system). However, the council may resolve that the voting in any election by councillors for mayor or deputy mayor is to be by secret ballot.’

Clause 394 of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) notes that if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor is to be elected by the councillors of an area, the election is to be in accordance with Schedule 7. Schedule 7 prescribes the procedure for conducting an election of the Deputy Mayor by Councillors. A copy of which has been provided to Councillors along with a blank nomination form for completion.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

In accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) Part 1 the General Manager is the returning officer.

Councillors may be nominated without notice for election as Deputy Mayor and must be made in writing by 2 or more Councillors (1 of whom may be the nominee) and is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.

The nomination is to be delivered to or sent to the General Manager and the names of the nominees will be announced at the Council meeting.

Recommendation:

3. That Council accept the nomination(s) for Deputy Mayor, and
 4. That if more than one nomination is received for the position of Deputy Mayor the method of voting is by open means (such as on voices or show of hands).
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7.3 Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions: September 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: September 2023.

APRIL 2023		
<p>Planning Proposal – Drag Strip Project 14042023 RESOLVED that Council prepare a Planning Proposal for Lots 10 & 11 DP 1141509 for the addition of a recreation facility (outdoor) to Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses in the Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011.</p>	<p>Manager Development & Regulatory Services</p>	<p>9/5: underway 1/8: submitted, design with stakeholders for feedback</p>
JUNE 2023		
<p>IPART Proposal on Rate Peg Changes 07062023 RESOLVED that Council prepare a submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's Draft Report on Rate Pegging supporting the proposed changes as outlined in the document.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>Submission not lodged ahead of 4 July deadline. DCCS has registered for Public Hearing on Rate Pegging Review (18 July, 2023)</p>
<p>DA2023/0065 – Business Park Subdivision Application 08062023 RESOLVED that Council approves DA2023/0065 relating to a six (6) lot subdivision on Lots 1233, 1243, 1257 and 1133 in DP753135, Central Road, Wyalong subject to the outlined conditions.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>1/8: DA approved, RFT issued for civil works</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>12/7: negotiations commenced, awaiting reply</p>
JULY 2023		
<p>Endorsement of Revised Revenue Policy 2023/24 04072023 RESOLVED that Council endorses the amended fees and charges as part of the Revenue Policy 2023/24.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>3/08: Revenue Policy updated Complete</p>
<p>Related Party Disclosure Policy (AASB 124) 05072023 RESOLVED that Bland Shire Council endorses the revised Related Party Disclosure Policy as per Accounting Standard AASB 124 – Related Party Disclosures.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>3/08: Policy updated Complete</p>
<p>Request for Donation – Southern Sports Academy 06072023 RESOLVED: that Council approve a donation of \$200 per athlete to the Southern Sports Academy in support of the 11 athletes selected for 2023 in Bland Shire LGA totalling \$2,200 from the Strengthening Communities Budget.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>3/08: Payment made to SSA Complete</p>

<p>Endorsement of the Weethalle Community Committee, a Section 355 Committee of Council 08072023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and note the minutes of the Weethalle Community Committee, held on Wednesday 28 June 2023. • Endorse the Weethalle Community Committee members in accordance with the Director Corporate and Community Services report for a probationary period of three (3) months. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>9/9 Committee advised of endorsement. Processes commenced to establish backing requirements. Complete</p>
<p>Part Day Closure Council Administration Office 09072023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Authorise the closure of council offices at 12.30pm on Thursday 3 August, 2023 and reopen at 8.30am on Friday, 4 August 2023. b) Note the planned closure of Council services and operations, with the exception of skeleton staff, from 12.30pm on Thursday, 3 August 2023 for the purposes of an organisation-wide staff meeting. c) Advertise the intended temporary change to Council services to the community. 	<p>General Manager</p>	<p>1/8: notifications issued to staff, public notice in Advocate, ongoing comms COMPLETE</p>
<p>Property Purchases 13072023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Authorise the General Manager to enter into negotiations for the purchase of the properties listed in the Director of Technical Services report up to the agreed amounts. b) Fully explore the land uses for each property as part of the Master Planning processes for the Central Business District and the Sport and Recreation precincts prior to any further development of the subject sites. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	
AUGUST 2023		
<p>Representation for LGNSW Conference 11082023 RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council nominates the Mayor, General Manager along with Councillor Crowe as its representatives to attend the LGNSW Annual Conference being held in Parramatta from Sunday 12 to Tuesday 14 November, 2023; and 2. The Mayor be nominated as Council's voting delegate. 	<p>Executive Assistant</p>	<p>29/8: registrations complete and arrangements in hand</p>

<p>Accounting Treatment of Rural Fire Service ('Red Fleet') Assets 12082023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adopts the revised Position Statement on Accounting Treatment of Rural Fire Service Assets and advise the Office of Local Government and the NSW Audit Office accordingly. Should the NSW Audit Office issue a qualified audit to Bland Shire Council for not recording RFS assets in its annual financial statements, that Bland Shire Council will accept a qualified audit opinion in relation to the accounting for RFS Assets in the 2022/2023 financial statements 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>9/9 Correspondence not yet sent.</p>
<p>Request for Sponsorship – West Wyalong Community Radio 13082023 RESOLVED that Council approve \$4,937.90 sponsorship of the daily news broadcast for the West Wyalong Community Radio to be funded from the Strengthening Communities Program.</p>	<p>Manager Customer & Financial Services</p>	<p>21/08: Email sent advising of outcome 31/08: Payment made Complete</p>
<p>Strengthening Communities Grant – Weethalle Museum 14082023 RESOLVED that Council not approve a Strengthening Communities Grant of \$4,268 for the purchase of new guttering for the Weethalle Museum as the application does not meet the current grant guidelines.</p>	<p>Manager Customer & Financial Services</p>	<p>21/08: Email sent advising of outcome Complete</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>General Manager</p>	

7.4 Disclosure of Interest Returns



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

Author: Executive Assistant

Introduction

There is a statutory requirement for Councillors and Designated Persons who held office at 30 June 2023 to lodge a written return of interest with the General Manager. The register of returns is tabled at the first meeting of the Council after the last day for the lodgement of returns.

Disclosure of Interest Returns for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 have been issued and returned to Council for Councillors and Designated Persons who held office at 30 June 2023.

The due date for returns was August 18 2023 and all returns have now been completed. The Disclosure of Interest Register is tabled at this meeting for Council's information.

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

In accordance with Clause 4.21 of the Model Code of Conduct a councillor or designated person holding that position at 30 June in any year must complete and lodge with the General Manager within 3 months after that date a return in the form prescribed by the regulations.

Recommendation:

That Councillors note the Disclosure of Interest return requirements and accept the Disclosure of Interest Register as tabled.

7.5 LGNSW Conference Outcomes Report - Advocacy Actions



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

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

Author: General Manager

Introduction

At the Ordinary August meeting of Council, Councillor McGlynn sought a report on outcomes from Council's advocacy to Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and Notices of Motion previously raised for consideration at the LGNSW Annual Conference.

Risk Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Summary

Following a review of the LGNSW advocacy records dating back to 2020, the following information (**Attachment 1**) is provided on Councils notices of motion and the advocacy undertaken by LGNSW on these items. LGNSW does not hold an Action Report for conferences prior to 2020.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the update on past Bland Shire Council Notices of Motion to the Local Government NSW Annual Conference and the subsequent advocacy activities.

2022	Resolution	LGNSW Actions	Reponses and Outcomes to date
<p>Rural Fire Service</p> <p>That Local Government NSW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. seeks a commitment from all political parties contesting the March 2023 NSW elections to amend the Rural Fire Services Act 1997 to remove Section 119's reference to vesting RFS equipment with councils to remove the conflict of "control", specifically in accordance with the definition in Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) Statement of Accounting Concepts 4: Definition and Recognition of the Elements of Financial Statements. 2. writes to the NSW Treasurer and Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience requesting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) urgent attention be given to this matter in light of the pending qualified audits of more than half of the state's Local Government organisations due to a conflict in accounting positions. b) immediate action to ensure the NSW Rural Fire Service is an entity under the same requirements and regulations as other emergency service organisations such as the State Emergency Service. 3. writes to the Premier of NSW and the Leader of the Opposition to seek support for the State to fully fund all capital and operation costs of the NSW Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Services and all other emergency services. <p><i>This issue was also raised by Leeton Shire, Newcastle City, Wagga Wagga City, Blue Mountains, Liverpool City, Kempsey Shire, Junee Shire Councils.</i></p>	<p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer • Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience • Minister for Local Government • Rural Fire Service <p>requirements included in LGNSW's 2023 Election Priorities.</p> <p>Labor Government</p> <p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Emergency Services • Minister for Local Government <p>June 2023 letter to OLG strongly urging OLG to reconsider its decision to seek further information from councils that have received qualified audits from the OLG as a result of the red fleet matter. This information will divert already strained council resources for no public benefit.</p>	<p>February 2023 – NSW Greens commits to resolving RFS matter to make clear that RFS assets vest in the RFS.</p> <p>June 2023 – Private Members' Bill introduced to parliament by Adam Marshall MP to make clear that RFS assets vest in the RFS.</p>	

<p>Infrastructure Grants</p> <p>That Local Government NSW continues to lobby the NSW and Federal Governments to modify the administration of infrastructure grants in favour of direct grants to councils using a similar formula to the Federal Government Assistance Grants.</p>	<p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories (Cth) Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Cth) <p>A review into grant funding requirements included in LGNSW's 2023 Election Priorities.</p>	<p>The Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories (Cth), the Hon Kristy McBain MP responded on 23 January 2023. (The letter covers resolutions 11, 12 and 20 – more information in resolution 12).</p>
<p>Roads and Bridges – (Bega Valley Shire Council)</p> <p>That Local Government NSW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> acknowledge and thank the NSW Government for their recent investment in transport infrastructure in regional NSW through programs such as Fixing Country Roads, Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Country Bridges. calls on the NSW Government to review criteria for future road and bridge related funding programs to provide more flexibility in eligibility and delivery to achieve the best outcomes for regional NSW including longer delivery timeframes to account for legislated approval processes; weightings not purely focused on economic benefit and eligibility of structures that are existing composite or concrete/steel structures. <p><i>This issue was also raised by Cumberland, Bland Shire, Federation Councils.</i></p>	<p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for Regional Transport and Roads <p>Road and infrastructure support included in LGNSW's 2023 Election Priorities.</p> <p>Labor Government</p> <p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Minister for Roads 	

Addressing poorer health outcomes in rural, regional and remote NSW – (Leeton Shire Council)		
<p>That Local Government NSW urges the NSW Government to partner with the Federal Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. immediately commence implementation of the health reforms recommended in the Upper House Inquiry - Report 57 – “Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional, and remote NSW” 2. focus first on the recommendations aimed at recruiting and retaining doctors and clinicians in rural and remote areas of NSW 3. increase the intake of overseas-trained doctors and other medical staff to give immediate relief to rural and remote locations experiencing shortages of trained medical personnel 4. ensure there is improved health service governance and greater transparency at the local level. 5. improve the capacity and quality of health services infrastructure in rural, regional and remote NSW to meet growing community demand. <p><i>This issue was also raised by Kyogle, Bland Shire, Albury City, Warrumbungle Shire, Armidale Regional, Bega Valley Shire, Muswellbrook Shire Councils.</i></p>	<p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Regional Health <p>Access to rural health services included in LGNSW’s 2023 Election Priorities.</p> <p>LGNSW discussed access to rural health services as part of the Rural and Regional Summit on 20 February 2023.</p> <p>Labor Government</p> <p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Regional Health 	<p>July 2023 – NSW Government announced it had received approval from the Commonwealth Government to expand the Single employer Model for GPs and emergency department doctors. The Single Employer Model provides a tailored, coordinated pathway for doctors wanting to become Rural Generalists during their training in public health facilities and private GP practices. In turn, it will give more people across rural, regional and remote NSW greater access to locally available healthcare services. This was a key recommendation of LGNSW’s submission to the upper house inquiry, and a recommendation of the inquiry’s report.</p> <p>In July 2023 Minister Park responded setting out the NSW Government’s investment in rural, regional and remote health, including through workforce incentives and the recommendations of the rural and regional health inquiry.</p>

2021 Special Conference

10 - Emergency Services Levy

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW

Government to:

1. Postpone further costs to local government entities for the Emergency Services Levy payment increases until clear accountabilities are developed and communicated in accordance with engagement protocols of Resilience NSW Capability Development Framework for NSW Emergency Management Sector.
2. As part of this process, prepare amendments to the Rural Fire Services Act 1997 to remove Section 119's reference which relates to vesting RFS equipment with councils to remove the conflict of "control", specifically in accordance with the definition of an asset in Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) Statement of Accounting Concepts 4: Definition and Recognition of the Elements of Financial Statements.
3. Engage all stakeholders with real or perceived responsibilities for Emergency Service Management and Actions to ensure that determinations are clearly articulated, communicated and relevant in accordance with the context of Resilience NSW Capability Development Framework.

Letter(s) to:

- Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, Minister for Flood Recovery, the Hon. Steph Cooke MP
- Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP
- Treasurer, Minister for Energy, the Hon. Matt Kean MP
- LGNSW raised this matter in a meeting with the NSW Auditor General on 7 April 2022
- Letter to Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience highlighting these matters and seeking an urgent meeting in May 2022.
- LGNSW has been running a major campaign on the RFS ownership issue
- LGNSW President, CE and Chair of Country Mayors Association met with the Treasurer, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Local Government and Auditor General seeking resolution of the RFS Assets issue on 30 August 2022.

On 19 April 2022 the NSW Government announced it would contribute \$43 million to cover the increase in the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) for 2022-23 that would otherwise be paid by councils.

Response received from Minister Tuckerman on 11 October 2022.

11 - Infrastructure Contribution Reform – (Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils)

<p>That Local Government NSW reaffirms its position that councils should not be worse off under infrastructure contribution reforms and that this continue to be pursued vigorously with the NSW Government including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to the legislation and policy framework to ensure that councils' capacity to provide infrastructure for their communities is not diminished. 2. Asking that the government demonstrate to each local council how its modelling concludes that that each Council will not be worse off. 3. That should the government introduce any state or regional infrastructure levy, that there be a requirement for it to be spent in the area from which it was collected. <p><i>This issue was also raised by Penrith City, Shoalhaven City, Bland Shire, Greater Hume Shire, Liverpool City, Cumberland, and Willoughby City Council</i></p>	<p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Planning, Minister for Homes, the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP • Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP <p>Presented to NSW Dept of Planning and Environment executives in a meeting with LGNSW staff on 14 April 2022.</p>	<p>LGNSW secured agreement from NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to model the impacts of the reforms based on council data. This work has been underway in recent months.</p> <p>On 1 September 2022 the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, state Minister for Local Government, responded to LGNSW, noting that:</p> <p>“Prior to [the October 2021] exhibition, the Department amended the package in response to stakeholder feedback, so there would be no change to the way councils currently charge for community facilities for at least three years. An amendment to the proposed Contributions Reform Bill has been tabled to lock this in.</p> <p>Other amendments to the Bill were also tabled to guarantee existing section 7.12 levies cannot be undercut and to require that regional infrastructure contributions deliver infrastructure within the same region.</p> <p>Following the extended submission period for councils, Minister Roberts committed to careful consideration of the feedback. This will ensure that the reforms will help boost housing supply and affordability, while retaining councils' ability to deliver local infrastructure for NSW growing communities.</p>
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		<p>The Department will continue to seek input and advice from LGNSW as it refines the proposed reforms and works through the issues raised in submissions.”</p> <p>On 29 September 2022 the NSW Government announced it would not proceed with its reforms to infrastructure contributions. LGNSW – with the support of several NSW councils – had been advocating against changes to infrastructure contributions, unless the NSW Government was able to clearly demonstrate that no council would be worse off. The government failed to do so, and the withdrawal of the legislative changes was the right thing to do.</p>
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59 - Biosecurity (Noxious Weeds)

<p>That Local Government NSW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Calls on the NSW Minister for Local Government and NSW Minister for Agriculture to increase funding of the NSW Weeds Action Program to allow for greater promotion of landholder responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2015.2. Calls on the NSW Minister for Local Government and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts to liaise with the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council to develop appropriate mechanisms as part of the Joint Management and Co-management for parks or reserves protocols to adequately address identified and emerging biosecurity weeds issues.	<p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Western NSW, the Hon. Dugald Saunders MP• Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP• Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Regional Youth, the Hon. Ben Franklin MLC <p>This resolution was included in LGNSW's member report to the State Weed Committee meeting of March 2022 for its consideration.</p>	<p>11 May 2022 – response received from Minister Franklin re (2) – the Closing the Gap Land and Waters Officer Level Working Group is a partnership between the NSW Government and Aboriginal stakeholders and is co-chaired by the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Department of Planning and Environment. The Minister has requested Aboriginal Affairs NSW work with the co-chairs to discuss this matter and consider the resolution in line with the broader work of the group.</p> <p>July 2022 – response received from Minister Saunders advising that WAP funding was \$12.7M this financial year. No comment on commitment to future year funding. The NSW Biosecurity Handbook, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of councils and other stakeholders in weed management, has also been updated and is being posted to all councils and regional weed committees.</p> <p>October 2022 – Response received from Minister Tuckerman advises responsibility for biosecurity rests with the Minister for Agriculture.</p>
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<p>77 – Regional Headquarters Locations</p> <p>That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government, specifically the Premier and Minister for Police and Emergency Services to give greater consideration to geographic centrality with the determination of locations when establishing regional service and administration centres for State departments and services.</p>	<p>Letter(s) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP • Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, Minister for Flood Recovery, the Hon. Steph Cooke MP 	<p>On 25 March 2022 the NSW Government announced a new regional head office for the operator of the Country Regional Rail Network in Orange NSW.</p>
<p>2020 Online Conference</p>		
<p>36 - IPART Review of the Local Government Rating System</p>		
<p>That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government, in the strongest possible terms, to ensure that Recommendation 34 of the 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System does not become legislation because of the severe and adverse financial impact this will have on all mining affected communities in NSW.</p> <p><i>This issue was also raised by Broken Hill City, Lachlan Shire and Blayney Shire Councils.</i></p>	<p>Letter to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP <p>In January 2021 LGNSW made a submission on the Exposure Draft of the Local Government Amendment (Rates) Bill 2021.</p>	<p>In December 2020 the Minister for Local Government responded to LGNSW advising that an exposure draft Bill regarding rating reform would be published imminently.</p> <p>LGNSW was successful in having the IPART recommendation to align mining rates with business rates removed from the Bill prior to the Bill being introduced to Parliament (and passed in May 2021). The OLG will produce Guidelines instead of legislation.</p> <p>In June 2021 LGNSW received a response from the Minister for Local Government, which refers to the response to resolution 34 for this matter</p>

7.6 Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Committee



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

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

Author: General Manager

Introduction

Councillors requested a review of the Terms of Reference of the Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Committee.

This report is provided to appoint Councillors and the General Manager and agree on the community representation to the Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Committee.

Risk Implications

In accordance with s355(b) of the NSW Local Government Act (1993), Council may establish a Committee of Council to exercise its functions on Council's behalf.

The Terms of Reference (**attached**) have been reviewed.

Committee membership has been boosted with the proposed inclusion in 2024 of the current year's Bland Shire Citizen of the Year as a member. Award categories have been revised with the inclusion of a Community Services Award and Business House of the Year Award. The Australia Day nominations are assessed and award recipients selected after considered deliberations.

The current years' Citizen of the Year recipient provides a valuable community contribution to this Committee in addition to being further recognition of their Citizen of the Year status.

Financial Implications

Councillors travel expenses in undertaking their duties, roles and responsibilities representing Council are addressed in Councils Payment of Expenses and Provision of facilities to Councillors Policy.

Summary

The role of the Bland Shire Australia Day Committee is to assess the nominations and select the award recipients in each category for the annual Australia Day Awards for Bland Shire. The Bland Shire Australia Day Committee is delegated authority to make a final decision with reporting of the confidential minutes back to Council.

Meetings are held once a year in December, so that nominees and recipients are notified prior to Australia Day celebrations.

The committee of 11 members include:

- Bland Shire Councillors (9)
- The current year's Bland Shire Citizen of the Year recipient
- Bland Shire Council General Manager

The quorum is 6 members.

Recommendation:

That Council confirm the Bland Shire Australia Day Awards Committee:-

- a. as a Committee of Council to exercise its functions on Council's behalf in accordance with s355(b) of the NSW Local Government Act (1993);
 - b. delegate the role to assess nominations and select the award recipients in each category for the Australia Day Awards for Bland Shire;
 - c. confirm the quorum of which will be 6; and
 - d. appoint the following members:
 - i. Bland Shire Councillors (9)
 - ii. The current year's Bland Shire Citizen of the Year recipient
 - iii. Bland Shire Council General Manager
-



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

NAME

Australia Day Awards Committee

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Australia Day Awards Committee is to acknowledge the achievement of outstanding individuals, young and old who have made a valuable contribution to the Bland Shire community through the Australia Day Awards. The awards will help inspire and encourage accomplishment in community service and volunteering, sport, education, arts and culture and be inclusive of all.

OBJECTIVE

The Australia Day Awards are held in conjunction with the National Australia Day Council. The objective of the Committee is to consider nominations, select annual award recipients and facilitate celebratory Australia Day events.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To assist with the identification of appropriate Bland Shire Australia Day award categories
- To consider nominations and recommend to Council successful nominees for the Bland Shire Australia Day Awards in accordance with the selection process
- To consider the appointment of a Bland Shire Council Ambassador in accordance with the Bland Shire Council Ambassador Guidelines.
- To assist with the promotion of the Bland Shire Australia Day Awards and celebrations within the community
- The Australia Day Awards Committee will have no formal delegations to act on behalf of Bland Shire Council

MEMBERSHIP

Committee Membership shall consist of:-

- Bland Shire Councillors (9)
- The current year's Bland Shire Citizen of the Year recipient
- General Manager

VACANCIES

A vacancy on the Australia Day Awards Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

CHAIRPERSON

The position of Chairperson shall be the Mayor or their delegate.

QUORUM

The quorum for the Australia Day Awards Committee shall be six (6) voting members and include at least five (5) Councillors.

MEETINGS

1. Meetings of the Australia Day Awards Committee are to be held at a time to be determined by the Committee and meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers.
2. Committee meetings are confidential and closed to the public. Committee members must not disclose the matters discussed at the meeting with anyone other than a fellow Committee member.
3. Staff are authorised to disclose award recipients to third parties in order to plan for the Awards event.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Agendas and Minutes must be prepared for each meeting.

The Agenda must be provided to members of the Committee not less than seven days before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting.

Due to the nature and role of this Committee, minutes shall remain confidential.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISIONS

In performing the role of Committee member, a person must:

- act with integrity;
- impartially exercise his or her responsibilities in the interests of the local community;
- not improperly seek to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person;
- treat all persons with respect and have due regard to the opinions, beliefs, rights and responsibilities of other persons;
- commit to attendance at meetings; and

Where a member has an interest or a Conflict of Interest (as defined in Council's Code of Conduct) in relation to a matter in which the Committee is concerned, or is likely to be considered or discussed, the member must disclose the matter to the group before the matter is considered or discussed.

Disclosure must include the nature of the relevant interest or conflict of interest and be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. It will be at the discretion of the Chairperson if the member remains or leaves the room whilst the matter is discussed, and this must also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD CATEGORIES

Nominations will be invited on an annual basis for the following Award categories:

- a. Citizen of the Year
- b. Young Citizen of the Year
- c. Sportsperson of the Year
- d. Young Sportsperson of the Year
- e. Community Event of the Year
- f. Community Services Award
- g. Business House of the Year

All Australia Day Award nominees who meet the eligibility criteria and who, based on the assessment criteria are considered worthy, shall receive an Australia Day Award.

The Committee shall not:-

- select joint recipients in the Citizen of the Year Award
- allocate more than one Citizen of the Year Award in any given year
- create additional categories or sub-categories for assessment.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees for all categories must:-

- a. Be an Australian Citizen
- b. Reside in the Bland Shire at the time of nomination or if not living in the Shire must have contributed to the Shire for a period of twelve (12) months or longer and who has demonstrated a record of providing beneficial services, to the Bland Shire community.
- c. Fall within the following age categories for the respective Awards:
Young Citizen (Sportsperson) of the Year: 25 years and under
Citizen (Sportsperson) of the Year: 26 years and over

Note: the age of the nominee must fall into the applicable category as at 26 January in the year the Award is given.

Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.

Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Sitting state and federal politicians and current councillors are not eligible.

Retired politicians and former councillors are eligible however consideration of their nomination would be for their work over and above their official duties.

Persons who have been awarded a Citizen of the Year Award may not be re-nominated.

Awards will not be granted posthumously.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In determining recipients of the Australia Day Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year Awards, nominees will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a. The activities undertaken which have a positive purpose and benefit to the community.
- b. Outstanding achievement in a specific field, including but not limited to environmental, community engagement, welfare, arts and culture, leadership, charitable activities and civic responsibility.
- c. The level of voluntary contribution beyond paid employment.
- d. The length of activity or service.
- e. The degree of challenges faced in a role and ability to go above and beyond.

The Australia Day Sportsperson of the Year and Young Sportsperson of the Year, nominees will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a. Demonstrated achievement in one or more sports
- b. Good practice in sport and being a positive role model in sporting and recreational pursuits
- c. Encouraging membership and participation in sport
- d. Contributing to the outstanding management or administration of sporting activities
- e. Participating in official sporting or recreational duties in a voluntary capacity

DECISION MAKING PROCEDURES

Nominations will be assessed by the Committee. Selection is based upon the information provided in the Nomination Form plus a written statement.

Committee members will be asked to first discuss the category under consideration.

A show of hands will be taken by the Committee. In the event of an equality of votes, the Committee must reach consensus through discussion and further consideration of the nominees.

The Committee may, through consensus, elect: not to select an award recipient in a particular category; and/or may award it to more than one recipient in a particular category.

Discussion and voting on each category will be facilitated by the Mayor of the day and recommendations for each award recipient/s made to Council.

The decisions of the Committee are final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to the selection of award recipients.

The Committee's recommendations shall be presented to the December Council meeting preceding Australia Day.

The Award recipients shall be determined by resolution of Council in closed session.

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Bland Shire Council Ambassador Guidelines

REVIEW

These Terms of Reference may be amended or repealed by resolution of the Council in consultation with or upon the recommendation of the Australia Day Awards Committee,

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

7.7 Finance and Investment Report for August 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 AUGUST 2023.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2023

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$6,088,755.39
Business Card	\$30,000.00
	\$6,118,755.39
<i>Invested Funds</i>	
Fixed Deposits	\$70,204,200.07
Deposits at Call	\$1,054,475.31
	\$71,258,675.38
Net Balance	\$77,350,416.05
Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance	92.12%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.08.2023

SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

BALANCE as at 01.08.23 **\$1,161,529.52**

Add Receipts

Receipts Over \$150,000

31/07/23 Redeemed Investment	2,000,000.00
15/08/23 July 2023 GST Refund	259,662.00
25/08/23 DCP Extension Grant - Final	200,000.00
30/08/23 Safer Roads – Lake Cargelligo Road	1,460,317.70

Receipts Under \$150,000 6,146,745.63

Total Receipts for August 2023 **\$10,066,725.33**

Less Payments

Payments over \$150,000

03/08/23 Cooper Civil & Crushing Pty Ltd	-177,157.90
03/08/23 Stabilised Pavements of Australia	-2,426,267.25
24/08/23 Bland Shire Council – Rates 23/24	-208,817.35

Payments under \$150,000 -2,327,256.96

Aged Care	\$ 6,186.40
Bank Fees	\$ 1,403.41
Cemeteries	\$ 4,574.32
Children's Services	\$ 45,204.60
Community	\$ 21,307.00
Construction	\$ 23,203.10
Corporate	\$ 690,380.48
Development Services	\$ 21,157.00
Direct Debits	\$ 1,129.92
Donations	\$ 10,347.88
Employee	\$ 953,364.33
Governance	\$ 88,307.77
Insurance	\$ 2,729.06
Library	\$ 2,480.34
Maintenance	\$ 154,524.24
Plant/Fuel	\$ 411,247.21
Roads	\$ 2,631,315.96
Utilities	\$ 60,410.15
VIC	\$ 9,733.40
Waste	\$ 492.89

Total Payments for August 2023 **- \$5,139,499.46**

CASH BALANCE **\$6,088,755.39**

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 August 2023 to 31 August 2023.

I CERTIFY,

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

Payment Type	Voucher No's	Total
Cheques	026339-026351	\$88,365.97
Auto-pay	Creditors E032771 – E033119	\$4,348,521.75
Auto-pay	Payroll 30/07/23 – 27/08/23	\$700,078.41
Bank Charges & Commissions	August 2023	\$1,403.41
Direct Debits	Repayments & Vehicle Lease	1,129.92
		\$5,139,499.46

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 September 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 **\$5,139,499.46** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 19th September 2023 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

INVESTMENTS

The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 31st August 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
30/11/2020	MyState Bank	2,000,000.00	730 days	1.20%	30/11/2023
17/09/2021	Judo Bank	2,000,000.00	727 days	0.95%	14/09/2023
1/10/2021	NAB	1,500,000.00	734 days	0.60%	5/10/2023
22/10/2021	MyState Bank	2,000,000.00	733 days	0.80%	25/10/2023
14/12/2021	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	730 days	1.10%	14/12/2023
20/01/2022	AMP	1,000,000.00	729 days	1.35%	19/01/2024
8/09/2022	Bendigo Bank	401,400.07	365 days	3.00%	8/09/2023
8/09/2022	Bendigo Bank	401,400.00	365 days	3.00%	8/09/2023
8/09/2022	Bendigo Bank	401,400.00	365 days	3.00%	8/09/2023
16/09/2022	Bank of QLD	1,000,000.00	369 days	4.20%	20/09/2023
21/09/2022	NAB	1,000,000.00	365 days	4.25%	21/09/2023
29/09/2022	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	364 days	4.45%	28/09/2023
5/10/2022	NAB	2,000,000.00	371 days	4.05%	11/10/2023
18/10/2022	Police Bank	2,000,000.00	365 days	4.45%	18/10/2023
19/10/2022	Judo Bank	2,000,000.00	365 days	4.30%	19/10/2023
10/11/2022	AMP	1,000,000.00	364 days	4.75%	9/11/2023
17/11/2022	Australian Unity	2,000,000.00	364 days	4.40%	16/11/2023
30/11/2022	Auswide Bank	2,000,000.00	358 days	4.55%	23/11/2023
8/12/2022	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
	ANZ Deposit at Call	50,959.66	Cash at Call		
	CBA Deposit at Call	1,003,515.65	Cash at Call		
	TOTAL:	\$71,258,675.38			

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)	\$ 11,502,976.31
Rates received as at 31/08/2023	\$ 3,847,747.46
% of rates received to date	33.45%

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 August 2023
 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 August to 31 August 2023, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$5,139,499.46
-

7.8 Draft Council Financial Statements 2022/23 – Referral for Audit



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

As prescribed under Section 413 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LGAct), Council is required to consider and resolve to refer the 2022/23 Draft Financial Statements for audit as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year. The purpose of this report is to seek formal approval of the current Council for certain activities to be undertaken to allow for the audit process to commence.

Financial Implications

The audit fee is prescribed by the NSW Audit Office. This has already been approved in Council's budget.

Summary

The process that Council must follow in the production, audit, issuance, advertising and presentation of the Financial Statements is prescribed in Sections 413-420 of the LGAct, and the Audit Office requirements.

The finalised set of audited Financial Statements, including the Auditor's reports will be presented to Council on 21st November 2023.

Advertising and public exhibition of both the audited Financial Statements and Auditor's reports, inviting members of the public to make comment, is expected to commence 31st October to advise the Council's intention to present the documents to the public at its meeting on 21st November 2023.

Council's Draft Financial Statements for 2022/23 have been prepared and will be tabled at the Council meeting on 19th September, 2023 to allow for their referral to audit.

The Draft Primary Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the format required by the LGAct, the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Code) issued by the NSW Office of Local Government and the Australian Equivalents to the International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS).

These Draft Primary Financial Statements are required to be audited in accordance with Sections 415,416 and 417 of the LGAct.

The Draft Primary Financial Statements consist of the following General Purpose Financial Statements;

- Income Statement
- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Cash Flows

It should be noted that there may be minor or slight variances to the complete documents once checking is fully undertaken and the audit is completed. Any variances will be reported to the Audit Office by the contract auditor.

The Draft Financial Statements also include Draft Special Purpose Financial Statements, which relate to the following business activity of Council;

- Sewerage Services

The following timetable will allow these processes to be satisfied and for the Financial Statements to be adopted by Council;

19 th September, 2023	Council approves the draft financial statements for referral to the Audit Office and the Mayor, a Councillor, the General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer delegated responsibility to sign the statement.
3 rd October, 2023	Audit team commences audit of Financial Statements.
27 th October, 2023	Audit Office issues Engagement Closing Report and Council signs Management Representation Letter
30 th October, 2023	Audit Office issues Independent Auditor's Report in accordance with Section 417 of the LG Act.
31 st October, 2023	Audit Office issues Management Letter and reports any significant issues in accordance with Section 426 of the LG Act.
31 st October, 2023	Council Financial Statements submitted to the Office of Local Government.
31 st October, 2023	Anticipated date for public advertising notifying that the Financial Statements are available for inspection and advising that the Financial Statements will be formally presented to Council on 21 st November 2023.
November 2023	Audit team presents Engagement Closing Report to Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.
21 st November 2023	Ordinary Council meeting for the presentation of Council's audited Financial Statements and Auditor's reports to Council.

A full report on Council's financial position will be provided to Council at its meeting on 21st November 2023.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. That pursuant to the provisions of Section 413 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council hereby declares that it has prepared the General Purpose Financial Statements for the 2022/23 financial year ending 30 June 2023 and has formed an opinion, based on the advice of Council officers, that these reports;
 - (a) Have been prepared in accordance with:
 - (i) The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made thereunder;
 - (ii) The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements; and
 - (iii) The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
 - (b) Present fairly the operating result and financial position of the Bland Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2023; and
 - (c) Accords with Council's accounting and other records and policies.
 2. That the Special Purpose Financial Statements have been drawn up in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
 3. That the General and Special Purpose Financial Statements be certified by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer, in accordance with Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act.
 4. That pursuant to the provisions of Section 413 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council hereby declares that the Financial Statements (including General Purpose and Special Purpose Reports) for the year ending 30 June 2023 be referred for audit.
-

7.9 Endorsement of Motions for LGNSW Conference



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

Bland Shire will propose two matters at the upcoming Local Government NSW Annual Conference and the purpose of this report is for Council to discuss and resolve the wording of the motions which it intends to submit.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Summary

The LGNSW Conference is scheduled to be held from Sunday 12 November to Tuesday 14 November at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse. Member Councils are able to submit motions for consideration at the annual conference providing they meet certain criteria which stipulates the following:

That motions:

1. are consistent with the objects of LGNSW (see Rule 4 of the Association's [rules](#)),
2. relate to or concern local government as a sector in NSW and/or across Australia,
3. seek to establish or change policy positions of LGNSW and/or improve governance of the Association (noting that the LGNSW Board is responsible for decisions around resourcing any campaigns or operational activities, and any necessary resource allocations will be subject to the LGNSW budgetary process),
4. have a lawful purpose (a motion does not have a lawful purpose if its implementation would require or encourage non-compliance with prevailing laws),
5. are clearly worded and unambiguous in nature, and
6. do not express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

The deadline for the submission of motions to this year's conference is midnight on Sunday, 15 October 2023.

Bland Shire Council will propose matters in relation to the Emergency Services Levy and financial contributions by Councils to emergency repair grant funding offerings to help improve shire assets damaged by disasters.

In keeping with the requirement that wording of new motions debated at the Conference reflects recent developments and does not duplicate existing positions, the following Draft motions are presented for Council to consider. Information which will be provided to support the proposed motions is also presented for Councillors to review and amend as they see fit (**Attachment One**).

Recommendation:

That Bland Shire Councils submits the following Notices of Motions for consideration at the LGNSW Conference scheduled for 12-14 November 2023:

Emergency Services Levy – Recognition on Council Rate Notices

That should the NSW Government fail to restore the Emergency Services Levy subsidy for 2023:

1. Local Government NSW seeks the State Government's agreement for Councils within NSW to recognise the Levy as a separate and additional cost on rates notices
2. The amount Councils are required to pay to meet the ESL charges imposed by the State Government not be included in the overall general rate incomes but as a standalone levy, similar to Water and Sewer fees.

Council Co-Contributions to Disaster Grant Funding to Improve Assets

That Local Government NSW:

1. Applauds the actions of the Government in permitting the use of Council own sourced funding towards the increased scope for adaptation works to upgrade asset capacity as part of the most recent flood emergency.
 2. Seeks a commitment from State and Federal Government agencies to review Disaster and Emergency funding criteria to allow Council co-contributions to be used in partnership with state and federal funding to upgrade asset capacity where they have been damaged during critical events.
-

Attachment One

Emergency Services Levy – Recognition on Council Rate Notices

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2. The amount Councils are required to pay to meet the ESL charges imposed by the State Government not be included in the overall general rate incomes but as a standalone levy, similar to Water and Sewer fees.

Supporting argument

The ESL is a cost imposed on councils and the insurance industry to fund the emergency services budget in NSW. The majority is paid as part of insurance premiums, with a further 11.7 per cent picked up by councils and 14.6% by the State Government itself. The levy increase for the State's 128 councils in 2023/24 alone sits just under \$77 million. By having the ESL identified on Council rate notices it will be made clear to ratepayers that the levy is not a Council charge but one of the many fees Councils are expected to collect on behalf of the State Government. This step will assist as Councils face increasing pressure to be transparent in their activities on behalf of the community and ensure those communities understand the demands on Local Government to act as agents for the State.

NB: Bland Shire's total ESL cost for the Financial Year 23/24 is \$666,804.87.

Council co-contribution to Disaster Grant Funding to improve assets

That Local Government NSW:

1. Applauds the actions of the Government in permitting the use of Council own sourced funding towards the increased scope for adaptation works upgrade asset capacity as part of the most recent flood emergency.
2. Seeks a commitment from State and Federal Government agencies to review Disaster and Emergency funding criteria to allow Council co-contributions to be used in partnership with state and federal funding to upgrade asset capacity where they have been damaged during critical events.

Supporting argument

Current funding for disaster and emergencies, in general, only allows for Councils to repair affected assets to the pre-disaster conditions. In some instances, improvement in conditions is explicitly prohibited. Allowing Councils to contribute their own-source funds to be utilised in conjunction with disaster relief funding for the purposes of improvement or betterment of the condition of the assets would be more beneficial for communities.

7.10 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

Sunday the 27 November saw the official launch of a new Council project specifically for seniors living within Bland Shire. Mornings, Melodies and Memories is a series of gatherings. It has been funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and is one of only four large projects to receive money as part of the Reducing Social Isolation for Seniors Round Three.

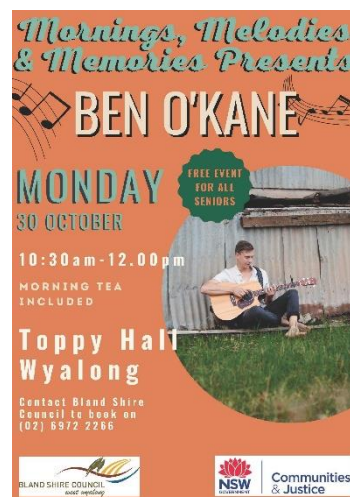


As part of the Mornings, Melodies and Memories program, gatherings have been held across the Bland Shire area specifically for older residents living within village and rural communities. These events consist of a series of morning teas at which residents and volunteers can come together to share local stories to build social connections which we hope will last beyond the funded project period. It will also provide for local and regional performers to present songs across the ages at various gatherings throughout the year.

The West Wyalong Radio Station has gathered information regarding the Mornings, Melodies and Memories Project and will continue to promote with weekly location updates.

Staff have secured and booked live entertainment for a minimum of one visit per village throughout the program. Local songstress, Leah Brohan, will be performing in Barmedman on Monday 25 September at Arts, Crafts, Coffee & Cake.

Planning is currently in place for two larger scale events to be held in Wyalong and West Wyalong throughout October and December 2023. Ben O'Kane has been booked to perform at Topy Hall on Monday 30 October and John Martin will be performing at the West Wyalong S&C Club on Saturday 2 December 2023 for the final scheduled session of the program.



LG Awards

On Thursday 3 August 2023, the Mayor, General Manager, Director Corporate and Community Services and Community Development Officer attended to LG Awards Night held at Doltone House, Sydney. Bland Shire Council nominated the Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program and was announced as a finalist in the Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Awards for Division A (population 0-30,000 people) While the award went to an entry from Forbes Shire for its Sculpture Down the Lachlan program, to be announced as a finalist was a great achievement for all staff, volunteers and participants of this program.

The table below indicates locations visited and number of attendees present at each session:

DATE	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE
7 August	Tallimba Hall – Tallimba	11
14 August	CWA Rooms – Ungarie	6
21 August	Arts, Crafts, Coffee & Cake – Barmedman	6
28 August	Weethalle Country Club	11
4 September	The Royal Hotel – Mirrool	6
11 September	CWA Rooms - Ungarie	9

The following dates and locations have also been scheduled for September/October 2023.

DATE	LOCATION
18 September	Weethalle Country Club
25 September	Arts, Crafts, Coffee & Cake – Barmedman
6 October (Friday due to Monday Public Holiday)	Tallimba Hall – Tallimba
9 October	CWA Rooms – Ungarie
16 October	Weethalle Country Club – Weethalle
23 October	Arts, Crafts, Coffee & Cake - Barmedman
30 October	Topy Hall - Wyalong

Key activities have continued at each session, with positive feedback received from Attendees, Volunteers, Hosts and Staff.

Discussions held throughout the sessions have included but not limited to: where you were born, schooling/education, how you came to be a resident within the Bland Shire (if not born here), discussions around heating and cooling, Covid-19 and most recently discussions around social activities attended in their younger years.



Recommendation:

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

Section 3 – Technical Services

7.11 Tender – Civil Construction Works – Six (6) lot Industrial Subdivision in West Wyalong (ENG0001/23-24)



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

DP15.1 Encourage and actively seek out businesses and industry to relocate to the Shire

Author: Project Engineer

Introduction

Under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, where a contract is over \$250,000 a Request for Tender (RFT) must be conducted, and be considered by Council.

Consequently an open Request for Tender process was undertaken for the Civil Works associated with the Construction of the proposed six (6) lot subdivision off Central Road in West Wyalong.

Tenderers were requested to provide pricing for the following:

- Site establishment.
- Site set out including survey works.
- Site clearing and grubbing.
- Traffic Control as required.
- Earthworks including removal of topsoil, stockpiling of topsoil, replacement of topsoil, importation of additional fill materials and levelling/compaction as required.
- Procurement and installation/construction of all required stormwater drainage infrastructure including pipes, headwalls, swales and treatment/detention basins.
- Construction and supply of all materials associated with new public roads and private accesses as per the Geotechnical pavement design (supplied).
- Line marking, and
- Signage.

In response to the advertised tender, submissions were received from three (3) contractors:

1. Civil & Civic (Canberra)
2. Cleary Earth & Civil (West Wyalong)
3. Rod's Earthmoving and Excavation (West Wyalong)

Financial Implications

Council has made allowance for the subdivision civil works as part of the Land Development Budget for the 2023/24 budget. The tendered pricing of \$937,102 is within the allocated budget.

Summary

The criteria listed below was strategically used for the assessment of the tender:

- Experience and Capability (30%).
- WH&S, Environmental, Safety and Quality Compliance, Tender Conformance (15%).
- Local Contractor (5%).
- Reference checking (10%), and
- Tender price (40%).

Council Officers who conducted the tender assessment are as follows:

- Project Engineer,
- Acting Manager of Engineering Services and
- Director of Technical Services.

The assessment panel noted that all tenderers conformed and presented submissions that met the brief and adhered to the construction timeframe (completion by 15/12/2023). With the tender assessment summary in the table below.

TENDERER	SCORE	RANK
Civil and Civic	85.16	3
Cleary Earth and Civil	89.24	2
Rod's Earthmoving and Excavation	100.00	1

The tender assessment panel therefore recommends that Rod's Earthmoving and Excavation be accepted as the preferred tenderer.

Recommendation:

That Council award the Tender ENG0001/23-24 for the Civil Construction Works for the six (6) lot industrial subdivision in West Wyalong to Rod's Earthmoving and Excavation to the value of \$937,102.00 (Exc GST).

7.12 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4



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 February of this year the Federal Government announced the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4. The funding allocation for Bland Shire in this announcement is \$1,849,827.

In May of this year a further announcement was made of a Part B allocation for Road Only projects which for Bland Shire is \$1,067,021.

A list of projects was developed and assessed internally by staff.

To assist in the assessment of projects a methodology was developed to assist in the ranking of projects

Criteria used were

- Alignment with the Community Strategic Plan
- Alignment with Council's Asset Management requirements
- Community or economic Development Benefit
- Ongoing Financial Impact

PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION – PART A (\$1,848,827)

Pound Replacement

Current facility does not meet animal welfare requirements, while constraining future expansion of Sewer Treatment Plant. Deferred from LRCI Phase 3

Scope

- New building
- Internal fitout (Vet table, laundry facilities for bedding, dog cages, dog run)

RSL Walk

Completion of already commenced project

Scope

- Solar lighting bollards along walk
- Signage
- Wall art
- Rendering of brickwork
- Solar panels and storage
- Fencing to provide delineation from drainage channel
- Seating
- Site rectification

West Wyalong Pool Project

The heating system at the pool is run off the pool filtration pump system. This reduces filtration turnover capacity affecting the ability to maintain chlorine residual in the pool, which then requires staff to manually cast powdered chlorine into the pool. Piping currently has major distortion and swelling with inadequate water flow due to incorrect installation.

The starting blocks are not FINA compliant, competitive swimmers use different blocks at competition meets at other pools, these will also be partially funded through another Grant sourced by the Swimming Club

Scope

- New starting blocks that conform with FINA Standards
- Pool heating rectification works
- Gas chlorination conversion
- Solar panel and battery to supplement new pumping requirements

Rugby Union / Camp Draft precinct recycled water supply

A request has been made from the Rugby Club to supply re-use water from Council's effluent scheme to enable improved watering of the facility on Talimba Rd.

Initial scoping involved the following

- Effluent re-use main extension from the offtake to the Golf Club storage dam to the earth storage dam (1400m)
- Earthworks at the dam to increase stormwater runoff catchment
- New pump shed and infrastructure to enable water to be pumped to oval
- 2 x potable water connections to supply potable safe water for events
- Oval irrigation system – current system is a manually moved irrigator
- Oval top dressing, current oval is rough and has a hard surface

In assessing the application against the criteria some of the scope was removed due to budget, as well as items that would not have scored well in the assessment matrix. These items would be assets for the Rugby Club which they could then fund raise independently for. These items were

- Oval irrigation system
- Oval top dressing

Rose Garden

A request was received from the Community Garden (Rose Garden) group to assist in enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the entire area.

The original scope of the request is as follows:

- 2 x footbridges
 - Safe crossing over open drainage channel
 - Replace existing with a more aesthetically pleasing design
- Internal footpaths
 - Currently no defined walkway, some grass areas worn down
 - No disabled or ambulatory access to picnic shelter
- Watering system
 - Current system does not give consistent coverage resulting in wet and dry patches
 - Overwatering occurs on roses due to overspray
- Solar lighting
 - Installation of solar bollard lighting

- Concrete garden edging
 - Section maintained by Council on section to the south
 - No separation from grass to garden, weeds and grass encroachment
 - Maintains consistent aesthetic
- Larger sundial feature
 - Added point of interest to the Rose Garden

In assessing the application against the criteria some of the scope was removed due to budget as well as items that would not have scored well in the assessment matrix. The items changed for the final assessment were

- Larger sundial feature
- Reducing the number of bridges from two (2) to one (1)
- Reduction in the path length due to the bridge reduction

Building Works

This project will be a bundle of building works across the town and villages of the shire. Public amenities ie toilets at publicly accessible toilets installation of timer taps to reduce water usage as well as reduce potential for taps to be left on
 External Painting of School of Arts and Wyalong Hall, including timber framing
 West Wyalong Pool House, Council asset requires maintenance including internal painting, floors are uneven due to sinking piers and kitchen and bathroom require upgrading.

Scope

- Water saving taps in public amenities \$14,427
- External painting School or Arts and Wyalong Hall - \$60,000
- Pool House – internal painting, floor levelling (piers) and kitchen and bathroom maintenance - \$86,000
- Barmedman Hall – floor repairs - \$26,400

Other Potential Projects are still under investigation for future Grant funding:

- Ungarie Hall – heating / cooling, access and kitchen
 - Heating options are currently being investigated due to the size of the hall
- Ungarie Sports Ground – lighting upgrades
 - To be investigated further as part of Sport and Rec Master plan

Project	Budget	Score /10
Pound Replacement	\$640,000	8.1
RSL Walk - completion	\$220,000	7.5
West Wyalong Pool works	\$245,000	7.25
Rugby Union / Camp Draft precinct recycled water supply	\$410,000	3.7
Rose Garden	\$157,000	6.7
Building works	\$186,827	7.4
Total	\$1,878,827	

PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION – PART B (\$1,067,021)

Causeway Upgrades – Rural Roads

The recent wet weather event has highlighted many causeways around Bland Shire that require a more substantial/sustainable treatment.

Three (3) causeways have been identified on Quandialla Road for treatment at a total estimated value of \$515,000. Which will replace badly cracked concrete causeways.

A new floodway on Bartels Lane approximately 5.7km from the Newell Highway which is consistently being washed out as well as a steep causeway on Morangarell Rd approximately 14.8km from Quandialla Road which will require box culverts for low flow.

Road	Location	Cost Estimate
Quandialla	42km from Newell Hwy	\$100,000
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
Total		\$1,067,021

Financial Implications

\$2,945,848.00 of Grant income will be included in Council's next Quarterly Budget review, resulting in no changes to Council's budgeted net result.

Summary

Council has received notification of its allocation under the Federal Government Local Roads and Infrastructure program Round 4, this report seeks Council endorsement for these projects proposed to be submitted to the funding body.

Recommendation:

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
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

7.13 Refund of Development Application – Bland District Historical Society Inc.



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

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

Author: Planning & Compliance Officer

Introduction

A request for a refund of fees paid in relation to DA2024/0002 Community Facility - Re-Installation of Historic Static Windmill at the Wyalong Museum has been received from the Bland District Historical Society Inc., a non-profit organisation managing and operating the Wyalong Museum at 69 Neeld Street, Wyalong.

The windmill was previously located out the front of the old museum premises at 16 Main Street, West Wyalong, and the Bland District Historical Society Inc. wishes to relocate the structure to the current premises at the Wyalong Museum at 69 Neeld Street, Wyalong.

Council's *Refund of Development Application Fees to Non-Profit Organisations Policy* aims to assist the Council to achieve best practice by promoting the establishment of a strategy to effectively manage the manner in which it provides assistance to the community through the waiving of Development Application fees.

The policy applies to non-profit organisations and the development must be a project that:

- a) Generates employment growth in the Shire.
- b) Enhances tourism infrastructure within the Shire.
- c) Provides substantial benefits for the wider community.

Financial Implications

The Development Application fees in relation to DA2024/0002 were \$129.00 which have been paid by the applicant. If approved, a refund cheque may be drawn in favour of the organisation from the Community Donations Allocation, equivalent to the applicable development application fee.

Summary

The development is consistent with the policy being that:

- Bland District Historical Society Inc. is a non-profit organisation;
- Whilst the Wyalong Museum is managed and operated by volunteers, it is a premises and attraction that enhances tourism, therefore benefitting the wider community; and
- The re-installation of the historic static windmill will enhance tourism by providing a historic attraction at the Wyalong Museum which is located on the main highway into Wyalong.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the refund of development application fees of \$129.00 to n, Bland District Historical Society Inc., in relation to DA2024/0002 Community Facility - Re-Installation of Historic Static Windmill at 69 Neeld Street, Wyalong – Wyalong Museum.

7.14 Access Incentive Scheme Grant -57 Main Street, West Wyalong



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

DPS 8.2 In collaboration with users provide facilities that are accessible to acceptable standards.

Author: Planning & Compliance Officer

Introduction

Davies Motorcycles & Power Equipment is an existing commercial business in Main Street, West Wyalong that recently relocated to 57 Main Street, West Wyalong. The business has applied to Council for an Access Incentive Scheme Grant of \$5,000 to assist with costs associated with the provision of an Automatic Sliding Door which will increase accessibility to the premises.

Whilst the business has recently completed building works to extend and upgrade the premises under an approved Development Consent, the proposed Automatic Sliding Door may be completed under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (SEPP)*, Subdivision 27 Minor building alterations (external). The proposed development shall comply with the Development standards of the SEPP.

The quoted Automatic Sliding Door shall be installed as per the Australian Standards for Pedestrian and Egress Automatic doors AS5007-2007 and conform to Australian Standard 1428.1 Design for Access and Mobility.

Project costs were quoted at \$15,000 including GST. The applicant is seeking a grant of \$5,000.00, which is the maximum level of funding per project, with the applicant funding the remaining balance.

Financial Implications

There is currently \$8,000 in Council's Access Incentive Scheme Grant budget allocation. If this project is funded there will be a balance of \$3,000 remaining.

Summary

The project is consistent with item 9.1.2.4 of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021, as noted below:

Promotion and administration of Councils Access Incentive Scheme to improve access to local businesses and community organisation premises with Main Street hospitality outlets prioritised.

Further to this, the application meets the eligibility requirements of the Access Incentive Grants Policy. Council's Access Incentive Scheme Grant Funding Guidelines state:

Applicants are eligible to apply for the Access Incentive Scheme Grant if:

- *The building and works are carried out within the Bland Shire;*
- *The applicant is a business, not for profit community organisation, or a community service provider.*

The application from Davies Motorcycles & Power Equipment meets the eligibility criteria as the applicant operates a business in West Wyalong and the building and works are carried out in the Bland Shire.

The Assessment Criteria for Access Incentive Scheme Grant applications are:

The project/applicant must:

- *Have a high level of usage by the Bland Shire community and visitors*
- *Conform to Australian Standard 1428.1 Design for Access and Mobility, and Australian Premises Standard;*
- *Be located in the local government area of the Bland Shire;*
- *Obtain development approval from Council if required; and*
- *Financially contribute to the project on a minimum of \$1:\$1 basis*

The application satisfies the assessment criteria for an Access Incentive Scheme Grant as an operating business in the Main Street of West Wyalong for the Bland Shire community and visitors, shall conform to Australian Standards as referenced above and meets the financial contribution requirements.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the Access Incentive Scheme Grant application for Davies Motorcycles & Power Equipment at 57 Main Street, West Wyalong for \$5,000 to install an Automatic Sliding Door to increase accessibility to the premises.

Section 4 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

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

- 7.15 Community Development Report
 - 7.16 Bland Shire Library Monthly Update
 - 7.17 Children Services August Update
 - 7.18 Technical Services Report
 - 7.19 Development Services Activity Report – August 2023
-

7.15 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

Local Government Week – Careers @ Council

On Wednesday 2 August, Council staff, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor hosted a “Careers @ Council” information session at the West Wyalong High School. A number of staff were on hand to speak to students who may be interested in finding out about various roles and how Council can support staff with education, training and career progression opportunities. Fourteen staff members were in attendance from Administration, Cadets, Trainees, Library Services, Children’s Services, Finance, Human Resources, Media & Communications, Engineering, Ranger Services and Assets. Students from years 8-12 were provided with the opportunity to move around the MPU and chat with all Council staff. Students were highly engaged in this session and feedback from students was very positive.



September/October School Holiday Program

Plans are in progress and dates secured for the upcoming September/October School holidays.

Monday 25 September - PCYC Griffith will be hosting a Safer Driving Program where L plate drivers will be able to get 20 hours off their logbook with the 5 hour Saver Driving Course.



Tuesday 26 September - GALMATIC, an all-female crew of mechanics is coming to West Wyalong to conduct a car maintenance workshop for anyone aged 15-24 years. This is a chance for young people to dive in under the bonnet checking oil, coolant, fluids and battery and then look at tyre changing in an intensive, interactive and hands-on workshop. A great opportunity for anyone aged 15-24 years looking to get their L’s, are on their P’s or currently driving around.



Thursday 28 September – Basketball NSW will be conducting a 3x3 street hustle at the West Wyalong Stadium from 10am. The West Wyalong Junior Basketball Association will be providing canteen facilities for the day.



Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Regional economies will continue to be impacted by droughts, which are

predicted to become more frequent and severe into the future. Drought Resilience Plans are required to identify the steps which communities should take to mitigate these impacts. People living within the Temora and Bland Shire regions are encouraged to contribute to the development of these plans by participating in locally held information sessions to provide feedback and options that would work best for our communities.

Temora and Bland Shire Councils are working with project partners WSP to develop a Regional Drought Resilience Plan. This plan will focus on the role of local government in building drought resilience and will be developed from the perspective that drought is a regional development issue; i.e. community level drought resilience depends upon strong primary industries and agricultural supply chains sectors as well as other businesses, community organisations and local government.

The objective of the plan is to:

- Increase understanding of the region's current and future drought resilience; including consideration of the region's unique economic, environmental and social characteristics.
- Identify actions, pathways and opportunities to improve drought resilience, mitigate risks and adapt to change; including identifying and scoping additional detailed technical studies.
- Place communities in a stronger position to implement strategic actions and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.
- Inform and support future Commonwealth, state and territory government, local government and private sector investment.
- Enable the region to identify and articulate drought resilience knowledge and data about the impact of drought on the region.
- Leverage and build upon existing strategic planning at the state, local, regional and issue-specific planning.
- Form stronger connections and relationships between and within the two shires.
- Support communities to consider the incremental, transitional and transformational opportunities needed to strengthen drought resilience and encourage innovative initiatives at the regional level.

- Facilitate increased community understanding of their drought resilience including by encouraging communities to share their learnings with each other.
- Encourage improved natural resource management capability through planning.

Bland Shire Council scheduled a 'pop-in' session for all community members to call in and discuss how drought impacts their livelihoods, mental health and family lives as well as any other important effects at Tamara's, 184 Main Street, West Wyalong from 10am – 2pm. All industry and community groups, regional and rural community leaders, regional employers and business owners were welcome to attend.

Following the 'pop-in' session, a workshop was conducted at the Ungarie Bowling Club, 5.30-7pm, also on Tuesday 12 September with all interested community members invited to attend.

West Wyalong Show Display

A successful West Wyalong Show was held on Wednesday 6 September, Council provided a static display in the industrial hall, pictured below. Information from Hearts of Gold, Library Services, Ranger Services, Community Services, Community Care, Environmental Service, Visitor Information and Road Safety was on display.



7.16 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

Playwriting Workshops – 16 and 30 August

Bland Shire Library hosted two four-hour playwriting workshops conducted by Saasha McMillan, Oddball Theatre, Wagga Wagga. The playwriting workshops coordinated by Bland Shire Library in partnership with the West Wyalong High School, support Drama and English Extension Twenty Year 9 and 10 students attended the first workshop, held 16 August. The program included a crash course in constructing a play or monologue – creating intelligent plots and credible characters and developing interesting themes through encounters and exchanges. Fourteen students attended the second workshop, held 30 August, which was an extension of the first workshop, but included some fun role-playing and drama improvisation scenarios. Feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive.



Book Week 19 – 25 August

A busy week for Bland Shire Library staff. The library was thrilled to host three groups of Year 7 students from the West Wyalong High School. The occasion presented a great opportunity to talk to the students about books and the benefits of reading, and highlight the library's collection, services and programs. The students then had fun participating in the Amazing Race, which featured an indigenous cultural theme. At the conclusion, the students received a free pack, which included a membership form, information about the library's programs and services, e-resources, plus some sweet treats. Due to the success of these visits, the West Wyalong High School has expressed interest in bringing their Year 7 students to the library on a regular basis.

Also visiting the library during Book Week was the Bland Preschool. Five class groups participated in a Storytime session, which included library staff reading some of their favourite picture books, as well as a number of books from the CBCA Book of the Year shortlist, music and dancing, and a craft. The children and Bland Preschool staff got into the spirit by dressing-up, which made for a great Book Week!



The library's regular Thursday morning Storytime also featured Book Week with the children dressing up as their favourite characters.

Due to a full schedule in Book Week, Bland Shire Library will continue to celebrate Book Week in September with class visits from the West Wyalong Public School.

- Twenty-nine Kindergarten students will visit the library on Friday 8 September to participate in a one-hour story-time session.
- Monday 11 September, eighteen Year 1 students and twenty-five Year 2 students will visit the library to participate in a variety of activities including a text appreciation exercise. Forty-two Year 3 and 4 students will visit the same day, but their activities will include the Amazing Race.
- The school's Year 5 and Year 6 students will visit the library Wednesday 13 September with the Amazing Race a feature.



Photo Competition Presentation – 24 August

Bland Shire Library finalised its Book with a Twist Photo Competition by hosting a presentation and special afternoon tea for entrants.

Bland Shire Library received \$1500 in support of its 'Book with a Twist' Photo Competition, held to highlight Library and Information Week, with the funds used to purchase prizes and host a function.

The funding, allocated by the LWB (Learning for a Better World) Trust in collaboration with Friends of Libraries Australia and Harvey Norman, is assign to country libraries for enriching projects aimed at benefiting rural communities.



Papermaking Workshop – 28 August

Bland Shire Library was thrilled to host Susan Wright, founder of Born in Paper, Byron Bay. Susan, who is currently touring regional NSW, conducted a two-hour papermaking workshop at Bland Shire Library on Monday 28 August.

Participants learned the paper making process from start to finish. Susan also demonstrated the art of adding colours and texture (for example, raw cotton), seeds, and flowers (both fresh and dried) to make beautiful handmade paper.

Despite the small group, a very successful workshop thanks to Susan, whose obsession for beautiful textures, colours, and even the smell of printing and paper, has been ingrained in her since birth. Susan explained that growing up in a family printing business in Byron Bay meant hands-on with everything from binding notepads, collating, sorting lead-type to dusting gold on wedding stationery.



History Week – Family History Workshop – 7 September

To celebrate History Week, Bland Shire Library is conducting a workshop for members of the Wyalong District Family History group. The workshop on Thursday 7 September from 2pm will cover the following topic.

- An overview of Trove, including content and search tips
- An overview of Ancestry (Library Edition)
- A brief look at online newspapers and magazines available through Riverina Regional Library and the State Library of NSW, including
 - Australian newspapers available via Newsbank
 - Digital magazines via BorrowBox
 - State Library of NSW online family history resources

The group will have an opportunity to ask questions, request demonstrations, and conduct their own research using the library's public pcs. Each member will also take home an information pack.

Little Emergencies – 15 September

Due to demand, Bland Shire Library is hosting a second free “baby first aid” program on Friday 15 September 2023, starting 10.30am. Nurse Educator, Shannon Evans (MLHD), will again conduct the program under its new name Little Emergencies. The program, which covers basic first aid and emergency CPR for babies and toddlers, is hands-on hence the capping of numbers. In light of this, the library is planning additional sessions.

Craft Afternoon with Kurrajong – 26 September

Bland Shire Library will host a visit from Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices on Tuesday 26 September. The library looks forward to engaging with the staff from Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices and their clients. The group will enjoy a light luncheon, before embarking on a creative journey making rolled bees wax candles. The aim of the program to promote lifelong learning, inclusion, health and wellbeing, and creative communities.

Little Wattle Visits

Little Wattle Preschool and Long Day Care Centre visited the library in August. Three sessions were held – one session for the centre's Bottlebrush class (2 – 3 years), and two sessions for their preschool age children. The library provided a story-time session based around an ocean theme.

Little Wattle has an additional four groups booked to visit the library in September, as part of their community engagement strategy.



STEM Construction (School Holiday Program) – 27 September

An hour of fun mini challenges that involve constructing or building things using only confectionery, wooden toothpicks and skewers.

Wednesday 27 September, 10.30am. For school aged children. Cost \$2

Matthew Lin – Cartoon & Manga / Anime Workshops (School Holiday Program) – 28 September

Bland Shire Library is excited to be hosting Matthew Lin, a freelance graphic designer and illustrator from Melbourne, who has over twenty-five years' experience – with the majority of that time in publishing, as well as advertising and promotional design.

Matthew will be conducting two free workshops on Thursday 28 September, as part of the Bland Shire Library's September / October school holiday program.

The first workshop at 10.30am is for primary school students aged 7 – 12 years. The workshop features Cartoons and goes for 60 minutes. The children will learn step-by-step how to draw cartoon characters.

The second workshop, which commences at 12.30pm and goes for 90 minutes, is for secondary students Year 7 to 12 (or 13 – 18 years). This workshop features Manga and Anime.

The library is looking forward to seeing lots of faces at both workshops but encourages children and young people – whether they're adept at drawing or not – to come along and be amazed by the highly talented Matthew Lin, who is also very patient and very funny, by all accounts.



LEGO Scavenger Hunt (School Holiday Program) – 4 October

An hour of fun finding clues that lead to all things Lego.

Wednesday 4 October, 10.30am. Free for all ages.

Mr Snot Bottom (School Holiday Program) – 5 October

Mr Snot Bottom (alias Mark Trenwith) is a hysterically deesgusting kids' comedian brimming with all the goey, smelly, and yucky topics kids love! Suitable for families, the Show is perfect for kids aged 4 – 12 years.

Mr Snot Bottom will be appearing in the Council Chambers from 10am – 11am on Thursday 5 October. Entry is \$5



Anyone for Chess?

Following the success of its community jigsaw puzzle, the library has introduced the game of chess. The chessboard, a donation to the library, has been set up for members of the community, both young and old, to use. There are many benefits to playing chess. Playing chess builds problem-solving skills, improves memory and concentration, sportsmanship, increases self-confidence, helps in creative thinking ... and it's fun!



Update on Age Care Reform Information Hub (Pilot Program)

The start date for the pilot, coordinated by the Australian Library and Information Association in partnership with the commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, and supported by the Australian Public Library Alliance, has been pushed back a few weeks due to delays in procuring resources. This means that instead of the three-month pilot starting at the beginning of September it will now commence in the last week of September. Despite this, Bland Shire library has opted to return the hub in December due to other commitments.

The information hub will consist of a brochure display stand, pull-up banner, iPad stand, and comment card box. Available information will include

- Reforming aged care in Australia – tells a range of fictional stories featuring older people to demonstrate aged care reform in action.
- Working in aged care in Australia – tells a range of stories from aged care staff with links to more information on changes that impact the aged care work force.
- Council of Elders – fact sheet about the Aged Care Council of Elders, their role in aged care reform, and contact information.
- Advocacy and representative groups – Explains the role of a range of advocates and representative groups along with contact information.
- Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme – Information about the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors scheme and contact details for potential volunteers and older people.
- Focus on Dementia – Information about initiatives and programs available to support people living with dementia, their families and carers.
- My Aged Care – information about My Aged Care including:
 - How to access
 - Financial information
 - Eligibility
- Aged Care Star Ratings
- Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission – Information for older people, families and carers about raising a concern or making a complaint with the Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission.

The Department's primary goal is to increase awareness of aged care reforms in the community. People go to public libraries to seek information. It is hoped that in a safe space with trusted library staff, people will feel comfortable seeking out resources to better understand how the aged care system works.

Note: Bland Shire Library plans to promote services available to Bland Shire residents through Bland Shire's Community Care Service only.

Mental Health Month Grant

Bland Shire Library has been successful in its application for a Mental Health Month Grant, receiving \$500. The grant will fund a Health and Well-being Day in October to highlight mental health.

West Wyalong Show

Bland Shire Library contributed to the Council's display including free bags containing a variety of information and promotional material for community members to take.

Membership

Since 1 July, Bland Shire Library has registered twenty new members and re-registered an even one hundred members.

Riverina Regional Library recently updated its membership database, which reduced Bland Shire Library's member base from 1,712 to 1,477.

Unfortunately, the update created some issues in relation to Bland Shire Library members living within the Bland Shire (ie. Bland Shire Council rate-payers), but with an address listed outside of the Bland Shire (for example, Quandialla). However, the issue once identified was quickly rectified.

7.17 Children Services August 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

August came and went in a blur. All CSU services continued to provide wonderful opportunities and experiences for the community and the families.

A huge congratulations was extended to Megan Daly, who attended her University Graduation in Armidale. Megan successfully graduated with a Bachelor in Early Childhood Education. The staff at CSU are super proud of her achievement.



Professional Development –

OWNA software training commenced. The Educational Leader, Admin Officer and Coordinator continued to learn about the software in preparation for 2024, with the aim of being paper free, moving all documentation to a digital platform.

The 2023 Preschool census fortnight took place in August and was submitted to the Department of Education. From the information submitted, the 2024 Preschool funding amount will be allocated. From 2024 expression of interest already received, a funding adjustment will be required in February 2024 to facilitate the higher number of enrolled children.

CSU staff met with Grace Qualtieri, Bland Preschools new Preschool Inclusion consultant (from NSW Sector Capacity Building Program – KU Children Services). Grace provided information and strategies to support classroom teachers and educators when guiding children identified with challenging behaviours. Grace will continue to provide online support and face to face training in the future. Bland Preschool looks forward to building a great relationship with KU to share knowledge and experiences.

Grant Applications –

The completion report for the Community Building Partnership 2022 grant was submitted with the fence installation completed. This grant opportunity has provided CSU a safe, enclosed play area for all families.

Special Event –

Bland Shire Children Service Unit held a ‘Barbie ladies night’ for the mums, grandmothers, sisters and friends of the service. The event was held at the Tivoli community theatre. 82 tickets were purchased, which included a ticket to the movie, an individual grazing box (supplied by Energy Flo), and pink champagne on arrival. Ladies were encouraged to wear a ‘splash of pink’ and \$10 from every ticket sold was donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The Tivoli kindly donated a further \$180 to the cause, with a total of \$1000 being raised and donated. CSU staff were overwhelmed by the response and the feedback has been very positive. Thank you to all that helped on the night and participated in this event. Special mention to the Tivoli team and Lesa Matthews from Energy Flo.



Bland Preschool –

August was very hectic. Lots of events were on the calendar to keep the children busy, to name a few: Education Week events, Bingo Jack incursion, Splatter Gallery excursion, Book week dress up and colouring in competition, AFL sessions commenced at McAlister Oval, local school visits and library excursion.



Preschool Enrolments

Monday/Tuesday Bilby Class – 16 children

Wednesday/Thursday Bilby class – 18 children

Wednesday/Thursday Gecko class – 16 children

Mobile resource Unit – Service Leader Kate Spackman

Ungarie Preschool and Friday Junior Preschool

Lots of exciting events and activities took place in August. August began with 'Education Week'. MRU honoured this important occasion with the children enjoying an incursion "Bingo Jack". Ungarie children travelled into West Wyalong and enjoyed the performance with Bland Preschool while Jnr Preschool combined into the Bilby Classroom to watch together. Along with Bland Preschool, MRU participated in Book Week by coming to preschool dressed as their favourite book character. Each class also entered the Book Week Colouring competition with winning children each receiving a book.

Junior Preschool also enjoyed their first excursion to the Library.

Educators are busy thinking of Preschool for 2024. Current and new families were asked to complete Expressions of Interest via survey or message if they were interested in attending Ungarie and/or Jnr Preschool in 2024. The responses were positive from the community.



Playgroup

Playgroup in West Wyalong, Ungarie and Weethalle continue to increase enrolments although attendances fluctuate. This is a normal occurrence during the colder season. Families and their children enjoy learning through play as well as take the opportunity to meet new people and support each other.

Bland / Temora Family Day Care – Service Leader

Due to the Support Officer taking personal leave, August was a quiet month for FDC. Phone calls were made to Educators, to complete monitoring visits meeting regulations.

Our termly staff meeting was held at CSU and via zoom. Our Educators in Temora and Weethalle have welcomed zoom meetings when there is not a full agenda.

Matters discussed included the updated Self-Assessment Tool (SAT), which the Coordinator and Support Officer worked on. All Educators commented that they were happy with SAT and did not have anything further to add.

All Educators were invited to the EYLF training on Wednesday 27 September at CSU (school holidays). This would mean educators would need to take a day off work, however, we highly recommend this training as it is important for everyone to learn and understand the updated EYLF.

FDC Enrolments:

Permanent enrolments – 42 children

Casual enrolments – 16 children

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

Playgroups:

Playgroup was held at Children Services (CSU) twice this month rather than just once as previously programmed. This was due to needing to change a local venue, the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), for playgroup due to new immovable furniture at LALC. It is a difficult environment to have playgroup going forward. This has meant that LALC has been taken off our rotation of playgroups. ITAV also began a new playgroup in Ungarie, three families attended. Tallimba playgroup was cancelled due to staff shortages.

Material aid:

Material aid has been offered in the form of Educational Packs this month with several packs made for specific purposes. Parents have become more comfortable in when particular requests e.g. aid for children who have missed school and/or children with special needs.

Socials:



ITAV Facebook Page has 284 followers currently. The page posts photo and calendar updates on upcoming workshops/playgroups etc.

Parenting Programs:

The required number of responses have been taken for our upcoming Little ZZZ's workshop to go ahead.

Data Exchange:

A contract meeting was held over Microsoft teams with Clarissa Hewitt, a senior commissioning and planning officer. Some items discussed: updates on Target Earlier Intervention (TEI) service delivery/ upcoming Program Logic review/ maintenance of ITAV within HSNet website.

7.18 Technical Services Report



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

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

Author: Director – Technical Services

1. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 17.7.2023

- Graders
 - East Bland/Pearces
 - Wyrra
 - Sandy Creek
 - Merrengreen
 - Monia Gap
- Gravel Carting
 - Barrons Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Shire Roads

2. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 31.7.2023

- Graders
 - East Bland
 - Wyrra
 - Lewes Lane
 - Merrengreen
 - Monia Gap
- Gravel Carting
 - Barrons Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Main Street Emergency Works

3. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 13.8.2023

- Graders
 - Back Creek
 - Patons/Sullivans
 - Lewes Lane
 - Merrengreen
 - Monia Gap
- Gravel Carting
 - Barrons Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Rural Roads

4. Council Road Crew Locations Week Commencing 28.8.2023

- Graders
 - Back Creek
 - Sullivans
 - Hatleys Lane
 - Lewes Lane
 - Merrengreen

- Monia Gap
- Gravel Carting
 - Barrons Pit
- Maintenance Crews (Bobcat/Backhoe)
 - Rural Roads

5. Biosecurity Weeds/Environmental - August 2023

- Training – 3 attended the State Weeds Conference in Dubbo
- Tree planting with local schools (National Tree Day)
- Property Inspections – 2 Private, 3 Council
- Weed of the Month is now published monthly on council face book.
- High Risk Pathway Inspection – Mid Western Hwy, 57Nth, 231, Goldfields Way, Quandialla Road, MR368, MR371, Mary Gilmore, Newell Highway.
- Mowing – (shoulders) Bellarwi Road, Kikoira Road, Naradhan Road, Boreamble Road, Youngareen Road, Bena Road, Crown Camp Road, MR231.
- Hazard Reduction – Mowing around Ungarie
- Shoulder Spraying – 57Nth
- The following Biosecurity weeds and other controls were undertaken:-
 - African Boxthorn – Wilsons Lane, Rose Lane, Duffs Road, Yiddah Drive, Echo Lane, Wargin Road, Hollands Lane, Nobbys Road, William Crossing Road, Green Lane.
 - Mexican Poppy- Calleen Silos, Ungarie Silos, Tallimba Silos.
 - Wild Radish – Wargin Road, Williams Crossing Road.

6. Village Maintenance

- All parks mown and tidied
- Village main streets swept and rubbish removed
- Trees trimmed and fallen branches picked up
- Village entrances and streets mown and trimmed
- All village park play grounds inspected for safety
- Parks irrigation checked
- Weed spraying carried out
- Ungarie main street watering system checked as required
- Cemetery mowed, whipper snipped and sprayed.

7. Park Maintenance

- McCann Park, Barnado Park and small parks and areas mown, trimmed and maintained
- Maintenance to Herridge Park, Cooina Park, Wyalong Court House
- Lawn and monument cemetery maintenance works carried out
- Public amenities cleaned and maintained
- Playground inspections completed and repairs carried out
- Graves back filled at cemetery and tanks pumped out
- All parks and airport sprayed for weeds
- Park toilets cleaned and maintenance work carried out
- Laid turf around Redman Adventure (ninja) Park.

8. Ovals Maintenance

- Maintenance to sporting ovals and surrounds
- Irrigation checks carried out on all ovals and surrounds
- Broad leaf weeds sprayed at all sports grounds
- Line marking on ovals for sporting groups

9. Town Maintenance

- Star Lane cleaned and tidied
- Town areas mown and trimmed
- Town trees trimmed and watered as needed
- Main Street gardens weeded and watered
- Small pot holes repaired in roads cold mix and jet patcher
- Clean out and spraying of town drains
- Aerodrome slashing inspections and maintenance work carried out
- Back filled low areas on nature strips
- Pre-school maintenance carried out
- Spraying aerodrome and town drains/nature strips as weather allows
- vandalism repairs and removal
- Council Chambers lawns and gardens maintained
- Helped around Redman Oval (BMX track) clean up
- Mow and whipper snipped green corridor.

7.19 Development Services Activity Report – August 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: Planning and Compliance Officer

Planning and Building Activities Update

The following DA applications were approved during August 2023:

Application No	Description	Location	Consent Authority	Approval Date
DA2023/0070	Residential Alterations & Additions Demolition of Existing Shed – New Storage Shed	43 Court Street, West Wyalong	Staff	3/08/2023
DA2023/0077	Residential Alterations & Additions – Storage Shed	10 Charles Place, West Wyalong	Staff	3/08/2023
DA2023/0078	Demolition of Existing Dwelling – House & Shed – Construction New Dwelling – House & Storage Shed	120 Operator Street, West Wyalong	Staff	29/08/2023
DA2023/0081	Dwelling Extensions & New Storage Shed	41 Maitland Street, West Wyalong	Staff	11/08/2023
DA2023/0082	Residential Alterations & Additions – New Carport	57 Monash Street, West Wyalong	Staff	10/08/2023
DA2023/0083	Residential Alterations & Additions – Part Demolition – Dwelling Extensions	9 Park Street, West Wyalong	Staff	2/08/2023
DA2023/0084	Residential Alterations & Additions – Storage Shed	34 Victory Street, West Wyalong	Staff	24/08/2023
DA2023/0085	Demolition – Residential Alterations & Additions – Storage Shed	76 George Bland Avenue Wyalong	Staff	23/08/2023
CDC2024/0001	Residential Alterations and Additions - Inground Swimming Pool	80 Park Street, West Wyalong	Staff	30/08/2023

Regulatory Activities Update

Dog Attacks

There were two (2) dog attack reported during August 2023. The incident investigated, and resolved with fines issued.

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities August 2023

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

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	5	0
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	3	0
Dumped at Pound	3	2
Surrendered	9	0
Total Animals in Pound	20	2

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	2	0
Euthanised	0	1
Rehoused (Rescued)	16	1
Sold	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Stolen	0	0
Escaped	0	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	18	2
Animals in Pound at end of Month	2	0

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
Country Mayors Association	4 August 2023	✓
CEMCC	7 June 2023	✓
Lachlan Regional Transport Committee	29 July 2023	✓
Mining & Energy Related Councils	3 August 2023	✓
Newell Highway Taskforce	8 August 2023	✓
REROC	23 June 2023	✓
REROC	25 August 2023	✓
RFS BTZ Bush Fire Management Committee	4 April 2023	✓
RFS BTZ Liaison Committee	4 April 2023	✓

Section 355 Committee	Date/s	Minutes Attached
Barmedman Community Committee	22 August 2023	✓
Mirrool Silo Kick	30 July 2023	✓
Ungarie Advancement Group	29 May 2023	✓
Ungarie Advancement Group	17 August 2023	✓
Wyalong School of Arts	21 August 2023	✓
Wyalong School of Arts AGM	21 August 2023	✓

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Committee meeting minutes as presented.



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, 4 August 2023 Theatrette, Parliament House, Sydney

The meeting opened at 8.30am

1. Chairmans Welcome.

2. Acknowledgement to Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past and present and emerging. We are committed to providing communities in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are included socially, culturally and economically.

3. Acknowledgement of Parliamentarians

The Chairman acknowledged the attendance of several Shadow Ministers and members of Parliament as observers.

4. Attendance:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Mr David Sherley, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
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, Ms Heather Nicholls, Acting General Manager
Cessnock City Council, Cr Jay Suvaal, Mayor
City of Newcastle, Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor
Cobar Shire Council, Cr peter Abbott, Mayor

Cobar Shire Council, Mr Peter Vlatko, General Manager
 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Cr Leigh Bowden, Deputy Mayor
 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Mr Steve McGrath, General Manager
 Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
 Dubbo Regional Council, Mr Murray Wood, CEO
 Eurobodalla Shire Council, Cr Mat Hatcher, Mayor
 Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
 Federation Council, Ms Jo Shannon, Director Corporate and Community Services
 Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
 Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
 Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor
 Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager
 Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Rob Banham, Mayor
 Glen Innes Shire Council, Mr Bernard Smith General Manager
 Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Peter Walker, Mayor
 Greater Hume Council, Cr Tony Quinn, Mayor
 Greater Hume Council, Ms Evelyn Arnold, General Manager
 Griffith City Council, Cr Glen Andreazza, Deputy Mayor
 Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
 Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
 Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager
 Gwydir Shire Council, Cr Catherine Egan, Deputy Mayor
 Hay Shire Council, Cr Carol Oataway, Mayor
 Hay Shire Council, Mr David Webb, General Manager
 Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
 Inverell Shire Council, Mr Paul Henry, 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 Paul Phillips, Deputy Mayor
 Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Greg Tory, General Manager
 Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
 Lismore City Council, Cr Steve Krieg, Mayor
 Lismore City Council, Mr Jon Gibbons, General Manager
 Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
 Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
 Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Ian Marston
 Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
 MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
 MidCoast Council, Mr Adrian Panuccio, General Manager
 Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
 Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
 Muswellbrook Shire Council, Cr Steve Reynolds, Mayor
 Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, 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 Lauren Trembath
 Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
 Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
 Orange City Council, Mr David Waddell, CEO
 Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
 Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO
Richmond Valley Council, Cr Robert Mustow, Mayor
Shellharbour City Council, Cr Chris Homer, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Cr Narelle Davis, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Ms Melissa Boxall, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Phillip Hood, Acting General Manager
Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor
Warren Shire Council, Mr Gary Woodman, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Craig Bembrick, Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Mr Brendan Hayes, Director Environmental Services
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council, Cr Matt Gould, Mayor
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Ms Susy Cenedese, Acting Director Advocacy
LGNSW Ms Bronwen Regan, Director Strategy and Governance
OLG Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary
OLG Ms Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development
OLG Ms Tina Baldock, Principal Projects Officer

Parliamentarian Attendance

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 Bronnie Taylor MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Health, Shadow Minister for Trade, Shadow Minister for Seniors
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 Sam Farroway MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
The Hon Leslie Williams MP, Shadow Minister for Women, Shadow Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Shadow Minister for Gaming and Racing, Shadow Minister for the Arts and Heritage
The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Crown Lands
The Hon Wes Fang MLC, Deputy Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council and Shadow Assistant Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Mr Gurmesh Singh MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Shadow Minister for the North Coast
Mr Michael Kemp MP, Member for Oxley
Ms Tanya Thompson MP, Member for Myall Lakes
Mr Richie Williams MP, Member for Clarence

Apologies:

As submitted

Special Guests:

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage

The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Western NSW

Mr Simon Draper, CEO, NSW Reconstruction Authority

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

The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Small Business

5. The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage

The Minister wants to work together and harness our energies. NSW has been affected by natural disasters that need to be addressed. The Government is committed to climate change and legislation is to be introduced later this year to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050. The Net Zero Commission, an independent body is to report to parliament and will be the architect on how the government is progressing. There will be a transition from coal to other energy sources over the next 5 to 10 years. This will attract investment. There will be many planning and co-ordination challenges and there is a need to work closely with local government. The Government has concerns on how the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme has operated over the past 5 years and the Minister will table a report by the end of August together with a Land Services Review which will be considered together. The Government is preparing for El Nino and is working on water sharing plans where local government needs to work with the government.

6. The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Western NSW

The Minister acknowledged the work being undertaken by local government. The Government is committed to supporting local government and is seeking thriving regions and in accordance with the communities expectations. The Minister wants to hear directly from councils on their concerns. Regional Roads is a significant issue and funds have and will continue to be committed. People are the Governments number one priority with stamp duty concessions being introduced, speed cameras being not now hidden, access to employment and services are being improved, housing supply and affordability is being focused on, the lot of young people is being improved, people are being encouraged to stay in the regions and businesses are being supported to create local jobs. Bio science is protecting the economy from Bio-Diversity threats. There are 36% of homes in the State that do not have mobile coverage and 16500klm of roads have no or marginal coverage and fixing this is a priority.

7. Mr Simon Draper, CEO, NSW Reconstruction Authority

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is a new agency having been created over the last 4 years. Issues are changing and local and historical knowledge is being challenged. The job is to be with communities before and after disasters and when they occur they have to react quickly. The Authority works under two Ministers Planning and Emergency Services. The organisations functions are still being established. There are four functions – Prevention – State and local mitigation plans are needed to be rebuilt in a serviceable way – Preparedness – making sure community leaders are well set up – Recovery – people need to know they will be supported and – Funding – the huge task of adaptation and its expenditure. Everyone likes a bossy co-ordinator. The Authority needs to push programs but local co-ordination is essential as the resulting assets reverts to them

8. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 26 May 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Singleton Council Mayor Councillor Sue Moore
Seconded Narrabri Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ron Campbell

9. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

10. ALGA Update Report

Cr Linda Scott, President, reported on the 2023 National General Assembly and Regional Forum which included more than 450 local government leaders from across the country, the return of the Australian Council of Local Government, the early payment of Financial Assistance Grants with the 2023-24 allocation bought forward to councils in 2022-23, the fast tracking of disaster funding, the establishment of the Community Energy Upgrades Fund for local governments, Growing Regions Grants, regional bank closure protocols and advised that registrations are now open for the National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure congress to be held in Canberra from 6-7 September

RESOLVED That the report be noted

Moved Temora Shire Council Mayor Councillor Rick Firman
Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ken Keith

11. LGNSW Update Report

Cr Darriea Turley, President, congratulated the winners of the Local Government Awards, advised of the launch of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Local Government, announced that David Reynolds CEO Hills Shire has been appointed CEO of LGNSW, advised that the MOU with CMA was being reviewed in accordance

with the agreement and congratulated Shadow Minister Wendy Tuckerman on the Review of the Rate Pegging Methodology. The written report included information on LGNSW Annual conference which will be held from 12-14 November 2023 with motions to be submitted by 15 September 2023 and reported on the IPART Review of rate pegging methodology, the Emergency Services Levy burden in 2023/24, the Red Fleet and OLG's requirement that it be supplied with strategies to ensure RFS mobile assets are not assets of the RFS, the Select Committee to examine the recommendations of the Upper House Inquiry into Rural and Regional Health, the single employer model for GP's and emergency department doctors in rural and regional NSW, the LGNSW Water Management Conference in Parkes, the advanced payment of Financial Assistance Grants, Planning Cadetships and more support for community recovery post disaster.

RESOLVED That the report be noted

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Bega Shire Council Mayor

12. Membership

RESOLVED that Cessnock City Council and Wollondilly Shire Council be admitted as members of the Association and that the City of Newcastle and Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils be admitted as Associate members of the Association.

Moved Forbes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller
Seconded Blayney Shire Council Mayor Councillor Scott Ferguson

13. Correspondence Outward

<p>The Hon Ron Hoenic MP, Minister for Local Government, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer, The Hon Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Emergency Services, and The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads</p>	<p>Requesting that the Emergency Services Levy subsidy be restored to Local Government throughout MSW and that CMA be granted a position in a newly formed advisory panel</p>
<p>The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water and Shadow Minister for Crown Lands, The Hon Sam Farrow MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads The Hon Dugald Saunders, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>	<p>Thanking them for attending and participating in the 26 May meeting and extending an open invitation to attend future meetings</p>
<p>Dr Michael Holland MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health</p>	<p>Thanking them for attending and participating in the 26 May meeting and advising that CMA looks forward to</p>

The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth	working with them as a consultative partner in the future
Ms Carmel Donnelly Chair Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal	Thanking her for presenting at the 26 May meeting and inviting her to present her findings at a future CMA meeting after adoption of the report
The Hon Tim Crakanthorp MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education and Minister for the Hunter The Hon Duncan Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Small Business	Inviting them to be presenters at the 4 August meeting
The Hon Michael Daley MP, Attorney General	Requesting a reduction in hours for daylight saving
The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government	Requesting that RFS assets not be recognized as Local Government assets and be treated in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice
The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government	Requesting an increase in the Pensioner Rebate Subsidy
The Public Accounts Committee of NSW The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier	Requesting immediate investigation into the basis behind Councils qualified financial statements for the YE 21/22 due to the accounting for RFS assets
Department of Fair Trading NSW	Application for changes to the Constitution as per resolution 26 May 2023
Mr Ashley Albury, A/Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Office of Local Government	Forwarding Country Mayors response to the qualified audit opinion issued by the NSW Audit Office regarding RFS Assets

Inward

The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government	Regarding the NSW Governments discontinuation of the 2023/24 Emergency Services levy contributions
Local Government NSW	Annual Conference motion – real estate agents
Dr Amanda Cohen MLC Greens	Address to Legislative Council on Council issues
The Hon Sam Farraway MLC Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads	Congratulating the Association on a successful 26 May meeting and forwarding a copy of a Notice of Motion to Parliament regarding attendance by parliamentarians at the meeting
Director Planning and Environmental Health Division, Ballina Shire Council	Forwarding copy of letter to Minister for the Environment requesting a Review of NSW Littering Fines (Copy Attached)

Cr Darriea Turley AM, President, LGNSW	Forwarding copy of letter to Auditor General regarding Audit costs for Local Government
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	Accepting her invitation and providing a response on the draft terms of reference to the Joint Committee into Protecting Regional Water Utilities from Privatisation and thanking her for the opportunity

Media Releases

Don't Touch our Water
Is there a future for Local Government in NSW?
Country Mayors Investing in our Youth

Network Meetings

The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Crown Lands	Do we need Constitutional Protection from Privatisation for our Local Water utilities
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	Do we need Constitutional Protection from Privatisation for our Local Water utilities
Commonwealth Regional Education Commissioner The Hon Fiona Nash	Addressing the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report and seeking members feedback

RESOLVED That the information be noted

Moved Bourke Shire Council Mayor Councillor Barry Hollman
 Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ken Keith

14. Financial Report

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

Moved Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Councillor Russell Fitzpatrick
 Seconded Forbes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Phyllis Miller

15. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Mayors

Cr Rick Firman Deputy Chairman CMA thanked Mayors Peter Abbott, Cobar Shire Council, Cr Neil Smith, Junee Shire Council and Cr Ron Campbell Narrabri Shire Council for their commitment to Local Government during their years of service and those present were presented with a Country Mayors Association pen.

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

The previous Government was responsible for the Regional Growth Fund and the Snowy Hydro Fund which allocated funds to NSW Statewide. The Opposition do not want programs commissioned by them to be cannibalised. Strategic Country Communities funding is under review, there are questions being raised regarding

Resources for Regions and the Department of Regional NSW and the Department Regional Health are under review. Housing solutions such as modular housing need to be found and profit share power benefit schemes need to be introduced. Pot hole funds of \$50million are available and some councils have not taken up the opportunity to participate. Seniors and apprentice travel cards have been suspended and a petition against their suspension is being organised.

17. The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Small Business

The Review into Rate Pegging Methodology out. The security of local government funding in the September budget is in doubt. The Code of Conduct recommendations were supported by the previous government but there has been no word on what the government is doing. The Emergency Services Levy changes are extremely important and could be taken to the next election.

18. The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Leader of the Opposition

Regional NSW is very important to the Opposition and that is why 13 Shadow Ministers out 26 are from regional and rural areas. Regional people are doing it tough due to natural disasters. The Opposition is putting rural NSW front and centre and they are holding the Government to account on cost of living. Councils need to advocate with them. Infrastructure projects are being axed or held back. The Opposition will ensure that the government keeps its election promises.

19. Hosting Non-Metropolitan Meetings of CMA

RESOLVED that the information be noted

Moved Narromine Shire Council Mayor Councillor Craig Davies
Seconded Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Councillor Russell Webb

20. Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Rural Doctors Network

RESOLVED That the proposal to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Rural Doctors Network be endorsed.

Moved Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor Councillor Steve Reynolds
Seconded Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Councillor Russell Webb

21. Update Health Forum Wagga Wagga 14/15 September 2023

Cr Rick Firman Deputy CMA outlined the events for the Health Forum which is being held in conjunction with Murrumbidgee Local Health District. There will be a Civic Reception hosted by Wagga Wagga City Council on Thursday 14 September between 6.00pm – 7.30pm and the Forum on the 15 September at the upgraded Wagga Base Hospital. There is a strong agenda with Ministers and Shadow Ministers invited

although Health Minister Park is unable to attend but will be represented by his Parliamentary Secretary. Dr Joe McGirr, Richard Colbran and Professor Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner will be presenters.

22. Land Banking

A MOTION was moved That the Country Mayors Association support Murray River Councils lot yield scheme including public land to resolve the longstanding issue that will benefit every regional council to meet the NSW Governments Housing 2042 agenda.

Moved Murray River Shire Council General Manager Mr Terry Dodds
Seconded Byron Shire Council Mayor Councillor Michael Lyon

An AMENDMENT was moved That the NSW Government be requested to investigate the issue of Land Banking

Moved Bland Shire Council Mayor Councillor Brian Monaghan
Seconded Shellharbour City Council Mayor Councillor Chris Homer

The AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND WAS LOST

An AMENDMENT was moved That the lot yield scheme be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration with a motion to be submitted to the 24 November 2023 meeting of the Association.

Moved Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Councillor Russell Webb
Seconded Parkes Shire Council Mayor Councillor Ken Keith

The AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND WAS CARRIED

23. CMA State Priorities Document

The Chairman has undertaken advocacy with Ministers and Shadow Ministers so that they are aware of the issues and concerns of Regional and Rural NSW that needs to be addressed in the September State Budget

24. Parliamentarian Friendship Group for Local Government

The President LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, made mention of the launch of this group in her address. The group comprises members of parliament and former members of parliament that can be used to get local government priorities to the attention of the Government and Shadow Government.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.40pm

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW

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

Date: Wednesday 7 June 2023
Time: 10.00am, Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation
Minutes taken by: Lynsey Reilly

Attendees:

Independent Chairperson: Lisa Andrews (LA) *
 Evolution: Grace Derrick (GD), Lynsey Reilly (LR), Ivan Arcayo (IA)
 Community Members: Lucy Buttenshaw (LB)*, Angus Stitt (AS), Bruce Dent (BD)
 Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation: Ily Coe (AC), Vicki Swadling (VS), Nicole Smith (NS)
 Forbes Shire Council: Cr Chris Roylance (CR), Cr Brian Mattiske (BM)
 Bland Shire Council: Cr Elizabeth McGlynn (EM)

Apologies: Kate Dean (KD), Renee Pettit (RP), Cr Dennis Brady (DB)

**Attended meeting remotely*

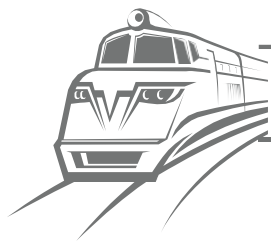
ITEM			ACTION									
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Independent Chair, LA, opened the meeting at 10.07 am and welcomed all in attendance thanking EVN for allowing her to chair the CCC remotely. Acknowledgment of Country.</p>												
<p>2. Declaration of Interest</p> <p>LA advised there were no changes to previous declarations by CEMCC members, nor to hers; Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and receives payment via a Trust established by the Bland Shire Council.</p>												
<p>3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes</p> <p>Moved by: AS Seconded by: CR</p>												
<p>4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>RESPONSIBILITY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Submission of CEMCC code of conduct and declaration of pecuniary & non-pecuniary interest forms. Complete 2/6/23.</td> <td>LA & NS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>EVN to contact relevant department to establish if it is a legal requirement to have an independent Scientist attending the CEMCC meetings. Complete. Not a requirement to have Independent Scientist but representative from Lake Cowal Foundation.</td> <td>GD</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	1	Submission of CEMCC code of conduct and declaration of pecuniary & non-pecuniary interest forms. Complete 2/6/23.	LA & NS	2	EVN to contact relevant department to establish if it is a legal requirement to have an independent Scientist attending the CEMCC meetings. Complete. Not a requirement to have Independent Scientist but representative from Lake Cowal Foundation.	GD	<p>Action 1: LA to write to Lake Cowal Foundation, inviting them to nominate a representative on this CEMCC.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY										
1	Submission of CEMCC code of conduct and declaration of pecuniary & non-pecuniary interest forms. Complete 2/6/23.	LA & NS										
2	EVN to contact relevant department to establish if it is a legal requirement to have an independent Scientist attending the CEMCC meetings. Complete. Not a requirement to have Independent Scientist but representative from Lake Cowal Foundation.	GD										
86												

3	EVN to provide CEMCC meeting attendees' information about the developments at the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre when these are formally available. Keep action	GD	Action 2: EVN to provide CEMCC meeting attendees' information about the developments at the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre when these are formally available.
4	EVN to share links of the resource regulation of the mining lease updates. Completed.	GD	
5	Send link to Facebook Page. Complete – included with the minutes.		
<p>5. Correspondence (as emailed with the meeting notice on 18/5/23 with 2 additional items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/4/23 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review/comment. • 20/4/23 – Email to members advising that no changes to draft minutes. • 18/5/23 – Email members with Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting. • 29/5/23 – Email from GD introducing Ivan Arcayo, new Sustainability Superintendent with EVN. • 2/6/23 – Email from NS with her completed governance forms. 			
<p>6. Reports</p> <p>GD provided a detailed account of Cowal Gold Operations (CGO's) Environment Department's activities over the last quarter and a status of the underground project along with an update of the OPC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA to send link to 2022 Annual Review which is now available on the project website. • LA asked for EVN to provide CEMCC members with notification when OPC goes on Exhibition. <p>LA noted that she received a call from a community member questioning a drilling rig incident at CGO. GD advised that CGO had an incident on 4 June where a rock was dislodged and made contact with an unmanned drill rig. There were no injuries. This event was reported to the NSW Resource Regulator as EVN is required to do under the Work Health & Safety Regulations. An investigation is underway to identify cause and preventative measures. LA asked for EVN to provide investigation findings, when completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LR provided details of community complaints and the activities and support undertaken by the Cowal Community and External Relations team in the previous quarter. <p>See attached presentation.</p>			<p>Action 3: LA to send link to 2022 AR.</p> <p>Action 4: EVN to provide drill rig investigation findings once completed.</p>
<p>General Business</p> <p>CR flagged that he had discussions with the Federal Government regarding its plans to install more desalination plants in rural communities.</p> <p>GD responded with it being an expensive technology that doesn't always deliver the results expected, but EVN would always open to having the conversation.</p>			<p>Action 5: EVN to address light on Webster's Road pumping station. Poor visibility at nighttime.</p>

<p>EM then flagged the history of expensive desalination plants being built in Australia, but never operated, therefore she doesn't have a lot of faith in the initiative.</p> <p>AC spoke about a recent meeting with EVN Red Lake and their Elders. He complimented how EVN manages relationships with traditional owners.</p> <p>BS raised the issue of a light on Websters Road on a pumping station that makes it hard to see at night when driving and needs adjusting.</p> <p>CR also acknowledged EVN financial support.</p> <p>BM asked if Newcrest Mining had an interest in EVN as he received a vendor form with their logo on it. Communicated that this was an error and no validation to this query.</p>	
<p>7. Meeting Schedule for 2023, all starting at 9.00am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 6th of September Evolution Town Office, followed by inspection of new accommodation facilities. • Wednesday 29th of November Forbes Shire Council. 	
<p>8. Meeting Closed – 9.50am with LA thanking all for their attendance</p>	

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Write to Lake Cowal Foundation, inviting them to nominate a representative on this CEMCC.	LA
2	EVN to provide CEMCC meeting attendees' information about the developments at the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre when these are formally available.	EVN (ongoing)
3	Send link to 2022 AR.	LA
4	EVN to provide drill rig investigation findings once completed.	EVN
5	EVN to address light on Webster's Road pumping station night when driving and needs adjusting.	EVN



President:
 Vicki Etheridge
 156 Myall Street
 Dubbo 2830
 M. 0417779420
 E. clrvicki.etheridge@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Secretary / Treasurer
 Dennis Hughes
 13 Star Street
 Grenfell 2810
 M. 0427436216
 E. dwjmhughes@gmail.com

A.B.N. No.
 733 069 1832
 Incorporation No.
 9875454

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 29th July 2023 At Wollongong Council Chambers at 10.00am.

1.

CHAIRPERSON: Vicki Etheridge opened the meeting at 10.04am and welcomed all present.

Attendance as per attendance sheet totaling **10 People.**

Apologies: John Hetherington, Michael O’Leary, Clr Bill West, Harvey Matthews, Clr Warwick Frame, Clr Nigel Judd, Pro Ian Gray, Garry Braithwate, Greg Standen, Clr Peter Wright, Matthew Christensen & Clr Margret Roles **Total 12**

MOVED 1: Janelle Culverson **SECONDED:** John Faulks **CARRIED.**

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING WERE DISTRIBUTED AND ADOPTED

MOVED 2: Pro Philip Laird **SECONDED:** John Faulks **CARRIED.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES. 1. MOVED: Philip Laird That a letter of thanks be sent to Jenny Bennet and Steph Cooke for their contribution to our Meeting. **SECONDED:** Janelle Culverson **CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: 1. 2/6/23 Letter to Cate Faehrmann member of the Greens

CORRESPONDENCE IN: NIL

MOVED 3: Ray Morris **SECONDED:** John Faulks That the Correspondence be Received and Dealt with. **CARRIED.**

TREASURER REPORT: **Cheque Account**

INCOME		EXPENSES	
1/5/2023 Opening Balance	\$18380.23	Cowra Services Club	603.00
Total Interest	\$ 34.67	Unpresented Cheque	113.00
Total Income	\$ 34.67	Less Unpresented Cheque	113.00
		Total Expenses	\$ 603.00
30/6/2023 Closing Balance		\$17811.90	

TREASURER REPORT: Card Account

INCOME		EXPENSES	
1/7/2022 Opening Balance	\$ 145.68	5/10/22 Search Fee Constitution	\$ 50.22
Transfer Cheque A/C	\$ 2500.00	5/10/22 Fair Trading	\$ 50.22
Interest	\$ 7.33	22/11/22 Squarespace Web Site	\$ 330.00
Total Income	\$ 2507.33	30/1/23 Western Advocate	\$ 1311.70
		28/3/23 Fair Trading for Year 2021	89.00
		Total Expenses	\$1831.14
		30/6/2023 Closing Balance	\$821.87

MOVED: Dennis Hughes That the Treasurer's Report be accepted

SECONDED: Dom Figliomeni **CARRIED**

GENERAL BUSSINESS: Jenny Bennett's Report.

There was considerable discussion regarding the future of LRTC given;

- The decreasing membership base,
- Many of the Transport objectives being progressed by RDA's and joint Councils who not only had paid staff but also had access to all levels of Government,
- The project focus may not be relevant to a number of Councils and
- The lack of paid staff to action LRTC strategy.

With this background the meeting considered various options including

1. Continue as is
2. Reviewing the strategy of LRTC to focus on specific projects. It was argued that limiting the focus may not serve the interests of the broad membership as projects may be specific to Councils.
3. Ceasing operations and applying to deregister LRTC as an incorporated body.

Discussion also ensued on the process to deregister LRTC and the need for member input and consideration prior to the question being put to members.

MOVED: Michelle Cook That a notice would be sent to all members prior to the meeting date advising them of the question that will be put at the extraordinary meeting scheduled for 28th October 2023. **SECONDED:** Ray Morris **CARRIED**

The question would ask members to vote on the continuation of LRTC or if LRTC should be deregistered.

It was noted at the meeting that under the Constitution an absolute majority (75%) of members at the meeting (including Proxies) must support the deregistering of the organisation.

Members are informed that the next meeting will be the **AGM** with a **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held immediate after the AGM

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE GRENFELL BOWLING CLUB
28TH OCTOBER 2023**

Meeting Closed 11.57am

Chairperson

Previous Meeting Venues

Wollongong Council Chambers 29/7/23, Cowra Services Club 27/5/23, LVR Museum Cowra 25/2/23
BlueScope Steel Coniston 1/10/22 Wollongong 1/5/21 Young 13/2/21, Canowindra 10/10/20
Picton 15/2/20, Cowra 9/11/19, Greenethorpe 7/9/19, Dubbo 11/5/19, Blayney 9/2/19,
Temora 3/11/18, Murrumburrah 11/8/18. Grenfell 19/5/18 Picton 17/2/18,
AIW Wollongong 4/11/17 Parkes 5/8/17 Canowindra 6/5/17 Temora 25/2/17 Lithgow 5/11/16
Boorowa 13/8/16 Wollongong 14/5/16 Cowra 6/2/16 Thirlmere 7/11/15

Present.

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chair)
Cr Dennis Brady (Deputy Chair)
Cr Phyllis Miller OAM (Deputy Chair)
Cr Liz McGlynn (Ex Comm)
Cr Scott Ferguson (Ex Comm)
Cr Denis Todd (Ex Comm)
Cr Matthew Deeth
Steve Loane OAM
Cr Peter Batten
Stacey Whiley
Cr Jim Hickey
Cr Jason Hamling
Brad Cam
Cr Dom Figliomeni
Ron Zwicker
Greg Tory

Orange City Council
Lachlan Shire Council
Forbes Shire Council
Bland Shire Council
Blayney Shire Council
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Wollondilly Shire Council
Forbes Shire Council
Cabonne Shire Council
Cabonne Shire Council
Broken Hill City Council
Orange City Council
Mid-Western Regional Council
Wollongong City Council
Wollongong City Council
Lachlan Shire Council

Apologies

Jay Nankivell
Cr Mathew Dickerson
Murray Wood
Cr Michael Banasik
Cr Cath Blakey
Heather Nicholls
Mark Dicker
Kent Boyd
Peter Vlatko
Cr Peter Abbott
Cr Jarrod Marsden
Cr Des Kennedy
Cr Jane Keir
Megan Dixon
Gary Woodman
Cr Ros Jackson
Cr Katrina Walker
Cr Pam Kensit
Alex Waldron
Cr Aniello Iannuzzi
Hon Ron Hoenig
Hon Courtney Houssos
Hon Penny Sharpe
Roy Butler

Broken Hill City Council
Dubbo Regional Council
Dubbo Regional Council
Wollondilly Shire Council
Wollongong City Council
Cabonne Shire Council
Blayney Shire Council
Parkes Shire Council
Cobar Shire Council
Cobar Shire Council
Cobar Shire Council
Mid-Western Regional Council
Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Shire Council
Warren Shire Council
Warren Shire Council
Warren Shire Council
Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Natural Resources
Minister for Climate Change, Energy etc.
MP Barwon, Independent

In attendance

Greg Lamont, Executive Officer (Minute Taker); Liza Schiff (Melting Pot Planning); Cr Lauren Trembath & Gary Wallace (Oberon Shire Council); Robert Parker, (Nuclear for Climate Australia); Martin Rush, Amer Hussein & Jamie Park (Future Together Group/Three Pillars Advisory) and Jonathon Wheaton (Acting Deputy Secretary, Regions NSW).

1. Welcome.

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Duffy, welcomed members to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 9.08am. Chair also acknowledged the presence of Cr Lauren Trembath and General Manager Gary Wallace, Oberon Shire Council and Stacey Whiley, Acting Deputy General Manager Community Services, Cabonne Shire Council.

2. Acknowledgement of Country by Chair

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

3. Apologies.

OM 20/2023 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Brady) that the apologies as per the above list be received and noted.

4. Disclosures of Interest.

(a) Ron Zwicker declared a non-significant pecuniary interest with his shares in AGL
(b) Cr Matthew Deeth declared a non-significant non-pecuniary interest as Director South32 Community Partnership.

OM 21/2023 Resolved (Cr Miller/Cr Todd) that the disclosures of interest be received and noted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS AT 9.30am

OM 22/2023 Resolved (Cr Brady/Loane) that the meeting be suspended at 9.30am to receive the following speakers and have morning tea:

(a) Proposal presentation from the Future Together Group speakers Martin Rush & Amer Hussein as follows:

"Future Together Group (FTG) specialises in delivering strategic planning advisory services, with a focus on helping our clients connect and create new ways of working in a changing world.

Our boutique advisory draws on a network of experts who support government, industry, and local organisations across several disciplines, including public policy, energy, planning and environment, economics, public affairs, transitions, and sustainability.

We outline a condensed scope of services to allow delivery in a month say by 8th September 2023. FTG proposes the scope of services will be delivered in the form of a written report that makes approximately 20 recommendations with accompanying reasons that enhance/broaden MERC's objectives and evolve its organisational effectiveness. The Report will also set out a reviewed financial and resourcing plan.

FTG sees long-term benefits and value it can contribute to MERC's impact agenda by delivering this project. As such, we are offering our discounted rates totalling \$7,500 (exc. GST) to deliver this work in a four-week period.

A breakup of the project proposal is:

- 1. Review and refresh of MERC value proposition - sharpen future strategic planning review processes and member-derived value.*
- 2. Review of Constitution to*
 - a. support organisational effectiveness,*
 - b. facilitate greater membership & external cut through.*
 - c. enhance direct and in-kind resourcing.*
- 3. Develop a policy platform structure plan*
 - a. a policy gap analysis – Local Government interest in mining and energy,*
 - b. prioritisation of policy - relevance to current and/or prospective members,*
 - c. a policy and position paper roadmap - short – medium term)*
- 4. Update MERC financial and resourcing plan”.*

Comments by Delegates:

- MERC needs to establish its priorities and determine how does it use its resources to get the best bang for our buck.*
- Need commonalities for all members.*
- Delegates should not attend meetings for the sake of attending meetings.*
- Must focus on a broad range of member's needs.*
- Councils with mining & energy developments are struggling.*
- The emergence of other groups to address issues are the same as MERC has dealt with and are still pursuing eg with VPA's for all State Significant Developments, surety with Resources for Regions grants and Community Enhancement Funds, concerns with roll out of REZ's – there is a lot of similarities and should all be part of MERC as one apolitical voice.*
- What role can MERC play in the roll out of the REZ's?*
- State Government has set up a Steering Committee to deal with the issues raised with REZ councils and communities in them.*

(b) Robert Parker – Nuclear for Climate Australia:

In a very passionate manner, Robert gave a presentation on nuclear energy as the answer to Australia's impending energy crisis. His opening slide was a portrayal of a senior Australian Defence leader in uniform quoting beneath his photo “If nothing else works, a total pig-headed unwillingness to look facts in the face will see us through” Hi presentation covered the following topics:

- 1. A journey into emissions reductions.*
- 2. Avoiding the energy blunder of 100% wind and solar*
- 3. Environmental benefits of nuclear energy.*
- 4. We ignore successful precedent at our peril.*
- 5. Canada is leading the way by re-industrialising from a position of strength.*
- 6. The Canadian and US Nuclear roadmap.*
- 7. We have the solutions now – we can't afford to wait.*
- 8. Conclusions and What About the Waste?*

Using slides to illustrate his presentation, Robert described the problems inherent in attempting to achieve deep carbon reductions and power Australia using 100% renewables.

He explained the research he and Dr Robert Barr AOM have done exposing the huge cost and inherent unreliability and redundancies of the Government's planned roll out of solar and wind farms, as well as the reason for the massive transmission expansion and storage needed to harness these variable sources.

He described a lower cost, reliable, safe, and better integrated plan, developed from this research. Under this plan, the eastern states could be optimally powered by a mix of over 70% nuclear power combined with approximately 30% renewable wind, solar and hydropower. He demonstrated how, by using successful precedent this mix would also deliver much lower carbon emissions and allow for the increasing demands on our electricity that will be needed in the future, without despoiling farmland.

Mr Parker then described the findings from a research trip he undertook in 2022, investigating the success of nuclear power in Ontario, Canada (the size of NSW and Victoria combined). He described the similarities between Ontario and NSW/ Victoria, illustrating a pathway for an Australian roll out of similar technology.

He pointed out that Federal and State governments are closing fossil fuel fired electricity generation and relying almost solely on renewable energy to keep the lights on.

Unfortunately, the big dirty secret of wind and solar is the vast amount of land required to provide anywhere near adequate power generation potential. Power companies are allowed by government to prospect and target prime agricultural land for renewable projects. Transmission lines that service these facilities will carve a path of destruction through our beautiful bush and countryside.

Renewables don't represent diversity in power generation but rather a concentration on a variable resource which requires storage back up by the means of pumped hydro and batteries. Both are proving extraordinarily expensive to build and acquire.

Nuclear energy will provide reliable 24/7 power to firm up our energy production needs into the future. It is forecast by the Victorian Government that by 2035 the demand for power to charge electric vehicles will exceed residential electricity use. How can we cater for this without nuclear?

Nuclear energy unlocks a future of reliable and affordable electricity to power our nation and achieve our climate goals. He called for immediate action at all levels of government to lift bans and begin the planning and development of nuclear electrical generation capacity in Australia.

Comments by delegates:

At the end of his talk there followed questions which covered waste storage and possible re-use, cost, timelines, and sites of possible power stations.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AT 11.35am

OM 23/2023 Resolved (Cr Miller/McGlynn) that the meeting be resumed at 11.35am to continue with the meeting items.

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th June 2023

OM 24/2023 Resolved (Cr McGlynn/Cr Brady) that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 9th June 2023 be received and noted.

6. Business Arising from Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 9th June 2023

Note: It was agreed that the Executive Officer submit a delegate's report to accompany the draft minutes when they are sent to members after each Ordinary meeting.

7. Adoption of Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held 28th June 2023 and 14th July 2023

OM 25/2023 Resolved (Cr Todd/Cr Miller) that adoption of the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on 28th June 2023 and 14th July 2023 be deferred until after the Chair and Executive Officer provides a background report on the replacement for the Executive Officer Services being undertaken by LGNSW Management Solutions.

The Chair provided an overview on the status of the recruitment of an entity to provide the Executive Officer services through LGNSW Management Solutions, details are on their webpage and the contact person is Christian Morris. Dates for interviews yet to be discussed with Christian and Chair, to ensure all members of Executive Committee are available for the selection and interview process.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings held on 28th June 2023 and 14th July 2023

Nil

9. Delegates Reports – Nil.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS AT 12.00pm

OM 26/2023 Resolved (Cr Brady/Loane) that the meeting be suspended at 12.00pm to receive the following speakers:

Jonathon Wheaton, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Regions NSW had this to say:

- Resources for Regions Program now under Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC who is Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Western NSW, and Minister for Agriculture.
- Royalties for Rejuvenation Program now under Hon Courtney Houssos, MLC, Minister for Finance and Minister for Natural Resources.

- Renewable Energy Zones roll out now with Hon Penny Sharpe, MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Assembly.
- Resources for Regions Program is reviewed each year and this has been done for Round 9 but he is not in a position to comment on any changes to the program that is the responsibility of the relevant Minister as part of September budget details to be released next month.
- Royalties for Rejuvenation is a program locked in legislation under the Mining Act and there was an election commitment by the Labor Government to establish Transition Authorities in NSW, to be aligned with Federal Government on cleaner emissions targets eg have established the Hunter Clean Energy Authority already.
- REZ issues are being considered by Minister Sharpe department.

(Note: Minister for Finance & Natural Resources, Hon Courtney Houssos, was unable to attend at the last minute to address delegates and despite “drop in” indications from Hon Penny Sharpe, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Environment & Heritage and Hon Ron Hoenig, Minister for Local Government they were unable to do so due to urgent business in the Legislative Assembly at the time).

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AT 12.20pm

OM 27/2023 Resolved (Cr Deeth/Loane) that the meeting be resumed at 12.20pm to continue with the meeting items.

10. Speakers - As above

11. Executive Officer’s Report

Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer went through the items in the Executive Officer’s report that related to matters on the agenda for this meeting as information or for decision prior to the consideration of them in General Business.

12. General Business

(a) Future Together Group/Three Pillars Advisory External Review Proposal.

OM 28/2023 Resolved (Cr Figliomeni/Cr Ferguson) that MERC accept the proposal from Future Together Group/Three Pillars Advisory to undertake the following external review for \$7,500 plus GST:

1. Review and refresh MERC value proposition - sharpen future strategic planning and member-derived value.
2. Review of Constitution to
 - (i) support organisational effectiveness,
 - (ii) facilitate greater membership & external cut through.
 - (iii) enhance direct and in-kind resourcing.
3. Develop a policy platform structure plan
 - (i) a policy gap analysis – Local Government interest in mining and energy,
 - (ii) prioritisation of policy - relevance to current and/or prospective members,
 - (iii) a policy and position paper roadmap - short – medium term)

4.Update MERC financial and resourcing plan

(b) Resources Energy Industry & Innovation Forum (REIIF) 2024.

OM 29/2023 Resolved (Cr Brady/Cr Miller) that MERC.

- (1) Write to the Chair RDA Orana thanking them for the opportunity to partner with MERC to conduct the inaugural Resources, Energy, Industry & Innovation Forum and to congratulate the CEO, staff, and event planner for their involvement.
- (2) Advise RDA Orana:
 - (i) MERC is interested in partnering with them to run a similar event June 5-7th 2024 albeit over 3 days with the schedule reversed as discussed in the review, to maximise the involvement of Local Government plus to minimise costs, and
 - (ii) The profit of \$6348.50 be reduced from the \$20,000 event fee for 2024.

(c) Next Meeting.

OM 30/2023 Resolved (Cr McGlynn/Duffy) that the next meeting of MERC be held in NSW Parliament House in November 2023, on a date to be determined by the Executive Committee, pending the results of the external review of MERC.

(d) Parliamentary Enquiry into the Effects of Pollution from Mining on Health, Air, Land & Water Quality. Item was discussed by delegates who decided to take a monitoring brief, at this stage.

OM 31/2023 Resolved (Cr Batten/Cr Figliomeni) that MERC write to the Committee expressing an interest in the matter with MERC to monitor developments.

(e) Minerals Legislation Amendment (Offshore Drilling and Associated Infrastructure Prohibition) Bill 2023. Item discussed but no action to be taken.

Close – the meeting closed at 1.05pm

The minutes (pages 1-6) were confirmed at a meeting of the Ordinary Meeting held in November 2023 and are a concise and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary General meeting held on 3rd August 2023.

.....
Cr Kevin Duffy
Chairperson



**NEWELL HIGHWAY TASKFORCE
MEETING**

**Minutes of the
Newell Highway Taskforce Meeting**

held on

**Tuesday 08 August 2023
at 9.00am**

**at Western Cultural Centre,
Dubbo**

& via TEAMS

Newell Highway Taskforce Committee Meeting Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 08 August 2023 at the Western Plains Cultural Centre Dubbo and via Teams.

The meeting commenced at 9.00am

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Vicki Etheridge from Dubbo Regional Council welcomed attendees to the Newell Highway Taskforce Committee meeting.

Cr Ken Keith thanks Dubbo Regional Council for hosting the meeting.

In Attendance:

Representative	Position	Council / Organisation
Cr Ken Keith (Chair)	Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Shane Wilson	Deputy General Manager	Narrandera Shire Council
Peter Dawson	Councillor	Narrandera Shire Council
Richard Jane	Director Engineering	Forbes Shire Council
Cr Chris Roylance	Deputy Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr Brian Mattiske	Councillor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr Denis Todd	Councillor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr Tony Lord	Councillor	Bland Shire Council
John Morris	Representative	Regional NSWHPRTA
Cr Doug Batten (<i>via Teams</i>)	Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
Alistair Lunn	Regional Director West	Transport for NSW
Cr Ruth McRae	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr Robert Black	Deputy Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	General Manager	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr Josh Black	Councillor	Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Vicki Etheridge	Councillor	Dubbo Regional Council
Luke Ryan	Director Infrastructure	Dubbo Regional Council
Erin Wilson (<i>via Teams</i>)		Department Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts
Cr Peta Betts (<i>via Teams</i>)	Mayor	Edward River Council
Joanne Cheshire (<i>via Teams</i>)	Senior Manager Community & Place Partner (Riverina Murray)	Transport for NSW
John Dyer (<i>via Teams</i>)	Director Engineering Services	Moree Plains Shire Council
Nijole Bentley	Director Regional NSW & ACT Roads Infrastructure	Department Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts

Apologies were received from:

Representative	Position	Council / Organisation
Lisa Moon	Tourism and Visitor Services Coordinator	Newell Highway Promotions Committee
Cr Ron Campbell	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Eloise Chaplin	Director Infrastructure Delivery	Narrabri Shire Council
Ray Graham	Director Technical Services	Bland Shire Council
James Painting	Assistant Director	Department Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts
Rhiannon Weir	Executive Assistant	NatRoad
Warren Clarke	Chief Executive Officer	NatRoad
Heather Parry	Director Program Delivery (Narromine to Gowrie)	Inland Rail
Cr Neville Kschenka	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr Phyllis Miller	Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Mark Johnston	Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Design	Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Richard Ivey	Deputy Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Shoilee Iqbal	Senior Growth Planner	Dubbo Regional Council
Murray Wood	Chief Executive Officer	Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Damien Mahon	Councillor	Dubbo Regional Council
Cr Jessica Gough	Councillor	Dubbo Regional Council
Grant Baker	General Manager	Bland Shire Council
Rod Hannifey	Road Transport and Road Safety Advocate	TruckRight

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 09 May 2023 at Narrandera were received and noted as true and accurate.

Moved Cr Brian Mattiske, Seconded Cr Tony Lord

CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

6. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Summary

The Chair advised the Committee that:

- Invitations were sent to various Ministers to attend today's meeting and workshop, including Mr Dugald Saunders, MP, Member for Dubbo, and Mr Mark Coulton MP, Federal Member for Parkes. An apology was received for Mr Dugald Saunders, MP.
- The Committee has requested Michael McCormack MP to secure a venue in Canberra for 14 November 2023 and invite The Hon. Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to the meeting. The Committee raised that the proposed date clashes with the LGNSW Conference. The Chair advised that an alternate date will be organised and communicated to the Committee.
- The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, had an operation and is expected to return 28 August 2023. The Newell Highway Taskforce Committee will send a letter wishing her a speedy recovery.

NOTED BY THE TASKFORCE

7. PRESENTATION FROM TRANSPORT FOR NSW

Executive Summary

Alistair Lunn, Regional Director West at Transport for NSW (TfNSW) provided an update on the major projects either planned or under construction on the Newell Highway.

Newell Highway Flood Mitigation - West Wyalong to Forbes

- The Australian and NSW Government have committed to flood mitigation works on the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes.
- Based on comprehensive flood studies, Transport is proposing to prioritise around 11km of flood mitigation treatments at Marsden as this will significantly reduce the length of time the highway is closed during and after any future flood events.
- Proposed treatments include installing box culverts to allow water to pass freely under the highway, raising the road level and laying a more robust pavement that would remain open to traffic for longer during flood events.

Project Status:

- Detail survey and cadastral survey complete.
- Concept design and REF have commenced.
- Communication campaign to update community and seek feedback closed 27 July 2023.

- Community and stakeholders have provided records from previous flood events to assist continuing flood studies.
- Delivery strategy is being reviewed and developed to provide as timely construction as possible.

Key communication and consultation activities:

- Media release announcing consultation open
- 10,262 community updates and surveys distributed to Bland Shire, Weddin Shire and Forbes Shire LGAs
- 6 x social media posts reaching 81,833 people with 1,619 engagements.
- 8 group stakeholder meetings attended by 67 people
- 2 face-to-face drop-in sessions attended by 25 people
- 1 online community consultation session
- 11 phone consultations
- 57 online surveys completed
- 11 hard copy surveys posted in
- 15 pins dropped on the interactive online map

Inland Rail Separation Program

- A total of 32 interfaces with NSW state and regional roads exist along the Inland Rail corridor.
- 22 identified sites are being investigated and prioritised in order of development and construction.
- The first of six sites for development are:
 1. Harris Gates (Olympic Hwy near Illabo)
 2. Tichborne (Newell Hwy near Parkes)
 3. Castlereagh Hwy (near Curban)
 4. Tomingley Road (near Narromine)
 5. Eumungerie Road (near Narromine)
 6. Oxley Highway (near Collie)
- REF and Concept Design is expected to be on public display by mid-2024 for the first 6 sites.
- Early strategic assessment for the second 6 sites is being undertaken using internal resources.
- This project is subject to both State and Federal infrastructure reviews.

Parkes Bypass

Project Status:

- All earthworks are underway along the full 10.5km length of the project – some under Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) controls
- NOA removal and encapsulation within the site is 60% complete
- Work is underway on the southern connection of the new bypass to the existing Newell Highway with traffic control in place.
- New Bogan Road T-intersection has commenced with traffic to be switched onto a temporary side-track during construction
- Piling works at the Bridge Over Rail and Hartigan Avenue are 90% complete
- Electrical relocations complete
- Reconfiguration of Parkes Golf Course complete

Upcoming Work:

- Girder installation at Bridge Over Rail to commence late August
- Piling works at Victoria Street Bridge to commence in September
- Northern connection of the new bypass to the existing Newell Highway
- Permanent closure of Maguire Road
- Complete NOA removal and encapsulation onsite - expected to be completed by end 2023. Works are being undertaken under full asbestos management controls, overseen by a Class A Asbestos Supervisor and Licensed Asbestos Assessor

Upcoming Traffic Changes:

- Works on the existing Newell Highway north of Parkes are expected to commence in the coming months. Traffic barriers will be placed on the Newell Highway to allow construction of the northern tie in.
- There are other traffic changes occurring including:
 - Closure of Victoria Street
 - Closure of Thomas Street for the transportation of NOA. School buses and OSOM >3.5m in width are exempt.
 - Speed restrictions on the existing Newell Highway at Southern Connection for approx. 12 months
 - Temporary side track on the northern side of Bogan Road from mid-August 2023 for up to fifteen months

Newell Highway Program Alliance Overtaking Lanes

- As of August 2023, the Newell Highway Program Alliance has delivered 31 overtaking lanes and all 6 safety projects on the Newell Highway.
- The Alliance will deliver 38 overtaking lanes accumulating approximately 60 kilometres in length along the full length of the highway.
- The project is expected to be completed by end 2023.

Project Status:

- 31 overtaking lanes opened to traffic
- 7 overtaking lanes in construction
- 6 shoulder widening stimulus projects completed

Key Benefits:

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

Upcoming Activities:

- Early September – expected completion of 2 lanes at Pilliga Sir William Bridges; and 2 lanes at Pilliga Dandry
- End September - expected completion of 2 lanes at Gullifers
- November - expected completion of 1 lane at Bundidgerry, this is the last project to be completed in the program.

New Dubbo Bridge

- Major work is now underway to lay the foundations for the New Dubbo Bridge across the Macquarie River in Dubbo.
- Piling works are well underway on the land and we expect to commence the process for the river piling in August, weather permitting, the piling works will continue until the end of 2023.
- The bridge structure requires a total of 89 piles for support, and currently, 20 have been fully driven while 8 are partially driven into the ground.
- Commencing the concrete filling of the piles and are actively engaging with impacted residents to address any concerns related to noise and vibrations.
- Permanent closure of River Street between Brisbane and Bourke Street from late August to enable construction.
- Utility relocation and upgrade work is being carried out at the intersection of Bourke Street and River Street.
- Installing barriers and traffic control at both the intersection of Bourke Street and River Street, as well as at the intersection of Whylandra Street and Thompson Street for upgrade works.
- Wiradjuri Park closed in May with controls in place to protect the park's Aboriginal & cultural heritage during construction.
- Construction is expected to be completed in 2026.

Newell Highway Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrades - Narrabri to Moree (Stage 1)

- Construction is well underway in Section 3 (Bellata), and Section 5 (Moree).
- Initial works have also started in Section 2 (Edgeroi) including the installation of barriers to undertake drainage upgrades prior to commencing earthworks and pavement upgrades.
- Traffic switches onto temporary sections of the highway are now in place just south of Moree and near Bellata.
- Drainage works in Section 3 are almost complete with pavement construction, kerbing and concreting activities to continue.

Section 5 (Moree):

- Construction complete on the first stage on the bridge sized drainage structure at Clark's Gully with earthworks and pavement construction nearing completion.
- Traffic will then be switched onto a new section of the highway to the east, enabling completion of pavement and drainage construction in this location.
- Construction as also commenced on the intersection upgrade at Wallanol Road.

Traffic Impacts:

- Cumulative traffic delays of up to 15 minutes are expected to continue as the project progresses.
- For the safety of workers and motorists, traffic control including lane closures, alternating stop/slow and reduced speed limits of 40 km/h will be in place during work hours at various locations.
- VMS Boards are in place displaying expected travel times between Narrabri and Moree.

Newell Highway Oxley Highway Intersection Upgrade

- Construction for the upgrade to the intersection of the Newell Highway and Oxley Highway near Coonabarabran is expected to commence in 2024, with the new intersection open to traffic by early 2026.
- Preliminary investigations have been carried out and a concept design completed.

The Committee asked the following questions:

1. Cr Robert Black asked if Transport for NSW has a "Plan B" for the Marsden section of the Newell Highway when impacted by flooding.

Alastair Lunn acknowledged that this is a challenge for Transport for NSW and advised that whilst discussions have been held in the past around this issue, there is currently no Plan B.

2. Shane Wilson raised the need for an update to be provided to the Committee on the Newell Highway projects south of West Wyalong. The Committee agreed that Joanne Cheshire from Transport for NSW should be invited to provide an update on these projects at the November meeting.

Resolved

1. The Newell highway Taskforce Committee formally write to the Federal Government outlining its support for additional funding of the Newell Highway as a Road of Strategic Importance (ROSI).
2. The Newell Highway Taskforce Committee formally write to Joanne Cheshire from Transport for NSW, requesting a presentation on the current projects along the south region of the Newell Highway, at the November Newell Highway Taskforce Committee meeting.

Moved Ruth McRae, seconded Shane Wilson

CARRIED

8. PRESENTATION FROM ARTC - INLAND RAIL

Executive Summary

An update from ARTC - Inland Rail was not provided as Heather Parry, Director Program Delivery (Narromine to Gowrie), submitted an apology for the meeting.

The Chair advised the Committee that \$3 million in funding has been invested in Parkes to help get freight moving to northern sections of the Newell Highway as the focus is transporting heavy freight along the Newell until the Inland Rail is in place.

NOTED BY THE TASKFORCE

8. PRESENTATION - DEPARTMENT INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS

Executive Summary

Nijole Bentley provided an update to the Committee on the Federal Government's Infrastructure Investment Program.

- The Infrastructure Investment Program is currently subject to an independent review of projects not currently under construction or on election commitment.
- The timeline for the review is 90-days which commenced 1 May 2023.
- A report will be tabled with the November budget following the review with recommendations.

The Chair queried the timeline moving forward for certainty on funding for projects. Nijole advised that whilst the 90 days ends mid-August, the outcomes aren't likely to be released until November with the budget.

The Chair requested that Nijole present the results of the independent review to the Committee in Canberra in November. The revised date will be provided to Nijole once set.

NOTED BY THE TASKFORCE

9 NEWELL HIGHWAY PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

An update was provided by the Chair on the current status of the Newell Highway Promotion Committee.

Parkes Shire Council have approached Dubbo Regional Council to see if they would take over and have meetings with the various Central West economic development and tourism groups to request that they coordinate the Newell Highway Promotion Committee. Dubbo Regional Council advised that they don't have the resources to assist.

The Chair raised that it is hard to produce updated Newell Highway booklets and/or promotional materials without the support of Councils along the Newell Highway.

Resolved

1. Parkes Shire Council write to Dubbo Regional Council's CEO, Murray Woods, to express concerns with Dubbo's response to coordinating the Newell Highway Promotion Committee, given their internal resourcing compared to other Councils along the Newell Highway.

Moved Chris Roylance, Seconded Ruth McRae

CARRIED

At this time being 10.30am, the meeting adjourned for morning tea.

At this time being 10.50am, the meeting reconvened.

A verbal report was provided by Joanne Cheshire from TfNSW on the southern section of the Newell Highway.

Completed Projects:

- Road reclassification through West Wyalong

FY24 Projects:

- 3.3km pavement Leahys Lane (approximately 1.6km south of Jerilderie)
- 1km pavement, north of Billabong Creek Bridge at Jerilderie
- 2km near Bundure (approximately 25.6km north of Jerilderie)

In Development:

- Bridge sized culvert replacements, widening and bridge barrier connection upgrade

The Committee raised the following questions with Joanne:

1. Cr Ruth McRae queried if discussions have been held regarding the Newell Highway/Kidman Highway intersection.

Joanne advised that she would follow up with the Planning team, however is aware that it has previously been raised by Murrumbidgee Council as a concern and doesn't have any detail on where it sits for planning for future works.

10 STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

The Strategic Workshop commenced at 11.00am.

The Newell Highway Corridor Strategy Community Consultation report released by TfNSW in 2015 and the Newell Highway Corridor Strategy April 2014 were provided to the Committee for their information prior to the meeting and for reference during the workshop.

The Chair identified a number of priority areas for review with the Committee, including:

PRIORITY AREA	DISCUSSION
Centre Line Separation	<p>This is currently restricted to any new works and that we should be aiming for Centre Line Separation along the full length of the Newell Highway over the next ten years.</p> <p>The Committee raised that communication between TfNSW and Councils for project scoping and planning is poor and decisions that impact Councils are made without input from Councils.</p> <p>Joanne Cheshire from TfNSW agreed that Councils should be involved in this conversation.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that they would like to see Centre Line Separation rolled out as quickly as possible for the length of the Newell Highway.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Communication between TfNSW and impacted LGA's in the design and scoping meetings for projects is a high priority as decisions are made without input from Councils.</p>
Clear Zones	<p>Funding has not been set aside to maintain the clear zones currently in place.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Additional funding for maintenance of clear zones.</p>
Additional Overtaking Lanes	<p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Work with TfNSW to develop a five-year plan for additional overtaking lanes.</p>
Rest Areas	<p>It is essential that drivers can safely pull over in appropriate areas to rest. A Councillor from Dubbo Regional Council put forward a Notice of Motion last week to improve rest areas in the LGA as there's no rest areas either side of Dubbo with toilets, showers etc.</p> <p>Alastair Lunn from TfNSW advised that the North Dubbo rest area is being investigated by Transport for NSW for upgrades. No discussions held with Council for approximately a year regarding rest areas.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Review of the rest area requirements for the Newell Highway to identify rest area locations and also meet requirements for rest periods (<i>reference Narrandera as an example</i>).</p>
By-Passes	Coonabarabran:

	<p>The Chair raised that Coonabarabran bypass should be high priority as it is designed and only waiting on funding. From a taskforce perspective, it would help the flow of traffic along the Newell Highway.</p> <p>Dubbo: The Chair raised that due to the expansion of the city, a Dubbo bypass should be looked at in the longer-term to preserve the Newell Highway corridor.</p> <p>Luke Ryan from Dubbo Regional Council commented that a bypass is part of the Transportation Strategy for the city.</p> <p>Alastair Lunn from TfNSW raised that when consulting with Dubbo Regional Council, the council is referring to a distributor/ring-road within the town limits rather than a bypass, and that Council needs to be clear with what they want.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coonabarabran bypass is the #1 priority for the Taskforce. 2. Creation of a long-term plan for a Dubbo bypass for preservation of the Newell Highway corridor.
Flood Resilience	<p>The Chair raised the need for the Tichborne area between Parkes and Forbes to be looked at, as well as flood resilience work at Gillenbah, Marsden, Beckom and Moree.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: TfNSW undertake a strategic study (including a funding package) of the full length of the Newell Highway (including connecting highways) to identify priority problem flooding areas.</p>
Intersections	<p>The Committee identified the following intersections as priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newell Highway/Cargo Road - signage needed. • Kent Street, Forbes. • Ardlethan / Burley Griffin Way t-intersection. <p>Alastair Lunn from TfNSW suggested an audit package of the major roads coming off the Newell in the southern region (i.e., Irrigation Way, Burley Griffin Way etc), including a safety study and survey.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: TfNSW undertake a strategic study (including a funding package) to prioritise the next ten intersections for upgrade along the Newell Highway (including connecting highways).</p>
Shoulder Widths	<p>The Committee discussed that there is a need for vehicles to be able to safely pull off the road into shoulder widths.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: TfNSW undertake a study (including a funding package) to identify areas of priority for vehicles to be able to safely stop on the side of the road.</p>
Inland Rail Crossings - Grade Separation	<p>The Committee discussed that there is currently only two Inland Rail Crossings along the Newell Highway, being Daroolgabie and South Forbes.</p>

	<p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: All rail crossings along the Newell Highway, including Inland Rail crossings, have grade separation.</p>
Guard Rails on side of roads	<p>The Committee discussed that the guard rails restrict drivers from pulling onto the side of the road to avoid wide loads, vehicles on the wrong side of the road etc.</p> <p>Alastair Lunn from TfNSW advised that TfNSW have installed more guard rails to prevent people from leaving the road and hitting trees.</p> <p>The Committee raised that Councils are struggling with vegetation management in areas where guard rails are used for large distances as there's no entry point.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: TfNSW undertake a review of the guard rails along the Newell Highway, including the materials used and distance between markers.</p>
Driver education	<p>Richard Jane from Forbes Shire Council raised the need for increased driver education, particularly for truck drivers and caravanners, due to unsafe behaviours including intimidation.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Taskforce recommend that the government look at driver education programs/promotions (e.g., TV advertisements). 2. The Taskforce suggest changes to legislation regarding driver safety requirements for caravans and trucks (e.g., truck-only parking spots). 3. Raise with Road Safety Officer's for investigation.
Speed reviews	<p>The Committee discussed the need for a speed review along the Newell Highway.</p> <p>Joanne Cheshire from TfNSW advised the Committee that the public are able to submit requests for this online via Safe Roads NSW: https://www.saferoadsnsw.com.au/.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: The Committee lobby for the retainment of the 110km speed zone along the Newell Highway.</p>
Surveillance of roadside stops for litter	<p>Ruth McRae from Murrumbidgee Council raised the need for TfNSW to revisit the compliance of contractors engaged to clean up roadside stop areas and increase serviceability and the level of expectation for maintenance of these areas.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: TfNSW review compliance of contractors.</p>
Dual carriageway	<p>Chris Roylance from Forbes Shire Council raised the need for the Newell Highway to be a dual carriageway.</p> <p>The Committee discussed that this is a long-term vision that would be delivered in the next forty years and linked the benefits and synergies with the Special Activation Precinct.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION:</p>

	All future major developments are scoped to reserve the corridor for a potential dual highway.
Effluent facilities in parking bays	<p>Brian Mattiski from Forbes Shire Council requested the Chair to include an additional request in the Minutes for facilities at parking bays for trucks to drop effluent, like caravans.</p> <p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Facilities are provided at parking bays for trucks to drop effluent.</p>

NOTED BY THE TASKFORCE

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

John Black raised the idea of inviting NRMA and key representatives from associations such as the Caravanners Association to future Taskforce Meetings.

Moved John Black, seconded Dennis Nodd.

CARRIED

12 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28 November 2023, 10.00am to 12.00pm.
Representatives Committee Room 1R4, Australian Parliament House

The Chair thank all for their attendance today and thanked Dubbo Regional Council for hosting and closed the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 12.43pm.

Councils along the Newell

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

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

Andrew McCluckie | Transport for NSW

Allan Magill | NatRoads

Laura Colley | Inland Rail Regional Liaison Officer • Moree

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

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

Heather Parry Director Program Delivery | ARTC - Inland Rail -

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

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
held at Wagga Wagga Country Club, Plumpton Rd, Wagga Wagga
Friday 23 June 2023

Meeting opened at 10.45 a.m.

PRESENT

Grant Baker	Bland Shire Council	
Cr Brian Monaghan	Bland Shire Council	
Cr David McCann OAM	Coolamon Shire Council	
Tony Donoghue PSM	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr Charlie Sheahan	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Stephen McGrath	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Evelyn Arnold	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Cr Neil Smith	Junee Shire Council	
Cr Greg Verdon	Lockhart Shire Council	
Peter Veneris	Lockhart Shire Council	
Cr Rick Firman OAM	Independent Chairman	
Gary Lavelle PSM	Temora Shire Council	Observer
Cr Graham Sinclair	Temora Shire Councils	
Julie Briggs	REROC	
Jenny Pideski	REROC	
William Adlong	REROC	
Helen Mundy	REROC	
Matthew Dudley	RAMJO/REROC	

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N. Smith, seconded Cr C. Sheahan that apologies be received from Cr M. Stadtmiller, A, Drenovski J. Davis, R. Whiting and G. Butler.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N. Smith, seconded Cr. C. Sheahan that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2023 be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING

Letter to the EPA about FOGO Grant – the letter has been sent to the EPA.

60 Day Dispensing– a letter has been sent to the Federal Minister for Health.

Investment NSW Workshop on Developing a Value Proposition for the Region – this remains outstanding.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded Cr. B. Monaghan that the correspondence be received.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

J. Briggs, H. Munday, J. Pideski and H. Munday left the room at 10.50a.m.

Chief Executive Officer Contract

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded Cr. D. McCann that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer be appointed to work with the CEO regarding proposed contract/negotiations for a succession plan and provide a report to the Board within 6 weeks.

J. Briggs, H. Munday, J. Pideski and H. Munday returned to the meeting at 11.15 a.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Jihad Dib MP - noted.

Meeting with the Minister for Local Government – noted.

Meeting at Parliament House – noted.

Moving Forward: One Organisation – noted.

Review of the REROC Constitution – noted.

Health and Knowledge Precinct – Members agreed that there should be Local Government representation on the Precinct Board and that it should be drawn from REROC and RAMJO with Wagga Wagga City and Griffith City also represented because they are the regional headquarters for health activities.

Associate Membership of the Country Mayors' Association

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. N. Smith, seconded Cr. D. McCann by a vote of 7 to 6 that REROC apply to become an Associate Member of the Country Mayor's Association.

Members noted that membership of the CMA was on an annual basis.

Associate Membership of LGNSW

RESOLVED on the motion of G. Lavelle, seconded Cr. N. Smith that REROC not join the LGNSW at this time.

Rates Methodology Review.

RESOLVED on the motion of S. McGrath, seconded Cr. G. Verdon that REROC prepare and lodge a response to the IPART Draft Report on the Rate Pegging Methodology.

Guidelines for funding on FOGO Collection Grants – noted.

Disaster Risk Recovery Funding

J. Briggs advised that the DRRF Group of JOs and ROCs wanted to collaborate on advocacy relating to betterment (mitigation) funding in relation to infrastructure repairs on roads. She noted that the meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services would be an opportunity to raise the problem.

In addition, the Group wants to enter into a partnership on its advocacy with IPWEA NSW.

RESOLVED on the motion of P. Veneris, seconded G. Baker that REROC support joint advocacy in relation to the betterment issue.

RESOLVED on the motion of P. Veneris, seconded T. Donoghue that REROC adopt the Terms of Reference for the DRRF Project Steering Committee.

EOI for ARENA Funding for Community Batteries

RESOLVED on the motion of P. Veneris, seconded Cr. B. Monaghan that REROC support the EOI for ARENA funding for the deployment of community batteries which is being driven by the JONZA program.

NSW Planning Portal – lack of recognition of County Councils as Approval Authorities

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G. Verdon, seconded S. McGrath that REROC continue to liaise with Goldenfields Water on the issue and determine what support REROC can provide that will result in the resolution of the problem.

Bin Trim Grant– noted.

Southern Lights

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N. Smith, seconded T. Donoghue that the REROC Board adopt the Southern Lights submission to the AER on Essential Energy's street lighting pricing proposal.

EPA Emergency Waste Plan – noted.

Recognition of Local Water Utilities in the NSW Constitution

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G. Verdon, seconded Cr. B. Monaghan that REROC maintain a watching brief on the proposed review and respond to any opportunities to contribute to the Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. McCann, seconded Cr. N. Smith that CEO's Report be received.

RESOURCE SHARING REPORT

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

Planning Technical Group

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr G. Verdon, seconded Cr. N Smith that REROC:

1. Write to the new Minister for the Environment to again raise the issue of the inadequacy of council PINs for unauthorised land clearing.
2. Write to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Planning to ask when the Manufactured Homes' Policy Review will be placed on exhibition.

Workforce Development Group

RESOLVED on the motion of P. Veneris, seconded S. McGrath that:

1. *The CEO open discussions with Compact about a partnership arrangement to deliver the Skills Shortage project.*
2. *The REROC Executive consider funding options for allows the Skills Shortage project to continue with project officer support.*

Water and Wastewater Technical Group – noted.

Infrastructure/Engineers Group – noted.

Build a Bridge - noted.

Riverina Spatial Information Group (RIVSIG) – noted.

RESOLVED on the motion of G. Lavelle, seconded Cr. B. Monaghan that the Resource Sharing report be received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was tabled by T. Donoghue

RESOLVED on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded Cr. B. Monaghan that the Resource Sharing report be received.

WASTE FORUM REPORT

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

Regional Waste Strategy – noted.

Staffing – noted.

Bin Trim Grant – noted.

Container Deposit Scheme: *Return and Earn* - noted.

E-Waste – noted.

Recycle Night? Recycle Right! – noted.

Regional Contracts – noted.

School Projects – noted.

Community Recycling Centres – noted.

Solar Farm Construction Waste – noted.

Safe Sharps Lite – noted.

Landfill Gas Capture Project – noted.

***No Time to Waste* Conference** – noted.

RENEW Meeting February 2023 – noted.

Coffs Harbour Waste Conference – noted.

***RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. T. Quinn, seconded P. Veneris that the Waste Forum report be received.*

YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK REPORT

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

Youth and Community Development Network - noted.

Take Charge Youth Leadership Forum Evaluation – noted.

Take Charge Case Study - noted.

***RESOLVED** on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded P. Veneris that the Youth and Community Development Network report be received.*

ENERGY AND NET ZERO PROJECT REPORT

The Report was tabled. William Adlong spoke to the report.

EoI for Community Battery Funding – noted.

REROC Regional Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Plan – reviewing the outline of the Plan was delayed for time constraints. Members were asked to provide feedback to W. Adlong.

Energy and Innovation Conference – noted.

Federal Government's new \$100 million community Energy Upgrades Fund – noted.

***RESOLVED** on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded Cr. N. Smith that the Energy and Net Zero Project report be received.*

REGIONAL CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT REPORT

The Report was tabled. Matthew Dudley raised the following issues with Members:

Daft Contaminated Land Policy – noted.

Training Workshops – noted.

End of the Project – M. Dudley advised that this was likely to be his last meeting as the project was ending.

Cr Firman extended his warmest thanks to Mr Dudley for his commitment and enthusiasm for the project and for his professionalism. Mr Dudley extended his thanks to REROC and the Member Councils' staff for their support of the project.

RESOLVED on the motion of G. Baker, seconded Cr. N. Smith that the Contaminated Land Management Report be received.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Regional ARIC – T. Donoghue advised that the Member Councils currently sharing Internal Audit functions have asked that REROC look at establishing a regional ARIC. J. Briggs advised that work had commenced on this project in the JO and that REROC would be able to utilise the work undertaken to inform the project.

RESOLVED on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded Cr. N. Smith that REROC work with the Member Councils to develop a shared regional ARIC model.

NEXT MEETING

Friday 25 August 2023 at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga.

CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 12:45pm

DRAFT

**RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
held at The International Motel, Lake Albert Rd, Wagga Wagga
Friday 25 August 2023**

Meeting opened at 9.15 a.m.

PRESENT

Grant Baker	Bland Shire Council
Cr David McCann <i>OAM</i>	Coolamon Shire Council
Tony Donoghue <i>PSM</i>	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr Charlie Sheahan	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Stephen McGrath	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council
Evelyn Arnold	Greater Hume Shire Council
Cr Neil Smith	Junee Shire Council
Cr Greg Verdon	Lockhart Shire Council
Peter Veneris	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr Rick Firman <i>OAM</i>	Temora Shire Council
Melissa Boxall	Temora Shire Council
Aaron Drenovski	Goldenfields Water
Giles Butler	Dept Regional NSW
Rachel Whiting	RDA - Riverina
Julie Briggs	REROC
Jenny Pideski	REROC
William Adlong	REROC

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N. Smith, seconded G. Baker that apologies be received from Cr M. Stadtmiller, Cr B. Monaghan, M. Dudley and J. Davis.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N. Smith, seconded Cr. T. Quinn that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2023 be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING

Representations to the Minister on the Future of JOs – Cr Firman advised that communications with the Minister to date indicate he supports ROCs however believes that councils should choose whatever structure best suits their needs.

Manufactured Home Regulations Review – we have received advice from the Department of Planning that the Review is with the Minister awaiting approval to go on Public Exhibition.

CORRESPONDENCE

Border Rail Action Group (BRAG)

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded Cr. N. Smith that REROC support BRAG's advocacy for improved passenger rail services for the Riverina-Murray Region.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded Cr. N. Smith that the correspondence be received.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

J. Briggs, J. Pideski, W. Adlong and L. Gain left the room at 9.25a.m.

Chief Executive Officer Contract

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded S. McGrath that REROC adopt the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

J. Briggs, J. Pideski, W. Adlong and L. Gain returned to the meeting at 9.40 a.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Jihad Dib MP

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded Cr. C. Sheahan REROC write to the Minister for Emergency Services to follow-up on previous correspondence in relation to RFS asset ownership.

Meeting with the Minister for Local Government

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded M. Boxall that REROC write to the Minister for Local Government to be our guest speaker at a Board meeting to be held prior to the end of the year.

Meeting at Parliament House – Members were advised of arrangements and that attendance at dinner and breakfast events was not mandatory.

60 Day Dispensing

Noted.

NAB Bank Closures – Cr Smith advised that the closure of the Lake Cargelligo branch had been announced. The Banking Inquiry will be holding hearings in Junee on September 21, Cr Smith has received an invitation to speak. Cr Smith encouraged Members to attend the hearings to bring home the point of how important this issue is for rural communities.

Cr Sheahan advised that some of the content of the NAB letter was incorrect in relation to service provision in Gundagai.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded Cr. N. Smith that REROC respond to NAB's response to our correspondence on bank closures in Temora and Gundagai by advising that in Gundagai they were the last bank in town and that the Post Office is only an agency in the IGA which does not have the capacity to fulfil the banking needs of the community.

Moving Forward: One Organisation

Wagga Wagga has advised that it does not wish to re-join REROC. We are still awaiting Riverina Water's response. Cr Verdon advised that the matter would go to Riverina Water's October Board meeting.

Review of the REROC Constitution

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded Cr. N. Smith REROC Member Councils review the draft of the REROC Constitution and provide feedback to the REROC Office by the end of September 2023, with a view to a final version being put to the AGM in October 2023 for adoption.

Disaster Adaption Plans

G. Butler advised that Simon Draper, the CEO of the Reconstruction Authority (RA) has been appointed Secretary of the NSW Premier's Department and will retain the CEO position with RA. The Members agreed that Mr Draper should be added to the list of speakers for the visit to Parliament House in October.

NSW State Recovery Plan

Noted.

Associate Membership of the Country Mayors Association

REROC has been accepted as an Associate Member of the CMA.

Rates Methodology Review.

RESOLVED on the motion of S. McGrath, seconded Cr. N. Smith that the Board adopt REROC's response to the IPART's Draft Report on Rate Pegging.

Guidelines for Funding on FOGO Collection Grants

The outcomes of the kerbside bin audits that the EPA is funding will determine whether the Guidelines will change.

EOI for ARENA Funding for Community Batteries

Noted.

Population Projections

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N. Smith, seconded Cr. G. Verdon that the REROC Members review the draft report on Population and advise any changes to the CEO by the end of September.

NSW Planning Portal – lack of recognition of County Councils as Approval Authorities

Noted.

Bin Trim Grant

Noted

Southern Lights

RESOLVED on the motion of G Baker, seconded Cr. G. Verdon that the REROC advocates for the introduction of a productivity gain factor into the AER's calculation of the SLUOS charges for streetlighting.

Youth and Community Network

Noted.

Skills Shortage Project

Noted.

Expansion of Build a Bridge

Noted.

Submission to Create NSW on Arts and Culture Plan

J. Briggs advised that she had sent the 5 questions out that have to be responded to, and asked that Members return their feedback by COB on Monday 28th. The Response to the Plan is due on 31st August.

Review of the Structure of the Emergency Services in NSW

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr D. McCann, seconded Cr. N. Smith that REROC arrange a meeting with the Presidents of LGNSW and the Country Mayors' Association to discuss advocacy for a review of the structure of Emergency Services in NSW.

Distribution of Advocacy and Responses to Local Members

The Members agreed to include Helen Dalton, Member for Murrumbidgee on our list of State Parliament representatives that receive correspondence from us. Ms Dalton is an Independent Member.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded S. McGrath that the Chief Executive Officer's Report be received.

RESOURCE SHARING REPORT

The report was tabled. J Briggs spoke to the report.

Regional ARIC Project

RESOLVED on the motion of S McGrath, seconded P. Veneris that REROC write to the Minister for Local Government to clarify whether REROC can host the employment of the ARIC Regional Co-ordinator position.

Regional Joint HR Person Project

Noted.

Planning Technical Group

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. G. Verdon, seconded Cr. N. Smith that REROC lodge an application to the Regional Housing Fund that identifies land in the Region that is zoned residential but has not been developed.

Workforce Development Group

Noted.

Water and Wastewater Technical Group

Noted.

Infrastructure/Engineers Group

RESOLVED on the motion of T. Donoghue seconded Cr. D. McCann that REROC writes to Reconstruction Authority about the inadequacy and inefficiency of TfNSW's current acquittal reporting requirements for Natural Disaster Claims.

Riverina Spatial Information Group (RIVSIG)

Noted.

RESOLVED on the motion of M. Boxall, seconded P. Veneris that the Resource Sharing report be received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was tabled by T. Donoghue

RESOLVED on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded Cr. N. Smith that the Treasurer's Report be received.

WASTE FORUM REPORT

The report was tabled. L. Gain spoke to the report.

Bin Trim Grant

Noted.

E-Waste

Noted

Recycle Night? Recycle Right!

Noted

Regional Contracts

Noted.

Community Recycling Centres

Noted.

Food and Green Keep it Clean!

Noted.

Kerbside FOGO Audits

Noted.

Safe Sharps Lite

Noted.

Landfill Gas Capture Project

Noted.

No Time to Waste Conference

Noted.

RENEW Meeting August 2023

Noted.

EPA Local Government Advisory Group

J. Briggs advised that there is a review happening in relation to the Group. We have strongly opposed industry being able to become members of the Group because of the conflict of interest and the likelihood that it will inhibit frank discussion between councils and the EPA.

The metro councils are pushing for an MoU to be signed between ROCs and the EPA. REROC has indicated support for a similar arrangement for the country-based councils.

Big Bag Initiative

We are in talks with Big Bag about running collections in the regions for agriculture and industrial bags which they recycle. They are coming to speak at the No Time to Waste Conference.

***RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded P. Veneris that the Waste Forum report be received.*

ENERGY AND NET ZERO PROJECT REPORT

The Report was tabled. W. Adlong spoke to the report.

REROC Regional Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Plan

Noted.

ARENA Eol for Community Battery Funding

Noted.

\$100 million Federal Community Upgrade Fund

Noted.

Tariff Reviews

Noted.

Energy and Innovation Conference 13-15 September

Members were encouraged to attend the Conference and to get others from their councils, councillors and staff to attend.

ASIC Mandatory Reporting Requirements and Scope 3 Reporting

J. Briggs spoke about the mandatory reporting requirements that ASIC has brought in for large companies to report on their Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Reporting on Scope 3 emissions will also come in over time and this could impact on councils because it is envisaged that companies with mandatory reporting obligations will seek information from organisations in their supply chain. Where that information is not available, they may charge additional fees for the supply of their goods or services because they will need to calculate the information to be reported. Moving forward councils may see these requirements in future contracts with larger companies.

Guest Speaking

W. Adlong advised that he had spoken to the Wagga Women's Probus, on energy efficiency and Net Zero. The Members agreed that it would be worthwhile for William to speak to their councils and local community groups on the same topic. W. Adlong to contact councils about speaking engagements.

***RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan seconded G. Baker that the Energy and Net Zero Project report be received.*

REGIONAL CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT REPORT

The Report was tabled, J. Briggs spoke to the report.

Best Practice Resources

Noted.

UPSS Registers

Noted.

Final Grant Report

Noted.

End of the Project – J. Briggs advised that today was Matthew Dudley’s last day of work as Project Officer for the project. Mr Dudley asked that his warmest thanks be extended to the REROC Member Councils and staff for their high level of engagement in the project.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. N. Smith, seconded Cr D. McCann that the Contaminated Land Management Report be received and that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Mr Dudley for his work on the project.

GENERAL BUSINESS

AGM – This will be held at the October Board meeting. It was agreed that as per usual the meeting finish with a lunch, to which local State and Federal Members will be invited.

30 Year Anniversary – J. Briggs advised that in mid-August 2024 it will be REROC’s 30th Anniversary. A celebration dinner has been discussed, where previous people involved in the organisation are invited to attend. The Members agreed that REROC should look at organising a celebration for the 30th anniversary.

GUEST SPEAKER

Rachel Whiting, CEO of RDA-Riverina provided an overview of RDA’s activities particularly in relation to their Workforce Development projects. She also presented the new branding for the Country Change project.

NEXT MEETING

Friday 27 October 2023 at The Wagga Wagga Country Club, Wagga Wagga.

CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 12:35pm

Minutes

Bland Temora Zone

BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting: Meeting 1/2023

Convened by: Tom Mc Devitt – Executive Officer Bland Temora BFMC

Location: Temora Fire Control Centre, 106 Vesper Street Temora

Date and time: April 4, 2023

Chaired by: Trevor Penfold - NSW Rural Fire Service

Minutes by: Jason Bortolazzo – NSW Rural Fire Service

Table 1: Attendance Record

Members (alternate)	Organisation	Present	Apology	Absent
Tom McDevitt	BTZ District Manager	x		
Elizabeth Smith	Temora Shire Council	x		
Ray Graham	Bland Shire Council	x		
Trevor Penfold	NSW RFS	x		
Jeff Gould	NSW RFS		x	
Tim O'Kelly	NPWS Riverina	x		
Paula Gilchrist	Crown Lands Riverina		x	
Josh Cameron	Crown Lands	x		
Brody Wickham	Forest Corp NSW	x		
Peter Beal	Local Lands Services	x		
Thomas McAlister	UGL Rail	x		
Sam Quinton	Essential Energy	x		
Aaron Coddington	NSW Police Temora		x	
Steven Evans	FRNSW	x		
Paul Billingham	Transport NSW		x	
Phillip Rudd	GWCC			x
David Heinrich	Farmers Association			x
Frank Galluzzo	NSW Farmers			x
Andrew Carter	Local Aboriginal Land Council			x

Observers / Support	Organisation	Present	Apology	Absent
Alex Dhlenburg	Temora Shire Council		x	x
Councillor Bruce Baker	Bland Shire Council	x		
Glenn Neyland	Bland Shire Council			x
Hannah Burley	Crown Lands Temora	x		
Layne Holloway	Crown Lands Bland	x		
Josh Cameron	Crown Lands Southern Region	x		
Michael Leane	Local Lands Services		x	
Darryn Ashton	Local Lands Services		x	
Ron Tillard	Local Lands Services		x	
Gary Lavelle	Temora Shire Council	x		
Kelwyn White	RFS Area Command		x	

Table 2: Documents Referred to in the Meeting

Document title	Author	Date
Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Grants Program	NSW RFS	May 2022
Guardian Funding Requests training document	NSW RFS	2022
FAFT Register	NSW RFS	FY22/23
RFFF Funding Report/Requests	NSW RFS	FY22/23

Minutes

Item 1 Welcome/Acknowledgement to Country **Chair**

Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country, delivered by the Chairman

Item 2 Apologies **Chair**

As Recorded within the Attendance Record

Item 3 Disclosure of Interests Chair

Executive Officer (XO) asked the BFMC if anyone had any interests to disclose and nil response was received.

Item 4 Confirmation of Minutes of 21st September 2023 meeting held at Temora FCC Chair

BFMC Members have confirmed that minutes from last meeting was received.

Item 5 Business arising from previous minutes - Action Items Chair

Table 3. Outstanding Action Items from September 2022 Meeting

Ref No.	Item Description	Responsible	Due Date	Status
10	Pre Incident Exercise	Bland Temora RFS District Office	TBC August 2023	Due to deployments over the fire season and limited staff unable to run exercise, will plan a date to be confirmed in August 2023 exercise to take place.
	UGL Rail Progress	UGL Rail		Chair asked for an update on progress of works along the rail corridor, which will be covered with the Agency Report.

Updates have been provided on the following items.

01/18-3 Action Name

Provide update

01/19-1 Action Name

Provide update

Item 6 Correspondence Register**Chair**

As listed as per agenda

Item 7A Report from Subcommittees

Bland Temora BFMC – No Subcommittee formed

**Item 8A Progress on BFRMP strategies/tasks – Agency Report
[report from each organisation in turn – every meeting]**

Temora Shire Council – Report as tabled though some amendments in regards to roadside spraying. Roadside spraying has been delayed due to the wet weather across the region and should be now finished by the end of April 2023 instead of March 2023.

Temora LEMC Meeting is planned for Wednesday 5th April 10am.

Ariah Park community raised concerns in regards to delay with the Neighborhood Safer Places (NSP) being installed within the community.

Will there also be a plan regarding the electronic fire danger signs, having these signs upgraded and turned back on?

Bland Shire Council – Ray Introduced himself, new to the role within Bland Shire Council (BSC). BSC has recently received additional funding for repairs across the zone for flood effected roads. Hazard Reduction (HR) works across the BSC area are almost complete and will be complete by the end of FY23. Over the last few months we have had around 3 to 4 fire events, where BSC has been able to assist the RFS with plant and equipment as requested.

Goldenfields Water – Not in attendance or no report submitted. The XO gave a brief overview of how the RFS assisted Goldenfields Water by allowing them to use the bulk water trailer to transport water to the community effected by the floods within the BSC LGA. Goldenfields Water conducted tests of the tank and deep cleaned before use. This asset was used to benefit the local community and provided water during time of need. BSC also assisted with a use of a prime mover.

National Parks and Wildlife Services - Tim is the new Area Manager for the area and has taken over from Robin Mares. Major concerns has been the flooding within the National Parks and this has overall effected some of the HR activities planned, which will need to be a focus point.

Ingalba Nature Reserve's strategic fire trail network – Eastern Boundary Trail – 16 km has been upgraded and is now certified as compliant to RFS Cat-1 standard. The trail will be maintained as per standard requirements. Works have been completed at the Wyalong Nature Reserve with more details to follow up with the local Ranger.

Forest Corp NSW - FCNSW is currently reviewing their fire trail network and to ascertain funding to get trails up to standard. A total of 7 wildfires so far this season within the Cypress District. 2 of these fires came private lands from escaped permit burns which one located within our BFMC resulted of almost 1000 ha of production loss within the Back Creek State Forest, which will be will be conducting a post burn harvest to see what can be salvaged. FCNSW have also voiced concerned of the notification process of a permit burn located within the vicinity of any state forests as well as concerns with the permit process. FCNSW are also undertaking additional training with both tankers and heavy vehicle appliance's as well as a training camp held to upskill fire fighters located in Baradine.

All FCNSW cat 9's in Western Region now have 4 radios – FCNSW VHF, Fire ground, GRN and UHF as well as fitted out with CAF's crew protection sprayers. FCNSW has rolled out some smaller drones (249g) that have same functionality as current larger drones with respect to locating fires. Much better portability

for staff and less onerous administrative requirements. Ororartech trail continuing for 2022/2023 fire season. More satellite coverage with constant upgrades, this service will be invaluable in early fire detection. Would be good to get integration with RFS permit system. Full face and half face respirators ordered to provide greater protection from smoke inhalation on the fire ground.

Rebel Talbert appointed Fire and Natural Hazards Manager. Further staff appointments taking place in this space to increase capacity.

Crown Lands - Layne introduced Josh Cameron. Josh is the Aboriginal Project Officer for Crown Lands. Josh's contact details are josh.cameron@crowmland.nsw.gov.au or phone number is 0487 001 430. His role involves working with traditional owners of the land with maintaining their land with pockets of crown land.

Crown APZ's have been completed across the BFMC with all locations receiving 2 rounds of slashing and are now currently scoping for FY24. In November 2022 Crown completed an aerial inspection of all fire trails and one was originally rated at poor but some ground trothing took place and this was revised to accessible.

XO asked Crown to resend via email key register for Reefton. Once sent this will be updated and sent back to Crown.

Local Land Services – TSR Network number of these reserves around 170 parcels are being occupied, though there is a number of sites that require hazard reduction to reduce the fuel load, and we are looking at getting some assistance from the NSW Mitigation Crews to help reduce the risk in the landscape. Over the last 2 seasons we have had weather conditions that have increased the amount of growth and increased fuel load within our parcels of land with limited capacity to manage slashing, grazing and mechanical activities. As an agency we are looking at incorporating other types of hazard management such as cultural burning and hazard reduction burns into our regime though this is still some time away. LLS will keep on working with Crown Lands as the land owners on which the TSRs are mainly located to ensure that hazards are reduced.

Councilor Baker asked about the Mirrool TSR and that current activities due to the high growth would not work, and brought up the issue of noxious weeds. LLS advised that they currently do not have a budget for the spraying of weeds located within the pockets of TSR's and need to draw funding from rates. LLS are currently in the process of developing a state wide weed plan, and work closer with local councils that also inspect the TSR's, though main issue is the funding and resources.

UGL Rail – Thomas introduced himself and the role of vegetation and fencing program coordinator. His contact details are 0468 990 698 or email thomas.mcalister@uglregionallinx.com.au. The aim is to ensure that hazard reduction activities take place within the rail corridor, which include tracks, yards and sidings each side. Current works that have been undertaken include Naradhan to Ungarie line completed in March, Lake Cargelligo to Ungarie completed in March, and West Wyalong to Barmedman to Temora in March. Temora to Stockinbingal including yards, finishing this Thursday 6/04/2023, Temora to Ardlethan slashing commencing 11/4/23. Scope is to slash 1 x slasher width both sides of the line between Temora & Ardlethan for rail grinding works commencing 26/4. Aria Park will receive a yard slash as well as the rail within the village. Wet conditions have challenging and areas in depressions have been left due to tractors getting bogged. S76 and S77 non-operational lines, looking at putting a plan in place in FY24.

Essential Energy - Local Crews have been assisting Young/Harden/Boorowa/Cowra area completing defects over Feb/Mar period. There was a big hit approach for a fortnight at a time in both Months which achieved around 2000 defects in total completed. In regards to local work around Temora area, it is as BAU, crews also assisting neighboring depots of Junee & Coolamon when required. Sam also asked to share an Electrical Safety Video Find below link to video regarding electrical safety awareness <https://youtu.be/gwO8HuoyUoA> , which can be shared to all agencies and encouraged to share within their wider staff/team or crews on the ground.

NSW Fire and Rescue – Business as usual nothing new to report.

Transport for NSW - Paul was an apology for the meeting, but did say (Via Email) that Transport for NSW has ongoing hazard reduction along all state corridors in the form of slashing and spraying 3 meters from edge of road and any centre medians. If there was any queries from the BFMC please send Paul and email Paul.D.BILLINGHAM@transport.nsw.gov.au.

NSW Rural Fire Service – NSW State Mitigation crews have completed APZ works across the district across all land tenures within towns and villages within the BFMC. Majority of the communication towers APZ works have also been completed with 2 remaining. Interface Inspection Project phase 2 is well underway and almost complete as well as the village inspections. The RFS are reviewing hazard complaints tenure blind to ensure that hazards are inspected and works are carried out as required. From the interface inspections we have approx. 40 inspections that require either re-inspection or works which we are currently prioritizing. We are challenged though with the availability of crews within the Area Command, though we are planning to have all outstanding works based on risk completed by the end of FY23.

Item 8B Annual Works Plan

Based on Annual Works Plans sent to all BFMC Members via Email

Item 8C Monthly HR Reports from BRIMS

As discussed in Agency Reports by BFMC

Item 9 Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (Next Generation) Presentation

Matt Kelly NSW RFS HQ gave an overview of the next generation BFRMP portal and how agencies will be able to use the portal to upload information. The Web App is a step by step process to develop the BFRMP. Workshop process was also discussed in brief detail and Matt spoken about both the focus areas and fuel management registers and how it all ties in together to build a new BFRMP. A demo was given of the different layers and options of what can be selected, as well as asset registers which will drive both current and future risk data models.

Once closer to Workshop 1 more details will follow.

Item 10 Fire Access & Fire Trail Register

As discussed in Agency Reports by BFMC

Item 11 Grant Funding

RFFF Funding was discussed as an option for land holders to apply for funding for Hazard Reduction (HR) activities across their tenures. RFFF funding can include, Mowing, Slashing, Burning, Tree Pruning and the use of Earthmoving machinery for the purpose of reduction of bush fire fuels by burning or mechanical activities.

RFFF Funding can be used once approved to help assist land holders within their tenures to get support either quarterly, half yearly or yearly to minimize the risk. Leading up to FY24, if agencies are interested in this program, we will be happy to support as these works will need to be entered into the GUARDIAN system.

RFFF works will also need to be tied into the risk plan and with our risk plan going to be reviewed over the next few months, this will be a good opportunity to have these added for the future.

Item 12 Post Season and Seasonal Outlook

RFS staff and volunteers assisted with flooding and fires across the state, with the start of the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) being quieter in the sense. Grain Harvest safety alerts were reviewed over the BFDP on 2 occasions but no cease harvest was given. Over the summer period we did see an increase of lighting activity across the state and particularly within the BFMC. Bland Shire Council LGA (Sandy Creek Fire) x 2 lighting strikes impacted the landscape causing 2 fires to merge into 1. Second major fire within the BFMC was the Back Creek State Forest fire which was a result of an escaped permit burn from private land entering the state forest. The XO thanked Bland Shire Council for their support during the fires as both fires burnt approx. 1200 to 1500 ha each.

With the introduction of Permits, we consulted with the RFS Senior Leadership Team (SLT) during the process and aligned the permit restrictions based on risk at the time and was reviewed on several occasions. The new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) took in effect during the permit process, which also needed to be taken into account during the permit season ensuring that permits were suspended as required based on the rating. The BFDP ended for the Bland Temora LGA on the 31st March 2023, though neighboring districts have extending for up to 2 weeks, this was due to increased fuel and the lack in rain leading up to the end of the BFPD. The threat of fire decreased within the Bland Temora BFMC due to the decreased fuel levels and rain leading up to the end of April. It was noted that landholders who were planning to conduct a burn on their property it was still a requirement to notify both the RFS and adjoining landholders 24 hours in advance before commencement.

Item 13 BFMC Post Incident Exercise

Due to operational and deployment requirements the planned exercise did not go ahead before the fire season, though we are planning to complete a Pre-Season Exercise in September 2023 at the Temora Fire Control Centre TBC.

The Section 52 Plan will also need to be reviewed so looking for agency support in identifying staff within your organisation with an Incident Management Team (IMT) qualification or experience to also attend on the day.

Item 14 Interface Inspection Phase 2 / Hazard Complaints

Interface Inspections are currently been undertaken with the BFMC, inspecting all villages, APZ's and potential hazards within the BFMC tenure blind. Works have been identified and works are planned to be done.

Item 15 Fire Access Fire Trails

Agencies discussed fire trails within the agency reports. Fire Trail list was emailed to all BFMC members for review prior to the meeting. Question was raised by the chair in regards to gates at Ingalba Nature Reserve, Parks advised that this is in place to protect the trails and park during wet periods, though will find out more info and get back to the BFMC re access if required.

Item 16 General Business

Open action from last meeting – Heavy Plant Contractor listing (Arena HP). RFS are still seeking additional contractors to sign on to Arena HP. This will help assist agencies by the means of heavy plant such as Dozers, Graders and Bulk Water for example. Arena HP also streamlines the payment process and allows agencies to have a more streamline method of contractor engagement during the process. Discussions of some examples of engagement was discussed by the Chair and XO.

Documents to be tabled for the meeting included the RFFF application process.

Temora Shire council requested an update from concerns from the Aria Park Community in regards to NSP signage that was requested. Response was from the RFS that additional signage has been ordered and is currently in production with the sign company and then once ready would consult with both the Community and Temora Shire Council for a suitable location. Additional concern was structure/house fire training and if further training can be conducted with the local RFS crews within Aria Park.

No Other General Business.

Item 17 Meeting Closed 1130am

Table 4. Updated Action Items

Ref No.	Item Description	Responsible	Due Date	Status
1	Heavy Plant Contractor Engagement	RFS		Ongoing though Arena HP

Table 5. Next meeting

Date	Start time	Finish time	Location
TBC	10.00am	11.30am	Temora Fire Control Centre 108 Vesper St Temora NSW 2666



BTZ LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting:	BTZ Liaison Committee Meeting
Convened by:	Executive Officer Bland Temora Liaison Committee – Tom McDevitt
Attendees:	Tom McDevitt, Cheryl Noble, Elizabeth Smith TSC, Grant Baker & Ray Graham BSC, Trevor Penfold - RFS
Location:	Temora FCC 106 Vesper Street, Temora
Date and time:	11:30 Tuesday 4th April 2023
Apologies:	Brogan Murrie, Garry Lavelle & Jeff Gould
Minutes by:	Cheryl Noble

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Trevor welcomed everyone to today's Liaison Committee Meeting and asked if there were any apologies. These were noted and recorded above.

2. Business arising from previous minutes from 21st September 2022

Trevor asked if everyone had received copies of the agenda and previous minutes from 21st September 2022, and if anyone had any business arising from those minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the Liaison Committee Meeting on 21st September 2022 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved by Elizabeth Smith and seconded Trevor Penfold. Carried.

Tom advised that Bland Temora Zone was successful with the recruitment for a State Mitigation Crew Leader based at Temora Fire Control Centre. We ran two recruitment information nights in both Temora and West Wyalong for the State Mitigation Positions. The RFS will continue to seeking further interest in the three vacant positions for State Mitigation Officers.

3. Update and end of 2022/23 Bush Fire Danger Period

Tom informed the committee that the Bush Fire Danger Period for Bland Temora Zone ceased at end of 31st March 2022, as discussed previously in the Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting.

4. Finance report of SAP and M&R Funding

Tom gave all committee members a copy of the latest BTZ Maintenance and Repair Reports (M&R), as supplied by Temora Shire Council.

Elizabeth advised that Temora Shire Council will submit a claim at the end of the financial year for the expenses for the RFS Community Engagement Centre, to the Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA).

Tom discussed the M&R Figures and advised that he does not have a say in how much M&R allocations we receive. In the 2022-2023 financial year we received an additional amount of \$6,000, to assist with the increase in expenses. Tom believes we will also receive an increase in our allocations in 2023-2024 M&R, however has not been informed on the amount to date.

5. Outstanding Capital Expenditure update

Tom informed the committee that the previous outstanding capital expenses have now been paid in full to Temora Shire Council. The RFS was able to identify some additional funding, and now squared away the outstanding amount.

Elizabeth thanks Tom for sorting this out and reimbursing Temora Shire Council.

6. DGR Grants Program \$400K update

The RFS DGR Grant program for \$400,000 was given to each RFS District, and all items were endorsed by the BTZ Senior Management Team and both Councils.

Tom gave the committee members a copy of the BTZ DGR Grant Program spreadsheet and updated report on where these items were up to;

- All Terrain Fork Lift – Received and located at Temora FCC.
- Plant Trailer - Cancelled
- 30,000L Bulk Water Trailer – Received and located at Bland FCC
- Breakout Amenities Container – Arriving Thursday this week for Temora Airbase
- Second hand Prime Mover – Received and located at Bland FCC
- Catering Caravan – Received and located at Temora FCC
- Break out Awning – Completed for Bland FCC
- Mobile Light Tower – Received and located at Temora FCC
- Cool Room – Received and located at Bland FCC
- Salinity Pit – In place at Bland FCC and waiting on final concreting to be completed

7. Appliance and infrastructure program update

Tom gave all committee members a copy of the NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund Allocation for 2022-2023.

- Under the infrastructure projects we received \$210,000.00 for a new station at Tallimba Brigade. Tom explained that the contractor engaged to complete this work has withdrawn, and we have had to put this project back out to tender. The tenders will be reviewed with Bland Shire Council later this week. As the work will not be completed this financial year, we have received approval to carry these funds over into the 2023-2024 financial year.
- New Cat 1 tanker for Mandamah and old Cat 1 tanker BF02317 will be refurbished
- District Fire Fighting Equipment \$70,000 in funding
- District Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) \$30,000 in funding

Tom advised that BTZ has bids in for 23-24 to replace the Cat3 Quandary Pucawan tanker and the Cat3 Combaning South to a Cat 1 tanker.

8. RFS Staffing

Tom informed the committee that BTZ was successful in obtaining a new temporary position as General Hand 1-2 for approximately three month. Kelly Whitton was successful in obtaining the position and started on Monday 3rd April 2023.

9. Health Welfare and Safety

Tom advised under the RFS workers compensation, they have a Presumptive Cancer Legislation, for eligible firefighters diagnosed with specific cancers who meet the applicable minimum period.

The RFS have dedicated peer support officers throughout NSW, who can provide non-judgmental conversation and support as needed to members who may be experiencing traumatic or everyday stressful reactions or mental health challenges. Jason Bortolazzo is a Peers Support Officer, and based out of Temora Fire Control Centre.

The RFS rolled out the new Drager respirators to all firefighting appliances across the state. This has been made possible thanks to the generous funding from the RFS Brigade Donation Fund.

General Business

Trevor asked the committee if anyone had any general business they wished to discuss.

Bruce questioned the staffing at the Bland FCC, and asked why the RFS is in the far corner of the Zone. Tom informed Bruce of the staffing arrangements put in place at Bland FCC, and that we have two Fire Control Centres in the Zone.

Bruce informed the committee that BSC have \$700,000 in vested assets and now up to 1.2 million in contributions.

Tom understands Councils concerns regarding this issue.

Grant does not believe the RFS assets should be a listed under Council, when the RFS have control over these.

Elizabeth agrees that these should not be recorded as a TSC asset.

Bruce asked if BTZ are going to update any of their red fleet tankers?

Tom believes that the fleet we have at the moment is sufficient. However there is a need to have more water on tankers, for example a category six (Cat6) tanker can hold up to 9,000 litres of water. The fleet in BTZ is relative new, however if we are allocated a new replacement tanker, fleet may choose to refurbish the old tanker and place in another district where needed.

Bruce asked, if we receive bigger tankers, will we need to upgrade the Brigade Stations?

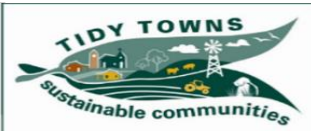
Tom advised that in BTZ the only station with this issue would be Ungarie Station. This station has issues with flooding and the roof is extremely low. In the future we will need to look at upgrading this station. Tom does not believe any new RFS tankers will be increase in height.

Meeting Closed 12:55

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th September 2023.

Barmedman Community Committee

A Section 355 Committee of Bland Shire Council, NSW



MINUTES for Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd August, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

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

- Present:** Belinda Hall, Victoria Middleton, Gary Brouwer, Christine Inman, Chris Stanmore, Pat Wells, John Lynch, Shirley Clay Grant Baker and Alison Balind (Council).
- Apologies:** Keith Edwards.
- Minutes:** July Minutes circulated by email.
Correction regarding the incorporation of committees. Alison Balind didn't attend. Alison explained that the purpose for the 355 committees is to report on maintenance. Belinda asked if it was possible for those assets to be rented for a \$1.00 if we were incorporated. Alison said it would be similar to a tenancy agreement and a council decision. Bigger issues must be notified to Council. Utilities, gas and electric should be covered by Council. Alison to confirm about the rec ground gas supply.
True and correct record of July meeting with amendment.
Moved: John Lynch. Seconded: Pat Wells. Crd.
- Business Arising:** To General Business:
- Correspondence:** Outward Minutes by email to all members.
Emails to Bland Shire Council's Grant Baker (General Manager), Leesa Bryant, (Manager Customer and Financial Services) and Alison Balind (Director Corporate and Community Services) on the delay with the new Commonwealth Bank account.
- Inward Water Bill for Courthouse. Funded by donation \$0.00
- Reports:**
1. Belinda Hall advises that the bank account is opened and the cheque book should be available from Council the week of 14/08/2023. Alison Balind reports that the bank has been notified re the cheque book delay, and internet banking is not available with our account. John Lynch mentioned the accountability process is better if Council are advised and purchases requested.
 2. Gary Brouwer reports that the wasp nests in Rec Ground toilet block have been removed. The supply & fitting of (lockable) toilet paper dispenser in all toilets is yet to be done. (Alison Balind advises that she will chase this up). The LPG gas bottle for showers has been replaced by Wells. Council has paid the invoice (\$160.00) which comes out of our funds (as reported by Victoria Middleton). The cleaning of the toilets is still an issue, and Gary will not be able to do this weekly which is needed. The cleaning of the dump spot is an issue.
 3. Victoria Middleton reports that after speaking with John Minogue of the Barmedman Hall Committee, the Hall committee can't confirm they will be holding a Christmas event this year, due to the delays of the renovation.

4. Belinda Hall reports that the pot holes in the Queen Street dirt laneway have not been repaired, as requested via email with photos (13/07/23) and are becoming dangerous to drive through.
5. Our committee members were invited to a Council Session for Section 355 committees with 4 members attending (02/08/23). How 355 Committees mitigate risk was covered. The Memorandum of Understanding and the Terms of Reference were brought up and the importance of committee members understanding them.
6. Belinda Hall reported that she contacted Access Recycling regarding the removal of old cars in town. They indicated that they may be able to assist.
7. Victoria Middleton reported on the details of Council's Barmedman Community Forum which was to be held at the Barmedman Bowling Club on 24/08/23. She advised that the West Wyalong Police Sergeant was given Leanne Lewis' details (Council's coordinator of the event) to support discussion about the crime wave in Barmedman.
8. Belinda Hall advises that our monthly meetings will be held in the bowling club until further notice due to the state of the Courthouse.

- General Business:**
1. Grant Baker and Alison Balind from Council attended our meeting and addressed many questions and issues raised by the committee:
 - a) Grant Baker suggested the committee not worry about cleaning the Barmedman Courthouse and organise a roofer and engineers to quote for the repairs and submit it to council for funding that Council could contract out as a project. From a timing perspective LRCI4 – the report with photos is to be submitted by 5th September.
Pat Wells asked about a grant for the Courthouse and storage for our valuable Heritage documents. Alison Balind will try to source a storage cabinet and Victoria Middleton will contact Temora Museum about some document files.
Motion to proceed with the report:
Moved: Shirley Clay. Seconded: Gary Brouwer Crd.
 - b) Gary Brouwer requested for Council to take over the cleaning of the dump at the Rec ground. Alison Balind suggested that the committee make a request in the provisions of the ToR and MoU, which is documented and considered by Council.
Motion to make the request for the dump:
Moved: Gary Brouwer. Seconded: Victoria Middleton. Crd.
 - c) Belinda Hall suggested we apply for a grant to upgrade the rec ground changerooms: vanity, shower doors, mirror, tiles, fixtures, curtains, painting. Grant Baker advised that in the next 12 to 18 months, Council is developing a sports and recreation ground renovation project and will be trying to capture facilities like these.
Motion to provide a report with photos to Council for the project.
Moved: Shirley Clay. Seconded Gary Brouwer. Crd
 - d) Gary asked if he can invoice Council for the purchase of the small items for the rec ground. Grant Baker mentioned that if the committee approves it the transparency is there and Gary can claim the amount from the Council. Grant Baker mentioned that the signage can be facilitated and requested by Council.
Motion to invoice Council for the small Rec ground items purchased by Gary Brouwer.
Moved: John Lynch. Seconded: Pat Wells. Crd.
 - e) Shirley Clay advises that 9th December, 2023 was announced at the Barmedman Hall Committee's meeting as the date for their Christmas Event.

Grant Baker advised that we can't be involved as a 355 committee in the Hall event as the public liability doesn't cover 355 committees.

- f) In regard to the Barmedman Clean-up Campaign, Grant Baker said that if the old cars are on private property, there are statutory issues to contend with. He advised that Council can remove vehicles from Council land/roads/footpaths.
 - g) Grant Baker mentioned that in the last 2 weeks Council has been told they can have access to a Crown land Map. He said that a tender has been approved for a solar lit information board signage which will be interchangeable. Belinda
 - h) Alison Balind advised that if Belinda Hall wanted to step down as Safety Officer for someone else to take the position, the committee could do that at the meeting.
John Lynch moved to elect Christine Inman as Safety Officer.
Seconded: Pat Wells. Crd.
2. Christine recommended a special meeting regarding the Terms of reference. The Committee agreed on the date as Wednesday 30/08/23 at 4:00pm, to be held at Barmedman Bowling Club.
Moved: Christine Inman. Seconded: Chris Stanmore. Crd.
3. Shirley Clay mentioned the time capsule is due to be opened in October, 2024 and perhaps we could combine a 355 Committee event at the same time, and possibly Barmedman School's 140-year celebration. Belinda Hall recommended we look at restoration and maintenance of the Memorial Gardens before the celebrations and possibly including it in our sphere of ToR.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Location: Barmedman Bowling Club, Queen St, Barmedman

Meeting Closed: 5:45 p.m.

Meeting Minutes
Mirrool Silo Kick Committee
Sunday 30/07/2023

Meeting commenced: 3.45pm

Present: as per attached attendance sheet.

Apologies: Brett O'Hare, Bonnie Pout, Tania Bryce, Liz Walsh, Marie Beams, Mark Maguire, Steve Maguire, Hannah Maguire and Jack Fisher

President: Jason Bryce opened meeting

Treasures Report: No report was delivered as books are still at accounts.

Following on from last meeting, no money has been transferred as books are still at accountant.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Read By Leah Maxwell – No official secretary appointed yet. Passed by Bruce Baker and Liz McGlynn
- New letters to sponsors have been sent out
- Chris Wolski to ask StockPro to do a display and ask for donation/sponsorship
- Graeme Maxwell to talk to Liam Martin for auction item.
- Jason Bryce noted Kotzer to give bin again – end of September.

Other sponsors and business to donate

- AGM Date set for 16th August, Bruce Baker to notify newspaper. Erin Wolski to post on community Facebook page.

- Liz McGlynn still working on lights in the street. She will write a letter and Bruce to sign off.
- Bruce Still waiting on quote for plaques before deciding how many we will get.
- Johan and Jason will look at what work needs to be done to memorabilia shed

New Business:

- Bruce Baker moves we get an independent plumber to look at toilets and give quote to fix it. Graeme to ask Mark Stimson to take a look. Seconded by Erin Wolski.
- Bev Baker suggested we have a working bee for gardens towards end of August, early September once Val and Robbo return.
- Bruce Baker will attend the 355 meeting on Wednesday on behalf of the committee.
- Jason Bryce mention to Tracey and Johan sponsoring the event. A discussion was had on what normally happens with the pub on the day.
- A discussion was had on where to get the meat for the BBQ. Bev will talk to Andrew first.
- Jason Suggested we look at getting a shipping container to store everything. He put forward that the tennis club is not sufficient enough. Bev to get a price from Ray Conlan.
- Erin Wolski to check with Royal Hotel West Wyalong regarding their coffee van being available for the morning and Can assist doing the afternoon as usual.
- Bev to check with Anne Henry about doing the roast gravy rolls again.

Meeting Closed: 4.45pm

COMMUNITY MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE UNGARIE POST OFFICE
Memorial Hall, Monday 29th May 2023

PRESENT:

Carol Barrett (Ungarie CPA)	Jo Brew
Stretch Taylor (Ungarie CPA)	Pam Brewer
Jett Brew (Ungarie CPA)	Frank Brewer
Robyn Sherd-McVey (Adv. Committee)	Neville Lane
Brony Mason (Adv. Cttee)	Fiona Bryant
Vanessa Williams (Adv. Cttee)	Mark Bryant
Greg De Kort (Australia Post rep)	Harry Rowling
Grant Baker (Bland Shire Council)	Doreen Crofts
Liz McGlynn (Bland Shire Council)	Julie Neyland
Jill Funnell (Bland Shire Council)	Adam Foster
Kerry Keatley (Adv.Cttee/BSC)	Martin Cattle
Faye Navin	Michael Koke
Bronte Hewes	Alison Wason
Arthur Jolly	Mick Thomas
Mavis Pearson	Jenny Thomas
Lloyd Pearson	Michelle Irvine
Buster Clarke	Malcolm Craig Forrest
Marion Clarke	Lindsay Henley
Pat Daly	Reece Archibald
Sharon Stanton	Tom Mac
Rob Rattey	Andrew Scott
Alvian Tam	Mark Nugent
Glenn Neyland	Jo-Ann Ward
Pam Archibald	Kathleen Morgan
Mary Gregg	Rob Anderson
James Rossiter	John Wason
Colin McKay	Kathryn McConnell
Kathy McKay	Kristy McClintock
Roslyn Bennett	Wally Wales

APOLOGIES:

Pat O’Kane, Steve Graham (Australia Post Deliveries Manager), Maree Colman, Linda Thomas, Dawn Robb, Malcolm Williams, Carol Rattey, Beth Lemon

Meeting Chaired by Carol Barrett

Meeting commenced 7.12pm

CAROL: Welcomed everyone and gave an outline of the Ungarie Post Office situation:

- Jeff DeRosario died suddenly in August 2021 without leaving a will
- If we don't continue to keep the Post Office running, we will lose it
- Les Williams, Buster Clarke, Carol kept the PO running after Jeff's death
- The mail was sorted at Tullibigeal for a month, and then the Ungarie Hall were able to provide premises
- For a Community Postal Agency to go ahead, they needed a bank account
 - the Advancement Committee came on board and provided, and
 - an ABN: Council came on board and provided this
 - CPA was formed in October 2021
- They continued with sorting and mail runs, but being a CPA there are restrictions
- Carol then called for a Public Meeting as her house has been sold and she will be leaving Ungarie to be closer to her sisters.
 - Looking for someone to fill the void
 - All the current team will also be leaving (Stretch and Jett)

GREG DE KORT (Aust Post Network Manager in charge of CPAs)

- Thanks to Carol for helping out, and it had been a traumatic time for everyone, but Carol, Les and Buster stepped up.
- The Licence for the Post Office is still under Probate, and Probate needs to be done to allow things to move on
- The CPA is a limited service, with 2 hours/day allocated for sorting for contractors to then deliver
 - Deliveries is a separate section to what I do (Steve Graham in charge of that section, was unable to attend tonight)
- Thank you again to Carol
- The Shire Council is the Agent, and Carol is the signatory, and need someone to take over as signatory
- Once Probate is settled we can look at what we can do further

CAROL then outlined the basics of the running of the Post Office

- Delivery payments go into the Estate, which runs the PO (power, fuel, vehicle maintenance etc)
- The PO has a small 4WD for the Kiki and Gubbata run, which was organised by a local landholder
- The mail runs will be continuing, but we need people to do them
 - Those applying will need a can-do attitude to cope with rough roads, detours, etc
 - Applicants will need organisational ability, as it is easy to mix up parcels and names
 - There are currently 3 runs
 1. Town with approximately 157 mailboxes
 2. The 330km (5+1/2 hrs) , 3times a week run has been split into two runs of approximately 165km and 40-45 drops each
- Australia Post has a policy that parcels are NOT delivered if they don't fit in the mail box (will be returned to the CPA and a note left in mailbox), but Carol has been ringing individuals to collect extra large parcels.

PAT O'KANE LETTER READ BY CAROL BARRETT

- Probate issues
- Public Trustee and Guardian has been written to four times but hasn't responded: is dragging the chain and needs to step up and get things sorted so PO can move on
- His advice is to hold on a little longer

CAROL:

- We do have people who are keen to take over the PO : Kate and Andrew are a new couple in town who are keen to run the Post Office as a Registered Post Office, which would once again provide
 - Banking (better than currently available in West Wyalong where it is only available in the morning)
 - Pay bills
 - Advancement Cttee, Hall, School etc all used to do their banking through the PO
 - Remote customers would have a 170km round trip if they had to bank in WWyalong
 - Jeff and Carol often collected banking on the runs and did it for customers – very useful for older customers

- Payment: the CPA payment from Australia post (managed by Council and going through the Advancement Cttee account) is supposed to be \$780/month but fell to \$395/month over the last few periods
 - At \$25/wk it hardly pays to go to work...

GREG DK questioned on why the payment went down

- The payment is a minimum of \$8000/yr plus scannable items (boosts payment)
- The payment probably went down as it is worked out on an annual basis, and presumably the reduction was a mistake, which is why it has gone back up again

CAROL spoke about the volume of traffic through the PO

- In the 2-week period starting on 31 Nov last year the CPA took
 - 1097 small letters
 - 292 large letters
 - 614 parcels
 - Note: this was an average week
- On Thursday there were 46 parcels, today 57.
- We get very large items in the post (eg mattresses, chairs, etc)

CAROL spoke about payment for the mail runs

- Had to work out what they were paid as there were no records
- Carol herself gets \$120/week for her 3/wk run
- Fuel is paid for by the estate
- Saige uses her own vehicle
- Mail runs are 2 ½ hours each

ALVIN TAN: with the probate a mess – when will Australia Post give up the License and reassign it?

GREG: It is not simple: can't take over the licence until Probate is sorted.

- The CPA can be sorted, but no guarantee a Registered PO will be restored at the end.

ALVIN: Why can't License be taken back as Jeff is gone?'

GREG: The licence is held of the Estate, and can't be renewed.

- CPAs are usually renewed every 3 years

(MARK: They can be revoked ? Hard to hear)

BRONY Could a new manager LEASE the premises from the Estate?

GREG: Possibly. Not sure.

NICKI LEWIS: What training is needed to run the CPA?

CAROL: I did it online

BRONTE HEWES: The four week training takes place where?

GREG: Temora

LIZ McGLYNN : Can you find out if the interested person can lease the business?

GREG: No. But a manager COULD

ALISON WASON: should we send a letter to Steph Cooke as part of the Meeting?

CAROL: Pat O'Kane said he would send a letter to Steph

CAROL:

- Ivan (Jeff's brother) would like to see the PO sold and become a Registered Post Office again, to continue Jeff's work. Jeff had it for sale at \$260K, but Ivan would be prepared to reduce the price.
- Two nieces/nephews now involved in the Probate. The nephew is going to collect Jeff's car

PAT DALY: would a petition to the Public Trustee do any good?

CAROL moved: maybe if we send a letter from the Advancement Committee to Steph Cook to investigate to see how to put pressure on the Public Trustee

ROBYN SHERD-MCVEY: The Public Trustee has itself been investigated.

LIZ McGLYNN: the immediate problem finding anyone willing to take over Carol's job.

CAROL

- On a quiet day two people can handle the sorting, but need 3-4 on busy days
- When Carol went on her much-delayed cruising holiday, Vanessa Williams took over and the boys did the runs slightly differently
- It will be hard to find someone responsible and a good driver
- Have tried to find new volunteers, and it's not so easy – can't rely on the internet if they get in trouble (cited story of the overconfident city volunteer who went on the runs to familiarise himself but got very badly lost when he went out on his first solo run...)
- Jett has a brilliant memory for places and people, and has been a great asset in deliveries
- We need a figurehead and others to help on a roster system to sort the mail

MICHELLE IRVINE: I'll do 2 hours each morning

CAROL:

- Thank you: just remember the mail can be a bit unpredictable as to when it arrives for sorting.
- Rob Anderson (who has bought the Bank building) has had 12 months "relaxing" and might be happy to take it on?

ROB ANDERSON: Yeah, have surgery coming up, but keen to help

CAROL: Anyone else available?

NORM WRIGHT: I can do the office, but can't drive

CAROL: Need more drivers

TOM ? : Happy to do some delivering

Kathy McCONNELL: do the deliveries have to be specific days?

CAROL: The contracts say 3 days/week – the actual days could be flexible

MARTIN CATTLE: Happy to do the...town run? (couldn't hear this one)

CAROL

- Contracts for deliveries can't be changed and can't be released as they were tied to the Estate (and have already rolled over recently)

GREG: The mail run contracts expire in June 2024, and will be looking for new applicants

MICK THOMAS, NICKI, KATHY: We don't want to split the runs from the Post Office

GREG: It is \$45K minimum payment per year for a Licensed PO, plus additional

CAROL: CPA with contracts?

GREG:

- \$8K/year just to run the CPA (sort and hand over for delivery)
- Delivery contracts are on a tender basis

MICHELLE IRVINE: Could we go back to not delivering parcels?

CAROL

- The problem would be that the CPA is not open all day, so people coming to pick up parcels will turn up just when everyone is busy sorting (in the 2 hours before delivery starts)
- Carol also described the unrealistic expectations of some people, which had become very onerous and sometimes abusive

LINDSAY HENLEY: Sally Bryant will be ringing tomorrow, so could I have some of those details please?

CAROL: I spoke to the ABC last week

LINDSAY: She wants to know how the meeting went

CAROL: We have someone to run the PO and there is some financial reimbursement involved

MARY GREGG: \$120/week is not enough for you

FRANK BREWER: not even one tyre

GREG: all expenses and maintenance goes back to the estate

CAROL: If you use your own vehicle there is an allowance, but it's not big

LINDSAY: So you're trying to keep it going as is, with volunteer staff who'll be compensated) who need to step up...

ROB A:

- The Public Trustee needs to step up.
- PO is not going to close, and we need to solve the probate issues
- There are 2 separate businesses: the Post Office and the Mail Runs
- Maybe Steph Cooke can do something

MICK THOMAS: there was nothing mentioned about income streams on the ABC interview this week with Kerry Keatley? (hard to hear)

JIL FUNNELL: who will be coordinating when get organised leave? And when is the cut-off point?

CAROL: I need to be out in 3 months. And there have been some VERY odd applicants (describes a couple)

ROB A: Happy to help with coordinating if I'm taking over the CPA

CAROL:

- Sorting stuff is quite difficult: have numerous people who move and don't change their address, others with same names etc

KATHY McCONNELL: are the details of the mail runs written down?

CAROL: Yes, I have written down details of the runs, drops, phone numbers etc

MICHELLE IRVINE: I will start next week

GREG: We'll send someone out in 2 weeks to do training for the runs.

NICKI: Can council do something to hurry things along?

GRANT BAKER: I will ring Steph Cooke tomorrow

CAROL: (the Public trustee) not replying to our solicitor is ridiculous. That would be a good start

??? discussion???

TOM: If someone buys the business and appoints a manager, what is the training?

GREG: described the training for new manager + fee of \$2700 for APA training

CAROL: If you know anyone willing to take on the Town Run or the Kiki/Gubbata run, that would be good

MARY: Many thanks to Carol and her team (Les Williams, Wal Wales, Buster Clarke, Stretch and Jett Brew)

CAROL: The more people we have helping the better chance we have

JETT BREW: What about tomorrow?

CAROL: The PO won't be open tomorrow (I have an appointment) but Jett will receive the mail.

MEETING CLOSED 8.28pm

UNGARIE ADVANCEMENT GROUP GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 17th August 2023

(to allow people to watch the Matildas v England game on Wednesday night)

held in the Ungarie C.W.A. Rooms

Meeting Opened: 7pm

Present: Robyn Sherd-McVey, Brony Mason, Pam Brewer, Vanessa Williams, Alvian Tan and Rob Anderson

Apologies: Kerry Keatley, Carol Barrett

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were read. A couple of omissions/errors noted and corrected.

Moved that minutes be accepted as read: Vanessa Williams, 2nd Rob Anderson

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Discussion:

- Council's 355 Committee Forum held on Wednesday 2/8/23:
 - Vanessa went to the afternoon session, OH&S requirements quite strict. **Vanessa to get copies.**
 - Rob went to the evening one (Harry Rowling and Kerry Keatley went on behalf of the Retirement Village)
 - For repairs etc we need to go through the committees to Council (Advancement Committee, Retirement Village, Grounds Committee as appropriate)
 - **The Committee Executives are supposed to be inducted. Robyn to follow up.**
- Post Office Town meeting was successful, with a very good roll-up (58 names listed on attendance record)
 - Rob: need more volunteers, particularly with the mail runs
 - Vanessa and Robyn volunteered to cover for Rod on the 28th August
- OPTUS: nothing as yet
- The donated TV still doesn't work: Robyn to drop round to Alvian to see if he can get it working
- Proper pigeon spikes were being installed in the Bing Wallder Park yesterday
- Robyn contacted Lindsay re the oil for the sculpture and return of extra books to the Museum. Nothing has happened.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As at the end of July:

- Advancement Committee balance of \$6210.19
- Historical Society \$6519.00
- Garden Club \$1044.75
- CPA: Vanessa has set up CPA account on Phoenix, and payments have been finalised to the end of June, with a balance of \$1074.71

Moved that the Reports be accepted and accounts passed for payment. Remove Carol Barrett and replace with Rob Anderson as signatory for the CPA account at the Credit Union.

Moved Vanessa Williams, 2nd Rob Anderson, carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Emails re pigeon wire to and from Bland Shire (Brad Frost)
- Margot Jolly's Museum Advisor Reports for July (Vanessa has August report in emails)

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Museum:
 - Margot Jolly was here on the 8/8/23. A bird had been in and defecated everywhere, so was some cleaning to do.
 - Margot's next visit scheduled for 5/9/23
 - Community Library pushed out of position, tampered with.
- Council Town Forum to be held at the CWA rooms on Tuesday 29/8/23 at 5pm
 - Need to have a list of items for discussion on a written letter/email to the GM before the meeting
 - List of suggestions:
 - Robyn: possibility of having some exercise/gym equipment installed in the parks?
 - Pam: need regular street sweeping
 - Brony: maintenance of gravel/dirt roads needs to be better, especially School Bus Routes (ie Wilga Plains Road)
 - Vanessa: thank you for the pigeon wire at the park
 - Rob: possibility of something being done to prevent vehicles speeding through between Muriel and Ethel streets near the church/retirement village/pool, as children regularly play there.
 - Vanessa: the randomly placed tap (between the Big Football and the seats) needs to be relocated back to the fence to avoid children/others hurting themselves on it.
- Defibrillator discussion
 - **Vanessa to get an information poster on their locations onto social media**
 - Pool, Fire Truck, Showground and Bowling Club
- Mornings Memories and Melodies discussion
 - 5 people attended the recent one on 14/8/23, the Shire organisers brought food with them
 - No music this time (Robyn has a list of the music for coming events)
 - Talked of old days, how vibrant the town was, Robyn from Canberra and her memories of it as a country town
- Street garden beds discussion: Council parks and gardens staff come out, but don't do them: it is up to the Garden/Advancement Committee to maintain. OH&S requirements for volunteers...
- **FAREWELL FOR CAROL BARRETT**
 - Scheduled for Saturday 26/8/23 at 3pm in the CWA rooms. Everyone to bring a plate.
 - Vanessa will put information on facebook.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 15/11/23

MEETING CLOSED at 8.20pm

WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS & HALL COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 21 AUGUST 2023

VENUE: WYALONG HALL

Meeting opened at: 6.40 PM

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

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Read by Des Lamb

Moved: Des Lamb

Seconded: Gerard Payne

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Read by Bev Fury

Moved: Bev Fury

Seconded: Ron Good

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

1. Have received nothing from Council in relation to cleaning products or quote for sealing of car park. Bev to chase them up in relation to this.
2. Gerard has sourced the lock box and is waiting to hear from supplier in relation to how payment is to be made. Gerard will follow this up.
3. Memorandum of Understanding – Des and Gerard attended a meeting at Council. We have a document entitled Terms of Reference. Bev took a photo of the document and forwarded via text to all at meeting. Contents to be looked at and if necessary, discussed at next meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Fire Hydrant – need to ascertain from Council if the fire hydrant has been cut in for new water supply
2. Toilet signs – there are no signs above door leading to toilets indicating that is where toilets are located. Bev to enquire from Council if they will provide and install a sign.
3. Sanding and re-sealing of floor is now set to take place the week of the West Wyalong Show. It is a 3 week process. Working bee to remove all furniture etc from Hall to be held Tuesday 29 August at 5.00 pm.
4. Des to make enquiries with Chris Butcher in relation to projector and screen for hall.

Meeting closed: 7.02 pm

1/08/2023	\$60.00	Direct Credit 049045 SWSCU COMMUNITY RADIO	\$8,235.26
24/07/2023	\$420.00	Fast Transfer From BETH BOYD Hall hire	\$8,175.26
3/07/2023	\$60.00	Direct Credit 049045 SWSCU COMMUNITY RADIO	\$7,755.26

WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS & HALL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: 21 AUGUST 2023

VENUE: WYALONG HALL

Meeting opened 7.01 pm

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

APOLOGIES: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of previous meeting read by Des Lamb

Moved: Des Lamb

Seconded: Michelle Lamb

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President's report was presented by Richard Tait

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's report was presented by Bev Fury

Moved: Bev Fury

Seconded: Amanda Stitt

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

There was no business arising from previous Minutes.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

No General Business

All positions were declared vacant and Amanda Stitt acted as interim Chair for remainder of AGM and election of Executive Committee.

President: Heather Good nominated Jarrod Payne

Seconded: Amanda Stitt

Jarrod accepted the nomination and was elected

1st Vice President: Bev Fury nominated Ron Good

Seconded: Gerard Payne

Ron accepted the nomination and was elected

2nd Vice President: Ron Good nominated Amanda Stitt
Seconded: Heather Good
Amanda accepted the nomination and was elected

Secretary: Bev Fury nominated Des Lamb
Seconded: Gerard Payne
Des was accepted the nomination and he was elected

Treasurer: Gerard Payne nominated Bev Fury
Seconded: Des Lamb
Bev accepted the nomination and was elected

Booking Officer: Gerard advised that he and Shanay would be happy to continue acting as the booking officers for the Hall

Hall Inspectors: Hall inspectors would remain as current committee members

Amanda congratulated the new committee

AGM closed at 6.40 pm

President's Report

First of all, I'd like to thank Bev Fury, Amanda Stitt, Ron Good Michelle and Des Lamb for the support they have given me to fulfil my role as this committee's president! I didn't know what I was getting myself into when I put my hand up to help out, but I have quite enjoyed my time. During this time, we have had a number of bookings which is always good. From a wedding to multiple birthday parties and the numerous amount of bookings by Beth Boyd and her church group.

Earlier this year, we have implemented a new booking fee schedule that will now take into consideration of both half day and full bookings. Given these changes, we aimed to make the bond more appealing for those who wish to make a half day booking.

Also, earlier this year, I made a pitch to the committee to purchase a new lock box. This lock box will enable the booking officer to grant access to individuals or multiple users by a one off code to use or a code to use on an ongoing basis by the touch of a button remotely. This lock box will also let the BO know when a user has attended the hall and when they leave (providing they lock the key away after use). I'm just waiting on a few questions from the supplier in terms of if they accept checks or bank transfers and if it comes with warranty. Once I have those questions answered, I will make the purchase.

On the 2nd of August 2023, Des and I attended the section 355 session hosted by Bland Shire Council at the Council Chambers. This session was to provide an overview of the roles and responsibilities that both Council and our Committee have.

Late last year, Council was successful in obtaining a grant that will be spent on upgrading the flooring as well as the roofing. Brad from council has been in touch with me and has advised that the works will start the week of the 5 of September and will take up to 3 weeks which may impact bookings that we have in place.

As I have mentioned earlier I'd like to thank everyone for their support and hope that the next year is as successful as the last!

Regards,
Gerard Payne

CBA # 2137									
OPENING BANK BALANCE AS AT 21/05/2023									\$7,635.26
INCOME									
Date	Received From	Description	Amount of Invoice	GST	Amount received/paid				
1/06/2023	Community Radio	Rent	\$60.00	\$5.45	\$60.00				\$7,695.26
	Total GST received			\$5.45					
EXPENDITURE									
Date	Paid To								
									\$7,695.26
BALANCE AS AT 30/06/2023									
TERM DEPOSIT #6054									
OPENING BANK BALANCE AS AT 21/05/2023									\$5,359.08
	Interest								\$0.10
BALANCE AS AT 30/06/2023									\$5,359.18



Statement 296 (Page 1 of 2)

Account Number 06 2621 00902137

Statement Period 1 Apr 2023 - 30 Jun 2023

Closing Balance \$7,695.26 CR

Enquiries 13 1998
 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)



016
 THE TREASURER
 SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL COMMITTEE
 8 CONWAY ST
 WEST WYALONG NSW 2671



Society Cheque Account

If this account has an attached overdraft limit or facility which is secured over your primary place of residence or over a residential investment property you should ensure that the property is insured in accordance with the terms and conditions of the mortgage. If you have any queries about your insurance cover you should contact your insurer. Information on property insurance can also be found on www.moneysmart.gov.au. Note, if this account has an attached overdraft limit or facility and we send you a statement every 4 or 6 months, we will update your statement preference to every 3 months as part of changes made to the new Banking Code of Practice from 1 July 2019.

Name: WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL COMMITTEE

Note: Have you checked your statement today? It's easy to find out more information about each of your transactions by logging on to the CommBank App or NetBank. Should you have any questions on fees or see an error please contact us on the details above. Cheque proceeds are available when cleared.

The date of transactions shown here may be different on your other transaction lists (for example, the transaction list that appears on the CommBank app).

Date	Transaction	Debit	Credit	Balance
01 Apr 2023	OPENING BALANCE			\$7,515.26 CR
03 Apr	Direct Credit 049045 SWSCU COMMUNITY RADIO		60.00	\$7,575.26 CR
01 May	Direct Credit 049045 SWSCU COMMUNITY RADIO		60.00	\$7,635.26 CR
01 Jun	Direct Credit 049045 SWSCU COMMUNITY RADIO		60.00	\$7,695.26 CR
30 Jun 2023	CLOSING BALANCE			\$7,695.26 CR

Opening balance	-	Total debits	+	Total credits	=	Closing balance
\$7,515.26 CR		Nil		\$180.00		\$7,695.26 CR

*# 10489.24905.1.1 ZZ258R3 0303CH.P3.S142.D161.L.V06.00.36



016

Date printed	30 June 2023
Term Deposit number	06 2621 50026054
Investment balance	\$5,359.18
Investment term	12 months
At an interest rate of	3.95% p.a.
Invested on	28 March 2023
To mature on	28 March 2024
Interest option	Compound Annually

THE TREASURER
WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL COMMITTEE
8 CONWAY ST
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

Interest earned on your Term Deposit

Your Term Deposit has earned interest for the financial year ending 30 June 2023. Please keep a record of this information for taxation purposes.

Account name	WYALONG SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL COMMITTEE
Investment balance at start of the reporting period 1 July 2022	\$2,355.97
Total interest paid for the financial year ending 30 June 2023	\$3.21

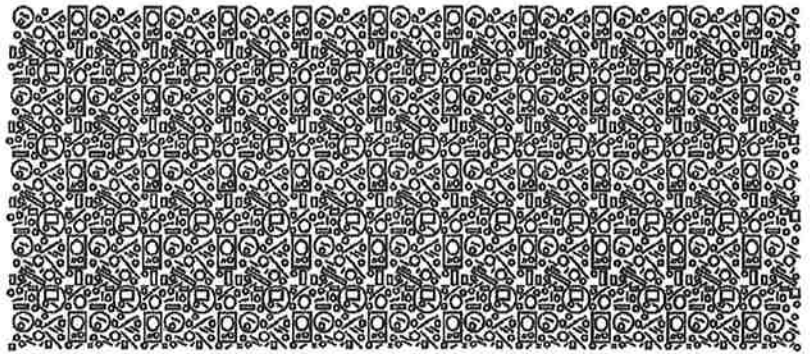
Things you should know

If you had a Term Deposit that was closed during the last financial year, please refer to the information provided in your Closed Account Notice for completing your tax return.

We're here to help

If you want to view our latest Terms and Conditions or have any questions, you can visit commbank.com.au, drop into your nearest branch, contact your Relationship Manager or Adviser, or call 13 2221.

We are required to provide an account statement for this Term Deposit. The account statement covering the previous financial year is on the following page.



Account statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2023

Important information for Term Deposits opened after 1 July in the last financial year
 The opening balance of this Term Deposit will display as 'NIL' on this account statement.
 The opening deposit will be listed as a separate transaction on the date that the Term Deposit was opened or the value date specified for the Term Deposit.

Date	Transaction	Debit	Credit	Balance
01 Jul	OPENING BALANCE			\$2,355.97
01 Jul	CREDIT INTEREST EARNED on this account to June 30, 2022 is \$1.19			
28 Jul	Credit Interest		\$0.10	\$2,356.07 CR
28 Aug	Credit Interest		\$0.10	\$2,356.17 CR
28 Sep	Credit Interest		\$0.10	\$2,356.27 CR
28 Oct	Credit Interest		\$0.48	\$2,356.75 CR
28 Nov	Credit Interest		\$0.50	\$2,357.25 CR
28 Dec	Credit Interest		\$0.48	\$2,357.73 CR
28 Jan	Credit Interest		\$0.50	\$2,358.23 CR
28 Feb	Credit Interest		\$0.50	\$2,358.73 CR
28 Mar	Credit Interest		\$0.45	\$2,359.18 CR
29 Mar	DEPOSIT CASH \$3000.00 CHEQUE \$0.00 Branch WEST WYALONG Value Date: 28/03/2023		\$3,000.00	\$5,359.18 CR
30 Jun	CLOSING BALANCE			\$5,359.18

Important Information:

We try to get things right the first time – but if we don't, we'll do what we can to fix it.
 You can fix most problems simply by contacting us.
 Write to: CBA Group Customer Relations, Reply Paid 41, Sydney NSW 2001
 Tell us online: commbank.com.au/support/compliments-and-complaints.html
 Call: 1800 805 605 (free call)

You can also contact the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, AFCA, an independent external dispute resolution body approved by ASIC - time limits may apply, visit AFCA, afca.org.au, website for more information.
 Write to: Australian Financial Complaints Authority, GPO Box 3, Melbourne VIC 3001
 Email: info@afca.org.au
 Call: 1800 931 678, free call Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm, AEST

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INVENTORY FOR WYALONG HALL

21.08.2023

Chairs	79
Tables	113
Fire Extinguishers	2 x 9 litre
	1 x 3.5 kg
	1 x 2.5 kg
Bread & Butter Plates	108
Bowls	80
Dinner Plates	111
Cups and Saucers	50
Knives, forks and teaspoons	110
Microwaves	2
Refrigerators	2
Bain Marie	1
Plastic containers	12
Stoves	2
Emergency First Aid Kit	1
Fire Blanket Fire Extinguisher	1
Urn	1

GST FOR 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

MONTH

GST PAID

GST RECEIVED

July/October	\$76.82	\$78.64
November/December	\$8.73	\$40.91
January/March	\$0.00	\$73.55
April/June	\$0.00	\$5.45

\$85.55 \$119.55

Cheque to BSC for outstanding GST

\$34.00