

Business Paper
Council Meeting
16 April 2024



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
April 2024			
11 April	10.00am	Goldenfields Water County Council	Temora
11 April	5.00pm	Youth Centre Opening	Youth Centre
16 April	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers
18 April	6.00pm	New Residents Welcome	Bland Shire Library
23 April	6.00pm	Australia Day Awards Committee	Committee Room
30 April	4.00pm	Councillor Planning Workshop	Council Chambers

May 2024			
7 May	4.00pm	Council Workshop	Council Chambers
7 May	7.00pm	Local Government Election Potential Candidate Information Session	Council Chambers
21 May	6.30pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024

5.2 Matters arising from Minutes

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7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Section 1 – Executive Services

6.1 Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions: April 2024



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: April 2024.

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
AUGUST 2023		
<p>General Manager Annual Performance Review for period ending 30 June 2023 20082023 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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>General Manager</p>	<p>5/10: Awaiting further report</p>
OCTOBER 2023		
<p>Renovation Costs - Community Care Building 09102023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Notes the information contained within the report on Renovation Costs for the Community Care Building. b) Approve those unexpended funds for completion of landscaping works identified as part of the initial project remain until such time as the work is undertaken. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>15/11: Landscaping work will commence in the New Year following the return of Council's Building Maintenance Officer who has carriage of site works. 28/3/24 - Discussions held with new contractor to undertake the works. Date for completing yet to be finalised.</p>
<p>Strengthening Communities Application – Skin Check Truck 12102023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) refuse the application for funding of the Skin Check Truck visit under the Strengthening Communities Fund. b) acknowledge the significant positive outcomes, access to this service would provide, and further explore opportunities for implementing a five-year program of visits by the Skin Check Truck in partnership with Evolution Mining. c) make provisions for funding the project for a five-year period as part of its annual budget processes. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>15/11: Applicant advised of Council decision and plan to implement more frequent/longer visits to Bland Shire. 13/12 Contact to be made directly with Skin Check early in 2024 to identify future visit dates and locations. 14/2: initial visit of skin check truck will be 19 and 20 April, further dates to be confirmed</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Additional Permitted Use, West Wyalong Airport Planning Proposal - Drag Strip Project 15102023 RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) endorse the Additional Permitted Use, West Wyalong Airport Planning Proposal for referral to the Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination; 2) delegate the General Manager to make changes to the Planning Proposal if required by the Department of Planning and Environment so long as the objectives of the proposal are achieved; and 3) delegate the General Manager to commence public exhibition of the Planning Proposal if required by the Department of Planning and Environment. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>7/11: Planning Proposal has received a gateway determination from Dept of Planning. Council is working through the next steps</p>
DECEMBER 2023		
<p>Barmedman Community Committee 20122023 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council receive the report for information and notes the minutes of the Barmedman Community Committee held on Tuesday 28 November 2023. 2. That the Barmedman Community Committee members be advised that an election to fill the vacant executive positions be held at the next general meeting to be held on 27 February 2024. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>14/2: AGM to be held 27 February 2024 28/3/24: AGM on 27/2/24 failed to see vacant positions filled. Further meeting on 26/3/24 also failed to secure a chair. Committee resolved to request Bland Shire Council place it on hiatus for further discussions within the Community about the Section 355 Committee.</p>
<p>Active Transport Plan - Public Exhibition 25122023 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council endorse the draft Bland Shire Active Movement Strategy and place on public exhibition until 26 February 2024 seeking feedback. 2. At the finalisation of the public consultation phase a further report will be prepared and presented to Council. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>31/1: On display at Council Administration Centre, Shire Street. Roadshow for Barmedman and Ungarie Public consultation phase completed. Final report to be present to March Council meeting COMPLETE.</p>
<p>Goldenfields Water County Council MOU 26122023 RESOLVED that Council authorise the Mayor and the General Manager to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Goldenfields Water County Council.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>24/1: Goldenfields advised, waiting on formal document to execute 19/3: MOU signed and returned to Goldenfields Water COMPLETE</p>
<p>Property Purchase – 20 Calleen Street West Wyalong 31122023 RESOLVED that Council reject the offer received and authorise the General Manager to continue negotiations for the sale of 20 Calleen St (Lot 3 DP 1101248) West Wyalong.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>31/1: Party advised of Council's position, negotiations continuing</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
FEBRUARY 2024		
<p>Bland Shire By-election and representation 06022024 That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write to the Deputy Secretary, Local Government seeking approval of the Minister for Local Government to dispense with requirements to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Councillor Baker. 2. Nominate Cr Crowe as Bland Shire Council's representative on the Bland-Temora Rural Fire District Zone Liaison Committee. 	General Manager	28/2: Letter sent to Dep. Sec. Local Government 20/3: Advice received dispensing with by-election COMPLETE
<p>New requirements for Risk Management and Internal Audit process 13022024 That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Confirms its commitment to the Internal Audit Alliance consisting of the Councils of Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart and Temora. b) Endorses, in principle, the Draft Terms of Reference for Bland Shire Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee including the Internal Audit Charter and place the document on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 22 February 2024 for the purpose of consultation and feedback with a further report to be brought back to Council at the conclusion of the consultation. c) Seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons, in conjunction with the Alliance Councils, to act as the Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees of each of those Councils. d) Seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons to act as independent members of the Bland Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. 	Director Corporate & Community Services	28/3: Recruitment underway for role to coordinator the internal audit alliance process.
<p>Strengthening Communities Application – Wyalong Public School P&C Committee 14022024 That Council approve the application for funding of the Wyalong Public School P&C Committee under the Strengthening Communities Fund in the amount of \$533.</p>	Director Corporate & Community Services	28/3: Funding provided. COMPLETE
<p>RFT Tender Evaluation– Heavy Patch Programme – 2024 16022024 That Council award the Tender: VP393813 for the delivery of Heavy Patching Works, across the sealed network within the Bland Shire LGA to Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd to the value of \$3,108,802.00 (Excl. GST) subject to variations.</p>	Director Technical Services	Contractor engaged COMPLETE

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>West Wyalong Industrial Park 20022024 That Council adopt the recommended pricing schedule for proposed Lots 1 – 6 in the Central Road Business Park as contained within the report.</p> <p>Request – Sealing Boundary Road 21022024 That Council provide in principal support for the sealing of Boundary Road from the Southern boundary of Lot 1235 DP 753135 to Compton Road subject to the future approval of a suitable Development Application for subdivision relating to Lot 1235 DP 753135 and be the subject of a future report to Council to commit the appropriate funding.</p> <p>Bland/Temora Family Day Care 22022024 That Council explore options for the Bland/Temora Family Day Care scheme to transition the provision of support services by 31 December 2024.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p> <p>Director Technical Services</p> <p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p> <p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>Developer notified of resolution COMPLETE</p> <p>28/3: Following Council resolution, discussions underway with alternate providers. Decision communicated to Temora Shire Council representatives.</p> <p>Negotiations undertaken with all interested parties. Only submission from Fulton Hogan. Fulton Hogan engaged and works have commenced. COMPLETE</p>
<p>RFT Tender Reseal Programme 2024 23022024 That Council withdraw the current report pursuant to Tender: VP365128 for delivery of Council's 2024 Road Resealing Programme, for the sealed road network; and move to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reject current offers based on the significant change to the scope in order to maximize value to Council; and to complete the programme of works within the time constraints associated with the budget relating to this tender. This action will mitigate commercial risk to Council. 2) Not invite fresh tenders as this would represent an unacceptable delay in the project, risking non-completion of the programme. 3) Pursuant to Clause 178 (3) (e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, enter into negotiations with suitable contractors for the BSC - 2024 Reseal Programme. Overall value to Council is to be achieved by inviting the current tenderers; the opportunity to resubmit prices based on the modified programme. 4) Authorises the General Manager to award the contract after the completion of the negotiation process, to expedite procurement time. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>Negotiations undertaken with all interested parties. Only submission from Fulton Hogan. Fulton Hogan engaged and works have commenced. COMPLETE</p>
<p>MARCH 2024</p>		
<p>Endorsement of Communication and Engagement Strategy RESOLVED that Council defer consideration of the Draft Communication and Engagement Strategy to the April Council meeting.</p>	<p>General Manager</p>	<p>Council will review the existing Community Engagement Strategy. COMPLETE</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>Mornings, Melodies & Memories Budget Request</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the use of the amount of \$14,000 in the Social Plan Implementation Budget for the continuation of the Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program until the end of the financial year. 2. Consider an allocation for the Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program to continue in it's 2024/25 budget. 3. Staff undertake a review of the Program prior to the preparation of the 2025-2026 budget and identify options for co-contributions from participants to support the sustainability of the program. 	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>Funds transferred as part of QBRS process and allocation included in draft Budget for 2024/25. Morning tea sessions to recommence on Monday 15 April with first event at Ungarie.</p>
<p>Request for Financial Assistance – West Wyalong Horse Sports and Rodeo Association</p> <p>RESOLVED that Council approve a request for \$2,000 financial support for the West Wyalong Horse Sports and Rodeo Association to assist with the 2024 event costs for the Annual Rodeo.</p>	<p>Director Corporate & Community Services</p>	<p>Donation made to West Wyalong Horse Sports and Rodeo in accordance with Council resolution. COMPLETE</p>
<p>Proposed Road Closure – Gordons Lane</p> <p>RESOLVED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the closure of the public road known as Gordons Lane between Clear Ridge Road and Blands Lane 2. that the closure be subject to all parties along the road agreeing to the closure and funding Council's road closure application fees and all other associated fees including, advertising, survey, legal and land purchasing costs 3. receive a further report to consider any submissions lodged during the notification period to determine the approval for the proposal 4. receive a further report to consider the property valuers report and determination of any sale price. 	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>Letters sent to adjoining landowners.</p>
<p>Active Travel Plan Final Report</p> <p>RESOLVED that Council adopt the Bland Shire Active Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Director Technical Services</p>	<p>19/3: Final document adopted COMPLETE</p>

Monthly Status Report – Council Meeting Actions

Resolution	Responsible Person	Progress Update
<p>583 Newell Highway, Wyalong RESOLVED that Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. enter into a Heads of Agreement with 2 Degrees Electrify Pty Ltd for the land identified as 583 Newell Highway Wyalong, incorporating those parcels of land identified in the General Managers report. b. allocate funding within the 2024/25 Operational Plan for strategic planning work to commence on 583 Newell Highway Wyalong for the investigation and planning works related to supporting a future rezoning. 	General Manager	27/3: Heads of Agreement signed and provided to proponent COMPLETE

6.2 Risk, Work Health and Safety Quarterly Report



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

DP12.4 Review and implement Council's policies an comply WHS and Risk Management Requirements

Author: WHS & Facilities Foreman, Risk and Insurance Officer

Introduction

This report has been prepared to update Council on Risk, Work Health and Safety activities and performance for the quarter ending March 2024.

Financial Implications

There are currently no identified financial implications. All regular insurances are accounted for in the annual budget process.

Summary

Statewide Mutual

The Regional Risk Manager visited Council during Q3 and undertook a critical review in consultation with the General Manager and Risk and Insurance Officer of the Business Continuity Plan. A further visit is planned to present the final draft and to test sub plans.

The Regional Risk Manager was scheduled to deliver a presentation to outdoor staff on Chain of responsibility requirements however this had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Work will commence shortly on the new CIP workbooks. Topics are.

- Enterprise Risk Management Framework
- Footpaths and
- Swimming pools

The next regional risk meeting planned 15 May in Leeton.

Council has recently completed insurance renewal questionnaires for the 2024/25 insurance period and awaits final costing advice.

Insurance claims

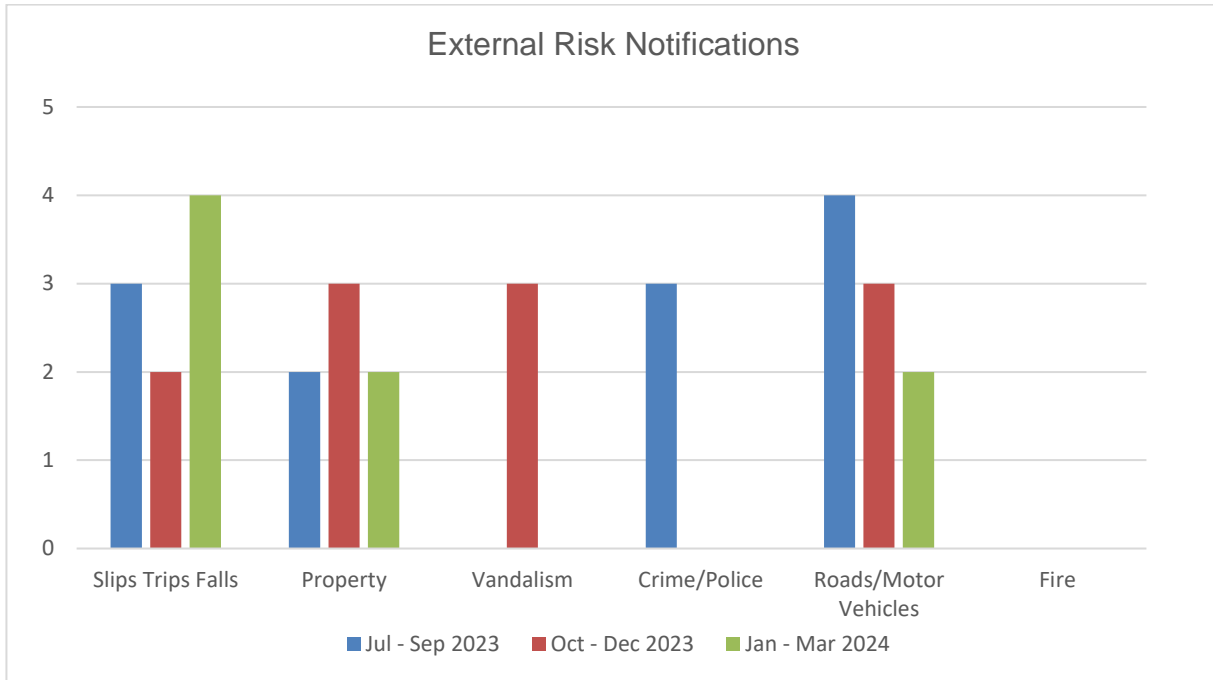
No new claims, Risk and Insurance staff have notified the insurer about a future potential claim which has been registered as an incident, not a claim.

Contractor Data Base

The Contractor data base is progressively updated, and all contractors are current.

External Incident Notifications submitted 1 January – 31 March 2024

The following graph identifies the number of external incident notifications over the period January – March 2024, and the previous 2 periods also.



Staff continue to respond to complaints and respond to incidents.

StateCover

WHS Staff attended a regional workshop in Lockhart on 14 February where recent incident trends were discussed. Reports on excavation work and working near power lines were presented by Before you Dig and Essential Energy.

WHS Staff attended a Statecover meeting in Wagga Wagga on 5 March where managing Psychosocial risk was workshopped. Topics ranged from early intervention through to managing a workers compensation claim associated with Psychosocial injury.

Workers Compensation Claims – (Directorate, Liability Status and Type)

Date	Directorate	Type	Liability	Status
29/01/2024	Technical Services	Bites/Stings	Accepted	Finalised
11/02/2024	Technical Services	STF	Accepted	Ongoing
06/03/2024	Technical Services	STF	Accepted	Finalised

Work Health and Safety meetings are held quarterly, with the next meeting to be held on 16 May, actions arising from meetings continue to be addressed and completed.

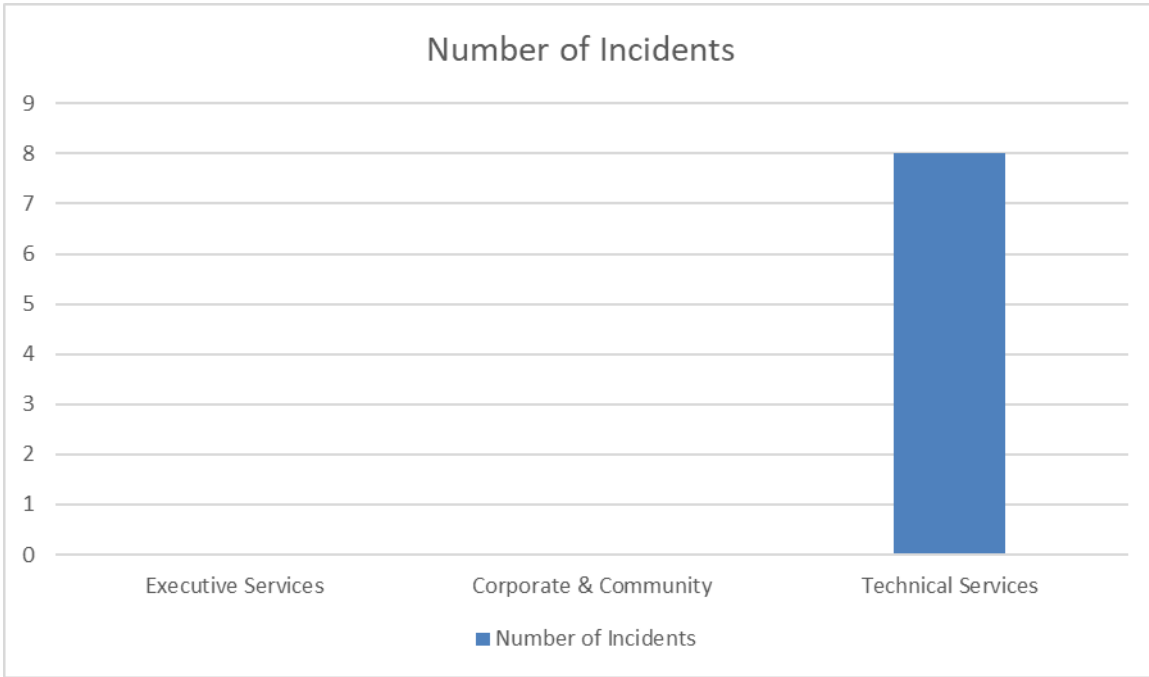
WHS Wellbeing Initiatives

Staff have been made aware of the availability of free Japanese Encephalitis vaccinations. Thursday Thoughts input by WHS including general wellbeing topics such as getting a good nights sleep, hearing loss and general psychosocial wellbeing.

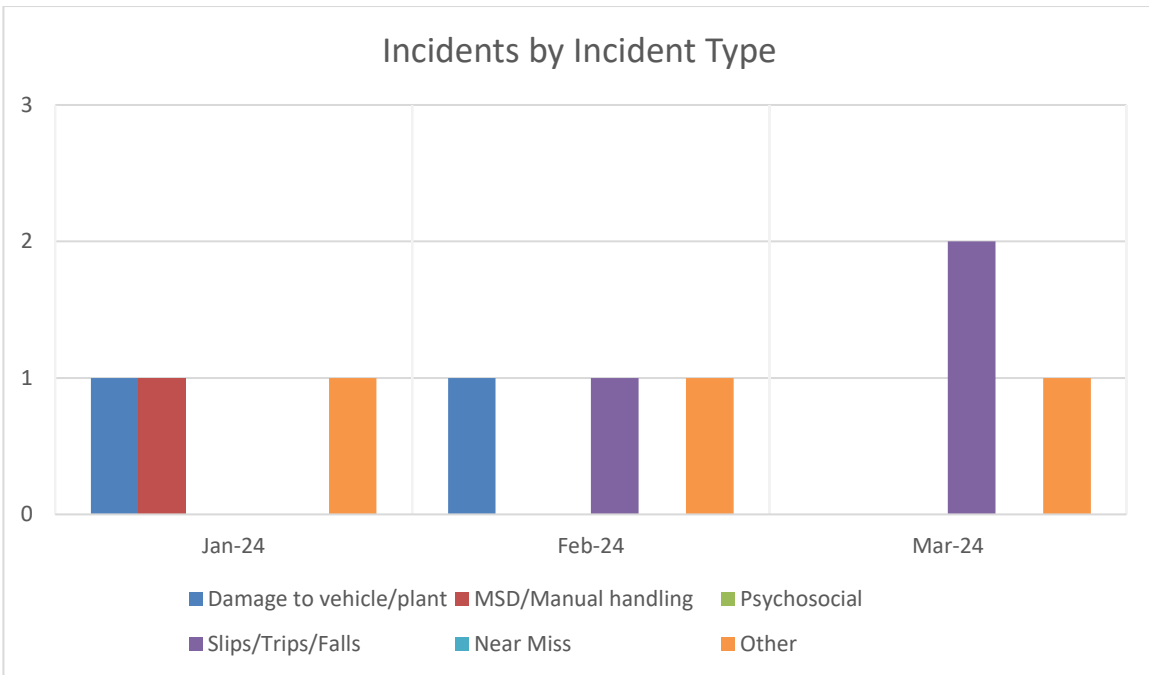
WHS Incident Notifications

There were no Notifiable Incidents to be reported to Safework NSW in Quarter 3 2024

WHS Incident Notifications by Directorate submitted 1 January – 31 March 2024

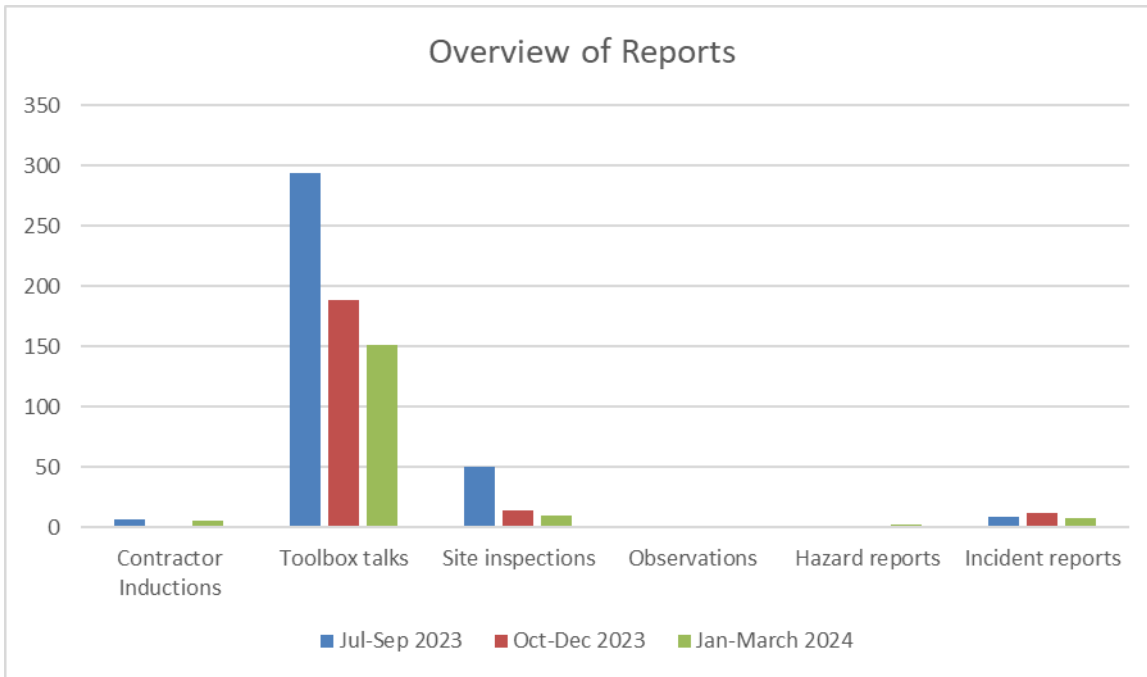


WHS Incident Notifications submitted 1 January 2024 – 31 March 2024



Internal WHS Documents 1 January 2024 – 31 March 2024

The following graph identifies the number of internally generated WHS documents over the period January 2024 – March 2024, and the previous period also.



Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Risk, Work Health and Safety Report for the quarter ending March 2024.

Section 2 – Corporate & Community Services

6.3 FINANCE AND INVESTMENT REPORT FOR MARCH 2024



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 MARCH 2024.

BANK BALANCES AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$6,698,310.53
Business Card	\$40,000.00
	\$6,738,310.53
<i>Invested Funds</i>	
Fixed Deposits	\$77,700,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$2,149,404.47
	\$79,849,404.47
Net Balance	\$86,587,715.00
Percentage of Invested Funds to Net Balance	92.22%

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.03.2024

SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2024

BALANCE as at 01.03.24 **\$7,138,637.78**

Add Receipts

Receipts Over \$150,000

28/03/24 Trans from CAC 1,000,000.00
 28/03/24 AMP TD Maturity 1,500,000.00

Receipts Under \$150,000 860,508.51

Total Receipts for March 2024 **\$3,360,508.51**

Less Payments

Payments over \$150,000

05/03/24 Australian Unity Bank Ltd -1,000,000.00
 14/03/24 Westrac Pty Ltd -192,423.00
 28/03/24 Auswide Bank Ltd -1,000,000.00

Payments under \$150,000 -1,608,412.76

Aged Care	\$48,624.50
Bank Fees	3,040.50
Cemetery	5,847.75
Children's Services	\$31,824.69
Community	\$4,836.26
Construction	\$68,034.17
Corporate	\$249,829.66
Donation	\$509.57
Development Services	\$2,795.06
Direct Debits	\$1,082.43
Employee	584,391.14
Governance	\$30,459.08
Insurance	\$657.80
Investments	\$2,000,000.00
Lease	\$1,210.00
Library	\$5,360.00
Maintenance	\$107,680.37
Plant/Fuel	\$281,620.42
Roads	\$272,414.68
Utilities	\$77,693.93
VIC	\$15,600.84
Waste	\$2,923.51
Weeds	\$4,399.40

Total Payments for March 2024 **- \$3,800,835.76**

CASH BALANCE **\$6,698,310.53**

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank \$ 350,000.00

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON 16 APRIL 2024

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY AND CERTIFICATION

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period 01 March 2024 to 31 March 2024.

I CERTIFY,

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

Payment Type		Voucher No's	Total
Cheques		026407-026425	\$38,922.80
Auto-pay	Creditors	E034927 – E035232	\$3,192,131.95
Auto-pay	Payroll	03/03/24 – 24/03/24	\$565,658.08
Bank Charges & Commissions		March 2024	\$3,040.50
Direct Debits	Repayments & Vehicle Lease		1,082.43
			\$3,800,835.76

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 16th April 2024, 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 **\$3,800,835.76** was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 19th March 2024 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

INVESTMENTS

The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 31st March 2024. 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
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	AMP	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.00%	9/05/2024
23/05/2023	Great Southern Bank	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.11%	22/05/2024
30/05/2023	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	336 days	4.90%	30/04/2024
30/05/2023	MyState Bank	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.10%	29/05/2024
8/06/2023	MyState Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.45%	6/06/2024
15/06/2023	Auswide Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.40%	13/06/2024
22/06/2023	Defence Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.55%	20/06/2024
28/06/2023	Judo Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.75%	26/06/2024
29/06/2023	Judo Bank	2,000,000.00	369 days	5.75%	2/07/2024
6/07/2023	Australian Unity	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.75%	5/07/2024
13/07/2023	AMP	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.75%	11/07/2024
20/07/2023	Heritage Bank	1,000,000.00	363 Days	5.75%	17/07/2024
27/07/2023	Macquarie Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.11%	25/07/2024
16/08/2023	Bank of QLD	1,000,000.00	358 days	4.95%	8/08/2024
23/08/2023	AMP	2,500,000.00	364 days	5.40%	21/08/2024
4/09/2023	Great Southern Bank	1,000,000.00	360 days	5.22%	29/08/2024
8/09/2023	Bendigo Bank	400,000.00	365 days	4.90%	8/09/2024
8/09/2023	Bendigo Bank	400,000.00	365 days	4.90%	8/09/2024
8/09/2023	Bendigo Bank	400,000.00	365 days	4.90%	8/09/2024
14/09/2023	NAB	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.15%	12/09/2024
20/09/2023	NAB	1,000,000.00	330 days	5.15%	15/08/2024
21/09/2023	NAB	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.30%	20/09/2024
28/09/2023	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.20%	26/09/2024
5/10/2023	NAB	1,500,000.00	364 days	5.25%	3/10/2024

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON 16 APRIL 2024

11/10/2023	NAB	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.15%	9/10/2024
18/10/2023	Police Bank	2,000,000.00	287 days	5.10%	31/07/2024
19/10/2023	NAB	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.20%	17/10/2024
25/10/2023	Police Bank	2,000,000.00	365 days	5.05%	24/10/2024
9/11/2023	AMP	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.35%	7/11/2024
16/11/2023	BankVic	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.45%	14/11/2024
23/11/2023	Auswide Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.45%	21/11/2024
30/11/2023	MyState Bank	2,000,000.00	364 days	5.40%	28/11/2024
30/11/2023	Judo Bank	1,000,000.00	168 days	5.40%	16/05/2024
30/11/2023	Australian Unity	2,000,000.00	329 days	5.45%	24/10/2024
7/12/2023	Commonwealth Bank	2,000,000.00	314 days	5.09%	16/10/2024
12/12/2023	Beyond Bank	1,000,000.00	233 days	5.30%	1/8/2024
12/12/2023	Beyond Bank	1,000,000.00	323 days	5.35%	30/10/2024
14/12/2023	Bank of QLD	2,000,000.00	278 days	5.15%	17/09/2024
20/12/2023	MyState Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.15%	18/12/2024
9/01/2024	Judo Bank	1,000,000.00	329 days	5.10%	3/12/2024
10/01/2024	Defence Bank	1,000,000.00	565 days	5.10%	9/01/2025
19/01/2024	AMP	1,000,000.00	368 days	5.15%	21/1/2025
31/01/2024	Great Southern Bank	2,500,000.00	365 days	5.05%	30/01/2025
1/02/2024	ING Bank	1,000,000.00	350 days	5.13%	16/01/2025
8/02/2024	Defence Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.00%	6/02/2025
15/02/2024	NAB	1,000,000.00	363 days	5.15%	12/02/2025
16/02/2024	ING Bank	1,000,000.00	368 days	5.18%	18/02/2025
28/02/2024	ING Bank	1,000,000.00	364 days	5.08%	26/02/2025
5/03/2024	Australian Unity	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.10%	5/03/2025
6/03/2024	Defence Bank	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.10%	6/03/2025
13/03/2024	Bank of QLD	1,000,000.00	183 days	5.12%	12/09/2024
20/03/2024	Defence Bank	1,000,000.00	365 days	5.00%	20/03/2025
28/03/2024	Auswide Bank	1,000,000.00	363 days	5.20%	26/03/2025
	ANZ Deposit at Call	50,962.22	Cash at Call		
	CBA Deposit at Call	2,098,442.25	Cash at Call		
	TOTAL:	\$79,849,404.47			

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)	\$ 11,611,716.08
Rates received as at 31/03/2024	\$ 9,048,136.49
% of rates received to date	77.92%

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 March 2024
 2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 March to 31 March 2024, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$3,800,835.76
-

6.4 Endorsement of Draft Operational Plan, Budget and Revenue Policy for 2024/2025



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

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

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and endorse the following documents: -

- a) The draft Operational Plan (including the draft Budget) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year;
- b) The draft Revenue Policy (including draft Schedule of Fees and Charges) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year; and.
- c) The rating structure for the coming financial year.

The *Local Government Act 1993 (the Act)* requires Councils in NSW to operate under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) guidelines which aim to streamline Council operations and optimise the use of resources. The endorsement of the above-mentioned documents is in keeping with this Framework and will allow Council to seek feedback from the community ahead of their formal adoption at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 18 June, 2024.

Financial Implications

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

Summary

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

The documents have been developed for the purposes of consultation with the community and includes each of the Operational Plan items, how they will be measured, what the target is for each and who is responsible for ensuring the actions are completed as well as where they fit within the Delivery Program 2021-2025.

The Budget for the 2024/2025 Financial Year provides the funding for Council to achieve the actions contained in the Operational Plan.

The following dot points provide some guidelines which were used in the preparation of the 2024/2025 Budget:

- Rates income is based on a rate increase amount of 4.5%.
- User Charges and Fees have increased on average by 4.1% in accordance with CPI.
- Interest on Investments is based on an average of 5% Investment Returns.
- Wages have been prepared based on an increase of 3.5% in line with the Local Government (State) Award from 1 July 2024.
- Other expenses have been budgeted to increase by 4.1%.

The Draft Operational Budget has been prepared in accordance with the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

Draft Revenue Policy (including Draft Fees and Charges 2024/2025)

A review of all fees and charges was conducted as part of the preparation of the 2024/2025 budget. A CPI increase of approximately 4.1% has been applied to most fees and charges to cover expected increases in costs in providing the goods or service. Those statutory fees and charges that are set by the NSW Government are yet to be advised. Any significant changes to fees and charges is to be consulted with the community as part of the public exhibition process.

Councillors will have further opportunity to comment on the draft documents during the upcoming public exhibition closing on Friday, 17 May 2024, although Councillors are encouraged to put forward their comments well prior to the deadline for receipt of submissions, which is 31 May, 2024.

A copy of the draft Operational Plan (including the draft Budget) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year and the draft Revenue Policy (including draft Schedule of Fees and Charges) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year) have been provided under separate cover.

Recommendation:

1. That the draft Operational Plan (including the draft Budget) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year and the draft Revenue Policy (including draft Schedule of Fees and Charges) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year be endorsed and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, commencing 19 April 2024, in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. That a revised Operational Plan 2024/2025 (including the Budget for the 2024/2025 Financial Year) and the Revenue Policy (including Fees and Charges 2024/2025) incorporating all public comments, submissions and input from staff and Councillors to the DRAFT documents be provided to the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 18 June 2024 for final adoption.
3. The Statement of Rating Structure and their respective short names as contained in the Operational Plan 2024/25 and make the Ordinary Rate and charges, including sewer charges, domestic and trade waste management charges, pursuant to s.494 and s.496 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Waste Management Levy pursuant to s.501 of the Local Government Act 1993 detailed in the tables below

2024/25 Rate Structure			
Category / Sub-Category	Base amount	Ad-valorem	% Yield from Base Amount
Residential			
Ordinary Rate	\$99.00	0.003805	28.63%
West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$180.00	0.005910	22.17%
Barmedman	\$99.00	0.004461	38.42%
Ungarie	\$99.00	0.009390	36.77%
Business			
Ordinary Rate	\$180.00	0.006677	26.63%
West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$210.00	0.015398	11.32%
Barmedman	\$99.00	0.005099	34.12%
Ungarie	\$99.00	0.016124	24.09%
Farmland			
Ordinary Rate	\$99.00	0.001683	2.94%
Mining			
Mining	\$210.00	0.002660	14.39%
Gold Mining	\$210.00	0.022574	0.02%

2024/25 Sewer Charges	
	Access Charge
Connected	\$1,064.00
Vacant Land	\$256.00

2024/25 Domestic Waste Management Charges			
	240L	120L	VACANT
Domestic Service	\$510.00	\$403.00	\$44.00
This applies to all land which is occupied and/or built upon.			
Additional Garbage Charge - per bin	\$510.00	\$403.00	

2024/25 Trade Waste Management Charges			
	240L	120L	VACANT
Trade Waste Service			
This applies to land categorised as Business Land and which is provided by Council with a trade waste removal service.	\$548.00	\$440.00	
Additional Garbage Charge - per bin	\$548.00	\$440.00	

2023/24 Waste Management Levy	
This waste management charge is applied to all properties funding waste disposal services for the Bland Shire.	\$44.00

2024/25 Stormwater Levy	
	Annual Charge
Residential Property	\$25.00
Strata Title	\$12.50
Business Property up to 350m2	\$25.00
Business Property over 350m2	\$50.00

6.5 Barmedman Community Committee



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

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

Author: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction

One of Bland Shire Council's Section 355 Committees – the Barmedman Community Committee - has resolved to make a request of Council to place the committee into hiatus for a period to allow community members to review the committee and determine its future.

This request comes following two attempts to secure new executive members without an outcome.

Financial Implications

As Section 355 Committees are functions of Council, all assets including cash are considered Council's assets. Committee's must provide regular financial reporting to Council.

Council have approved an allocation of \$5,000 annually for each Community Committee who have signed an MoU and have complied with reporting requirements.

Summary

In April 2023, Bland Shire Council endorsed the Barmedman Community Committee following a meeting earlier that month which had elected a new executive.

To assist this new executive committee and support them whilst they navigate the requirements of Section 355 Committees, it was recommended that Council endorse the committee members for a three-month probationary period.

During this time Council staff were to guide and assist the committee to ensure compliance with Council's adopted s355 Committee Manual.

Throughout this period, there was correspondence between the Committee and Council on several occasions and regular provision of committee meeting minutes reported to Council. However, the relationship between the Committee and Council staff was hampered by the fact that certain reporting requirements were not adhered to in relation to the provision of independently audited financial statements. This was despite the Committee being provided with copies of the s355 Committee Manual and advised there would be no funds distribution without the audited statements.

The Barmedman Community Committee held a meeting on 27 February 2024 in an effort to appoint a new Chair and Secretary/Treasurer following the resignations of the former office bearers in December. The meeting was not able to elect a new chair or Secretary/Treasurer at that time as no nominations were received.

A further meeting was scheduled for 26 March 2024 in an additional attempt to fill the vacant executive positions. While one position, that being Secretary/Treasurer, was filled, the Committee resolved to make a request of Council to place the Committee into hiatus for a period to allow community members to review the Committee and determine its future.

Minutes from both Committee meetings are included as attachments to this report.

During the course of the meeting discussion was held around potential options for the future of the Committee which included disbanding the Committee, merging the Committee with other Barmedman community organisations and placing the Committee into hiatus.

This latter option would provide those community members with an interest in seeing the Committee continue, to identify the best way for this to occur as well as to identify locals who would be prepared to take on the executive positions.

Council is able to dissolve s355 committees at any time and may also wish to appoint one of its members to a Committee. While the community sentiment was to endeavour to retain a Committee, without an executive, it would struggle. By placing the Committee into hiatus, there would be an opportunity for discussions to be held within the Barmedman community for it to determine what would be best supported by the residents.

Recommendation:

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the minutes of the Barmedman Community Committee, held on Tuesday, 26 March 2024.
 - b) Supports the Barmedman Community Committee recommendation to place the Section 355 Committee into hiatus for a period of three months.
 - c) Be provided with a report following the hiatus period to decide on the future of the Barmedman Community Committee and the funds associated with the Committee.
-

Attachment: - Barmedman Community Committee Minutes, 27 February 2024 and 26 March 2024



MINUTES FOR 27 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 4.42PM

AT BARMEDMAN BOWLING CLUB

Present: Gary Brouwer (via Teams), Christine Inman, Pat Wells, Shirley Clay, Anne Schubert and Tony Martin. Also present: Councillor Roger Moore, Director Technical Services Ray Graham, Director Corporate and Community Services Alison Balind.

Apologies: Marilyn Moore, Nickie Taylor, Belinda Hall, John Lynch

Disclosures of Interest: Nil

Minutes: Motion to endorse Minutes of Barmedman Community Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 28th November 2023.

Moved: Tony Martin

Seconded: Pat Wells

Carried

(NB. Notes do not indicate whether these minutes were moved and seconded and, if so, by whom).

Business arising: Discussion held in relation to the resignations of the Committee Chair and Secretary/Treasurer and the need to fill those positions for the committee to continue. Committee member Gary Brouwer commented that losing two highly skilled, motivated, and very experienced organisers who have histories of working on projects and for high profile organisations was a loss not only for Barmedman but for the community in general.

Matters for decision:

1. Election of Office Bearers

Christine Inman indicated that she was prepared to remain as the safety officer.

Gary Brouwer indicated that he was prepared to continue his role in relation to the Recreation Ground.

Election to proceed on the remaining vacant positions.

Nominations called for position of chair – no nominations received.

Nominations called for position of secretary/treasurer - no nominations received.

Discussion held on process following failed Election of Office Bearers. Committee advised that a further meeting would be called for four weeks' time to attempt a further Election of Officer Bearers. Should the positions remain unfilled a report would be prepared for Bland Shire Council to determine how it wished to proceed in relation to the Section 355 Committee.

2. Memorandum of Understanding (Attached)

The Memorandum of Understanding was reviewed by the committee at a special meeting held 29 August 2023. The minutes of this meeting were presented with the agenda however due to the unsuccessful process to elect new Executive Committee members, this matter will hold over.

General Business:

Discussion held on the following:

Section 355 Committee's requirements to receive Council funding.

Committee members advised that an independent audit was required of the Committee's financial statements. Once undertaken, this audit along with the statements were to be forwarded to Council. Committee members discussed the options for an independent person

Distribution: Belinda Hall, Victoria Middleton, Gary Brouwer, Christine Inman, Pat Wells, Shirley Clay, Tony Martin, John Lynch, Keith Edwards

Barmedman Community Committee

A Section 355 Committee of Bland Shire Council



to undertake the audit and information provided on person who had previously undertaken this task for the committee.

ACTION ITEM: Pat Wells to contact previous independent auditor to enquire as to availability and capacity to audit the Barmedman Community Committee financials.

Purchase of Karcher Pressure Washer. Pressure washer had been purchased for use within the township and questions were asked as to whether the purchase had come from the Committee funds.

ACTION ITEM: Alison Balind to follow up with Council finance staff to determine whether a request for payment had been made for the purchase of the pressure washer.

Back to Barmedman Weekend.

Committee members asked about the possibility of Council staff undertaking a clean-up to prepare for the above event.

ACTION ITEM: Ray Graham advised that he would meet with Council's Parks and Gardens staff to arrange for a tidy up of the township to be held ahead of the Back to Barmedman Weekend.

Barmedman Tractor Pull.

Information about the Barmedman Tractor Pull was raised with the Committee to seek an indication as to the possibility of the event being held this year. Committee members discussed the amount of work required in undertaking the event and whether there would be sufficient volunteers to assist. Further discussion on matter to be held once a chair and secretary/treasurer have been appointed.

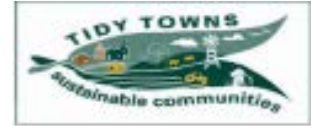
Next meeting: Tuesday, 26 March 2024 at the Barmedman Bowling Club commencing at 4.30pm.

Meeting closed at 5.50pm.

Distribution: Belinda Hall, Victoria Middleton, Gary Brouwer, Christine Inman, Pat Wells, Shirley Clay, Tony Martin, John Lynch, Keith Edwards

Barmedman Community Committee

A Section 355 Committee of Bland Shire Council, NSW



MINUTES OF THE BARMEDMAN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING FROM 26 MARCH 2024 HELD AT BARMEDMAN BOWLING CLUB

Meeting Commenced: 4.35pm

Attendance: Gary Brouwer (via Teams), Belinda Hall (via Teams), Christine Inman (via Teams and phone), Pat Wells, Shirley Clay, Nikki Taylor and Tony Martin. Also present: Councillors Roger Moore and Jill Funnell, Director Technical Services Ray Graham, Director Corporate and Community Services Alison Balind.

Apologies: Marilyn Moore, John Lynch

Disclosures of Interest: Nil

Minutes from Tuesday, 27 February, 2024

Motion to endorse Minutes of Barmedman Community Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 27 February 2024.

Moved: Gary Brouwer Seconded: Christine Inman Carried

Business arising:

Former committee chair, Belinda Hall, addressed the committee as to the reasons for her decision to step down from the position and the committee. Ms Hall advised the main reasons related to way in which Council interacted with the chair and the secretary/treasurer and the view that Council put obstacles in the way of the committee receiving funding which had been promised. Ms Hall advised that she had purchased a pressure washer for the committee which was located in the storage shed at the Recreation Ground and available for use by the committee. When asked if she had been reimbursed for the purchase (which was made using personal finances), Ms Hall advised that she had been.

Questions were asked about the auditing of the financial statements, which was an action item from the previous meeting. The committee was informed by the Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS) that the audited statements had not yet been received. Pat Wells told the committee that she had collected the banking and financial information from the former secretary/treasurer and would be passing the information on to the independent auditor for the statements to be reviewed.

ACTION ITEM: DCCS to confirm with Council's Manager Customer and Financial Services as to whether there were additional bank statements available and advise Mrs Wells accordingly.

Ms Hall left the meeting at 5.03pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5.04pm through lack of a quorum due to technical issues preventing Christine Inman from taking any further part.

Meeting resumed at 5.06pm when Ms Inman was able to rejoin via telephone.

Distribution: Belinda Hall, Victoria Middleton, Gary Brouwer, Christine Inman, Pat Wells, Shirley Clay, Tony Martin, John Lynch, Keith Edwards

Matters for decision:

1: Election of Office Bearers

Election to proceed on the remaining vacant positions.

- Nominations called for position of chair – no nominations received.
- Nominations called for position of secretary/treasurer - no nominations received.

DCCS advised the committee that with the provision of audited financial statements, Council was not able to provide the committee with access to the funds which had been set aside to assist it carrying out its role. The committee was informed that no audited statements had been received from the committee for several years and, as a result, the only income which had been forthcoming was limited to camping fees from the recreation ground.

Gary Brouwer advised that these fees were collected by himself and then transferred into the Committee's account.

Following lengthy discussion, a further call for nominations was made.

- Nominations called for position of chair – no nominations received.
- Nominations called for position of secretary/treasurer – A nomination of Christine Inman for the position of secretary/treasurer was accepted. Ms Inman did express concern over the outstanding audit of the financial statements. (This matter was referred to early in the minutes).

As there were no nominations for the position of chair, the committee discussed the possibility of a further meeting on 23 April to see if it were possible to find someone prepared to take on the role of chair. However, as this meeting was the second attempt to elect to all positions in the executive for the committee, it was not considered an option.

Following further discussion, the following motion was put forward:

That the committee recommends to Bland Shire Council that it be placed into hiatus for a period of time to determine the future of the committee.

Moved: Tony Martin **Seconded:** Pat Wells **Carried**

As the executive committee was not finalised, the remaining item on the aged, being the Memorandum of Understanding, was not discussed.

General Business

DCCS was asked about the defibrillator purchase which had been approved by Bland Shire Council following a Strengthening Communities grant application.

ACTION ITEM: DCCS to follow up purchase process with Manager Customer and Financial Services and advise.

Meeting Closed: 6.20pm

Next meeting: No date was set.

Section 3 – Technical Services

6.6 Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund



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

DP5.1 Facilitate the delivery of accessible services and infrastructure.

Author: Director Technical Services

Introduction

Council received funding of \$4,623,796.00 under the Regional and Local Road Repair Program in February 2023. Council has been allocated a further \$6,481,778 through a variation to the previous program to be expended by 31 October 2027. The funds are able to be spent on both Local and Regional Roads under Council's control.

Eligible works under the program include:

- Pavement rehabilitation works
- Gravel resheeting
- Resealing
- Shoulder repairs including shoulder gravelling and edge break repairs

Works that cannot be undertaken include

- Sealing unsealed roads
- Kerb and gutter works
- Footpath works
- Culvert / Drainage replacement

Due to the extensive road works program that is currently being delivered on Council road network, delivery of the extended component of this program will not commence until the 2024/25 financial year.

Council staff have reviewed a list of potential projects for inclusion in the program, with emphasis being based on the following criteria:

- Pavement condition – e.g. failed pavement
- Road Safety – e.g. narrow seal or edge break and edge drop
- Road Hierarchy
- Traffic volume
- Heavy Vehicle volumes – to cater for the increased loading especially related to grain harvest.
- Asset protection / programmed works that enhance asset life e.g. reseals.

Technical Services staff have developed a program with the following works to be undertaken over the next 3 financial years. This program will be submitted to Transport for NSW as part of the Grant funding criteria.

Financial Year 2024 / 2025

Road / Location	Proposed Works	Quantity (km)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Ungarie Road (MR 57N)	Rehabilitation	3.57	1,313,252
Mary Gilmore East (MR 398)	Shoulder Repairs	400m both sides	20,000
Quandialla Road	Rehabilitation	5.28	1,716,975
West Wyalong / Lake Road (MR 231)	Reseal	4.57	574,251
West Wyalong / Lake Road (MR 231)	Rehabilitation	0.60	193,375
		Total 24/25	3,817,853

Financial Year 2025 / 2026

Road / Location	Proposed Works	Quantity (km)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Rankin Springs Road (MR 371)	Rehabilitation	2.97	965,250
Rankin Springs Road (MR 371)	Shoulder Repairs	19.1	171,900
Bootowa Road	Gravel Resheet	10.0	350,000
		Total 25/26	1,487,150

Financial Year 2026 / 2027

Road / Location	Proposed Works	Quantity (km)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Bodells Lane	Resheet	7.39	258,650
Clear Ridge Road	Rehabilitation	2.83	918,125
		Total 26/27	1,176,775

Financial Implications

The \$6,481,778 of Grant income will be allocated in Councils Budget for the 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years, in accordance with the proposed program, resulting in no changes to Council's budgeted net result.

Summary

Council has received further funding under the Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund to undertake pavement repairs across the road network. As part of this funding a program of works has been prepared and is provided to Council for its information.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the program of works for the Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund in accordance with the Director Technical Services report.

6.7 Changes to Weeds Action Program Funding Arrangements



Our Prosperity - Growing our population and jobs

DP16.1.4 Update a Biosecurity Control and Management Program in conjunction with the Riverina Weeds Action Plan

Author: Director Technical Services

Introduction

Bland Shire Council manages the impact of weeds within the Bland Shire Local Government Area with assistance from the NSW Government through the Weeds Action Program. This program is an initiative of the NSW Government to implement the NSW Invasive Species Plan and the NSW Biosecurity Strategy. The Weeds Action Program has been in place since 2010 in support of the NSW Government's response to the Natural Resources Commission review of Weed Management in NSW, by ensuring consistent and coordinated regional planning and Local Delivery.

Council's current Weed Action Program is the 2020 – 2025 which commenced 1 July 2020 with funding each year in the order of \$62,000 to assist in the control of noxious weeds within Bland Shire against a total budget allocation of \$476,000 for the current financial year.

Council recently received correspondence from the Department of Primary Industries advising of changes to the way that the Weeds Action Program is administered. These changes are in response to the Government Sector Finance Amendment (Grants) Act 2023 which amended the Government Sector Finance Act 2018, the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018. The aim of the amended legislation affected all NSW Government Grant Programs. This means that the Weeds Action Program grant allocations must now align with the Grant Administration Guide.

Up until this correspondence there was no warning from either Local Land Services or the Department that the funding was on hold and that Council would need to reapply.

The practical changes will now mean the following:

- Council now must re-apply for the funding already agreed to under the previously approved Weeds Action Program for the funds for the current financial year.
- Council also needs to re-apply for the funds previously approved under the Weeds Action Program for the next Financial Year i.e. 2024/2025.

This places another burden on Local Government having to apply for funding that has already been approved. This is time consuming and a duplication of work already undertaken, forcing staff away from operational activities. The current process itself is problematic, as the administration is through 2 bodies being the Department of Primary Industries as well as Local Land Services. Over the years, the funding has reduced leaving more and more to Local Councils to fund and manage Weed Management in NSW.

In previous years the funding has been paid to Councils around November, and as such, Councils have undertaken works in accordance with the Weeds Action Program on the basis that this funding would be received.

The Country Mayors Association Meeting held on 22 March considered the matter with the Association to lobby the NSW Government to honour the already agreed and endorsed 5 Year Program.

Council has also written to the Deputy Director General for Biosecurity and Food Safety expressing concerns and requesting that the changes to the program be scrapped and that Council be allowed to dedicate its time to the on-ground activities rather than time being squandered in administrative processes.

Financial Implications

Council budgeted in the current financial year to receive \$62,000 funding via the Weeds Action Plan, for a total budgeted expenditure in the weeds area of \$476,000.

Summary

Legislative amendments to the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 have impacted Councils funding to manage the Weeds Action Program within Bland Shire. The implications are that the funding for the current financial year has been withdrawn and that Council will need to re-apply for works already agreed to and undertaken.

Recommendation:

That the report on the changes to the Weeds Action Program Funding Arrangements be received and noted.

Section 4 – Reports for Information

Recommendation:

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

6.8 - Community Development Report

6.9 - Youth Services Report

6.10 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update

6.11 - Children Services February Update

6.12 - Technical Services Report

6.13 - Development Services Activity Report – March 2024

6.8 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

TEI Recommissioning Forum

Council's Community Development Officer attended the Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) and Family Connect and Support Recommissioning Forum hosted by the NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice on 27 March 2024.

Anthony Shannon, Director Early Intervention addressed the sector regarding the TEI and FCS recommissioning. Susan Watson, CEO from FAMS also facilitated a workshop, encouraging organisations working in regional and rural NSW to discuss what has been working well and what needs work or further review across the sector.

Seniors Festivities

Running from 11 to 24 March, the festival aims to celebrate the role and contributions of older adults in local communities. This year, Bland Shire Council ran several events, as did the Bland Shire Library and Bland Community Care to commemorate the festival.

The West Wyalong Men's Shed held an Open Day and BBQ Lunch at the Men's Shed on Friday 15 March. The opening provided those in the community an opportunity to come to the Men's Shed and gain an insight into the activities that take place in the Men's Shed, and some of the projects that are currently underway.

With the completion of the Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program, it was fitting that the video created as a portion of the program – A Walk Through Time – was also show for the first time during the Seniors Festival on Monday 18 March at the Tivoli. The short film starred participants in the Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program and showcased some of the entertainment that was enjoyed as a portion of the program.

A community expo was held at Wyalong Hall on Wednesday 20 March which gave an opportunity for service providers in the area to come together to present information on their services and how they can support the ageing population.





To finish off the festival, a Seniors Lunch at the West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club was held on Friday 22 March, with 155 seniors in attendance. Glenn Starr stole the show when performing hits from the unforgettable 50s and 60s, which was a nostalgic nod to another time for attendees. The winner of the 2024 Seniors Week Recognition Award, Jancie Cattle, was also announced for her ongoing contributions to her peers.



Mornings, Melodies & Memories

The popular Mornings, Melodies and Memories Program is set to recommence on Monday 15 April 2024 with the first location being Ungarie. At the first visit to each location this year, a screening of the movie created, A Walk Through Time, will be presented to participants.

Throughout the program last year, participants submitted a copy of their favourite recipes, which have been placed into a recipe book. A printed copy of the book will be available for participants of the program and a digital copy will be placed on Council's website available for download.

6.9 Youth Services Report



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

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

Author: Youth Services Officer

Bland Shire Council's Youth Services Officer represented Council at the 2024 Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum in Wagga on Wednesday 27 March 2024.

The Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum provides a platform for students to hear about opportunities to have a stronger voice in society, take on leadership roles and aims to inspire them to become involved in their local community. It is also an opportunity for the students to network with students from other schools attending from across the REROC region. Fourteen students from West Wyalong High School attended the forum.



Works are progressing on the Youth Space with the Official Opening set for 11 April 2024, kicking off Youth Week 2024.

This event will include live performances by local talents including Leah Brohan, Jake Jewell and Breakfast at Noon, paired with a grazing table and pizza dinner in celebration of the opening. It will be an opportunity for Youth to explore the Centre and discover the activities, facilities and the recreational and educational tools that the Centre has to offer.

The NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice has awarded funding to Bland Shire Council to deliver a Youth Golf event throughout Youth Week. Council's Youth Services Officer conducted an engagement session at the West Wyalong High School gathering information and ideas from Youth of the Bland Shire regarding activities they would like to see happen throughout Youth Week and School Holidays. An overwhelming response received from students was to conduct another Youth Golf Day. The West Wyalong Men's Golf Club will be conducting this event for young people aged 12-24 years.

School Holiday Activities

Bland Shire Council has been successful in receiving funding from the NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice to deliver an action-packed April School Holiday Program.

Advertisement has commenced with the Paintball and Ten Pin Bowling Excursion to Wagga, which is already at capacity. Other activities will include Movies at the Tivoli and Youth Golf Day. PCYC Griffith will be conducting a Colour Run at Coinda Reserve, offering a free sausage sizzle, with the first 150 participants to sign up receiving a free headband and sunglasses.

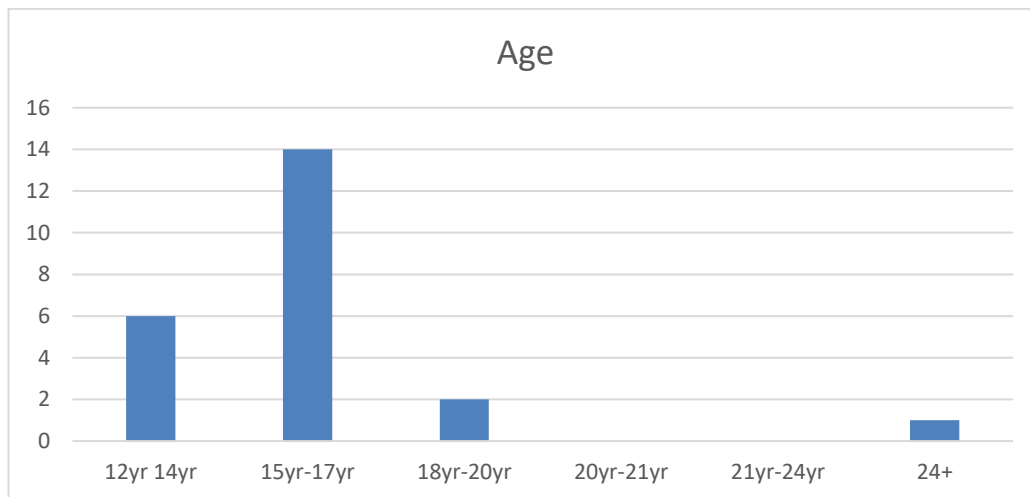
Other smaller activities that will be provided include a handball championship that will be held on a weekend in the April school holidays in the car park at the back of the Youth facility. We are also in the process of organising an Anzac eve walk along the RSL Memorial Walk at Coinda Reserve. This will be open to the whole community but encouraged by the youth as an activity at the Centre will be to create paper poppies to place at the memorial.



A grant application of the Winter/Spring school holidays has been submitted with planning underway to deliver NRMA Safer Driving Course, A DJ Workshop conducted by Heaps Decent and Mocktails and Masterpieces throughout the Winter holidays and NRMA Driving Lessons, Self Defence and Empowerment Session and Gym Sessions for under 16s throughout the spring break. All activities will be subject to grant approval.

Bland Shire Youth sector has published a survey to social media and schools to collect information from the Youth of the Bland Shire. This survey was targeted at 12-24 year olds however was open to the public to comment. The data collected consisted of age, name suggestions for the facility, activity suggestions, issues that affect them and what interests them. From this, we obtained the following results.

Age:



Name Suggestions:

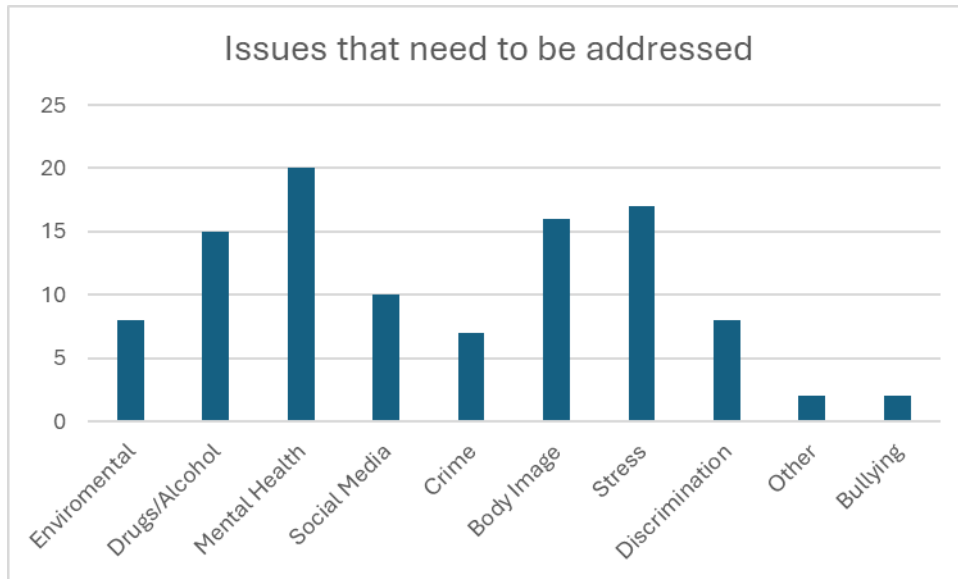
- BYG (Bland Youth Group)
- Chill Centre
- Bland Youth Hub
- Developing Minds
- The Block
- The Hub
- The Hang Space
- Bland Shire Centre
- The Bishop Youth Centre
- Youth Hub
- The Hive
- West Wyalong Hang Out Space
- T
- Blissful Youth Care
- Youth Wellness Centre
- Connecting Youth Wellbeing
- Youth Illumination
- Uplift
- YHM (Young Mental Health)
- Youth Westy
- Youth Centre
- The Chill Pad
- Ryan Kelly

From these names, 'The Hive' stood out as this can be interpreted as a congregation of like-minded people, developing skills, creating unity and filling the gap between the youth and the community. It will represent a safe space for young people and is also eye-catching and different.

Activity Suggestions:

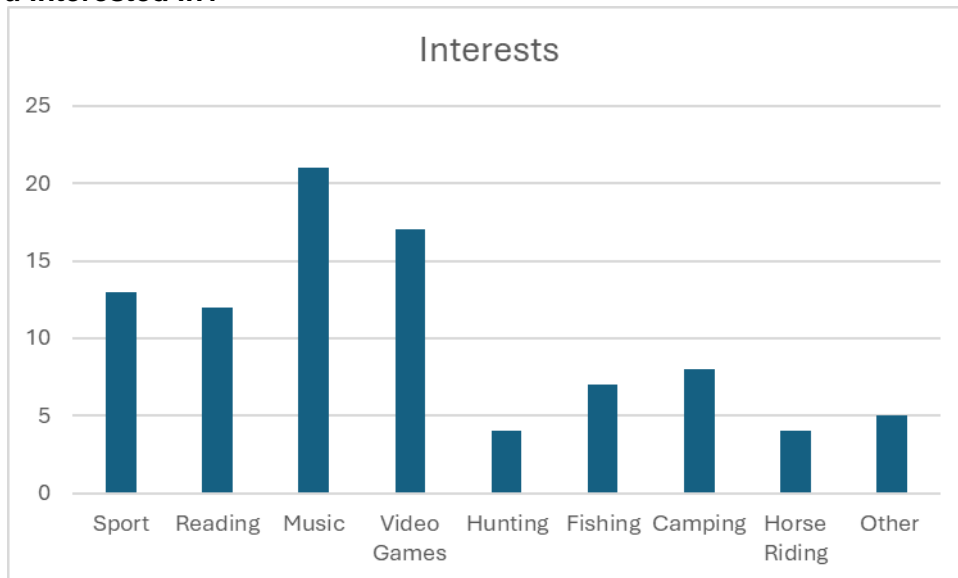
- Board games, card games and study sessions
- Early childhood educator to teachers, available councillors onsite, various experiences e.g. bike days, circus tricks, shows and more
- Art Centre, craft days, movie days, puzzles, Xbox's and iPads with educational games
- Sports competitions and community events
- Games, books, desktops (for kids without devices)
- Study space, games, chill space and music area
- Game nights every Friday Night
- Arcade, arts and crafts, mystery games (puzzles, mind games)
- Homework sessions, arcade high scores and sporting events
- Board games/video games/VR
- Video games and lots of music
- Having talks about relationships
- Ball games like handball and keep the ball off the ground
- Members talk circle, get to know your activities, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, just dance and cooking
- Things like bats on the green at night for people ages 12-15
- VR Headset
- Gaming competitions
- Basketball
- Cooking and art
- Kids having fun
- Air hockey, table tennis, board games, console games, reading nook and art
- Escape rooms and human hungry hoppo
- Show and games days
- Fund raisers for cancer and hospitals
- Halloween Party
- Movie marathon
- Game nights
- State of origin nights
- Dress up nights
- Movie night just for kids with some like other things to do instead of just movies
- Escape room
- Arcade tournaments, lectures and movies
- Playing instruments
- Talks about mental health
- Just dance and cross words
- Hang out's acting up (grama activities and performances), Dungeons and Dragons, Friday night fun
- Raffle prizes
- A big formal/ball with food and stuff and kids can sit down and watch a presentation about issues within the community or age group in general.
- Board game nights or a massive get together
- Socials/formal dinners

Issues that need to be addressed:



Others included Racism and Roads

What are you interested in?



Others included: art, fashion, beauty, writing, basketball, hanging out with friends and water skiing.

From the information collected we can see the following:

- **15/17 year olds** are the majority of the youth population which responded.
- **Drugs/Alcohol – Mental Health – Body Image – Stress** are the highest issues identified.
- **Music – Video Games – Sport – Reading** are the most popular hobbies amongst youth.

Through this we can tailor our activities and events for the youth’s needs.

6.10 Bland Shire Library Monthly Update



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

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

Author: Library Services Coordinator

Premier's Gala Concert – Seniors Week

To commence its Seniors' Week festivities, Bland Shire Library hosted a free live stream of the 2024 Premier's Gala Concert at the ICC Sydney Theatre on Wednesday, 13th March, 2024, running from 2:45 pm to 4:30 pm. Prior to the event, a complimentary afternoon tea was served, drawing a modest turnout of attendees. According to reports, everyone present had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Author Talk – Seniors Week

Bland Shire Library was delighted to host a presentation by sociologist and freelance writer, Dr Anne Ring. Dr Ring, renowned for her book 'Engaging with Ageing: What Matters as we Grow Older', delivered an enlightening talk, offering insights into the significance of ageing in our society. Her book, which is available for loan from Bland Shire Library, provides valuable advice on navigating the complexities of growing older, emphasizing the opportunities it presents for personal growth and fulfillment in diverse contexts. The event, which was held as part of Seniors' Week, attracted 22 participants.



Bland Shire Community Expo – Seniors Week

Bland Shire Library took part as an exhibitor in the Bland Shire Community Expo, which occurred on Wednesday, 20th March 2024, at Toppo Hall.

During the expo, the library distributed complimentary information packs showcasing its diverse range of programs and services. Additionally, Bland Shire Library offered free activity booklets for seniors to take away and included a prize draw as an extra incentive.

Winners in the draw were Cherie McClintock (cheese platter set), Amanda Stitt (hand cream), and Steve Rossiter (designer shopping bag).



Online Safety for Families Workshop

Bland Shire Library accommodated a free 'Online Safety for Families' workshop on Thursday, 21st March 2024, running from 3:30pm to 5pm.

Endorsed by the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, the workshop was conducted by Andrew Cottrill and Michael Palmer from NBN Co. Although it attracted a limited number of participants, it provided valuable insights into online safety for families.



Promotions (Easter)

As a motivation for adult members aged 18 and above to visit the library before the Easter long weekend, Bland Shire Library provided an enticing prize: a box of chocolate treats sourced from the local establishment Thom Dick and Harry's. Members were only required to visit the library and fill out a ticket each time they came in. The winner, selected on Wednesday, 27th March, at 5:00 pm, and announced thereafter.

The monthly prize draw at the library, designed to encourage children to visit regularly, saw an extraordinary turnout of entries for the March draw, which featured Easter bags as prizes.

Additionally, Bland Shire Library offered complimentary Easter activity books for its young members to take home for the holidays.



Storytime – Easter

A small group of children attended Storytime on Thursday 28th March 2024. The children enjoyed a variety of Easter themed stories and songs, before decorating an Easter basket for craft and embarking on an Easter egg hunt.



Kurrajong Lifestyle Skills Visit

On Thursday, 28th March 2024, a small group of carers and their clients from Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices visited Bland Shire Library. The group enjoyed a light luncheon before engaging in a craft session based around an Easter theme. The regular visits encourage involvement within the community, with a primary focus on fostering inclusivity for those with disabilities.



Storytime – Kids and Traffic

Bland Shire Library hosted Amanda Menzies and Melinda Drury-Lenci, consultants and educators affiliated with Kids and Traffic, for a children's road safety storytelling session on Thursday, 21st March 2024. This engaging event, a component of Kids and Traffic's initiative for early childhood road safety education, run in partnership with Transport for NSW and Macquarie University, drew the participation of a small but enthusiastic group of parents and children.



Bland Preschool Visits

Bland Preschool has arranged for two preschool class groups to visit Bland Shire Library on Wednesday, 3rd April, and Friday, 5th April 2024, both from 9.30am. During their visit, the library will host a themed Storytime session tailored for each group. These visits align with Bland Preschool's community engagement strategy and aim to foster literacy skills, instil a passion for books and reading, and cultivate an appreciation for the library environment.

Little Wattle Visit

Similarly, Little Wattle Preschool & Long Day Care Centre has arranged for their preschool class group to visit Bland Shire Library on Wednesday 3rd April 2024, at 11am. As with the Bland Preschool, the library will provide a themed Storytime session tailored to the Little Wattle group.

April School Holiday Program

The library's April School Holiday Program has proved popular with all planned sessions fully booked.

Dane Certificate, one of Melbourne's most distinctive magicians and a beloved figure in the city's magic community, will perform on Tuesday, 16th April 2024, starting at 10:30 am. Dane's imaginative and abstract approach to magic, complemented by his original soundtracks, promises an unforgettable experience for the whole family. The hour-long show will take place in the Bland Shire Council Chambers. Admission is \$5.00 per person (applicable to both adults and children); children under 2 years old can attend for free.

The library's April school holiday program also features two exciting events – Salt Painting on Thursday, 18th April 2024, and Slime Making on Wednesday, 24th April 2024. Both activities will run from 10:30 am to 11:30 am in the library. The cost is \$5.00 per child per activity.

Additionally, Bland Shire Library offers a diverse selection of reading materials tailored for children and young individuals to enjoy during the school break. Furthermore, patrons can enjoy complimentary access to public computers and Wi-Fi services. Access to the library's virtual reality headset is available by appointment. Lastly, families can entertain themselves with an assortment of fun family-friendly games such as Chess, Scrabble, and Twister.

Pokemon Club

The library has been facilitating a weekly gathering of children accompanied by their parents, who come together to engage in the Pokemon Trading Card game.

This activity, which demands strategic thinking, is rapidly gaining popularity as a favoured leisure pursuit among participants.



Libraries Transform Campaign

An initiative of the Australian Libraries and Information Association, and endorsed by the Australian Public Libraries Alliance, the Libraries Transform campaign aims to increase awareness of and support for the transforming library and to shift perceptions of libraries from obsolete to essential.

The main idea of this campaign is that libraries are not only about what they provide for people, but what they do for and with people ie. libraries transform individuals, communities and lives.

The main objectives

- to raise awareness of library programming with the desired outcome being an increase in use of programs and activities provided.
- to raise awareness of the broad array of library materials and formats thus increasing the awareness and use of library materials in all formats.
- to raise awareness of the library's role in providing educational opportunities, including social inclusion, and increasing the use of the library as a space to connect and learn.

The Libraries Transform website provides information and resources for libraries to utilise for promotional purposes. Libraries are also encouraged to include in their social media posts hashtag libraries transform (#librariestransform).

Membership – March 2024

Nineteen new members – nine adults (18 years +) eight juniors (17 years and under) and one non-resident (lives outside the Bland Shire) – were registered in March, bringing the total number of active members to 1572.

6.11 Children Services February 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, It Takes a Village and Toy Library services)

Author: Children Services Coordinator

The month of March consisted of networking, grant writing, professional development, incursions/excursions, a visit from the department, as well as the daily running of our Preschool and Playgroup services.

Directors Meeting: Staff travelled to Forbes Preschool on Tuesday, 12 March for a 'Directors Get-Together'. During the meeting a number of topics were discussed that have inspired and motivated Educators to apply for upcoming grants, visit new centres and make some positive changes in the future. A zoom session with Michelle Carnegie, the CEO of Community Early Learning Australia (CELA), was also held. Michelle is an advocate and influential leader in the EC sector.

Grants: In March two NSW Government grants were applied for; the Health Development Participation Grant and an Attendance and Enrolment Technology Grant for Community Preschools.

Professional Development: Two Educators completed their first aid and CPR. Our KU Support officer also visited two of our Preschool classes. Grace made observations in the classroom, had discussions with Educators and provided guidance on supporting children with big behaviours and additional needs.

Preschool Open Classrooms: In March, we invited families/friends into our classrooms for our annual afternoon and activities. Across the week we saw over 150 visitors at Preschool and received beautiful feedback from those in attendance.



Bland Preschool – Senior Early Childhood Teacher

In March the children at Preschool engaged in a NSW health initiative called Veggie month, where the children participated in a variety of experiences that exposed them to new vegetables and ways to eat them.

The Preschool successfully hosted an AGM to form a parent committee, there was a very positive turn out of new and returning families and parents who are excited about future goals for Preschool.

Bland Shire Children Services Unit was successful in obtaining a Cowal Partnering Program Grant from Evolution Mining. During March, staff have been working in consultation with Occupational Therapist, Esther Petrie to develop a plan to deliver an inclusive, small group play-based therapy program starting Term 2.

A kids and traffic seminar was held at Preschool to show Educators how they can use everyday interactions with children as valuable road safety intentional teaching opportunities.

Zoo Mobile visited our Wednesday Preschool Classes and we were also fortunate enough to have students from the high school volunteer Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Mobile Resource Unit (MRU) – Service Leader

Ungarie Mobile Preschool and Monday Preschool: Ungarie Mobile Preschool have been cooking a variety of items during the month of March. The children began to make ‘pancakes’ in the playdough area which led them to requesting to make real pancakes. Each week the children made different foods; pancakes, cupcakes, zucchini slice and smoothies. Cooking is a group experience where children learn about science and maths skills as well as turn taking, following instructions and nutrition.

On Wednesday, 20 March the Ungarie Preschool children participated in Zoo Mobile at Ungarie Central School, along with the students. On Wednesday, 27 March the Preschool children went on another excursion to the school, to participate in their Easter Hat Parade.

MRU Playgroup: Playgroup sessions are receiving new enrolments each week at CSU. Families and children are participating in art and craft, cognitive, social play and physical activities as well as using the time to develop friendships and to support each other as parents/careers in a safe environment.



Bland/Temora Family Day Care (FDC)

Playgroup: Playgroup sessions were cancelled this month due to Educators being unable to attend. Hopefully we can return next month.

Department of Education: Following on from last month when we had a spot check at the CSU office with Jess from the Department of Education, this month she visited three of our Educator homes.

Jess appeared very happy with all areas she looked at. Her focus was safe sleep environments along with transport safety. Although all our Educators have different set-ups, each passed the monitoring visit and were deemed compliant.

FDC Enrolments:

Permanent enrolments – 35 children

Casual enrolments – 9 children

It Takes a Village (ITAV) - Service Leader

Playgroup Attendance:

Tallimba: 2 families

Ungarie: cancelled due to staff shortage

West Wyalong: 8 families

Referrals: Educators at CSU have had training in how to refer a child to a Speech Pathologist, as well as how to complete a Speech & Language Assessment. At a playgroup session last month, a parent expressed that they have been on the wait list for an assessment for an extended period therefore one of our staff offered to complete one during the session. Due to length of time an assessment can take, half the assessment was completed with a view of finishing the assessment at next meeting. The parent has given positive feedback.

Parenting Programs: A Little ZZZ's workshop was held in March at CSU with Maryann, a Sleep Consultant. The topics covered: Why is sleep so important? How to set up for a great sleep at home, Sample routines and getting a great night sleep, How much sleep is needed for different ages, How to communicate with Educators about sleep as well as How to ensure safe sleep at home and the centre. Over half of the RSVP's did not attend which was unfortunate, perhaps charging a small fee will incentivise clients to attend.

Toy Library: The new digital 'borrow and return' system has been in place, though clients have preferred to continue to use the paper base system still available. New clients continue to sign up.

6.12 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

Roads Maintenance

Works Undertaken April 2024

Wet Grading

- Leslies
- Clear ridge
- Lonergans
- Mahda
- Ariaah park

Flood Damage Repairs

- Clear Ridge Rd

Sealed Road Patching Works

- Work has been on going on all Regional/Rural sealed Roads (Jet patcher)
- Urban roads in West Wyalong & Wyalong

Gravel Resheeting

- Lonergans
- Thulloo
- Gibsonvale
- Leslies

Heavy Patching

- Heavy Patch Program (Fulton Hogan)
- Dundas
- Springs road (368)
- Bonehams
- Blow clear
- wamboyne

Reseal

- Dundas
- Springs road (368) (After heavy patch preparation complete)
- Wamboyne

Gravel patching (bobcat + Backhoe)

- Various roads around Bland shire.

Drainage Works

- Culverts installed on MR 57N (Ungarie Road) near Ridleys Lane

Maintenance Grading

- Insufficient Staff to utilise Maintenance Graders

Waste Services

Works Undertaken April 2024

West Wyalong Landfill

West Wyalong Landfill facility was operational on the Saturday (30 Mar 2024), over the Easter long weekend.
Facility operations, including general site maintenance are ongoing with business as usual.
The Community Recycling Facility (CRC) was serviced by EPA contractor on 26 Mar 2024.

Ungarie Landfill

Facility operations, including weekly general site maintenance are ongoing with business as usual.

Barmedman Landfill

Council's Contractor has completed fire mitigation, as well as drainage earthworks; and additional consolidation of the general pit area.
Barricades are being installed to improve traffic management safety – this is scheduled for completion by May 2024

Weethalle Landfill

Facility operations, including general site maintenance are ongoing with pit main compacted and covered.

Tallimba Landfill

Regular maintenance inspection have been undertaken.
Onsite stockpiles have been consolidated, with areas of excess vegetation being cleared.
Works have been undertaken to address drainage issues.

Mirrool Landfill

Fire breaks have been installed in and around areas containing tyres, with consolidation of green-waste and scrap metal piles being undertaken.
The old pit has been capped and signs installed on the new pit.

Narradhan

General inspection undertaken with repairs carried out to the damaged fence.

Tyres

Council's Contractor is continuing with works to cleanup and remove dumped tyres at Weethalle, Tallimba and Mirrool landfill facilities.

Villages / Works Undertaken – March

Monday's – Weethalle + Tallimba

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

Tuesday's – Ungarie

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

Wednesday's - Barmedman

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

Thursday's - Ungarie

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

Friday's – Weethalle

Clean toilets; Mow whipper-snip/once a month check Naradhan toilets, playground and town entrance.

Park Maintenance

Mow whipper-snip and edge all Parks
Check irrigation
Replace sprinklers
Park inspection
Weed gardens
Trim trees
Fix water leaks
Spray weeds in park gardens
Fix water fountain in Barnardo park

Cemetery Maintenance

Mow whipper snip and edge cemetery
Check graves once dug
Check backfill once back filled
Check irrigation
Replace sprinklers
Back fill graves when they sink
Fix irrigation pipes when they have been hit
Move shelters for funerals
Weed gardens
Empty tanks after the rain

Sporting Fields Maintenance

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

Town Maintenance - General

Mow and whipper snip town street
Mow and whipper snip pre school
Spray weeds around town
Water newly planted trees
Trim street trees
Water main street hedges
Mow and whipper snip council chambers
Grind footpaths
Street sweep the streets
Airport inspection (Tuesday Wednesday Thursday)

Started cleaning councils new block (across the road from Armstrong)

Projects

DC-3 / C-47 Dakota

Submissions regarding Requests for Quotation have been received, with Council staff now evaluating submissions.

Notification will be provided by 05 April 2024, and a letter of Award will then be offered to the successful Contractor.

Industrial Estate

Subbase has been placed in both Shamrock St and Central Road. Sewer Installation is nearly completed. Kerb and Gutter has been installed in Shamrock St and Central Road, there will be approximately 2 weeks to allow the concrete to cure before the final pavement layers will be placed.

Underground drainage works are completed with open channel works outstanding.

Essential energy have been slow in approving the electrical design, however staff have been working with our accredited designer to achieve this.

6.13 Development Services Activity Report – March 2024



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: Development Services Officer

Planning and Building Activities Update

The following applications were approved during March 2024

Application No	Location	Description	Consent Authority	Approval Date
DA2024/0041	48 Wollongough Street Ungarie	Change of Use - Pub (Town & Country Tavern) to Boarding House	Staff	14/03/2024
CDC2024/0005	6 Boltes Road West Wyalong	Residential Alterations & Additions – Swimming Pool	Staff	20/03/2024

Other applications approved during March 2024:

- Two (2) Construction Certificates
- One (1) Local Government Act Applications
- One (1) Occupation Certificate issued.

The following inspections were carried out during March 2024:

Type	Number
Swimming Pool Compliance	5
Swimming Pool Public Health	2
Building	22
On-site Sewer Management	2
Food	2

Number of enquiries during January 2024

Type	Number
Building and Planning	17
Public Health	3
Compliance	3
Food	3
Swimming Pools	1

Regulatory Activities Update

Dog Attacks

Two (2) dog attacks. Owner euthanized one. Outcome for the other dog is still pending contact with owners.

Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities March 2024

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	3	0
Returned to Owner	2	0

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	2	1
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	3	0
Dumped at Pound	1	6
Surrendered	1	7
Total Animals in Pound	7	14

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	2	0
Euthanised	0	0
Rehoused (Rescued)	4	3
Sold	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Stolen	0	0
Escaped	0	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	6	3
Animals in Pound at end of Month		
	1	11

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

Committees	Date/s	Minutes Attached
Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee	5 March 2024	✓
CEMCC	6 March 2024	✓
Goldenfields Water County Council	22 January 2024 22 February 2024	✓ ✓

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Committee meeting minutes as presented.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME

ATTENDANCE

Committee members: Melissa Boxall – Chair (Temora Shire Council), Elizabeth Smith (Temora Shire Council),

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

Guests: Danielle MacKenzie (Crowe), Craig Richardson (National Audits Group), Unaib Jeffrey (Audit Office of NSW)

2. APOLOGIES – Clr. Tony Lord (Bland Shire Council), Stephen Prowse (National Audits Group)

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 7 November 2023 be endorsed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith

SECONDED: Melissa Boxall **CARRIED**

4. MATTERS ARISING

Nil

5. EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

A verbal update on the External Audit Annual Engagement Plan was provided at the meeting with discussion held in relation to the process.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided in relation to the Annual Audit Engagement Plan be received and noted.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith

SECONDED: Melissa Boxall **CARRIED**

6. INTERNAL AUDIT – ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT

RESOLVED:

THAT the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note the information contained within the Internal Audit of Enterprise Risk Management at Bland Shire Council and endorses the management commentary and timeframes provided.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith

SECONDED: Melissa Boxall **CARRIED**

7. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

There was no update available to be provided to the meeting.

DISTRIBUTION: Melissa Boxall (Temora Shire Council), Elizabeth Smith (Temora Shire Council), Grant Baker (Bland Shire Council), Clr. Tony Lord (Bland Shire Council), Alison Balind (Bland Shire Council), Leesa Bryant (Bland Shire Council), David Wardell (Bland Shire Council), Danielle MacKenzie (Crowe), Jo Cheung (Crowe), Monica Dong (Crowe), Unaib Jeffrey (Audit Office of NSW)

8. INTERNAL AUDIT ALLIANCE UPDATE

RESOLVED:

That Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note for information the details of the report and support Council's endorsement of the Draft Terms of Reference for Bland Shire Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for its operation post 1 July, 2024.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith

SECONDED: Melissa Boxall **CARRIED**

9. BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bland Shire Council's Risk and Insurance Officer provided a verbal update in relation to the finalization of the Business Continuity Plan, meetings with Statewide Mutual, Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) Workbooks for the coming year and Council's Risk registers.

RESOLVED

THAT the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes for information the verbal Enterprise Risks and Insurances Update..

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith

SECONDED: Melissa Boxall **CARRIED**

10. CYBER HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIPs) QUARTERLY REPORT

RESOLVED

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note for information the February 2024 Quarterly Cyber Hygiene Improvement Program (CHIPs) Report and Bland Shire Council's response to the CHIPs Report from November 2023.

MOVED: Elizabeth Smith

SECONDED: Melissa Boxall **CARRIED**

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12. MEETING DATES

The date of the next Bland Shire Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting proposed for 2pm, Tuesday 2 July 2024.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 3pm.

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

Date: Wednesday 6 March 2024
Time: 9.00am, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre

Attendees:

Independent Chairperson: Lisa Andrews (LA)
Evolution: Renee Pettit (RP) & Greg Coase (GC).
Community Members: Lucy Buttenshaw (LB), Angus Stitt (AS) & Kate Dean (KD)*
Forbes Shire Council: Cr Brian Mattiske (BM)
Bland Shire Council: Cr Elizabeth McGlynn (EM)
Lachlan Shire Council: Cr Dennis Brady (DB)

Apologies: Bruce Dent (BD), Grace Derrick (GD), Ally Coe (AC), Vicki Swadling (VS), Nicole Smith (NS) Cr Chris Roylance (CR).

**Attended meeting remotely, however, left at 9.42am due to connection disruptions.*

ITEM	ACTION						
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Independent Chair, LA, opened the meeting at 9.10am and welcomed all in attendance. LA introduced Greg Coase (Manager Sustainability) and asked him to provide some background on his career to the CEMCC. Acknowledgment of Country.</p>	<p>LA apologised for late start due to technical issues with online connection.</p> <p>GC provided a comprehensive summary of his mining and personal background.</p>						
<p>2. Declaration of Interest</p> <p>LA advised there were no changes to previous declarations by CEMCC members, nor to hers; Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and receives payment via a Trust established by the Bland Shire Council.</p>	<p>LA distributed hard copies of the revised governance forms for members' completion.</p>						
<p>3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes.</p> <p>The last meeting of the CEMCC was held on 29 November 2023 at the Forbes Shire Council Chambers. The minutes were finalised and sent to members with the presentation on 22 December 2023. There were 2 Action Items from that meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="108 1870 1104 2004"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>RESPONSIBILITY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td align="center">3</td> <td>EVN to notify LA when response to submission is lodged. RTS lodged with DPHI at the end of January 2024.</td> <td align="center">EVN</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	3	EVN to notify LA when response to submission is lodged. RTS lodged with DPHI at the end of January 2024.	EVN	<p>Link to RTS in Major Projects Portal provided on last page of minutes.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY					
3	EVN to notify LA when response to submission is lodged. RTS lodged with DPHI at the end of January 2024.	EVN					

4	IA to send copy of CEMCC slide pack to LA for distribution to CEMCC members. Complete –sent with the finalized minutes on 22/12/23	IA/LA	
No other Business Arising from the previous minutes.			
4. Correspondence (as emailed with the meeting notice on 21 February 2024) with one additional item on 4/3/24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/12/23 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review/comment. • 18/12/23 – Email from DB with completed governance forms. Acknowledged. • 22/12/23 – Email to members with finalised minutes. • 5/2/24 – Email to members with Cowal Update Newsletter. • 21/2/24 – Email members with Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting. • 4/3/24 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting. 			
5. Reports (See presentation for summary, photographs and monitoring graphs) <p>GC 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"> ○ Legal Obligations – no change ○ Upcoming Assurance Audits: Recertification in June for ISO14001, which will require an accredited auditor to attend site for 2 weeks. ○ Environmental Incidents: All fauna deaths associated with misadventure. ○ Air Quality: Dust exertion event required significant expenditure to mitigate dust with the application of a polymer suppressant. LB enquired whether this was still permeable. GC confirm that it was. Some land owners requested EVN to undertake testing of their water tanks to confirm that the dust from the roofs hadn't caused any issues. GC confirmed that there were no trace elements found and was even able to assist land owners with providing information about the health of their tank water. ○ Blasting & Vibration: 1 exceedence – no complaints. ○ Operational Noise: All within limits – no exceedences. ○ Rainfall: Wet December and January slowed down production. 			<p>Slide 4</p> <p>Slide 5</p> <p>Slide 6</p> <p>Slide 7</p> <p>Slide 8</p> <p>Slide 9</p> <p>Slide 10</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface Water & Lake Water: Lake Water currently 1.5m deep. ○ Groundwater: No complaints. LM enquired how the saline is disposed of. GC advised that it is processed in the Water Treatment Plant, however cannot be put back into the river due to the legislation restrictions. BM asked if the aquafer was shallow or deep. GB responded that it was shallow. ○ Fauna & Flora ○ Cyanide ○ Open Cut Continuation Project Update: RTS has been submitted. ○ CGO Exploration Update: LM asked about the results. GC advised that data is still being assessed. DB enquired whether other minerals have been found. GC responded that silver and other small trace elements are usually detected. <p>RP provided details of community complaints and the activities and support undertaken by the Cowal Community and External Relations team in the previous quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Relations (Complaints, Sponsorships, Donations, Scholarships & Employee Achievements): 1 complaint received during last quarter from local business owner regarding a suspected EVN employee vehicle parking outside their shop. Cowal Newsletter was being launched today, showcasing 5 female leaders and their journeys in their careers. Two finalists in the NSW Women in Mining Awards. BM enquired on the percentage of female to male ratio. GC responded that it is currently around 12-19%. Further commenting that EVN is undertaking education program to encourage a diverse range of people to enter the mining industry. 	<p>Slide 11</p> <p>Slide 12</p> <p>Slide 13</p> <p>Slide 14</p> <p>Slide 15</p> <p>Slide 16 - 17</p> <p>Slide 18 – 19 Action: Provide link to Major Projects Portal for RTS.</p> <p>Slides 20 – 25</p> <p>RP explained process of dealing with such issues.</p> <p>Action: send newsletter to CEMCC members.</p> <p>Action: RP to advised outcome of award ceremony.</p>
<p>6. General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GC asked members if there was anything in particular that they wished to be informed of from EVN at these meetings. ○ LM stated that she would like to see an article placed in the newspaper following the quarterly CEMCC with a summary of the meeting. LA agreed that it was a good opportunity for EVN to promote its contributions to the broader communities and could include follow-up stories on how groups have benefited from sponsorships/donations. Discussions about information provided in the public forum needing to be cleared by Corporate. ○ All acknowledged that this was a good idea. 	<p>EVN to take suggestion on notice.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AS suggested that any article in the newspaper include information that details are available on the company website. ○ LM commented that the information in today's presentation on "diversity" was very interesting. ○ BM congratulated EVN on the presentation, stating that it was very open and transparent <p>LA announced that this was likely to be her last meeting as Independent Chairperson (IC) of this committee, providing an explanation. LA advised that DPHI have undertaken an Expression of Interest to other ICs in the Talent Pool and that the Assessment Team will appoint the replacement. LA thanked members for their support over the last 7 years and for their ongoing dedication and commitment to their communities..</p>	
<p>7. Meeting Schedule for 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wednesday 6th of March LCCG ● Wednesday 5th of June WCC ● Wednesday 4th of September FSC ● Wednesday 27th of November Evolution Town Office 	<p>LA advised that these dates may be subject to change when the new IC is appointed.</p>
<p>8. Meeting Closed – 10.12 am with LA thanking all for their attendance and contribution.</p>	

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Send link to RTS in Major Project Portal Complete – included below	LA
2	Send Newsletter to CEMCC Complete – sent 7/3/24	RP/LA
3	Provide results of NSW Women in Mining Awards Finalists	RP
4	EVN to consider newspaper articles on CEMCC and EVN activities	EVN

Link to RTS in major project portal:

[Cowal Gold Operations Open Pit Continuation | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-environment/cowal-gold-operations-open-pit-continuation-planning-portal)

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL
held at TEMORA OFFICE on 22 January 2024**

The meeting commenced at 10.01am

PRESENT

Cr Stadtmiller, Cr B Callow, Cr A McAlister, Cr L McGlynn, Cr G Sinclair, Cr A White, Cr J Piper.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A Drenovski (General Manager), Mr G Veneris (Production and Services Manager), Mr T Goodyer (Operations Manager), Miss S Jung (Engineering Manager), Mrs M Carr (Corporate Services Manager), Miss A Burnett (Executive Assistant).

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE/APOLOGIES

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/001 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callow and White that a leave of absence be granted to Crs Kevin Morris.

2. ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/002 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs White and Piper that the Board permit the following Councillors to attend this Extraordinary meeting by Audio-Visual Link: Cr A McAlister.

3. WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Attendees of this meeting are reminded that;

- a) The meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on Council's website, and
- b) Persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

4. STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

Councillors are reminded of the oath or affirmation of office they have taken under section 233A of the Act.

The governing body of a county council is responsible for managing the affairs of the county council. Each councillor as a member of the governing body has a responsibility to make considered and well-informed decisions to ensure that the exercise of the functions of Goldenfields Water are performed to benefit the whole of the area of operations of Goldenfields Water.

In addition, Councillors are reminded of their obligations under council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil.

7. DECLARATION OF NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

8. MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO OPEN COUNCIL

8.1. MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

8.1.1. Election of Chairperson

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/003 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that:

Nominations for the position of Chairperson is called and that if necessary, voting be by ordinary ballot.

The elected Chairperson shall hold office from this date until September 2024 when the polling day of the ordinary election of their member council is held.

The General Manager conducted the election.

Signed nomination form was received for Cr Matthew Stadtmiller.

Cr Matthew Stadtmiller was declared Chairperson until September 2024.

Report prepared by General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That nominations for the position of Chairperson is called and that if necessary, voting be by ordinary ballot.

The elected Chairperson shall hold office from this date until September 2024 when the polling day of the ordinary election of their member council is held.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

07 Efficient Operations

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 391 of the Local Government Act (1993) the position of Chairperson becomes vacant the polling day of the ordinary election of councillors of which

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL
held at TEMORA OFFICE on 22 January 2024**

the person is a councillor. An election for chairperson of the council must be held at the first meeting after the term of the chairperson has ended. The Chairperson holds office for 2 years, subject to the Act.

As per advice from the Office of Local Government provided to the April 2022 Board Meeting, the Chairperson elected at the meeting today will serve until September 2024 when their civic office expires on the polling day of the ordinary election of their member council.

REPORT

The Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 clause 395, Schedule 8 provides the following:

- The general manager of the county council in respect of which an election is being held (or a person appointed by the general manager) is the returning officer.
- A Member of a county council may be nominated without notice for election as Chairperson of the county council
- The nomination is to be made in writing by two or more Members of the county council (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.
- The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the Returning Officer
- The Returning Officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the county council meeting at which the election is to be held
- If only one member of the county council is nominated, that Member is elected
- If more than one Member is nominated, the county council is to resolve whether the election is to proceed by preferential ballot, by ordinary or by open voting
- The election is to be held at the county council meeting at which the county council resolves on the method of voting.

Appropriate nomination forms have been circulated to all Councillors.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

8.1.2. Election of Deputy Chairperson

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/004 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Stadtmiller and Piper that:

Nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson is called and that if necessary, voting be by ordinary ballot.

The elected Chairperson shall hold office from this date until September 2024 when the polling day of the ordinary election of their member council is held.

The General Manager conducted the election.

Signed nomination form was received for Cr Bob Callow.

Cr Bob Callow was declared Deputy Chairperson until September 2024.

Report prepared by General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson are called and that if necessary, voting be by ordinary ballot.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

07 Efficient Operations

BACKGROUND

There are no provisions within the Local Government Act or Regulations formalising the role of Deputy Chairperson. Council has traditionally elected a Deputy Chairperson from amongst its members to this role.

REPORT

The position of Deputy Chairperson is an optional position. If the Chairperson is prevented from exercising their functions by illness, absence or otherwise, the Deputy Chairperson will be called upon in the first instance to assist.

The election for Deputy Chairperson has traditionally occurred utilising the same process as that of the Chairperson election.

The tenure of this role will align with the two-yearly time frame of the Chairperson, subject to the Act.

Appropriate nomination forms have been circulated to all Councillors with their Business Papers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil.

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

10:05am - Cr Stadtmiller took the Chairpersons Chair.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council is scheduled to be held Thursday 22 February 2023 at 10.00am.

10. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business requiring the attention of council the meeting was declared closed at 10:06am.

The meeting commenced at 10.02am

PRESENT

Cr B Callow, Cr A McAlister, Cr L McGlynn, Cr A White, Cr G Sinclair, Cr M Stadtmiller.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A Drenovski (General Manager), Mr G Veneris (Production and Services Manager), Mr T Goodyer (Operations Manager), Mrs M Carr (Corporate Services Manager), Miss S Jung (Engineering Manager), Miss A Burnett (Executive Assistant).

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE/APOLOGIES

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/005 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Collow and White that a leave of absence be granted to Cr J Piper and Cr K Morris.

2. ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK

Nil

3. WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Attendees of this meeting are reminded that:

- a) The meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on Council's website, and
- b) Persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

4. STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

Councillors are reminded of the oath or affirmation of office they have taken under section 233A of the Act.

The governing body of a county council is responsible for managing the affairs of the county council. Each Councillor as a member of the governing body has a responsibility to make considered and well-informed decisions to ensure that the exercise of the functions of Goldenfields Water are performed to benefit the whole of the area of operations of Goldenfields Water.

In addition Councillors are reminded of their obligations under council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

8. DECLARATION OF NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/006 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and Sinclair that the minutes of the meetings held on the 14 December 2023, 19 December 2023 and 22 January 2024, having been circulated and read by members be confirmed.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/007 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGlynn and White that Board accept the late report Water Billing, Developments & Debt Recovery from the Corporate Services Manager.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION / RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

14. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTE

Nil

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION – 10.04am

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, in the opinion of the General Manager the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act and should be dealt with in part of the meeting closed to the media and the public.

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/008 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGlynn and McAlister that Council move into CONFIDENTIAL SESSION.

16. MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

16.1. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER

16.1.1. WATER BILLING, DEVELOPMENTS & DEBT RECOVERY

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/009 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Stadmiller and McGlynn that Council:

- a) Proceed to recoup costs of current usage and ownership.
- b) Approve a payment plan for property owners up to a period of 4 years.
- c) Approve a discounted rate of 20% to all affected accounts.

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2)(b)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:*

- b) *The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,*
- d) *Commercial information of a confidential matter that would, if disclosed:*
 - i. *prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.*

16.2. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY PRODUCTION AND SERVICES MANAGER

16.2.1. OURA RESERVOIRS AND AERATOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/010 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McGlynn and Sinclair that Council receive and note the report.

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:*

- d) *Commercial information of a confidential matter that would, if disclosed:*
 - i. *prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it,*

16.3. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY ENGINEERING MANAGER

16.3.1. NIMBY ROAD COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF EASEMENT

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/011 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and Callow that Council:

- 1) Council proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the interest in the land described as 6m wide easement through Lot 222 DP 753610, Lot 6 DP 798666, Lot 1 DP 722205, Lot 132 DP 1089613 and Lot 135 DP 753590 for the purpose of a water supply pipeline in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

- 2) Council make an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire a 6m wide easement through the lots noted above by compulsory process under section 186(1) of the Local Government Act 1993.
- 3) That the land is to be classified as operational land.

This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

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

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/012 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callow and Sinclair that there being no further confidential items that the Board revert back to Open Session, and that the resolutions made in Confidential Session be made public.

11:01am – Confidential Session exited.

The General Manager read out the resolutions made in CONFIDENTIAL session

17. MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO OPEN COUNCIL

17.1. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER

17.1.1. COUNCIL CASH AND INVESTMENTS

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/013 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and White that the report detailing Council Cash and Investments as at 31 December 2023 be received and noted.

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the report detailing Council Cash and Investments as at 31 December 2023 be received and noted.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

A report on Council's Investments is required to be presented for Council's consideration in accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

REPORT

Council's cash and investment portfolio decreased by \$1,760,572.17 from \$32,834,434.78 as at 30 November 2023 to \$31,073,862.61 as at 31 December 2023.

Cash and Investment Portfolio

**Minutes of the Meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at
TEMORA OFFICE on 22 FEBRUARY 2024**

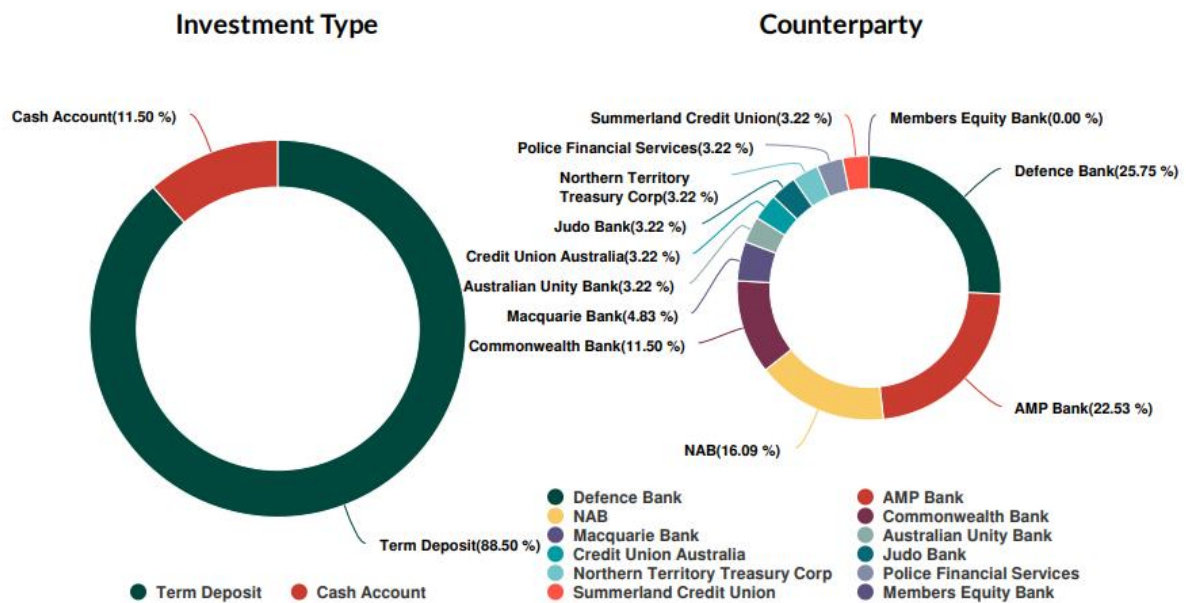
Type	LT Rating	ST Rating	Issuer	Frequency	Purchase	Maturity	Days	Rate	Bmark	Principal
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	At maturity	16/02/2023	16/02/2024	365	5.00%	4.36%	\$3,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	26/02/2024	367	4.98%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	A+	A-1	Macquarie Bank	At maturity	5/04/2023	3/04/2024	364	4.55%	4.36%	\$1,500,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Credit Union Australia	Annually	31/01/2023	17/04/2024	442	4.67%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB+	A-2	Australian Unity Bank	Annually	9/02/2023	9/05/2024	455	4.80%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	At maturity	26/06/2023	25/06/2024	365	5.48%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB-	A-3	Judo Bank	Annually	24/01/2023	25/07/2024	548	4.45%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	16/08/2024	539	4.95%	4.36%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	2/08/2023	4/09/2024	399	5.45%	4.36%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	15/03/2023	19/09/2024	554	4.80%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	Annually	1/12/2023	29/11/2024	364	5.50%	4.36%	\$4,000,000
TD	NR	NR	NT Treasury Corp	Annually	28/09/2020	15/12/2024	1539	1.10%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	12/01/2023	13/01/2025	732	4.55%	4.36%	\$2,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	24/02/2025	731	4.93%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	1/09/2023	4/03/2025	550	5.05%	4.36%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Police Financial Svcs	Annually	1/03/2023	13/03/2025	743	5.15%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank Summerland CU	Annually	8/03/2023	27/03/2025	750	4.90%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	NR	NR	CU	Annually	22/03/2023	8/05/2025	778	4.80%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	At Call Account		1/01/2024	1	4.35%	4.35%	\$2,262,823.22
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	Cash Account		1/01/2024	1	1.00%	1.00%	\$1,311,039.39
TOTAL:										\$31,073,863

Type	LT Rating	ST Rating	Issuer	Frequency	Purchase	Maturity	Days	Rate	Bmark	Principal
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	At maturity	16/02/2023	16/02/2024	365	5.00%	4.36%	\$3,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	26/02/2024	367	4.98%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
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TD	BBB	A-2	Credit Union Australia	Annually	31/01/2023	17/04/2024	442	4.67%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB+	A-2	Australian Unity Bank	Annually	9/02/2023	9/05/2024	455	4.80%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	At maturity	26/06/2023	25/06/2024	365	5.48%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB-	A-3	Judo Bank	Annually	24/01/2023	25/07/2024	548	4.45%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	16/08/2024	539	4.95%	4.36%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	2/08/2023	4/09/2024	399	5.45%	4.36%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	15/03/2023	19/09/2024	554	4.80%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	Annually	1/12/2023	29/11/2024	364	5.50%	4.36%	\$4,000,000
TD	NR	NR	NT Treasury Corp	Annually	28/09/2020	15/12/2024	1539	1.10%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	12/01/2023	13/01/2025	732	4.55%	4.36%	\$2,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	24/02/2025	731	4.93%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	1/09/2023	4/03/2025	550	5.05%	4.36%	\$2,000,000

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TD	BBB	A-2	Police Financial Svcs	Annually	1/03/2023	13/03/2025	743	5.15%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	Annually	8/03/2023	27/03/2025	750	4.90%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
TD	NR	NR	Summerland CU	Annually	22/03/2023	8/05/2025	778	4.80%	4.36%	\$1,000,000
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	At Call Account		1/01/2024	1	4.35%	4.35%	\$2,262,823.22
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	Cash Account		1/01/2024	1	1.00%	1.00%	\$1,311,039.39
TOTAL:										\$31,073,863

The graphs indicate Council's Investment Type - cash percentages compared to term deposits, and investments and Counterparty investment percentages for each financial institution.



Portfolio Performance

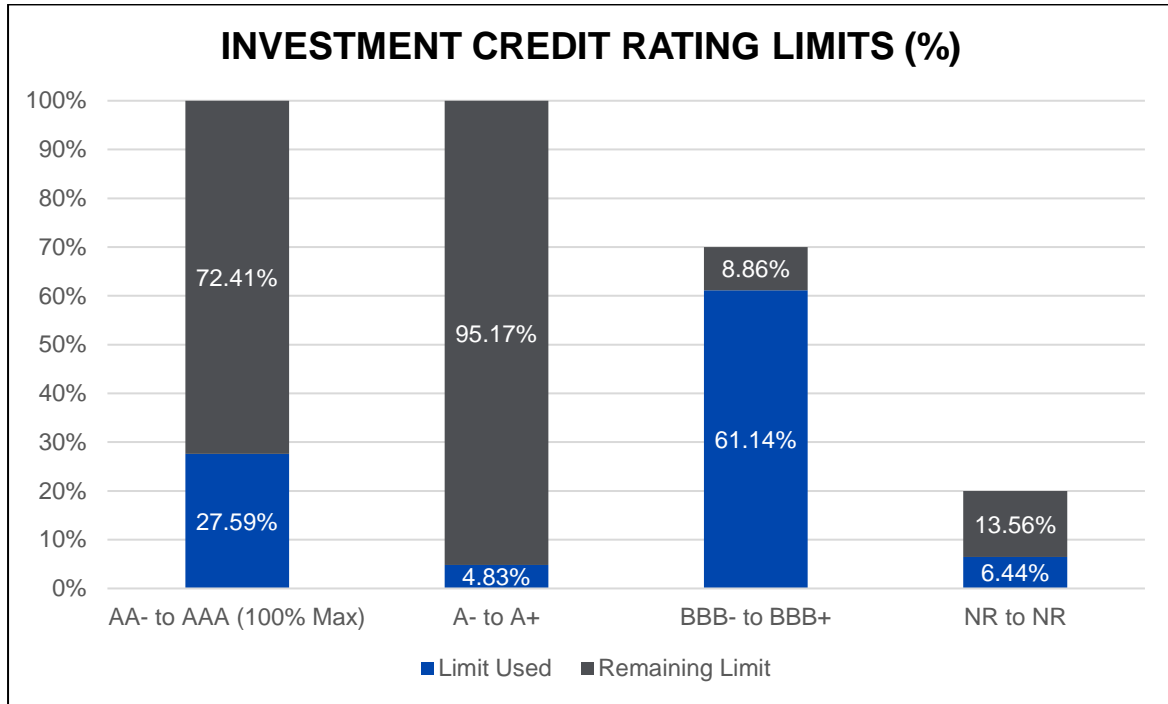
Goldenfields Water County Council's investment portfolio weighted average interest for December 2023 was 4.65%. Performance indicators for comparison are:

- BBSW 4.3575%
- RBA Cash Rate 4.35%
- AusBond Bank Bill 4.335%

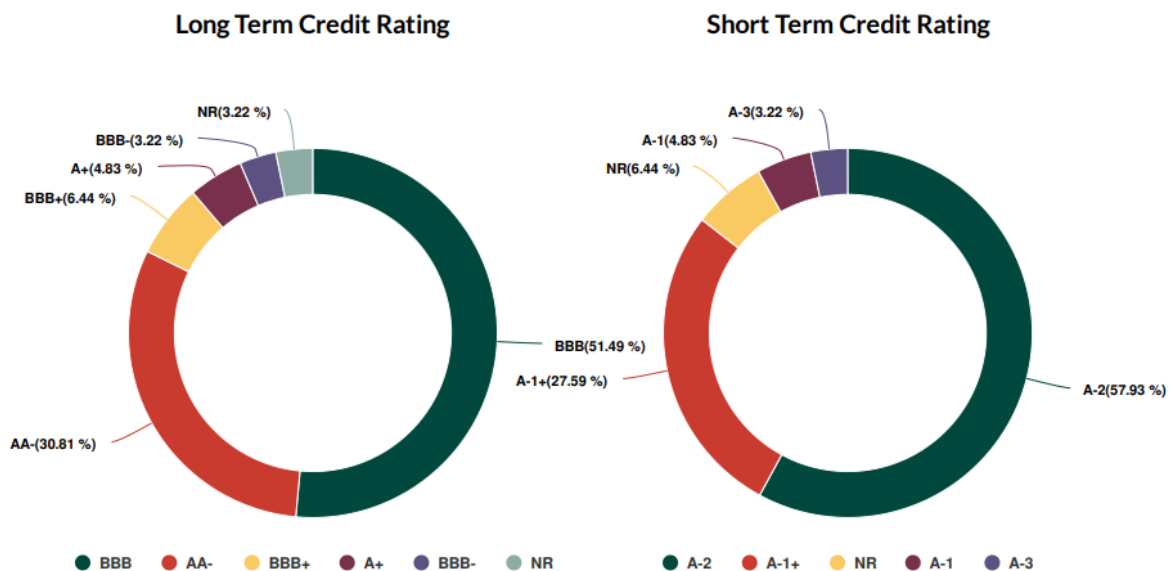
Total Cost	Yearly Interest Received	Weighted Average Term
\$31,073,862.61	\$175,024.66	234 Days
Total Portfolio Value	Monthly Interest Received	Weighted Average Yield
\$31,926,028.48	\$31,000	4.65%

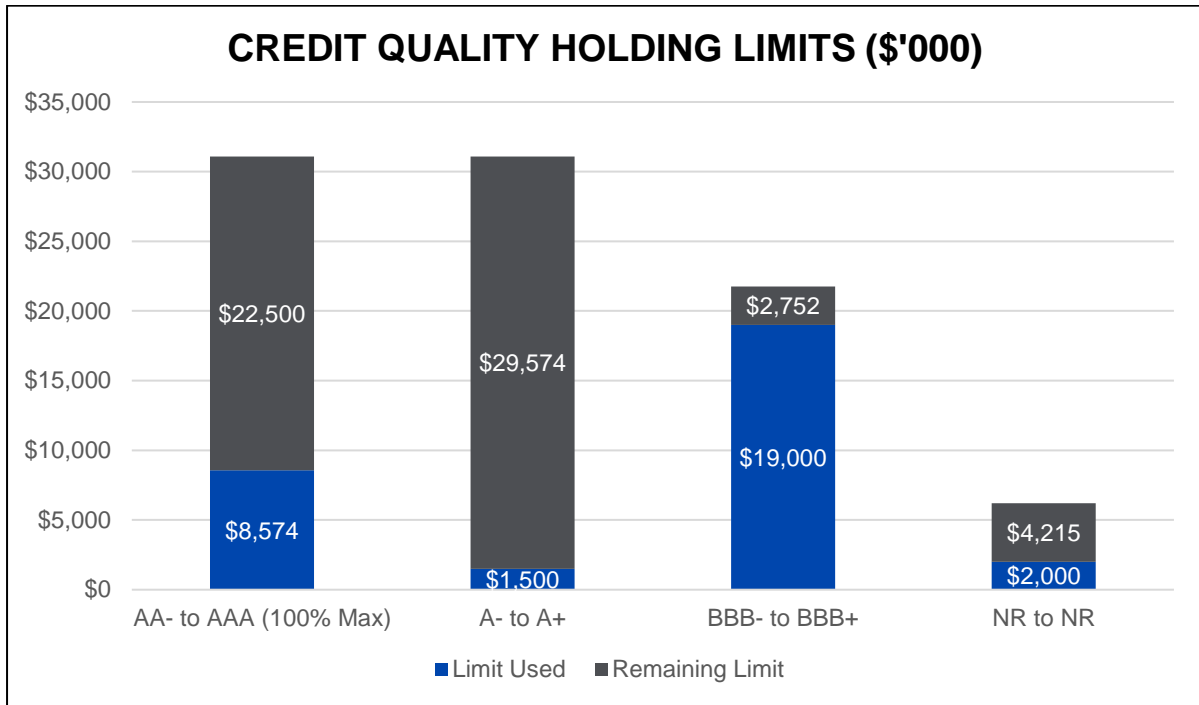
Credit Quality Compliance

Council’s investment portfolio was compliant with policy in terms of S&P long term rating credit quality limits, as displayed below.



The following graphs indicate the percentages of investments held based on Long Term and Short Term investments and the credit ratings of those financial institutions. Note that Long Term Investments are greater than 12 months.

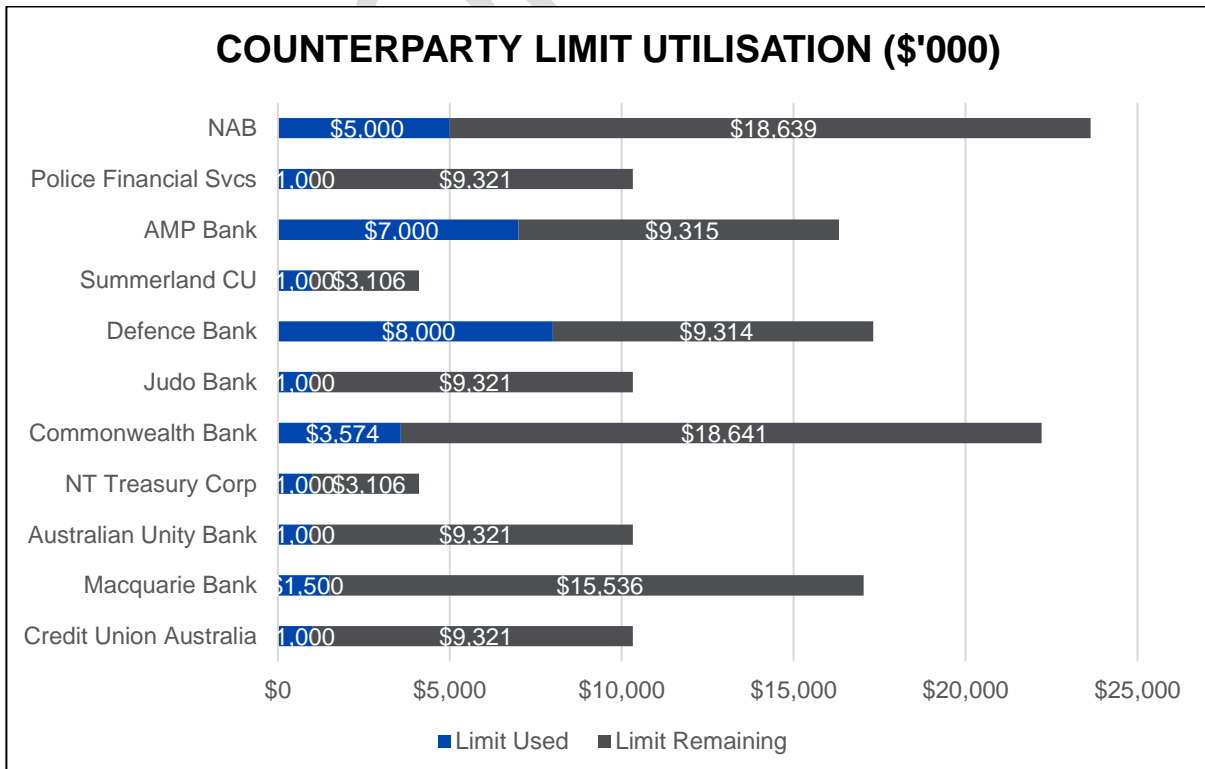


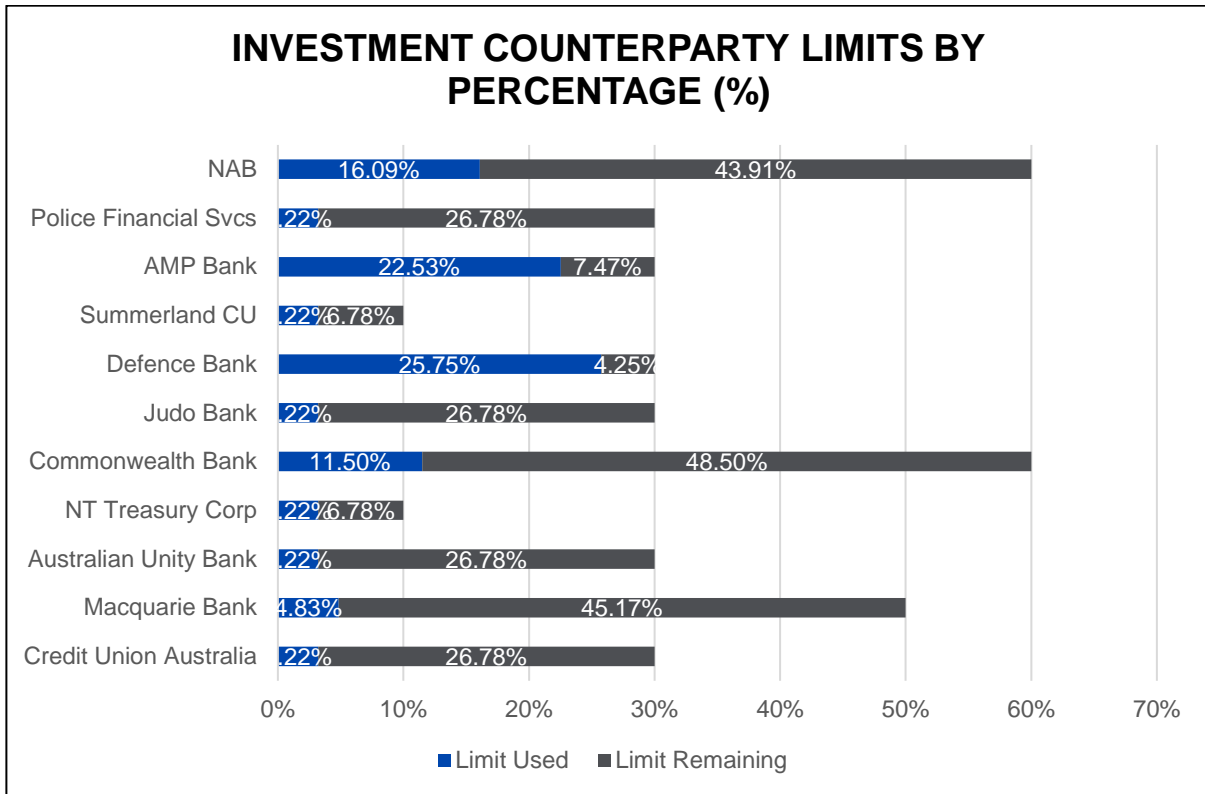


Counter Party Compliance

As at the end of December, Council was compliant with policy in terms of individual financial institution capacity limits. It is worth noting that capacity limits are affected by changes in the on-call account balance compared to the total portfolio balance.

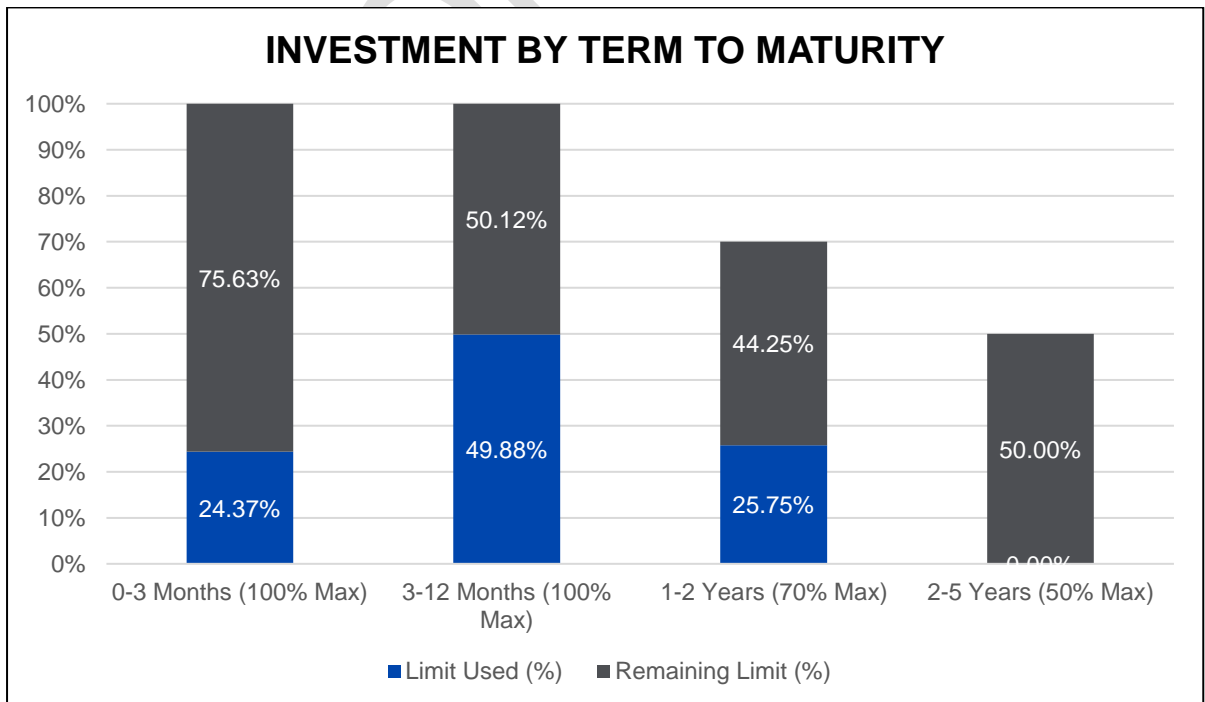
Overall, the portfolio is diversified across a variety of credit ratings, including some exposure to unrated ADIs.





Term to Maturity

Council's investment portfolio maturities shown graphically below were also compliant with policy requirements.



Application of Investment Funds

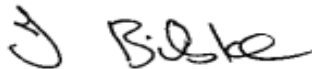
The table below details the allocation of cash balances in terms of restricted funds, noting restrictions are all internal rather than external.

Restricted Funds:	
Employee Leave Entitlements	\$2,551,897
Plant & Vehicle Replacement	\$1,462,793
Infrastructure Replacement	\$1,349,640
Section 64 Developer Contribution Reserve	\$5,000,000
Unrestricted Funds	\$20,709,533
TOTAL	\$31,073,863

Declaration

I hereby certify that investments listed in the report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy PP004.

Signed



Corporate Services Manager

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Council's cash and investment portfolio decreased by \$1,760,572.17 from \$32,834,434.78 as at 30 November 2023 to \$31,073,862.61 as at 31 December 2023.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil.

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

17.1.2. PROGRESS REPORT - CAPITAL WORKS EXPENDITURE

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/014 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callow and Sinclair that the Capital Works Progress Report as at 31 January 2024 be received and noted

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Capital Works Progress Report as at 31 January 2024 be received and noted.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

Capital Works represents an important part of Council's activities and expenditure. This report details expenditure and progress for the year to date on programmed and emergent capital works.

REPORT

The Capital Works financial report provides a "snapshot" of Council's Capital Works Program on 31 January 2024. Capital Works expenditure is reviewed on a weekly basis and discussed with relevant managers and by the Management team.

The Capital Works Report **Attachment A** includes the proposed budget variations listed in Attachment B in the column "Proposed QBR Dec 2023" and are included in the Quarterly Budget Review December Report submitted for your approval.

A detailed report on Council's Major Projects over multiple years is included in this report as **Attachment B** for your information. This report includes the Projects expected completion dates and progress commentary on the individual capital works.

A commentary report on Council's Major Projects for the current financial year is included in **Attachment C** for your information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation has increased Council's Capital Works Expenditure by \$2,200,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Capital Works Progress Report as at January 2024.

ATTACHMENT B: Commentary on Major Capital Works on projects over multiple years as at 31 January 2024

ATTACHMENT C: Commentary on Major Capital Works commentary – current year

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

17.1.3. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW 31 DECEMBER 2023

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/015 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and Sinclair that the Board receives and adopts the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

Clause 211 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires Council to formally adopt the inclusion of unspent prior year budget expenditure into the next year’s budget.

REPORT

The Quarterly Review of Council’s Budget for the period ended 31 December 2023 is submitted for examination and adoption by Council.

The revised operating result for 2023/24 anticipates an overall reduction in the adopted budget deficit from \$1,482,000 to \$1,079,000 excluding Capital Income.

Capital Works expenditure is not included in the Operating Result and is an additional outlay. Further detail regarding capital works can be found in the Capital Budget Review Statement in the Quarterly Budget Review attachment.

Proposed December 2023 quarterly review adjustments:

Operational Additional Income

- Nil

Operational Additional Expenditure

	\$'000
• Work Health & Safety – additional funds required for contractors and consultants – originally underbudgeted.	32
• IT – Salaries and wages – reduction due to vacant positions.	(65)
• IT – Contractors and Consultants – work deferred.	(44)
• IT – Contractors and Consultants – Aqualis development deferred.	(320)
• HR – Advertising -originally underbudgeted.	14
• HR - Legal – reduction in budget - not required.	(20)

Total Operational Expenditure budget variations required - (403)

Capital Revenue

• Developer Contributions – additional S64 contributions.	5,100
• West Wyalong Reliability Project – contribution from NSW connections Funding Pathway Milestone 3 – not originally budgeted.	2,250
• Sale of Plant Income – reduction from original budget.	(187)

Total Capital Revenue variations required 7,163

Capital Expenditure

• Plant Purchases – reduction – overbudgeted in original budget.	(1,003)
• Temora Depot building – reduction – project on hold.	(1,440)
• Depot Workshop lean to storage area.	50
• Temora Depot storage pad.	50
• Rosehill Pipeline – Easements.	80

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- Water Network – Trunk Renewals reduction. (300)
- Water Network – Trunk Renewals Rosehill to Harden Bypass – project delayed. (1,063)
- Water Network – rural renewals GWCC – reduction. (350)
- Wyalong Reliability Project Investigation & Design increased costs. 20
- Water Network urban and rural taggle replacement program. (500)
- Pump Stations & Bores – Jugiong CWPS1 P1 & P2 Inlet Manifold reduction. (500)
- Pump Stations & Bores – Oura Pump Station renewals. (1,070)
- Reservoirs – Wombat BT Renewal – deferred. (2,080)
- Reservoirs External Adhoc Renewals. (50)
- Reservoirs Internal Adhoc Renewals. 50

Total Capital Works Expenditure reduction (8,106)

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation has increased capital revenue by \$7,163,000 and a decrease in capital expenditure \$8,106,000. The operating budget has been decreased \$403,000.

ATTACHMENTS: Quarterly Budget Review 31 December 2023.

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

17.2. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY OPERATIONS MANAGER

17.2.1. PLANT PURCHASING

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/016 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callow and McGlynn that the Board approve \$250,000 for plant purchases for the 2024/2025 Financial Year.

Report prepared by Operations Manager

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure & Efficient Water Supplies

REPORT

Permission is sought from the Board to commit \$250,000 now for plant purchases (commercial vehicles) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, so that orders can be placed in the system.

In the current environment Council is still experiencing difficulties in delivery of commercial vehicles due to disruptions within the overseas supply chain. Dealers state that the on-going instability in the middle eastern countries is also causing a domino effect with supply.

Supply through to delivery of commercial vehicles is still lagging between 6 – 8 months, not including port disruptions.

As such it is recommended to place orders in the system now due to lengthy delays in the supply chain.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation will commit \$250,000 capital expenditure to the 2024/2025 budget.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLES ITEMS: Nil

17.3. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY PRODUCTION AND SERVICES MANAGER

17.3.1. WATER PRODUCTION REPORT

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/017 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that the Water Production Report be received and noted.

Report prepared by Production and Services Manager

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 3 A Healthy Natural Environment

BACKGROUND

Goldenfields Water provides the essential water requirements of about 40,000 people spread over an area in excess of 20,000 square kilometres between the Lachlan & Murrumbidgee Rivers in the South West of NSW.

Goldenfields Waters' supply system consists of five separate water schemes, Jugiong, Oura, Mt Arthur, Mt Daylight and Hylands Bridge. Goldenfields Water carries out water supply functions within the Local Government areas of Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra, Hilltops, Junee, Temora, and parts of Narrandera and Wagga Wagga.

Hilltops Shire Council, Cootamundra Gundagai Shire Council and Riverina Water County Council are retailers, who purchase bulk water from Goldenfields and supply the water to retail customers in their respective local government areas.

REPORT

Jugiong drinking Water Scheme

The Jugiong drinking water scheme sources water from the Murrumbidgee River and has an extraction licence entitlement of 5590ML per annum. Water from the Murrumbidgee River is treated through a 40ML/day, conventional Water Treatment Plant that consists of: Coagulation, Flocculation, Clarification, Filtration, Disinfection and Fluoridation.

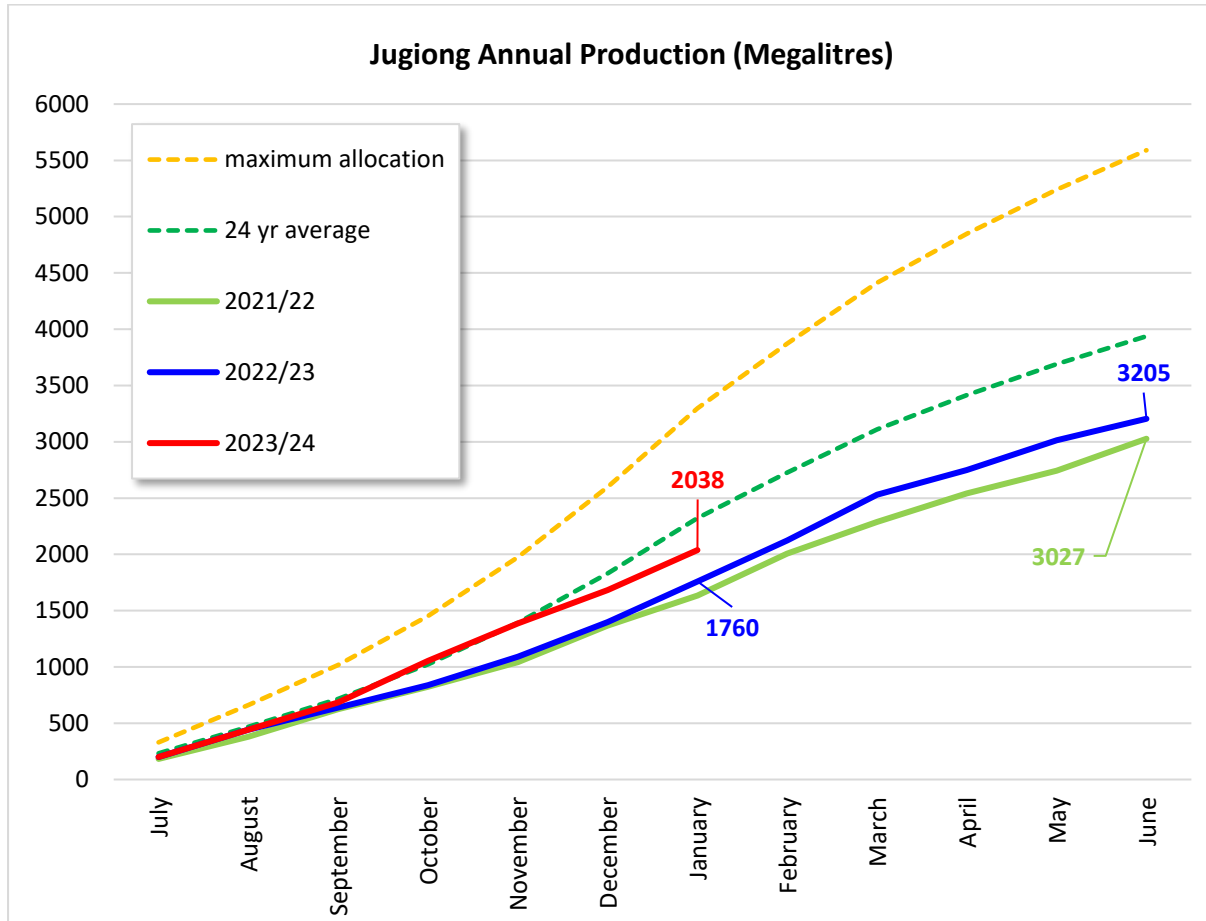
The Jugiong Scheme has 14 sets of reservoirs and 8 pumping stations. The Jugiong Scheme supplies bulk water to the Hilltops and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Councils for supply to the townships of Cootamundra, Harden and Young with a population of approximately 6800, 2200 and 8000 respectively.

Goldenfields Water also provides additional retail supply to approximately 600 customers in the villages of Stockinbingal, Wallendbeen and Springdale.

UNCONFIRMED

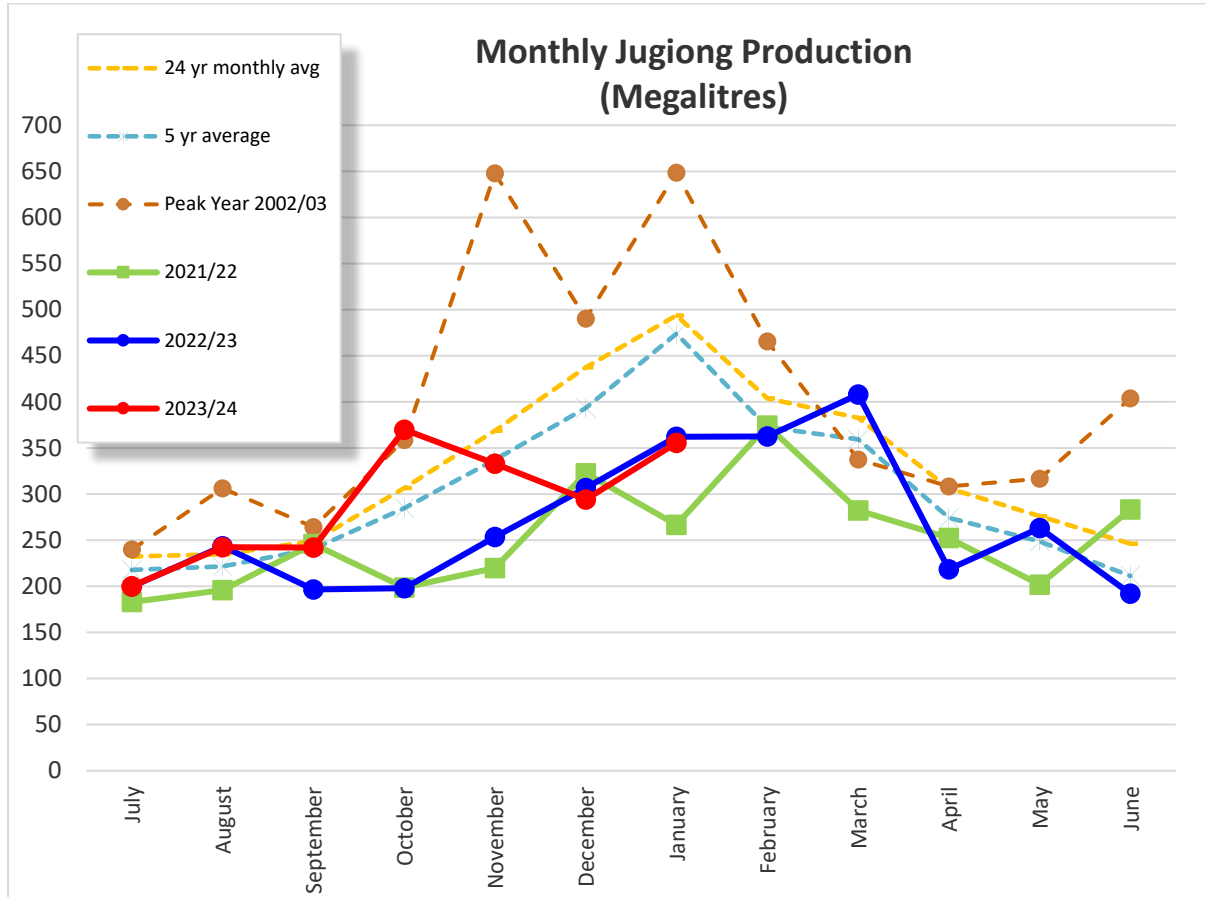
Minutes of the Meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at TEMORA OFFICE on 22 FEBRUARY 2024

For the first 7 months of the 2023/24 financial year, 2038ML of water had been extracted from the Murrumbidgee River and processed at the Jugiong Water Treatment plant. This is slightly higher than for the 2022/23 FY where 1760ML was extracted. An increase of 278ML. This is illustrated in the graph below.



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Jugiong monthly production started slightly higher in July with 200ML extracted and treated for the month. August saw a further increase in production with 242ML similar to the September period. Some warm dry weather increased production to 370ML in October, before some stormy wet periods provided a decrease for the months of November, December, and January with 333ML, 294ML and 356ML respectively.

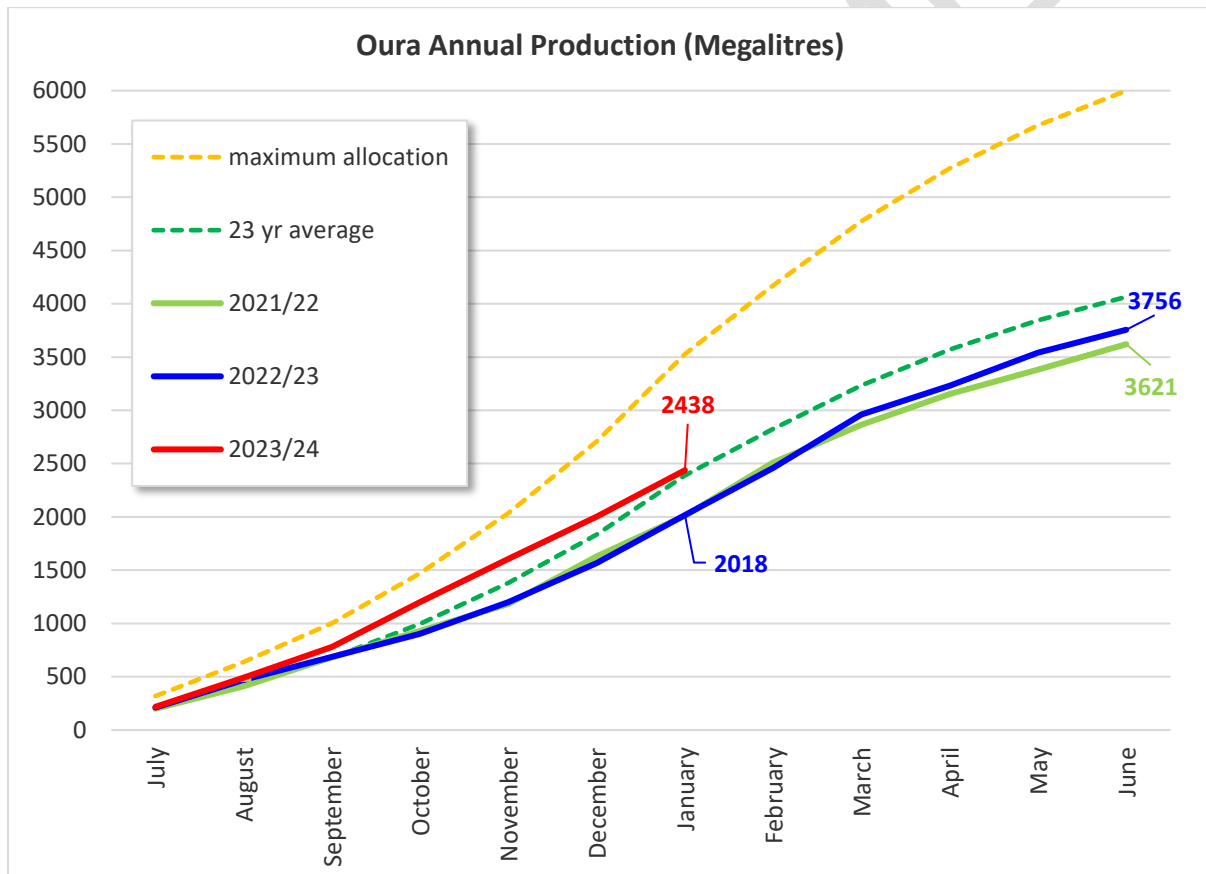


Oura Drinking Water Scheme

The water source at Oura is the Murrumbidgee inland alluvial aquifer, this water is extracted from 4 bores namely: Bores 2, 3, 4 and 6. The raw water then goes through a treatment process at the Oura Water Treatment Plant that includes Aeration, Disinfection and Fluoridation.

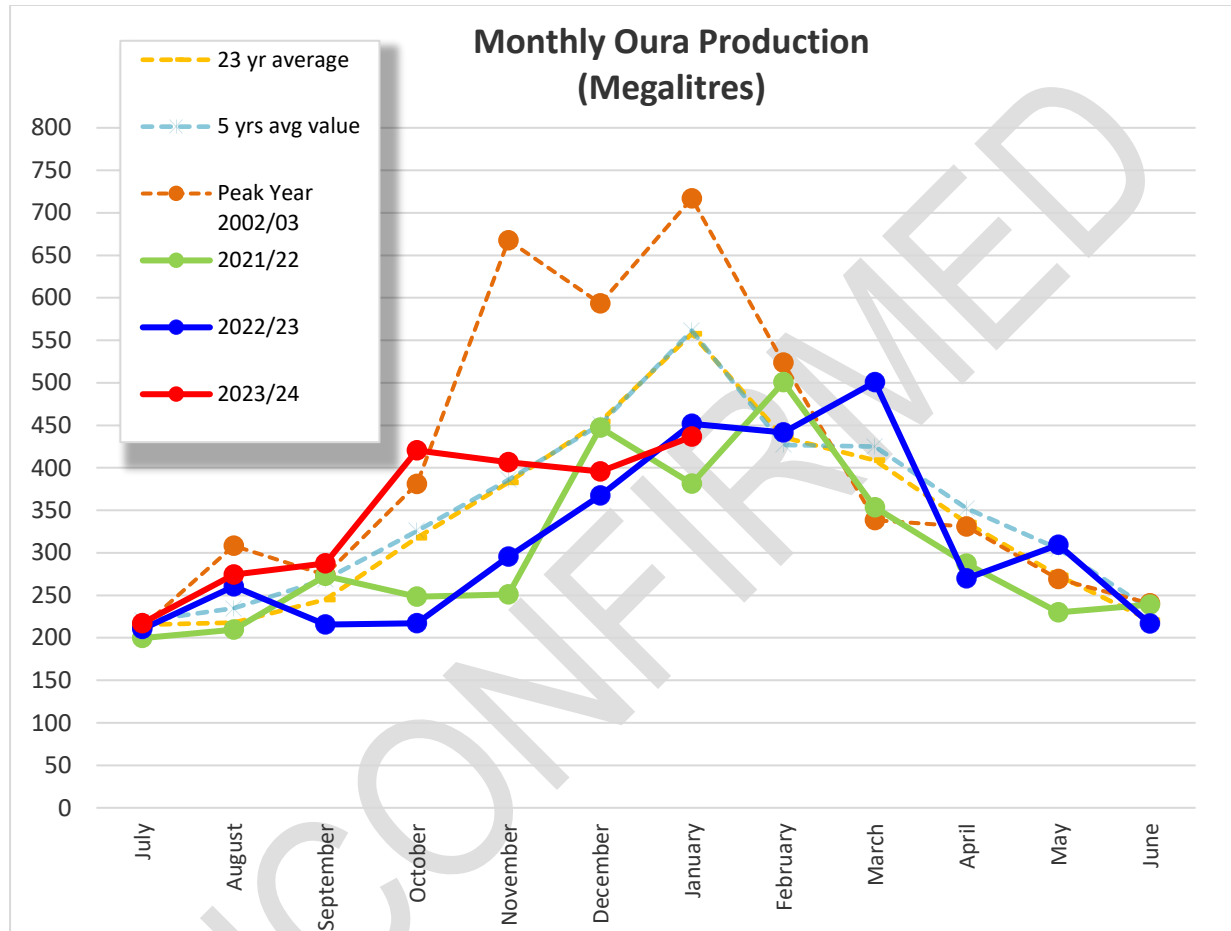
The Oura scheme has 33 sets of reservoirs, and 19 pumping stations, produces drinking water for approximately 14,600 people in the Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Narrandera and Temora Shires. The Oura scheme can also supply water to the Northern side of the rural area of Wagga Wagga City when required.

For the first 7 months of the 2023/24 financial year, 2438ML of water has been extracted from the Oura Borefield and processed at the Oura Water Treatment Plant. This is a 17% increase in production compared to 2022/23 FY where 2018ML of water was extracted for the same period. An increase in production of 420ML. This is depicted in the graph below.



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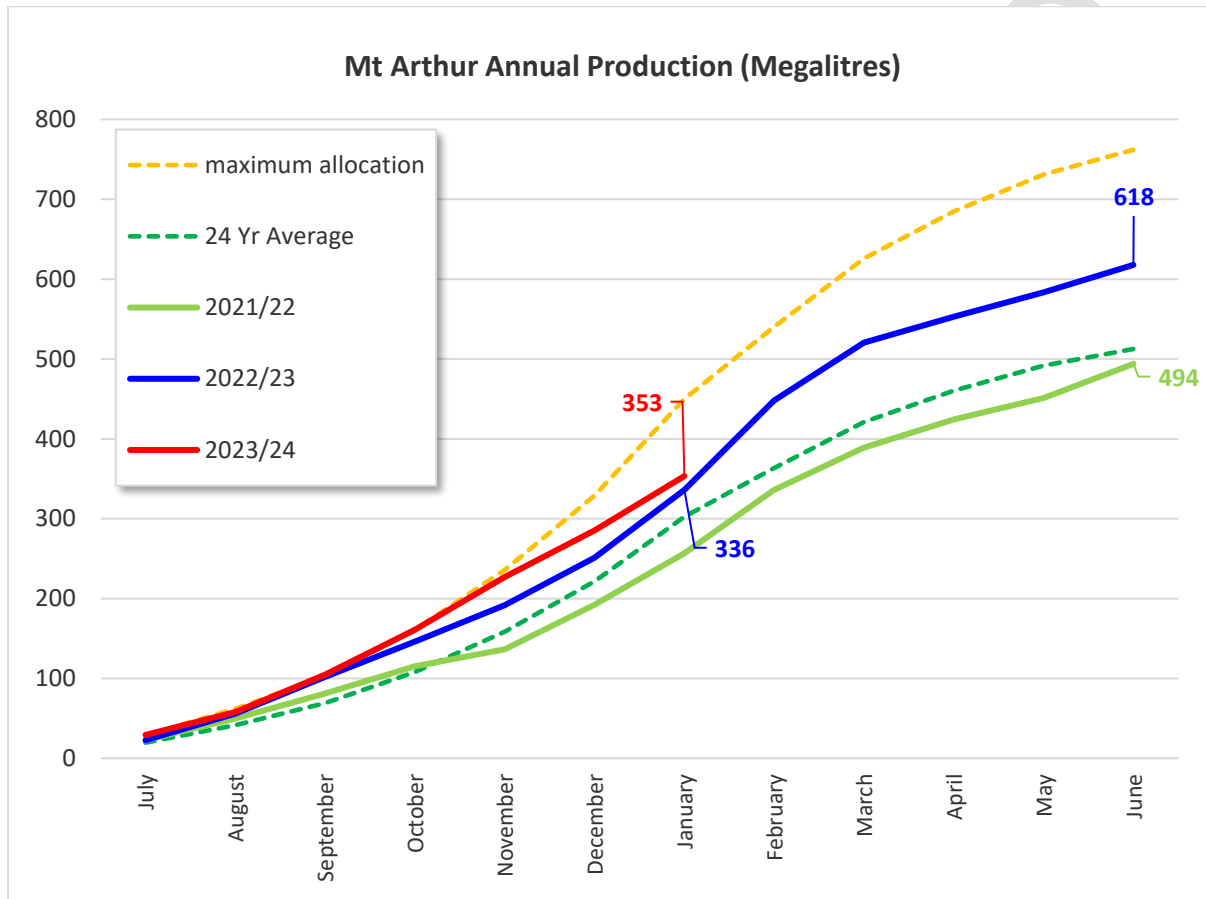
Oura monthly water production has started slightly higher in July where 217ML was extracted from the Oura bores. August saw an increase in production where 274ML was extracted, with a further increase in production for September provided a 287ML extraction. As with the Jugiong scheme, a warm dry period saw a further increase in production for October with 420ML extracted, before some stormy wet periods in November and December saw a slight decrease in production with 406ML and 395ML respectively. January provided our largest production period thus far with a total of 437ML for the month.



Mount Arthur Drinking Water Scheme

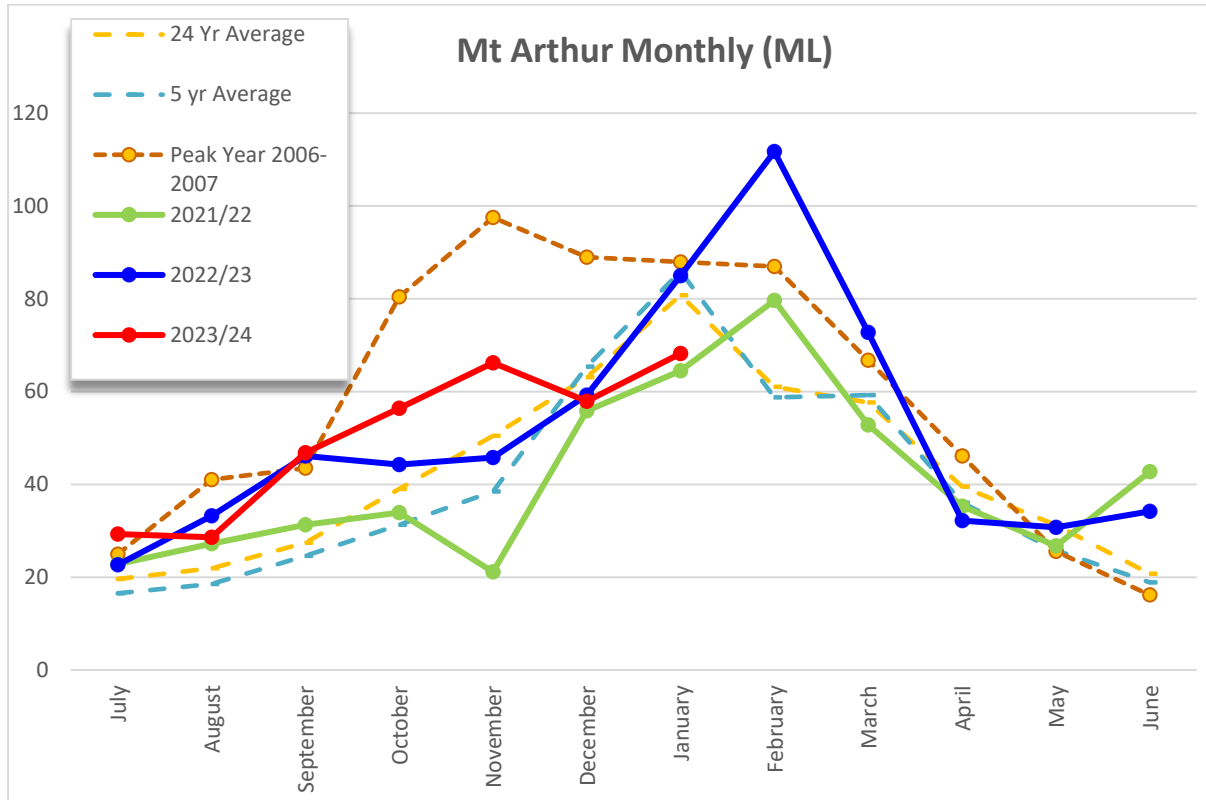
The Mount Arthur Water Source is from the Lachlan Fold belt Aquifer System. The water is extracted via two bores, being bores 1 and 2 located in the Wagga Wagga City Council area South of Matong. The water is disinfected before distribution through 9 sets of reservoirs supplying approximately 2400 people with water in the Coolamon shire.

For the first 7 months of the 2023/24 financial year, 353ML of water has been extracted from the Mt Arthur Borefield. This is an increase compared to the 2022/23 FY where 336ML was extracted from the Mt Arthur bores for the same period with an increase of 18ML. As can be seen in the graph below, production is trending slightly higher to previous years.



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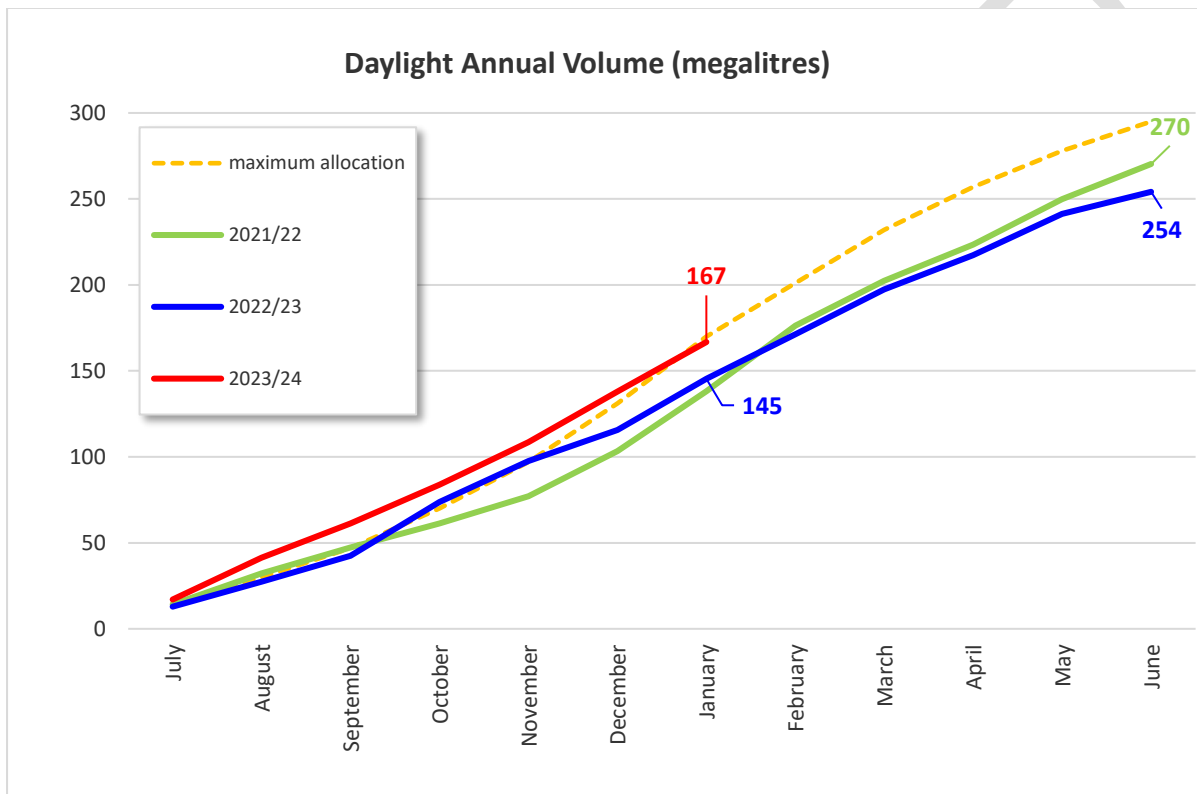
Mt Arthur monthly water production started slightly higher to previous years with 29ML of water extracted from the bores in July. August saw a slight decrease to 28ML extracted and September a further increase to 47ML extracted. Production for the period of September through to January has been steadily increasing every month.



Mount Daylight Drinking Water Scheme

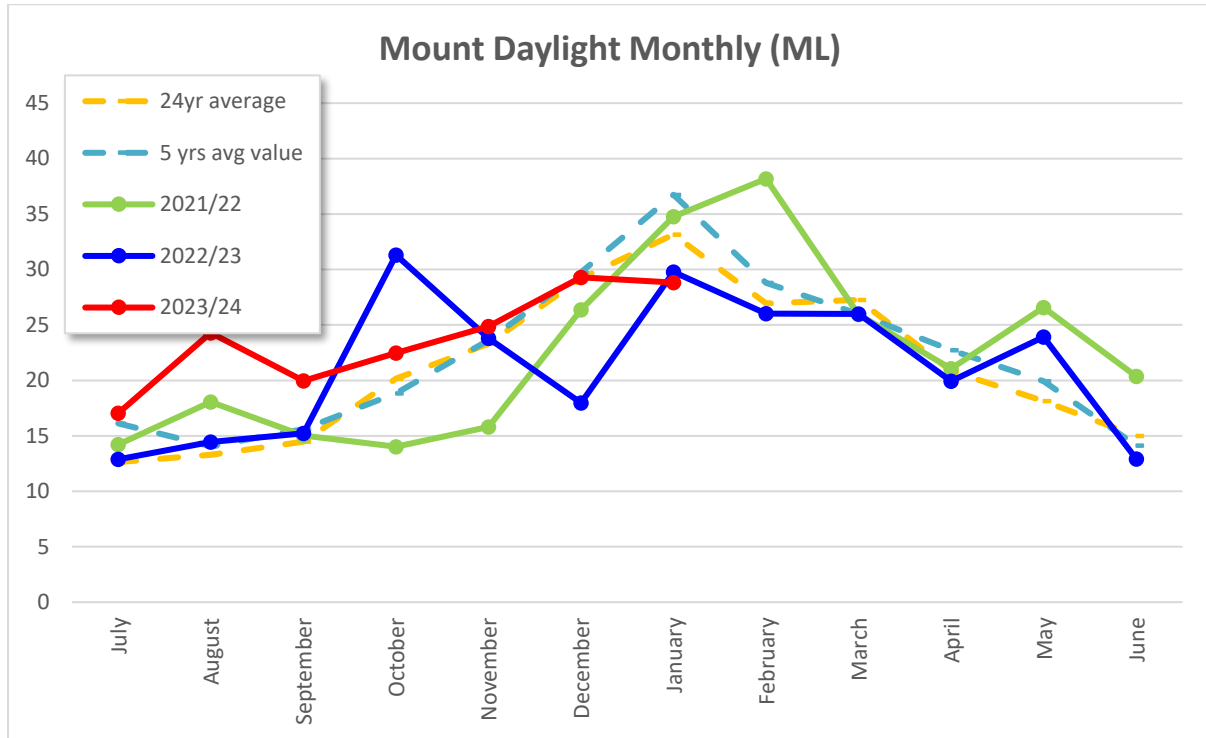
The Mount Daylight water source is from the Lower Lachlan alluvium aquifer. The Mount Daylight bores are jointly operated with Carathool Shire Council. Carathool Shire Council is responsible for bore management. There are 7 sets of reservoirs in the Mt Daylight scheme. Mt Daylight supplies water to approximately 125 people in the villages of Naradhan, Weethalle and Tallimba which is located within the Bland Shire.

For the first 7 months of the 2023/24 financial year 167ML of water has been extracted from the Mt Daylight Borefield. This is an increase in volume of 22ML compared to the 2022/23 FY where 145ML was produced over the same period.



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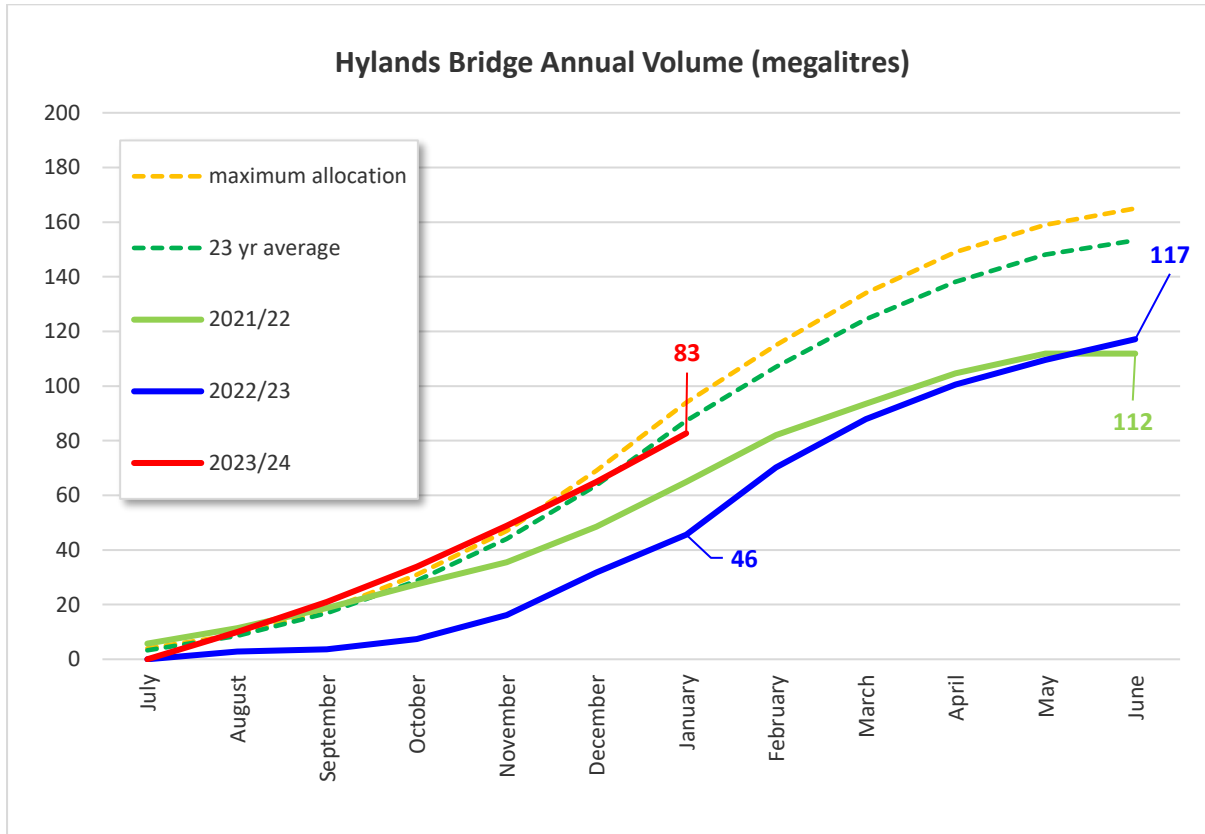
The monthly extraction totals for the Mt Daylight bores started very consistently with July seeing 17ML extracted with slight increases in August 24ML, September was slightly lower in production with 20ML extracted, the period September through to November seen consistent increases in production every month with September 20ML, October 22ML and November 25ML extracted from the Mt Daylight Bores. December saw production to 29ML, January was similar with just under 29ML extracted for the month.



Hylands Bridge - Non-Potable

Hylands Bridge supplies Non-Potable water to Barellan and Binya. The water is sourced through the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area where Goldenfields Water holds 165ML shareholding for water entitlement.

For the first 7 months of the 2023/24 financial year 83ML of water has been extracted from the Hylands Bridge Raw Water Scheme. This is a large increase compared to the same period last year where only 46ML had been extracted.



FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council’s financial position.

LOCAL PREFERENCE

N/A

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

17.3.2. JUGIONG HIGH VOLTAGE PROJECT UPDATE

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/018 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callow and McGlynn that:

- a. The report be received and noted.
- b. Approve the required budgetary adjustment as detailed within the report.

Report prepared by Production and Services Manager

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

The Board at its October 2023 meeting resolved:

That the Board;

- a) note the information detailed within the report
- b) approve to award the contract (Tender 04/2023) for the Jugiong WTP HV LV Electrical Installation Project to JRC Pty Ltd for \$2,249,543.09 (exc GST).
- c) Approve a budgetary provision of \$500k in the 2023/24 financial year, for the purchase of new electrical motors and their installation at the Jugiong WTP clear water pump station site.
- d) Pursuant to s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Board considers that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders before entering into a contract for the purchase of new motors for Jugiong Number 1 and 2 pump stations, due to extenuating circumstances, being:
 1. currently there is a significant risk in long lead times for assets and their associated spares. This is exacerbated when manufactured overseas and custom built.
 2. Council previously tendered contract 05/2022 which provided the selection of new pumps and motors for the Oura HV site.
 3. flexibility in purchasing the same motors as per the previous tender 05/2022 reduces councils' risk of any failures across our HV sites by providing commonality and enabling the swapping out of any equipment across all three sites without any down time.
 4. Significant savings are made when equipment purchased has commonality and spares to be carried are minimalised.
 5. The training of staff with common assets provides greater service and reduces risk of downtime when incidents occur.
- e) authorise the General Manager or their delegate the delegation to negotiate the purchase of new 900kw motors from Toshiba International Corporation PTY LTD and enter into any such Agreements as necessary.

REPORT

Commencement of works onsite occurred in December 2023. Thus far the installation of all cable tray has been undertaken and the ordering of all hardware and materials has occurred. The request for three new Toshiba motors has also been completed with the delivery date expected to be in around May 2024 as they are made overseas.

As per the previous board report the following table was provided in regards to the overall Jugiong HV Project budget.

BUDGET ESTIMATE		
No.	Item	Estimate
1	GWCC Personnel and Internal Costs	\$350,000
2	Electrical Design (inc. ASP3 Essential Energy PoC)	\$450,000
3	Design and Construct – Switchroom and Associated Civil Works	\$2,550,000
4	Supply and Installation of HV Equipment	\$2,255,000
5	Electrical Installation Works (HV and LV)	\$2,500,000
6	SAFEgroup PLC / SCADA Works	\$150,000
7	Contingency	\$500,000
8	TOTAL	\$6,255,000

As you will note with all of the individual line items detailed, the total budget required for the project was estimated at \$8,755,000 including contingency. The above table detailed a total of \$6,255,000 which was incorrect.

The budgetary total detailed above has been used across our budgetary system and has shown a clear shortfall in allocation.

This report is to request a correction in the budgetary allocation of the Jugiong HV project.

The total project budget allocation required is \$8,755,000 plus the additional \$500,000 allocation for the new Toshiba motors detailed with the previous October resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation impacts Councils financial status via an additional budget allocation of \$3m. This \$3m will see that \$2m is brought forward into the 2023/24 financial year with a

budget provision of \$1m being allocated into the 2024/25 financial year to align with the delivery timeframe for completion of the project which is expected around September 2024.

In order to provide this additional allocation, staff will seek to defer the Jugiong Pump Station 2 HV Upgrade project to future years, which was set commence in the new financial year 2024/25.

It should also be noted that there are likely savings to be made from the current Oura Reservoir & Aerator project. A budget allocation of \$12.6m has been made; however, the current status of the project and approved variations in the delivery of the contract has seen significant savings made. It is estimated that Council should retrieve an additional \$1m back into the reserves following the successful delivery of this project.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil if none apply, items tabled in meeting

17.4. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE ENGINEERING MANAGER

17.4.1. BARELLAN SEWER PROJECT INCREASED CONTRIBUTION REQUEST

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/019 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and Sinclair that:

- a) Agree to a funding contribution to Narrandera Shire Council of \$332,008 towards the Barellan Sewer Project specifically for water main replacements**
- b) Donate 10ML of water to Narrandera Shire Council for the Barellan Sewer Project, utilising water from the Hylands Bridge scheme where practical.**

Report prepared by Engineering Manager

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

In 2019 Narrandera Shire Council secured \$4.87m in grant funding under the Safe and Secure Water Program. At the time the total cost of the project was estimated to be \$6.29m and was to include the provision of sewerage pipelines, pump stations and a treatment plant for the township of Barellan, NSW.

In March 2022 Narrandera Shire Council approached Goldenfields Water in regard to the water infrastructure that may be disturbed as a result of the project. The sewerage infrastructure was to be located primarily in the back laneways which is where Goldenfields Water has their potable water network (noting that Goldenfields Water also has a non-potable water network in Barellan that is located primarily in the main streets). In some locations the potable water infrastructure was inconveniently located in the middle of the laneways and would be required to be relocated to enable the construction of the sewerage assets to proceed.

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Goldenfields Water staff met with Narrandera Shire Council staff in May 2022 where NSC advised that the grant funding would cover 75% of the costs of replacing water infrastructure that is disturbed as part of the project. The “Current Value” of the impacted pipelines was approximately 20% of the gross replacement cost so this presented a good outcome for both Councils. Narrandera Shire Council have advised they originally planned for \$750,000 of water infrastructure works which would equate to a \$187,500 contribution.

Goldenfields Water also took the opportunity to include the installation of hydrants on the potable water mains in preparation for one day decommissioning the non-potable water network. Goldenfields Water will cover 100% of the costs related to the installation of the hydrants.

REPORT

Due to the industry wide price increases experienced over the past few years the project costs have exceeded initial estimates and grant funding contributions. Narrandera Shire Council made the decision to proceed with the project and the project construction contract was awarded in September 2023.

The Contractor engaged is responsible for identifying which water mains would need to be replaced. Goldenfields Water have been working with the contractors where required to assist delivery and ensure our standards are met.

Narrandera Shire Council have written to Goldenfields Water to request an increased contribution towards the project. NSC have requested Goldenfields Water consider a 50% contribution to the cost of the water infrastructure works which equates to \$541,923.

When taking this request into consideration Goldenfields Water should consider the impact this may have on our financial asset management. The project costs for the water infrastructure is quite high and exceeds both the NSW reference rates and Goldenfields Water’s adopted unit rates, furthermore there are existing assets with remaining useful lives that will be disposed of.

Goldenfields Water value the replacement pipeline works as \$430,350 as per our asset register’s current unit rate values for urban pipework which are based on the actual costs of works completed in recent years.

The pipelines being replaced had a Current Value of \$98,342. Some of these pipelines were old 50mm pipelines which have been replaced with our current standard DN100 PVC pipe.

Value of Works	\$
Value of works as per contract costs	\$1,083,846
Requested contribution amount (50%)	\$541,923
Value of works as per GWCC’s adopted unit rates	\$430,350
Value of assets disposed	\$98,342
GWCC Net Value = GWCC unit rate value of works minus value of assets disposed	\$332,008

The Board may wish to consider a contribution of the full request, GWCC’s unit rate value of the works, net value of the works, original anticipated contribution amount, original contribution percentage or as otherwise determined by the Board.

Note: the figures above do not include the \$49,000 cost of the hydrants installation which Goldenfields Water are 100% responsible for as this was a requested addition to the project.

As part of the project Narrandera Shire Council will also need to purchase 10ML of water to fill the ponds at the treatment works. This will be achieved by using hydrants to discharge water into the newly constructed sewerage pump stations in town and then use the sewerage infrastructure to pump the water out to the treatment plant location. Usually, this water would be charged at the Temporary Water Supply rate being \$4.20 per kl which is higher than the normal Non-Residential Charge of \$2.27.

Depending on the Hylands Bridge scheme licensing entitlement and yearly scheme demand the 10ML may be provided fully from the Hylands Bridge non-potable system, fully from the Oura supply scheme or from a combination of both. The Hylands Bridge scheme is the non-potable scheme which supplies raw water from an irrigation channel and has reduced production costs to Council due to not needing to treat the water.

Should the Board wish to consider further assistance to Narrandera Shire Council it could consider a discounted water supply charge or a donation of the water required.

10ML at the temporary water supply charge = \$42,000

10ML at the Non-Residential supply charge = \$22,700

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In comparison to the original anticipated funding contribution of \$187,500, the recommendation comprises an increased funding contribution of \$144,508 and a loss of potential water sales income of \$42,000 representing a total increase of \$186,508.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Letter of request from Narrandera Shire Council

17.5. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

17.5.1. DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT – JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/020 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callow and White that the July to December 2023 Delivery Program Progress Report be received and noted.

Report prepared by General Manager

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Section 404 of the Local Government Act 1993 - *Delivery Program*, stipulates that regular progress reports (at least 6 monthly) be provided to Council to report on progress toward the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program.

REPORT

Council's July to December 2023 Delivery Program Progress Report has been created, measuring the organisations progress toward the Delivery Program. The report is attached for Council's information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Delivery Program Progress Report July to December 2023

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

17.5.2. APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/021 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Callow and McGlynn that the Board appoints Geoff Veneris, Production & Services Manager, as Acting General Manager during the period 15 April 2024 to 19 July 2024, inclusive.

Report prepared by General Manager

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Under section 334 of the Local Government Act, council must appoint the general manager.

REPORT

I will be on approved leave from 15 April 2024 until 19 July 2024. The appointment of an Acting General Manager is required to ensure efficient operations and the functions of the General Manager are maintained during this period.

It is my recommendation that Geoff Veneris, Production & Services Manager, is appointed to this position for the period between 15 April 2024 and 19 July 2024, inclusive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The annual operating budget includes funding for acting allowances, therefore there is not an impact on Councils Financial Position.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

18. NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday 11 April 2024 at 10:00am.

19. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business requiring the attention of Council the meeting was declared closed at 11.21am

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