



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 27 July 2022

Commencing at

3:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

Members:

Mayor – Councillor Eric Noakes
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Scott Kermode
Councillor Mark Berry
Councillor Kevin Ferrier
Councillor Nena Hicks
Councillor Anne-Marie Pointing
Councillor Aurora Reilly
Councillor Gregory Schaefer

Quorum – 5 Members to be Present

AGENDA

Submitted to Council:

27 July 2022

..... General Manager

..... Mayor



Dear Mayor & Councillors

You are requested to attend the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on **Wednesday, 27 July 2022** commencing at **3:00pm**.

Yours sincerely

Barry Omundson
General Manager

NOTICE:

The Ordinary, Extra Ordinary and Committee open meetings of Council will be audio recorded for community transparency and minute taking purposes. The audio recording of all Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary Meetings of Council will be uploaded to Council's website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge the Dughutti people as the traditional owners of the land that we meet on. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and recognise their continuing connection to the land, water and community of which we are a part.

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2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
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 - 6.2 Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2022 WO/2022/02049
 - 6.3 Draft 2022 Disability Inclusion Action Plan DIAP WO/2022/02061
 - 6.4 Appoint Community Representation to Advisory Committees – Tourism and Community Care WO/2022/01822
7. Notice of Motion
 - 7.1 Number: 24 – Vegetation Regrowth – Cllr Nena Hicks WO/2022/02064
8. Matters of Urgency
(Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).



9. Management Review Reports

9.1 Office of the General Manager	WO/2022/02055
9.2 Infrastructure	WO/2022/02066
9.3 Environment & Development	WO/2022/02015
9.4 Community & Tourism	WO/2022/01824

10. Committee Reports

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on Tuesday 21 June 2022.	WINT/2022/04284
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11. Delegate Reports

Nil.

12. Questions with Notice

Nil.

13. Reports to be Considered in Closed Council

13A Referral to Closed Council – Waiving of Interment Fees	WO/2022/02065
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Resolution to adjourn the Ordinary Meeting and to move into Closed Council Meeting and to exclude the Press and the Public from the entire proceedings of the Closed Meeting.

Resolution to move into Open Council.

The Mayor publicly declares the Closed Council Meeting Resolution/s.



Present:

Leave of Absence Received:

Confirmation of the Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday, 29 June 2022:

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 June 2022:



Item 2: Previous Minutes



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

at

3:05pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Audio Statement and Acknowledgement of Country were read by the Chairman.

PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors MA Berry, KW Ferrier, NF Hicks, AC Pointing, A Reilly and GDM Schaefer.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs LJ Latham (Acting General Manager) – Director Environment & Development, Mrs KMD Kermode – Director Community & Tourism, Mr CC Martin – Manager Corporate & Finance and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

213 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Berry that the Leave of Absence received from Clr Kermode from 24 June to 17 July 2022, being on a family holiday be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES

This is page 1 of 5 of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes held 29 June 2022

.....General ManagerMayor



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2022:

214 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

215 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Hicks that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Adoption of Community Strategic Plan 2032; Delivery Program 2022-2025 & 2022-2023 Operational Plan – Budget, Fees & Charges, Revenue Policy & Levy the Rates
WO/2022/01782

216 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schaefer and Ferrier that Council:

1. In accordance with the provisions of Section 402 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council **ADOPT** the Draft Community Strategic Plan 2032 as Final **noting**:

- a. reverting item 6.4 of the Community Strategic Plan back to the previous version of the Community Strategic Plan which is:

Goal 6.4: Walcha will increase the use and production of renewable energy.

Strategy 6.4.1: Establish alternate renewable energy supplies that will meet our energy needs;

- b. undertake further consultation regarding renewable energy for the Walcha Local Government Area; and
- c. Present an amended Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program/Operational Plan, if required, for Council to consider and for placement on public exhibition with the revised resourcing strategy at the completion of the Financial Sustainability Review.

2. NOTE Council's non-compliance with Section 403 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which has been advised to the Office of Local Government and to be addressed via completion of the Financial Sustainability Review and update of Council's Resourcing Strategy.



3. In accordance with the provisions of Section 404, 405 and 406 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council **ADOPT** the Draft Delivery Program 2022 – 2025 and 2022 – 2023 Operational Plan which includes the 2022–2023 Budget, Revenue Policy and Fees & Charges as Final with the removal from the Budget Capital Works Administration Item – Install Carport at Croudace Street House \$35,000; and
4. In accordance with Section 494 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, Council **MAKE** and **LEVY** the Rates and Charges for 2022-2023 for the General, Water and Sewerage Funds, and Waste Management Charges as detailed in the Report; and
5. Council **AUTHORISE** the General Manager to arrange for the preparation and the service of the 2022-2023 Rate notices.

6.2 Development Application 10.2022.16 Deck – DCP Variation

WO/2022/01709

217 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Pointing that Council approve Development Application 10.2022.16 for the construction of deck within the building setback on Lot 7 DP 249195 known as 159E North Street, Walcha, as per the development conditions listed within the Development Assessment Report.

Being a **Planning Matter a Division** was called prior to voting on this matter and the results were as follows:

For: Berry, Ferrier, Hicks, Noakes, Pointing, Reilly and Schaefer.

Against: Nil.

Absent: Kermode

Declarations of Interest: Nil.

6.3 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Annual Review

WO/2022/01730

218 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Berry that Council:

1. **RECEIVE** and note the report;
2. **DETERMINE** the annual fee payable to Councillors as \$12,420 per year and the Mayoral Allowance of Walcha Council as \$27,600 for the 2022/2023 financial year.

6.4 Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Future

WO/2022/01752

219 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schaefer and Hicks that Council **DELEGATE** to the General Manager:

1. To **EXPLORE** shared service opportunities of Audit Risk & Improvement Committee arrangements with Uralla Shire Council; and
2. **SEEK** applications of Audit Risk & Improvement Committee chair (either in conjunction with Uralla Shire Council or alone).



6.5 Walcha Community Centre Management Committee Appointment of Council Representative WO/2022/01723

220 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that Council **ENDORSE** and **APPOINT** Councillor Schaefer as Council’s representative to the Walcha Community Centre Management Committee as per the Rules and Management of the Committee, Clause 4(d).

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager WO/2022/01728

221 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Pointing that items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.2 Infrastructure WO/2022/01777

222 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Berry that items included in the Infrastructure Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.3 Environment & Development WO/2022/01466

223 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Reilly that items included in the Environment & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.4 Community & Tourism WO/2022/01686

224 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Ferrier that items included in the Community & Tourism Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

225 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Committee Reports as presented.

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on Tuesday 07 June 2022.

WINT/2022/04123



3.2 Relocation of “The Mother” Sculpture

226 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that Council **APPROVE** relocating the sculpture “The Mother” to the Southern End of Middle Street (near to Nivisons Look Out).

10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Capital Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Walcha Council Depot on Wednesday 15 June 2022.

4.2.1 Celfi Mobile Signal Boosters

227 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schaefer and Berry that Council **APPROVE** the purchase of the Celfi Mobile Boosters for fit out in vehicles and plant across the Council Fleet and as the next step in the continued roll out of Communications Upgrades for Council’s outdoor crews.

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

228 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Schaefer that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Delegate Reports as presented.

11.1 Summary of the Arts North West Board Meeting held at Glen Innes Severn Learning Centre on Friday 20 May 2022. WI/2022/07773

11.2 Minutes of the Arts North West Strategic Advisory Council Meeting held at Glen Innes Severn Learning Centre on Friday 20 May 2022. WI/2022/06276

11.3 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Rural Health Forum Meeting held at Auditorium, Club York, Sydney on Thursday 26 May 2022. WI/2022/06537

11.4 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association of NSW General Meeting held at Auditorium, Club York, Sydney on Friday 27 May 2022. WI/2022/06537

11.5 Minutes of the Walcha Community Consultative Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 June 2022 at the Walcha Library. WI/2022/07631

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:37PM.



Item 3:
Business
Arising from
Previous
Minutes



Item 4:

Declarations of Interest



Item 5: Mayoral Minute



Item:	5.1	Ref:	WO/2022/02062
Title:	Mayoral Minute – Accounting Treatment of Rural Fire Service (“Red Fleet”) Assets		
Author:	Mayor Eric Noakes		
Previous Items:	Not Applicable		
Attachment:	No		

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1: *Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.*

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

1. Writes to the local State Member the Hon Kevin Anderson MP, the Treasurer the Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience the Hon Stephanie Cook MP and the Minister for Local Government the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP:
 - a. Expressing Council’s objection to the NSW Government’s determination on ownership of Rural Fire Service assets;
 - b. Advising of the impact of the Government’s position on Council finances of this accounting treatment;
 - c. Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to permanently clear up inequities and inconsistencies around the accounting treatment of Rural Fire Service assets by acknowledging that rural firefighting equipment is vested in, under the control of and the property of the Rural Fire Service; and
 - d. Amending S119 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* so that the effect is to make it clear that Rural Fire Service Assets are not the property of Councils.
2. Writes to the Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey MLC, the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib MP, the Shadow Minister for Local Government Greg Warren MP, the Greens Spokesperson for Local Government Jamie Parker MP and the leaders of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, Animal Justice and One Nation parties Robert Borsak MLC, Emma Hurst MLC and Mark Latham MLC:
 - a. Advising Members of Walcha Council’s position, including providing copies of correspondence to NSW Government Ministers; and
 - b. Seeking Members’ commitments to support NSW Councils’ call to amend the *Rural Fires Act 1997* as set out in correspondence.
3. Promotes these messages via its digital and social media channels and via its networks.
4. Reaffirms its complete support of and commitment to local Rural Fire Service (RFS) brigades noting that Walcha Council’s action is entirely directed towards the NSW Governments nonsensical position that rather than being owned and controlled by local brigades, RFS assets are somehow controlled by councils, which councils consider to be a cynical financial sleight of hand abdicating the NSW Government’s responsibilities at the cost of local communities.



- 5. Affirms its support to Local Government NSW (LGNSW) that requests LGNSW continue advocating on Council's behalf to get clarification finally from the State Government about the accounting treatment of RFS assets.**
- 6. Until such time as clarity from the State Government in relation to the accounting treatment of RFS assets is resolved Walcha Council will not have a qualified financial report and consequently recognise the RFS assets.**

Report:

I am calling on Councillors to support the local government campaign on the financial accounting treatment of Rural Fire Service (RFS) mobile assets known as the 'Red Fleet'.

A long-standing dispute over the accounting treatment of the Red Fleet has come to a head with the Auditor-General's 2021 Report on Local Government on 22 June 2022. The Audit Report reemphasises the State Government determination that RFS assets are the "property" of councils and must be recorded in Council's financial statements with Council required to therefore absorb all depreciation costs.

The *Audit Office Local Government Report* has reinforced the notion that RFS mobile and other fire-fighting assets can somehow be deemed to be Council assets and applies more pressure on councils and the Office of Local Government (OLG) to conform with this determination, even though councils do not have effective management or control of these assets.

Councils across the State and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) refute this determination. Councils do not have any say in the acquisition, deployment, or disposal of these assets. Comparable assets held by Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and the State Emergency Service (SES) are not vested anywhere other than with the organisations that purchase, use, maintain and dispose of them.

Councils and LGNSW have also raised concerns that the requirement breaches Australian Accounting Standards. The State Government's own *Local Government Accounting Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting* provides for councils to determine whether to record RFS assets on their books as Council assets. This position has been confirmed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment in his letter to the Auditor-General dated 7 June 2022, presented in Appendix 1 on page 47 of the 2021 Local Government Audit Report.

Council notes advice from LGNSW that many councils are refusing to comply with the Auditor General's instructions. Councils remained firm in 2021, resisting pressure to record RFS assets with the majority (68), choosing not to record the RFS mobile assets in accordance with the *Local Government Accounting Code*. This was the same number of councils as in 2020. LGNSW is encouraging councils to continue resisting pressure from the Audit Office and make their own determinations notwithstanding overtures that ongoing non-compliance with the Auditor General's instructions may result in future qualified financial reports.



The latest Audit Report has made further impositions on (Council) by:

- recommending Council undertakes a stocktake of RFS assets and records the value in Council's financial statements;
- warning that if Council does not recognise the assets, it will be found non-compliant and will have a high risk finding reported; and
- calling on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (OLG) to intervene where councils do not recognise rural firefighting equipment.

The Government's blanket determination is not only nonsensical, but also inconsistent with the treatment of the comparable assets of other emergency service agencies such as Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and the State Emergency Service (SES). There is no rational reason for maintaining this anomaly.

LGNSW has been advocating this position on councils' behalf and has written to the NSW Treasurer the Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Local Government the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP and the Auditor-General, Ms Margaret Crawford to express the Local Government sector's strong objection to the NSW Government's determination, applied by the Auditor-General, that RFS assets are the property of councils for accounting purposes and amend the *Rural Fires Act 1997*.

LGNSW has advised it will continue its advocacy efforts on councils' behalf and is asking all affected councils in NSW to consider adopting a resolution advising the Audit Office that Council will not carry out the RFS stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets on Council's financial statements.

I suggest that Walcha Council however support the LGNSW intent, yet recognise the FRNSW assets so as to not be financially non-compliant.

Clr Eric Noakes
Mayor of Walcha



Item 6:

Senior Officers' Reports



Item: 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2022/02045
Title: Alcohol-Free Zone: Walcha Proposal and Alcohol Prohibited Area: McHattan Park Proposal
Author: Director Environment & Development
Previous Items: WO/20/1944 JUL20 Application for an Alcohol-Free Zone in the Walcha CBD by Walcha Police
WO/14/206 FEB14 Request for Alcohol-Free Zone in Walcha
WINT/08/2080 NOV08 Alcohol-Free Zone on Levee Bank
Attachments: 1. Proposed Alcohol-Free Zone and Proposed Alcohol Prohibited Area Map
2. Oxley Police District Response to Consultation

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

7.1.1.2 – Implement and deliver programs and actions that support Police efforts to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1) in accordance with the provisions of sections 632A and 644A of the Local Government Act 1993:
 - a) Publish a notice of the proposals in a newspaper circulating in the area inviting submissions within 30 days
 - b) Send a copy of the proposals to:
 - a) the Police Local Area Commander,
 - b) the officer in charge of the closest police station, and
 - c) liquor licensees and secretaries of registered clubs whose premises border, adjoin or are adjacent to the proposed locations, inviting submissions within 30 days.
 - 2) Request a further report to be submitted at the completion of the consultation period detailing any submissions received during consultation for Council's consideration.
-

Introduction:

Council received an application for an Alcohol-Free Zone to be established under the *Local Government Act 1993* from Sergeant Brock Freeman of the Walcha Police Station.

The area requested to be included in the Alcohol-Free Zone included:

- a) Fitzroy Street – commencing at South Street through to Pakington Street,
- b) Derby Street – commencing at Walsh Street through to Apsley Street, and
- c) McHattan Park

Note: Road or parts of roads includes footpaths.

The reasons for Sergeant Freeman requesting the Alcohol-Free Zone was in response to the number of alcohol related incidents over the previous 12 months and due to related



antisocial behaviour such as littering and Council early morning response efforts required to clean up broken glass and the like. Sergeant Freeman submitted raw data information to Council of alcohol related incidents to support his application.

Alcohol-free zones are enforced by the police and work by authorising police where any person is observed to be drinking in an alcohol-free zone to have the alcohol in their possession immediately seized and tipped out or otherwise disposed of.

The application was presented to Council in July 2020, whereby Council resolved to:

1. Prepare a proposal for an Alcohol-Free Zone as per the area identified in the application and extend to all licensed premises;
2. Prepare a proposal for an Alcohol Prohibited Area in McHattan Park.

Alcohol-Free Zones (AFZs) apply to road-related public areas (e.g. public road, footpath or carpark), whilst Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs) apply to nonroad-related public areas (e.g. parks)

Report:

The principal object of AFZs and APAs is to prevent disorderly behaviour caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas in order to improve public safety. There is evidence that when AFZs and APAs are established in appropriate areas and operated with the required level of resources to promote and enforce the zones, they are an effective tool in assisting Police and Council to manage public safety.

This application directly links to the Walcha Community Strategic Plan 2032 through **Action 7.1.1.2 – Implement and deliver programs and actions that support Police efforts to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour**

A proposal must be prepared in respect of every proposed alcohol-free zone, and must be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and the *Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol-Free Zones February 2009* (the Guidelines) as in force under section 646 of the Act.

The Guidelines provide councils with detailed procedures to be followed when considering the establishment of alcohol-free zones; the guidelines include details on the application process, consultation and operational requirements.

The process of establishing an alcohol-free zone is quite prescriptive and rigorous, and the general tenor of the guidelines appears to indicate that its establishment is a short-term control measure to be implemented in conjunction with a range of strategies to address irresponsible alcohol consumption and associated antisocial and illegal behaviour, as used in isolation they may only move the problem from one place to another.



The Act intends that Council must satisfy itself that there is a clearly identified problem with irresponsible street drinking and that the creation of an alcohol-free zone will be an effective tool to facilitate the safe use of roads and footpaths without interference.

As an alcohol-free zone will impose restrictions on the personal freedom of citizens, a proposal to establish a zone must adequately address the matters set out in the Guidelines:

1. Reasons to support an alcohol-free zone
2. Location of an alcohol-free zone
3. Duration of an alcohol-free zone
4. Consultation with the Police

To prohibit the consumption of alcohol in McHattan Park Council must do so by virtue of section 632A of the Act by declaring McHattan Park to be an alcohol prohibited area. An alcohol prohibited area operates, in accordance with the terms of the declaration establishing the area, during such times or events as are specified in the declaration.

The legislation in relation to APAs is not as prescriptive as that of establishing AFZs, however, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment has released a fact sheet summarising best practice recommendations, [Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas in NSW](#).

Alcohol-Free Zone Proposal

1. Reasons to Support

As outlined in the application, the reasons to support the proposal is in response to a number of alcohol related incidents occurring on those roads and footpaths including assault, malicious damage and littering.

2. Location

The locations of the proposal include the public roads and footpaths as set out below and detailed on the attached map:

- a) Meridian Street between Commercial Lane and Fitzroy Street,
- b) Fitzroy Street between Meridian Street and Pakington Street,
- c) Derby Street between Walsh Street and Apsley Street
- d) Croudace Street between Pakington Street and Derby Street
- e) Levy bank path east between Croudace Street and Fitzroy Street

This area is adjacent to outlets that supply alcohol where drinkers tend to congregate and irresponsible behaviour arises.

The proposed Alcohol-Free Zone is set-out for an area where a footpath alfresco dining area related to a liquor licence has been issued, in this instance Council must impose conditions on the licensee to clearly delineate and control the licensed area from the Alcohol-Free Zone.



3. Duration

Four (4) years (applicable 24 hours per day).

4. Consultation with the Police

Council undertook consultation with the relevant Police Local Area Commander in relation to the application made, being the Oxley Police District, from 30 June 2022 to 15 July 2022 inclusive. A copy of their response is included with the Proposal. The Oxley Police District are in support of the Proposal and see the establishment of AFZs as a positive step to lowering alcohol related crime in public areas in and around the Walcha CBD area.

Alcohol Prohibited Area Proposal

1. Reasons to Support

As outlined in the application, the reasons to support the proposal is in response to a number of alcohol related incidents occurring at the known hotspot of McHattan Park and the nearby bus shelter, including vandalism, malicious damage and graffiti of the public toilets located in the park.

2. Location

The location of the proposal includes McHattan Park as indicated on the attached map, during the hours of 9:00pm to 7:00am each day.

3. Duration

Unlimited, recommended that Council review each four (4) years.

4. Consultation with the Police

Under section 632A (8) of the Act, and APA cannot be established without the approval of the Police Area Commander or Police District Commander for the area or district in which the proposed APA is situated.

Council undertook consultation with the relevant Police Local Area Commander in relation to the application made, being the Oxley Police District, from 30 June 2022 to 15 July 2022 inclusive. A copy of their response is included with the Proposal. The Oxley Police District are in support of the Proposal and see the establishment of AFZs as a positive step to lowering alcohol related crime in public areas in and around the Walcha CBD area.

Report Implications:

Legal

Council must ensure that it establishes any Alcohol-Free Zone in accordance with Chapter 16 Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 1993*; and section 632A of the *Local Government Act 1993* for Alcohol Prohibited Areas.



It is noted that the powers granted to Police and enforcement officers under the Act with the establishment of any AFZ and APA do not allow for the issuing of fines to persons. The NSW Police Handbook provides further instructions when confiscating alcohol.

Financial

No budget has been identified for the establishment of AFZs and APAs. If established, there will be an implementation cost burden to Council as public notice and the erection of signage is compulsory.

Environmental Implications:

Improved aesthetic of the built environment in reducing alcohol related negative behaviours such as malicious damage and reduced environmental pollution such as littering.

Social Implications:

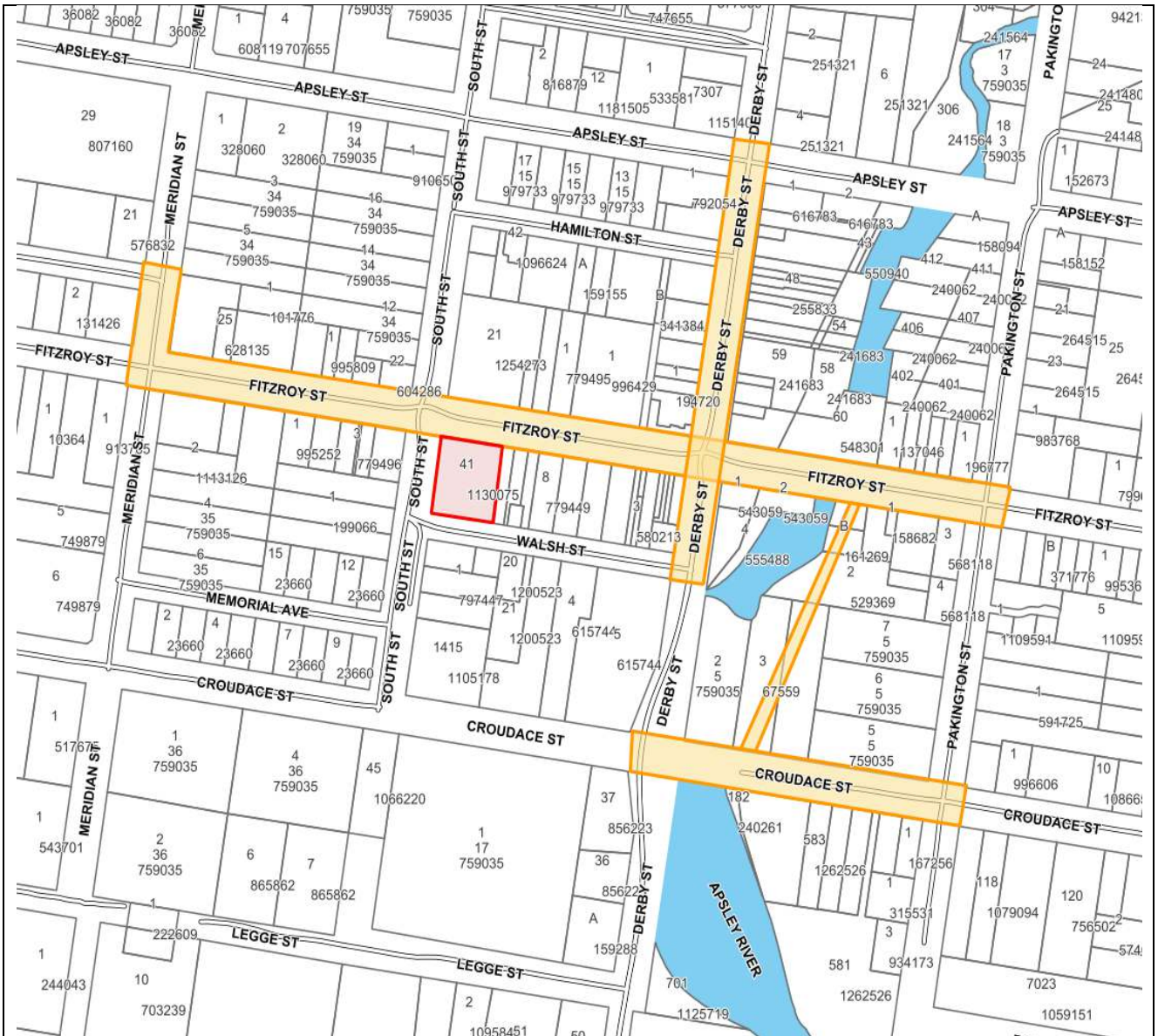
The Community Strategic Plan has identified **Action 7.1.2.2** *Implement and deliver programs and actions that support Police efforts to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour* under the Theme of Keeping People Safe; AFZs and APAs serve to prevent disorderly behaviour caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas in order to improve public safety. As an alcohol-free zone will impose restrictions on the personal freedom of citizens, a proposal to establish a zone must adequately address the matters set out in the Guidelines.

Policy

Nil



Attachment 1:



PROPOSED ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE AND ALCOHOL PROHIBITED AREA

- PROPOSED ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE: WALCHA
- PROPOSED ALCOHOL PROHIBITED AREA: McHATTAN PARK



3W Hamilton Street
 PO Box 2
 Walcha NSW 2354
 Phone: (02) 6238 8111
www.walcha.nsw.gov.au

Important Notice!
 This map is not a precise survey document. Accurate locations can only be determined by a survey on the ground. This information has been prepared for Council's internal purposes and for no other purpose. No statement is made about the accuracy or suitability of the information for use for any purpose (whether the purpose has been notified to Council or not). While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, neither the Walcha Council nor the LPI makes any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.
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Drawn By: Lacey Latham

Projection: GDA2020 / MGA zone 56

Date: 20/07/2022 10:11 PM

Map Scale: 1:5000 at A4





Attachment 2:

OFFICIAL

D/2022/687504

ISSUE

Walcha Alcohol Free Zone application – consultation with Oxley Police District.

BACKGROUND

On the 6 June 2020, Sergeant Freeman from Walcha Police Station made an application for an Alcohol Free Zone in Walcha. As part of that application, consultation is required with the Oxley Police District Commander as to the appropriate number and location of alcohol free zones.

COMMENT

I have reviewed the application by Sergeant Freeman and taken in to account the number of alcohol related incidents. The location of the proposed alcohol free zones covers a small area of the Walcha CBD and is appropriate for licensed premises in those areas. I have consulted with Senior Constable Constable from the Oxley Licensing unit and he has completed a letter to Walcha Council. I have no objection to the alcohol free zones being implemented and support the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

That Oxley Police District support the implementation of the proposed alcohol free zones.

A red ink signature, appearing to be 'M. Moy', written in a cursive style.

M.Moy
Inspector
Tamworth Police Station
6 July 2022

1. Superintendent Endemi, Commander, Oxley Police District
Supported.

A green ink signature, appearing to be 'K. Endemi', written in a cursive style.

Supt K. Endemi
14.7.22

OFFICIAL



OFFICIAL: Sensitive



6 July 2022

Walcha Council
Re: WO/2022/1765

Dear Sir/Madam,

Oxley Licensing Police have reviewed the application made by Sergeant FREEMAN of Walcha Police and feel that he has clearly explained the need for an Alcohol-Free Zone (AFZ) to be created within the CBD of Walcha with the statistical data given. The zones requested are also clearly identified zones / areas where alcohol related incidents have been identified in the data, and again the nominated areas / zones are supported by this office.

The only venue which has been identified to have outdoor dining linked to a Liquor Licence is the small bar, Walcha Taphouse – liquor licence: LIQS220000176 at 5W Fitzroy Street, Walcha. Certain authorisations would have to be made or given to this establishment to maintain its outdoor dining options under the AFZ. The hours of trade permitted under their licence are from 2.00pm to 8.00pm on Monday to Thursday & 12.00pm to 8.00pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The licensee, Sean Allan PENDLETON should be advised of the AFZ application and given an opportunity to comment, if not already done.

In realistic terms, the establishment of an AFZ in Walcha can only be seen as a positive step to lowering alcohol related crime in public areas in and around the Walcha CBD area. It should be noted that the powers granted under the **Local Government Act** to Police do not allow for the issuing of a penalty notice to persons identified under the restrictions of the AFZ legislation, it only allows Police to conduct the following duties,

Part 4 Street drinking

642 Confiscation of alcohol in alcohol-free zones

(1) A police officer or an enforcement officer may seize any alcohol (and the bottle, can, receptacle or package in which it is contained) that is in the immediate possession of a person in an alcohol-free zone if—

- (a) the person is drinking alcohol in the alcohol-free zone, or
- (b) the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person is about to drink, or has recently been drinking, alcohol in the alcohol-free zone.

(2) Any alcohol or thing seized under this section is, by virtue of the seizure, forfeited—

- (a) if seized by a police officer—to the State, or

Tamworth Licensing Police

Flinders Street, Tamworth, NSW 2333

T 02 6768 2552 F 02 6768 2525 W www.nsw.gov.au
TTY 02 6211 3776 for the hearing and speech impaired AIN 43 63 113 05

TRIPLE ZERO (000)

Emergencies only

POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE (131 444)

For non-emergencies

CRIME STOPPERS (1800 333 000)

Report crime anonymously

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



OFFICIAL: Sensitive



NSW Police Force

- (b) if seized by an enforcement officer—to the council that employs the officer.
- (3) Any alcohol seized under this section may—
- (a) be disposed of immediately by tipping it out of the bottle, can, receptacle or package in which it is contained, or
- (b) be otherwise disposed of in accordance with directions given by the Commissioner of Police or the council (as the case requires).

The actions of Police are further reinforced by the NSW Police Handbook which provides Police with instructions when confiscating alcohol,

1. Identify the act – Ensure the zone area is current/signposted
2. Confiscate the alcohol – Police no longer have to first give a warning, other than the LEPRA requirements. Police may still use their discretion to give a warning. Any alcohol in the immediate possession of a person in an Alcohol-Free Zone or Alcohol Prohibited Area can be confiscated by police and enforcement officers.
3. Disposal of the alcohol – consideration as to the most appropriate method of disposal is described below.
4. Record the incident - make an entry in your official police notebook. Create a COPs incident under 'Street Offence' subcategory 'Consume Alcohol in an Alcohol-Free Zone' regardless of the fact whether the person/s do not have legal action taken against them.
5. Where a person does not co-operate with police, proceedings can be commenced against them for the offence of obstruction under s. 660 of the Local Government Act 1993, or 'hindering police' under the Crimes Act 1900.

In conclusion, Oxley Licensing Police fully support the establishment of an AFZ in Walcha and any assistance you may require to achieve this outcome, please do not hesitate to ask.

Neil CONSTABLE
Licensing Officer,
34688@police.nsw.gov.au
6th July 2022

Tamworth Licensing Police

Police Street, Tamworth, NSW 2865

T 02 6709 2652 F 02 6709 2650 W www.police.nsw.gov.au

TTY 02 9211 3778 for the hearing and speech impaired A8543 60 913 00

TRIPLE ZERO (000)

Emergency only

POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE (131 444)

For non-emergencies

CRIME STOPPERS (1800 333 000)

Report crime anonymously

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

1. Superintendent - Oxley Police District


Supt K. Endemi
14.7.22

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2022/02049
Title: Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2022
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1: *Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.*

RECOMMENDATION: That Council APPROVE the attendance of the Mayor, Cllr Noakes, and the General Manager and two Councillors, as representatives at the 2022 Annual Conference of Local Government NSW FURTHER THAT the payment of all expenses associated with the attendance at the Conference be approved by Council.

Introduction:

The Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley from Sunday 23 October to Tuesday 25 October 2022.

Report:

Registrations for the Conference will open on Monday 04 July with discounted early bird rates available until Wednesday 17 August 2022. Standard registration open on Thursday 18 August and close at 5pm on Monday 10 October 2022.

Motions:

Each year, Member Councils across NSW submit a range of motions to the Annual Conference conducted by LGNSW. These motions relate to strategic local government issues which effect members state-wide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. They are debated and resolved by Conference delegates, with successful resolutions guiding LGNSW advocacy priorities for the year ahead. All LGNSW Member Councils are invited to submit motions to the Annual Conference, following the *Motions Submission Guide*. Motions need to be submitted by Monday 29 August 2022. The Mayor is our Council's Voting Delegate.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

The early bird members registration fee is \$1,088 per person which needs to be paid by 17 August. The standard member registration fee is \$1,430 per person which applies from 18 August. The Conference Dinner Ticket is not included in the Registration fee and is an additional \$250 per person. A budget allocation is committed annually for this Conference.



Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

This is a NSW Council event which creates an opportunity for Councillors to build their networking relationships with other Councillors.

Policy Implications:

Council Policy provides for attendance at this Conference with the following representation:

- The Mayor as Delegate
- The General Manager
- Two Councillors as observers.



Item:	6.3	Ref:	WO/2022/02061
Title:	2022 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)		
Author:	Director Community and Tourism		
Previous Items:	Not Applicable		
Attachment:	Yes – WO/2017/00176 – Walcha Council’s Draft 2022 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) – provided under separate cover		

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal – 5.1 – Social Services will be planned, maintained and coordinated so that they meet the current and future needs of all groups in the community.

Goal – 5.6 – People of all ages and abilities will be encouraged to participate in cultural, recreational and sporting activities.

Goal – 6.1 – Walcha’s distinctive and diverse natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced.

Action – 8.1.2.2 – Ensure Council’s operations are compliant with legislation.

RECOMMENDATION: **That Council:**

- 1. ENDORSE the public exhibition of the Draft 2022 Disability Inclusion Action Plan for a period of 28 days;**
 - 2. Following the public exhibition period a report summarising all community feedback received be presented to Council; OR**
 - 3. Following the public exhibition if no feedback is received, ADOPT the Draft 2022 Disability Inclusion Action Plan as presented.**
-

Introduction:

Under the [Disability Inclusion Act 2014](#), councils were required to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) by July 2017. Council’s first DIAP was adopted in March 2017 and it is now due for review.

Report:

The objective of the Disability Inclusion Act 2017 is:

3 Objects of Act

The objects of this Act are as follows—

- to acknowledge that people with disability have the same human rights as other members of the community and that the State and the community have a responsibility to facilitate the exercise of those rights,
- to promote the independence and social and economic inclusion of people with disability,
- to enable people with disability to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports and services,



- (d) to provide safeguards in relation to the delivery of supports and services for people with disability,
- (e) to support, to the extent reasonably practicable, the purposes and principles of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*,
- (f) to provide for responsibilities of the State during and following the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

A Disability Inclusion Action Plan demonstrates Local Government's commitment to people with a disability on improving access to services, facilities and jobs and is also designed to change perceptions about people with a disability.

Actions that have been completed as a result of the 2017 DIAP include:

- The local wheelchair accessible taxi has an ongoing subcontract with Walcha Council Community Care to provide transport to eligible people
- Upgrading and extension of local footpaths and crossings has been undertaken
- 2 Additional disability parking spaces have been installed
- Council has employed people with disabilities in permanent roles
- Collaboration with the Community Hub to transport people to the Food Bank
- Advertised for people with a disability to join Advisory Committees
- Installation of disability toilet at McHattan Park, and installation of Braille signage
- Improved access to McHattan Park playground

A Consultant was engaged to survey the community to ensure that input from people with direct experience was included. The draft 2022 DIAP is attached for Council's review. It is required to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days for further community comment prior to being adopted by Council.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications for this report.

Financial Implications

Any improvement works identified will only be completed within the existing budget for that area, or if specific grant funding is obtained.

Legal Implications

This is required to meet the requirements of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014.

Social Implications

There are no social implications for this report.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications for this report.



Item: 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2022/01822
Title: Appoint Community Representatives to Advisory Committees
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Strategy: 5.7.3 – *Provide opportunities for community members to become involved in the management of the community.*

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council APPOINT:

- 1. Jane Morrison and Louise Clarke to the Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee;**
 - 2. David Oon to the Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee.**
-

Introduction:

This report is to appoint community representatives on Council's newly formed Advisory Committees.

Report:

Council appointed Advisory Committees, then advertised for community representatives and have received the following nominations:

Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee

- Jane Morrison
- Louise Clarke

A representative from National Parks and Wildlife Service is also invited to sit on this Advisory Committee, however they are not required to submit an application as they are representing their employer.

The key roles and responsibilities for the Tourism Advisory Committee are:

"The purpose of the Tourism Advisory Committee is to provide support and advice to Walcha Council pertaining to matters related to tourism."

Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee

- David Oon

All of the nominations are within the Membership for each Committee as listed in the Terms of Reference.



Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications for this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications for this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications for this report.

Policy Implications:

This report abides by the Committee Membership terms within each Committees Terms of Reference.



Item 7:

Notice of Motions



NOTICE OF MOTION NUMBER: 24

Item: 7.1 **Ref:** WO/2022/02064
Title: Notice of Motion – Report on Vegetation Regrowth on Roadside Verges
Author: Councillor Nena Hicks
Attachment: No

Objective:

Community Strategic Plan References: None supplied.

Background:

In the past the road verges and vegetation alongside roads have been cleared to inhibit the transfer of fire some time ago, however there is now substantial growth in areas previously cleared and this poses a fire risk for our community. Council financial resources are stretched as it is, subsequently Council should seek alternative funding to have these critical fire prevention works undertaken.

Report:

Clr Hicks will speak to this at the Council Meeting.

Financial Impacts:

None provided.

Funding Source:

None provided.

Additional Comments:

None provided.

MOTION:

That Walcha Council seek funding to control vegetation regrowth on roadside verges to maintain an existing but degrading fire hazard control measure.

Clr Nena Hicks

20 July 2022

Management Response:

Management supports this Motion.



Item 8:

Matters of Urgency



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Item 9: Management Review Reports



9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2022/02055

Responsible Executive: General Manager

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be NOTED by Council.

1. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Investment Report Status at 30 June 2022

Report for the investments held in June 2022 are included.

Overdraft Limit

An Overdraft Limit of \$200,000 has been arranged with the National Australia Bank. When utilised an Overdraft Interest Rate of 8.62% applies.



REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 30 JUNE 2022												
Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Est. Interest	Est. Market Value At Maturity	YTD Interest	YTD Redemption	MV % of Portfolio	TD Account #
CommonwealthBank	TD	14/10/2021	270	11/07/2022	0.30%	500,000	1,110	501,110			5.88%	
CommonwealthBank	TD	19/04/2022	90	18/07/2022	0.93%	1,100,000	2,522	1,102,522			12.93%	
nab	TD	4/02/2022	180	3/08/2022	0.49%	253,728	613	254,341	801	-	2.98%	917202309
nab	TD	7/03/2022	150	4/08/2022	0.53%	622,315	1,355	623,670	1,935	-	7.32%	416873585
nab	TD	10/03/2022	180	6/09/2022	0.68%	531,589	1,783	533,371	1,582	-	6.25%	972272676
nab	TD	19/05/2022	120	16/09/2022	1.65%	254,398	1,380	255,778	1,051	-	2.99%	444927886
CommonwealthBank	TD	28/06/2022	90	26/09/2022	2.48%	500,000	3,058	503,058			5.88%	
CommonwealthBank	TD	28/06/2022	90	26/09/2022	2.48%	500,000	3,058	503,058			5.88%	
CommonwealthBank	TD	28/06/2022	90	26/09/2022	2.48%	500,000	3,058	503,058			5.88%	
CommonwealthBank	TD	28/06/2022	90	26/09/2022	2.48%	500,000	3,058	503,058			5.88%	
nab	TD	6/04/2022	180	3/10/2022	1.15%	253,571	1,438	255,009	732	-	2.98%	919512554
nab	TD	14/03/2022	210	10/10/2022	0.76%	554,809	2,426	557,235	2,005	-	6.52%	872609622
CommonwealthBank	TD	14/10/2021	365	14/10/2022	0.36%	500,000	1,800	501,800			5.88%	
nab	TD	19/04/2022	210	15/11/2022	1.30%	631,226	4,721	635,947	2,520	-	7.42%	918317642
CommonwealthBank	TD	19/04/2022	240	15/12/2022	1.66%	1,049,075	11,451	1,060,526			12.33%	
nab	TD	16/06/2022	210	12/01/2023	3.10%	254,970	4,548	259,517	1,020	-	3.00%	919675556
CommonwealthBank	TD					-	-	-	871	502,096	0.00%	37844807/01
Average rate					1.43%	8,505,681	47,377	8,553,058	12,517	502,096	100%	

The average rate of investments increased from 0.65% in May to 1.08% in June due to higher TD rates. NAB were still a market leader in TD rates when compared to other institutions.

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 30/06/2021

Interest Earned YTD	28,258
Market Value of Portfolio	3,854,757
Average interest rate	0.32%
Interest Earned YTD 30 June 2021	28,258
Market Value of Portfolio 30 June 2021	3,854,757

Institutional Exposure

	Investment at Market Value	% of Portfolio
CommonwealthBank	3,149,075	48%
nab	3,356,606	52%
	6,505,681	100%

Responsible Accounting Officer's Certification Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Paragraph 212
 The investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Walcha Council's Investment Policy.
 Signed Christian Martin (Responsible Accounting Officer)



9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE:

Ref: WO/2022/02066

Responsible Executive: Director of Infrastructure




Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – *Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.*

RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Infrastructure Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

To improve project reporting, the reporting on all initiated and budgeted capital projects within the Infrastructure portfolio has been consolidated into one attachment (Attachment 1).

The coloured boxes indicate the health of a project with separate indicators for budget and schedule. Where status is green, commentary may not be required. However, the responsible officer will provide a comment against any indicator that is amber or red to explain how this issue is being addressed.

Indicator Colour	Project Status
	On Track – Project will meet the target deadline and/or is expected to stay within budget.
	At Risk – Project may not meet the target deadline and/or is expected to exceed allocated budget. Closer monitoring or preventative action is required.
	Off Track – Project will not meet adopted targets for delivery and/or budget, action is required.
C	Completed – Project completed with no further work required

Progress report on the Walcha Off Creek Storage Project is included as Attachment 2.

Capital Works Delivery Update - July 2022

Project	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
LOCAL ROADS										
Glen Morrison Road Rehab	Rehabilitate and widen existing sealed road to ease curve - Fixing Local Roads R1	\$ 299,000		Dec-22	\$ 18,066					Works programmed for prior to Christmas following Segment 4560 rehab on TBW - however window will be tight depending on maintenance backlog. Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and organise construction.
Middle Street Rehab	Fixing Local Roads R2	\$ 495,000	Nov-21	Jun-23	\$ 14,141					The Department have provided extensions for all rounds of the Fixing Local Roads program. Middle Street and Walsh Street will be pushed to the end of 22/23 FY. Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and organise construction.
Walsh Street Rehab	Fixing Local Roads R2	\$ 332,750	Jan-22	Jun-23	\$ 13,830					
Aberaldie Road Rehab	Rehabilitation of Segment 30 - Fixing Local Roads R3	\$ 703,384	Oct-22	Dec-23	\$ -					The Department have provided extensions for all rounds of the Fixing Local Roads program. Aberaldie Road Rehab and Forest Way will be pushed to end of 2023. Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and conduct in-house survey & design
Forest Way Phase 2	3.6km of sealing, culvert and drainage works on Forest Way - Fixing Local Roads R3	\$ 841,407	Oct-22	Dec-23	\$ -					Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and organise construction.
Walcha Aerodrome	Seal existing access, elec supply improvements, regravell existing runway	\$ 1,610,000	Oct-22	Oct-23	\$ -		Current deed requires large outlay for works paid upon completion - need to request additional milestones to minimise financial risk to Council.			Variation request to be submitted in order to complete project in 23/24 FY. Funding program deadline is March 24. Submit variation requests. Intention to deliver electrical works first, with access road delivered in 2023
BRIDGES										
Englefield Road Bridge		\$ 730,410		Jun-22	\$ 682,962		Additional works are required to rectify heavy vehicle access.			Bridge completed, however changes to the guardrail are required to better allow heavy vehicle access (swept path). This will be delivered ASAP.
Glen Morrison Road Bridge		\$ 996,014		Jun-22	\$ 587,383	C		C	Completed.	Final site inspection completed and approved.
Army Bridge		\$ 2,050,850		Dec-23	\$ 85,367		The three bridges to go out to open D&C tender as Coastal works are no longer able to complete the works. It is anticipated that current budget may be inadequate and a variation will be required.			Tender to go out end of July 2022.
Winterbourne Bridge		\$ 643,104		Dec-23	\$ 45,552					
Mooraback Bridge		\$ 526,680		Dec-23	\$ 39,697					
Tia Diggings Bridge 1		\$ 338,800		Dec-23	\$ 19,004					
Tia Diggings Bridge 2		\$ 313,500		Dec-23	\$ 17,044					
Niangala Bridge		\$ 514,250		Dec-23	\$ 34,470		Tenderers have sent through updated fee proposal. The variation will be over 30% of the original value and requires a higher level (internal) approval from TfNSW to proceed.			Waiting on Department to approve the latest variation. Should variation be approved in time, may be able to award via current tender process.
STATE ROADS										
Oxley Highway - 2021/2022 Routine Maintenance	Annual routine maintenance	\$ 564,000		Jun-22	\$ 539,807					Routine road maintenance works continuing. Minor pavement patching works completed. Will do only basic maintenance like potholes, guideposts, incident operation and inspections. Q4 claim to be submitted.
Oxley Highway - Reseal Preparation	Annual heavy patching works and other reseal prep works	\$ 313,831		Jun-22	\$ 262,534					Heavy Patching complete. Remaining budget amount to be spent on other prep works for resealing e.g. shoulder grading. Project completed; claim submitted.
Oxley Highway - Heavy Patching	Annual heavy patching works	\$ 214,803		Jun-22	\$ 232,325					Heavy Patching complete. Project completed; claim submitted.
Oxley Highway - Safety Barrier Upgrade Works	Safety barrier replacement; Lifting guardrails	\$ 240,484		Jun-22	\$ 150,646					Project complete. Project completed; claim submitted and payment received.

Capital Works Delivery Update - July 2022

Project	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
Oxley Highway Safety Project 2606 - Segments 2150 to 2140 - Pavement Widening	Shoulder widening; Guardrail extension and new guardrail installation	\$ 1,065,513	Jun-22	Jun-22	\$ 829,249		Delays have resulted in additional project costs of \$130K, however these will be paid by TfNSW via variation.		Project has been delayed due to rain.	Project has been continually delayed due to rain, but should be completed by end of July.
Blue Hogan Bridge Railing	Installation of safety railing along each side of Blue Hogan Bridge (Fitzroy Street)	\$ 250,000	Jun-22	Jun-22	\$ 244,000	C		C	Project complete.	Project complete and within budget.
REGIONAL ROADS										
Rehabilitation of Walcha Township Approaches - Derby Street - (Segments 4710 and 4720)	Rehabilitation, kerb and gutter, drainage, sealing	\$ 2,089,000	Jun-22	Mar-23	\$ 401,276		Additional funding sought via 2 federal grant applications, however project can be delivered in budget with a reduced scope.		Project is planned to deliver in 22/23.	Council is preparing to deliver this project assuming no additional grant funding will be acquired - this will require a reduced scope that will be presented to the August CAC for discussion/approval.
Project 5.4 Rehabilitation of Segment 4570 at Lake Road intersection	Rehabilitation; widening of pavement to 8m seal width; Intersection improvement	\$ 648,000		Jun-22	\$ 540,551	C		C	Project complete	Nil
Project 5.3 Rehabilitation of Segment 4560 near Lake Road	Rehabilitation; widening of pavement to 8m seal width;	\$ 648,000	Jun-22	Nov-22	\$ 179,810				Project delayed due to the Safety Project on the Oxley Hwy taking longer than anticipated. Construction expected to commence in Sep 22	Construction to start in September 2022
WATER, SEWER & WASTE										
Walcha Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade		\$ 1,800,000		Sep-22	\$ 1,716,831				1. Identify outstanding scope items with DPE. 2. Plan delivery of outstanding items and report back with updated completion date.	Final scope items being identified now that reporting portal access has been granted from Restart NSW DPI. Ongoing
Walcha Off Creek Storage		\$ 11,000,000	Dec-22	Jun-23	\$ 741,106		Project tracking under budget.		Package 1 Tender awarded. Early works packages engaged this month. Project on track.	CEMP submitted to NRAR for approval prior to works on dam embankment starting. KCE to start site preparation in mid-August. Clearing works completed, access road to begin next week.
Walcha Waste Strategy 2025				Aug-22					1. Develop additional detailed costing for bin lift rates. 2. Develop CBA for hook bin options 3. Develop plan for additional kerbside collection areas and costs for inclusion 4. Report back next month with revised plan.	ELT briefed and processing more detailed costings and additional options with CM Briefings booked for this month.
Water Meter Replacement		\$ 350,000		Jun-23	\$ -		Grant application submitted 10/02/22 for funding to replace current meter fleet with SMART meters. Co-funding may be required should we only get 50%.			Awaiting results of funding application.
Sewer Smoke Testing		\$ 75,000		Jun-23	\$ -		Grant application submitted 10/02/22 for funding to carry out I&I (smoke testing) and manhole inspection program. Co funding may be required should we only get 50%		EPL Variation for to licenece approved, effectively giving Council until June 2023 to complete testing.	Nil. Awaiting result of funding application.
COMMUNITY PROJECTS										
Levee Bank Walk Lighting	Installation of solar lighting along both sides of Apsley River Levee Bank, from Blue Hogan to Middle Street	\$ 279,911	Jun-22	Jul-22	\$ 259,816		Tender award within budget		Works underway. Possibility that may extend a week past July deadline.	Works will be completed in next few weeks.

Capital Works Delivery Update - July 2022

Project	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - Walcha Pool	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 566,087		Oct-23	\$ -		No costs to date			Pool tender being developed for works to commence April 23 Tender for design to go out August 2022. Tender for construction to go out January 2023.
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - John Oxley Oval	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 130,420		Mar-23	\$ -		No costs to date			Scope of works and delivery strategy are being developed by the project team.
Walcha Swimming Pool Refurbishment	Further upgrade of Walcha Swimming Pool via BLER Grant	\$ 1,100,000	Oct-22	Oct-23	\$ 161,000		There is not enough money to complete all works identified in condition report, so works will need to be prioritised			Pool tender being developed for works to commence April 23 Tender for design to go out August 2022. Tender for construction to go out January 2023.
Renew Walcha Skate Park	New skate park facilities, new fence for John Oxley Oval, CCTV	\$ 866,964		Jun-23	\$ 275,838		Fencing costs have already absorbed most of the project contingency.			Some minor delay and design issues with change of PM at Convic - this has been resolved. Final concept design to be delivered by Convic for approval shortly.
Upgrade Walcha Lions Park	New park facilities at Lions Park	\$ 410,554		Nov-22	\$ 6,857					Aim to complete before the summer school holidays. D&C Tender currently being advertised, closing 8 August 2022.
LRCI Phase 2 Electrical Works	Completion of electrical upgrade works at Walcha Gym/Pool	\$ 129,214		Jun-22	\$ 129,000	C		C		Works Completed. Works Completed.
Walcha Gym CCTV & Equipment	Installation of CCTV at Walcha GYM and purchase of additional equipment	\$ 95,000		Jun-22	\$ 94,000					All LRCI Phase 2 funds were spent before EOFY. CCTV for gym has been bought, but installation to occur later as part of skate park works. CCTV infrastructure (base station) to be installed as part of Walcha Skate Park Project.



Progress Report (June 2022)

Progress Summary

Ongoing project administration, including submission of the May progress report, progress claim and invoices.

Package 1 (embankment and spillway construction) contract finalised and executed, with securities, insurances and pre-start safety and environmental documentation received and under review. GC21 start-up workshop completed, with good alignment achieved between the Contractor (KCE Pty Ltd), Principal (Walcha Council) and Principal's Authorised Person (Jeffrey Staples).

Council personnel assisted with establishment of both traffic and erosion and sediment controls on site, ahead of 'early works' packages commencing works.

Package 2a (site clearing) quote accepted, achieving good local participation. Works commenced and completed ahead of schedule, with ecologist involvement to ensure compliance with the REF and identify salvage trees for use as replacement habitat.

Package 2b (construction of unsealed access road) procurement completed, with two quotes received. Works split into 'supply only' (for imported gravel) and 'works', achieving good local participation. Works to commence shortly, with completion expected ahead of site handover to KCE (expected 12 August).

Package 3 (permanent fencing construction) local contractor engaged (installation only), and fencing materials also sourced locally (to be free issued as Principal Supplied Items). Works to commence shortly, with completion expected ahead of site handover to KCE (expected 12 August).

Overarching 'Site Specific WHS Management Plan' and 'Construction Environmental Management Plan' established for the 'early works' packages (2a, 2b and 3), in accordance with Council's existing systems and procedures. All 'early works' Contractors inducted into these plans.

Stage 1 (concept validation) design development progressing, with an updated proposal for Stage 2 (further design development) under development.

Updated Environmental Factors (REF) approved by Council, as the determining authority.

Project Risks

Existing and newly identified key project risks being actively managed – please see attached for update Risk and Opportunity Register, with updated cells highlighted.

The recent approval of the Revised REF by Council has closed out a key project risk, and proactive management of the 'early works' packages is on track to mitigate the interface risk with Package 1 works.

NRAR approval of the CEMP and progression of the design development tasks are the key project risks which are in focus for the next month.

Budget / Cashflow

Please see attached for the updated Project Cashflow, noting that Council's direct costs have also been applied up to the Contingency budget. Realised expenditure is generally tracking well within the forecast monthly budget.

The previous Funding Deed (DWS039) closed \$124,710.64 over budget, with this total applied to the current Funding Deed (DWS091). This rolled over cost has reduced the remaining project contingency budget to \$1,651,684.03 (from \$1,788,977.89 in the last progress report).

Hunter H2O's May progress claim will be submitted in line with the attached cashflow summary, reflecting Time & Material costs incurred in delivering the services outlined within this report.

Invoicing will be undertaken following Council approval of the progress claim.

Safety

A site-specific WHS Plan has been prepared for the 'early works' packages, along with a risk register and Site Rules for inclusion in Council's Contractor induction information.

Clearing works commenced on site, with no incidents or issues to report. Contractor safety documentation reviewed. Traffic controls established on site prior to works commencing.

The Package 1 Contractor will be managing safety on site following site handover (expected 12 August).

Environment / Community Relations

Updated Environmental Factors (REF) approved by Council, as the determining authority.

A site-specific CEMP has been prepared for the 'early works' packages, along with a Flora and Fauna Management Plan and ecologist engagement to ensure compliance with the REF.

Erosion and sediment controls established on site prior to works commencing. Identified 'salvage trees' relocated to adjacent land after felling.

Liaison with the private landowner regarding 'early works' completed by Council, with broader community liaison to be planned in accordance with DPIE guidance.

Issues Requiring Council Input

Items pending Council input include:

1. Formal notification of preferred way forward for the aeration / mixing component of the design development
2. Award of Package 2b (construction of unsealed access track)
3. Provision of a formal letter outlining the agreed approach to managing the endangered Bell's Turtle.

Time

Please see attached for the updated project program, noting no change to the planned date for Completion (02/08/2022).

This program has now been updated to reflect the Contract Program submitted by the Package 1 Contractor, as well as delivery timing for the awarded 'early works' packages (Package 2a, 2b and 3).

NRAR approval of the Package 1 Contractor's CEMP is a key Hold Point prior to commencement of Package 1 works on site, and is being managed as a key project risk.

Site handover to the Package 1 Contractor expected 12 August.

Quality

All deliverables are being developed in accordance with Hunter H2O's Quality Management Systems.

All work produced by subconsultants is reviewed to ensure it is up to the high standard of quality expected.

Particular focus being applied to review of pre-start documentation from the Package 1 Contractor.

Innovation / Value Added / Other

Preparation of site-specific documentation, in accordance with Council's existing safety and environmental systems, to facilitate delivery of the 'early works' packages.

Management of procurement challenges, with good local participation achieved for all 'early works' packages.



9.3 ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2022/02015

Responsible Executive: Director Environment & Development

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Environment & Development Management Report be **NOTED** by Council.

The purpose of this report is to provide statistical information in relation to activities of the Environment & Development Department. This Department is responsible for the following key functions:

Development & Construction	<i>The regulation of the way land is used and developed and certification of safe construction practices. (CSP References 6.1.2, 6.1.7, 6.5.1, 6.6.1, 6.6.3)</i>
Strategic Planning	<i>Land use management through a range of state and local strategies, plans and policies (CSP References 2.1.9, 5.3.1, 5.3.4, 6.1.6, 6.6.2)</i>
Environmental Management	<i>Environmental monitoring, programs and investigations to maintain the health of our natural and built environments. (CSP References 6.1.1, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5, 6.4.1)</i>
Regulatory Services	<i>Monitoring of activities, premises and systems to protect public health. (CSP References 3.2.3, 3.2.4)</i>
Animal Control	<i>Responsible pet ownership through policy and regulation of keeping of animals. (CSP Reference 7.2.2)</i>
Building & Amenity Maintenance	<i>Building infrastructure asset management of Council facilities to continue services to the community. (CSP References 2.1.7, 3.2.5, 5.2.3, 5.6.1, 8.2.3, 8.2.4)</i>

BUDGET PERFORMANCE SUMMARY AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

Account	Budget \$	Actual \$	Incurred / received %	Target 100%
Health (Health Administration & Inspection)				
Revenue	2,000	200	10	⬇️
Operating Expenses	32,500	12,595	39	⬇️



BUDGET PERFORMANCE SUMMARY AS AT 30 JUNE 2022				
Account	Budget \$	Actual \$	Incurred / received %	Target 100%
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-30,500	-12,395		
Public Order & Safety (Animal Control)				
<i>Revenue</i>	4,900	4,083	83	⬇️
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	63,900	59,512	88	⬇️
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-59,000	-55,429		
Housing & Community Amenities (Public Amenities)				
<i>Revenue</i>	16,508	16,508	100	↔️
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	94,008	97,195	103	⬇️
<i>Depreciation</i>	7,100	7120	100	↔️
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-84,600	-87,808		
Housing & Community Amenities (Cemetery)				
<i>Revenue</i>	70,000	68,589	98	↔️
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	85,800	99,043	115	⬇️
<i>Depreciation</i>	2,400	864	36	⬇️
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-18,200	-31,318		
<i>Capital</i>	24,527	32,167	131	⬇️
Housing & Community Amenities (Council Housing)				
<i>Revenue</i>	28,600	25,616	90	⬇️
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	16,700	10,094	60	⬇️
<i>Depreciation</i>	27,400	27,350	100	↔️
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-15,500	-11,828		
<i>Capital</i>	14,661	14,661	100	↔️
Housing & Community Amenities (Town Planning)				
<i>Revenue</i>	40,400	56,561	140	⬇️
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	181,400	189,951	105	↔️
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-141,000	-133,390		
Recreation & Culture (Walcha Community Gym)				
<i>Revenue</i>	26,000	34,422	132	⬇️
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	13,000	26,496	204	⬇️
<i>Depreciation</i>	38,010	38,004	100	↔️
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-25,010	-30,078		
<i>Capital</i>	120,700	118,481	98	⬇️
Mining, Manufacturing & Construction (Building Control)				
<i>Revenue</i>	12,000	16,982	142	⬇️
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	31,000	48,559	157	⬇️
<i>Total Working Plan</i>	-19,000	-31,577		
Other Sport Ground & Recreation Facilities (Building Maintenance Sporting Grounds)				



BUDGET PERFORMANCE SUMMARY AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

Account	Budget \$	Actual \$	Incurred / received %	Target 100%
Revenue	0	0	0	↔
Operating Expenses	74,900	29,774	40	⬇
Other Sport Ground & Recreation (Squash Courts)				
Revenue	1,500	1,091	73	⬇
Operating Expenses	28,500	17,186	60	⬇
Depreciation	41,500	24,909	60	⬇
Total Working Plan	-66,700	-41,004		

GRANTS SUMMARY

Grant	Description	Funding	Status	Deadline	Comments
LRCI Phase 2	Gym equipment & CCTV	\$120.7K	Successful	30/06/2022	Project complete
NSW P&C (Heritage NSW)	Heritage Advisor	\$6K 2021-22 \$6K2022-23 \$1:\$1	Successful	30/06/2023	Acquittal submitted, advising funds unspent / project not undertaken
OLG	Council Crown Land Management – Plans of Management	\$48,616	Successful	30/06/2023	On track
NSW EPA Council Regional Capacity Building Program	Namoi Unlimited Contaminated Lands 2018-2021	\$420K	Successful	30/06/2022	On track, being managed by Namoi Unlimited
NSW DPE Planning Portal Grant	Assist implementation of Planning Portal	\$50K	Successful	30/06/2022	Project complete, acquittal submitted

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

1. Development & Construction



Development Statistics 2021-22	DAs	CCs	CDCs
Total Number Approved	40	24	12
Approved under Delegated Authority	37		
Approved by Council Registered Certifier		20	7
Approved by Council	3		
Approved by Private Certifier		4	5
Value	\$5,424,745.00	\$2,533,489	\$1,976,512
Number Withdrawn / Cancelled	4	1	-
Number Rejected	-	-	2
Number Refused	-	-	-

1.1 Determinations Issued

June 2022			
Development Application's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
10.2022.16	Deck	159E North Street Walcha	Approved by Council
10.2022.15	Shipping container	111N Derby Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2022.14	Shed	17W Walsh Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2022.11	Shed	111N Derby Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2022.07	Dwelling	1773 Kangaroo Flat Road Yarrowitch	Approved under delegated authority
Construction Certificate's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
Nil			
Complying Development Certificate's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
Nil			

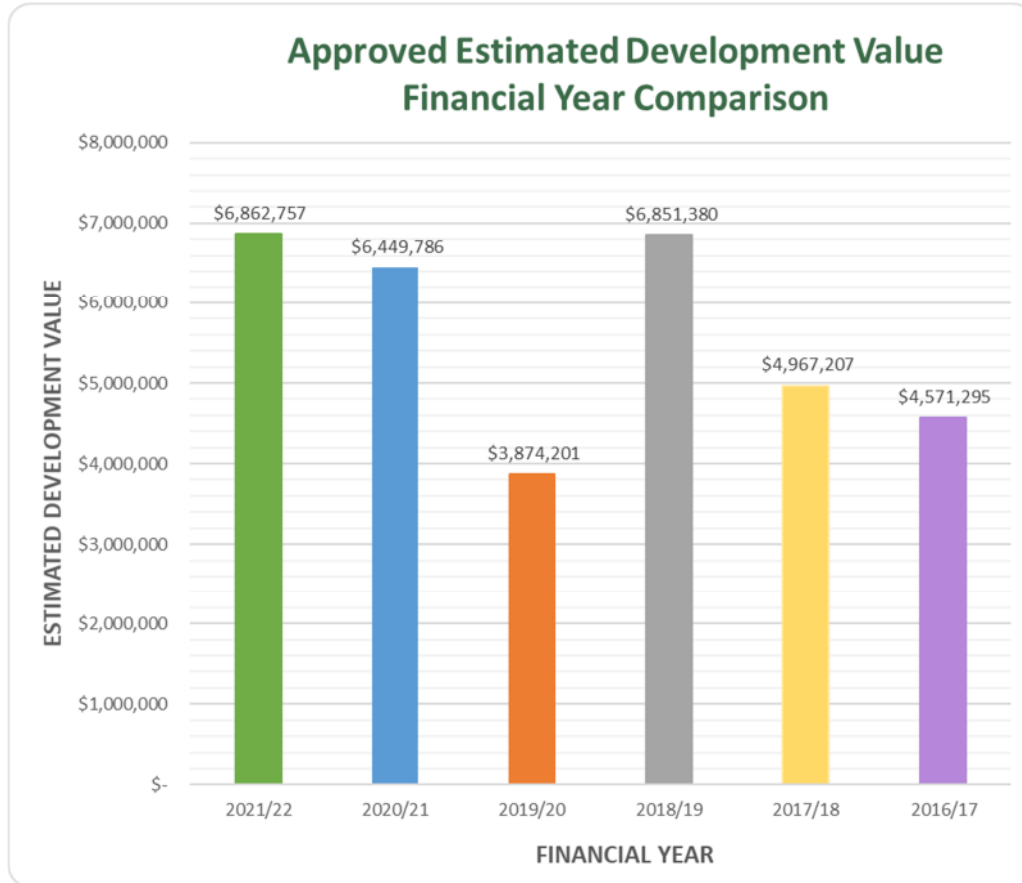


1.2 Development Applications Outstanding

Development Applications Outstanding as at 1 July 2022					
Number	Description	Address	Date Lodged	Days in Council (excl. STC)	Status
10.2020.31	Truck wash bay with shed over	305 Darjeeling Road, Walcha	24/12/2020	554	Awaiting additional information
10.2021.36	Alterations and additions	16W-26W Fitzroy Street, Walcha	01/11/2021	242	Awaiting additional information
10.2021.41	Signage	18N Derby Street, Walcha	30/11/2021	213	Awaiting additional information
10.2022.12	Tourist accommodation	241 Kangaroo Hills Road Walcha	23/05/2022	39	Referred to RFS
10.2022.13	Secondary dwelling	288 Quarry Road Niangala	26/5/2022	36	Under assessment
10.2022.17	Dwelling	167 Oxley Drive Walcha	24/05/2022	-	Received pending payment
10.2022.18	Secondary dwelling	56N-58N Lagoon Street Walcha	26/5/2022	-	Received pending payment
10.2022.19	Change of use	63W Hill Street Walcha	15/06/2022	16	Lodged
10.2022.21	Office premises	252 Oxley Drive Walcha	20/06/2022	11	Lodged
10.2022.22	Subdivision/Shed	201W Hill Street Walcha	8/06/2022	23	Lodged
10.2022.24	Dwelling	483 Aberbaldie Road Walcha	28/06/2022	3	Lodged
				Total	11



For Councillor information, following is a graph published on Council’s website each month showing the combined (DA & CDC) approved development value for the LGA. It highlights the and annual trend for the financial years from 2016/2017 to present.



1.3 Certificates & Advice

June 2022			
Number Issued	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Occupation Certificate's	12	15	1
Subdivision Certificate's	9	7	-
Planning Certificate's	154	135	12
Building Information Certificate's	1	1	-
Outstanding Notices Orders Certificate's	27	18	8
Bushfire Attack Level Certificate's	1	-	-
Dwelling Entitlement Advice	11	10	2



1.4 Compliance Inspections for DAs, CCs and CDCs

June 2022			
Number Completed	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Site inspections	37	29	2
Footings & slab inspections	14	26	1
Framework inspections	6	3	-
Waterproofing inspections	3	2	-
Stormwater inspections	-	1	-
Final inspections	7	16	2
Food premises fitout inspections	2	2	-
Complaints	-	1	-

1.5 Bushfire Recovery Grant Funding – Regulatory & Associated Fees Waiver

Information on regulatory and associated fees under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and Local Government Act 1993 for repairing and replacing bushfire affected property waived.

There is one bushfire total loss rebuild applied for in our LGA, the DA has been submitted to Council. The estimated cost of development is \$446,000

Based on this information, the regulatory and associated fees to be waived are detailed in the table below:

Fee Type	Fee
Development Application	\$1,333
Planning Reform Fund (State)	Waived
Construction Certificate	\$1,142
Inspections	\$630
Long Service Levy (State)	Waived
S68 – install OSSM system	\$270
TOTAL	\$3,375



Bushfire Recovery Grant Funding – Regulatory & Associated Fees Waiver	
Current budget allocation	\$4,000
Actual expenditure	
Dwelling entitlement advice	\$110
DA Fee	\$1,333
Estimated additional expenditure	\$2,042
TOTAL	\$3,485

2. Environment & Regulation

2.1 Section 68 Activities

Section 68 Activity Data	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Number Issued	24	16	1

2.2 Compliance Inspections for Section 68 Activities

June 2022			
Number Completed	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Site inspections	Data not available	9	1
Internal drainage inspections		3	-
External drainage inspections		4	-
Water supply work inspections		-	-
Final inspections		2	-

2.3 Public Health Activities

June 2022			
Compliance Inspections & Reports Issued	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
On-Site Sewage Management Systems	3	2	-
Food Premises	23	22	-
Private Swimming Pools	1	-	-
Fire Safety Schedules	-	1	-
Skin Penetration Procedure Premises	-	-	-
Advertisements / Advertising Structures (incl. sandwich boards)	1	1	-



3. Animal Control

Companion Animal Registrations 2021-22								
	Desexed	Non desexed	Pensioner (desexed)	Pound Purchase (desexed)	Cat Desexed	Under 6 Months	Working /Recognised Breeder	Value
Jul	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	\$580.00
Sep	4	4						\$1160.00
Oct	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	\$66.00
Nov	3	3	1	-	-	-	4	\$1135.00
Dec	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	\$290.00
Jan	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	\$290.00
Feb	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	\$290.00
Mar	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	\$83.00
Apr	-	1	2	-	-	-	5	\$608.00
May	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	\$205.00
Jun	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	\$714.00

Companion Animal Seizures 2021-22						
	Seized	Surrendered	Released	Rehomed	Euthanised	Stolen/Escaped
Jul	-	2	-	2	-	-
Aug	1	2	1	2	-	-
Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oct	5	-	1	4	-	-
Nov	2	-	1	-	1	-
Dec	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jan	-	2	-	-	2	-
Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apr	-	2	-	2	-	-
May	2	5	1	4	2	-
Jun	1	2	1	-	2	-



Companion Animal Ranger Services 2021-22				
	Dog attack investigation	Roaming dogs	Roaming cats	Barking dogs
Jul	-	2	1	4
Aug	-	4	3	3
Sep	-	6	2	3
Oct	1	4	2	1
Nov	2	6	5	1
Dec	2	-	-	-
Jan	2	4	3	2
Feb	-	-	-	-
Mar	1	8	5	4
Apr	1	4	2	2
May	2	5	2	2
Jun	2	3	5	2



9.4 COMMUNITY AND TOURISM

Ref: WO/2022/01686

Responsible Executive: Director Community & Tourism

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION: that items included in the Community & Tourism Management Report be **NOTED** by Council.

Excess Leave as at 30 June 2022

Name	LSL	Annual Leave	Time in Lieu	RDO's	Plans in place
	13 weeks	8 weeks	1 week	2 days	
				3.93	RDOs booked
		13.21			Currently on leave
				5.51	Has been advised to use RDOs

Budget performance summary – expenditure target 100% or lower as at 30 June 2022

Please note that the "actual" column is reporting both actual and committed costs, increasing the operating expenses figure and percentage.

	Budget	Actual	% of budget	Target met	Comments
WCCC					Funded
Revenue	392,500	381,507	97%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Operating Expenses	338,600	369,902	109%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Expenses higher than budget, but lower than actual income.
Preschool					Funded
Revenue	503,400	660,147	131%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Funding higher than budgeted
Operating Expenses	594700	602,021	101%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depreciation is included in these figures.

Library					Council & funded
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<i>Revenue</i>	68,500	68,901	101%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	176,374	158,583	90%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Youth					Council & funded
<i>Revenue</i>	16,294	15,876	97%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	39,294	36,604	92%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Early Intervention					Billable hours
<i>Revenue</i>	40,000	48,240	120%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some invoices still to be raised for 21/22
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	39,600	63,300	160%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Additional hours of work to prepare for Audit.
Tourism Operations					Council
<i>Revenue</i>	0				
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	144,200	120,912	84%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tourism Development					Council & funded projects
<i>Revenue</i>	323,340	291,382	90%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	374,340	297,124	79%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Recovery					Funded
<i>Revenue</i>	220,000	71,468	32%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resilience NSW is behind in paying their invoices.
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	220,000	138,748	63%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Current Grants		
WCCC	Nil	
Preschool	Community Grants – Increasing ATSI enrolment and engagement	Successful - \$8000
Library	Nil	
Youth	Nil	
Early Intervention	Nil	
Tourism Operations	Nil	



Tourism Development	Regional Growth Fund - \$20,000 for Motorcycle Rally	Successful
	Community Grant \$7500	Successful
Community Recovery	Greenwaste Grant	Successful - \$804195 - tender documents & variation report being prepared
	Bushfire Recovery Grants - Additional Time Limit	Application for additional time to spend allocated CRO budget.

Operational Overview	
WCCC	<p>Illness continues to affect WCCC staffing. We have some very committed staff in this area who are happy to step in and help out in other areas when needed.</p> <p>We are awaiting news from the Federal Government regarding the proposed changes to the aged care funding. The previous government had commenced the process of removing block funding from services. We await information from the Labor Government regarding their plans in this area.</p>
Preschool	<p>Preschool continues to be in high demand, with a waiting list for most days. We receive funding for 4-5 year old children to attend 2 free days per week, and most families are taking these free days, with most families accessing 3 or more days per week.</p> <p>We will look at offering additional places on a Friday if staffing can be arranged.</p> <p>I attended the Community public meeting regarding childcare needs along with the Mayor and Clr Ponting.</p>
Library	<p>Library staffing has been unstable over the last month due to illness and absence. We are fortunate to have some great casual and fill in staff to step in to ensure that the library still continues to operate and service our community.</p>
Youth	<p>The July school holidays program is in full swing.</p>
Early Intervention	<p>Services days have increased, and now that the professional university placements and the audit has been completed, things have settled into a more normal routine. Rhonda works three days</p>



	a week delivering speech pathology and early intervention therapy supports to members of the community in need of these services.
Tourism	<p>Motorcycle Rally planning is continuing in full force. Tickets are on sale, and they selling well.</p> <p>The school holiday period always sees an increase in VIC visitor numbers and the coastal flooding events seen and even larger increase, with people needing to detour inland to get to there destinations.</p> <p>Recruitment is underway for an additional tourism officer.</p>
Community Recovery	<p>An application has been submitted to extend the time allowed to use the CRO funding. No extra funding is allowed, however time extensions are being considered.</p> <p>The Disaster Dashboard is live on our Council website. We are in the process of setting up GrantGuru that is funded for 3 years by CRO funding. GrantGuru is a one stop shop for finding grants, that is free and available for staff and community groups to use. This will also be linked to our website when complete.</p>

Priorities for July

- Review application for Reconnecting Regional NSW grants
- Social Media Policy review
- Community Grants and Donations Policy workshop
- Disaster Risk Reduction Fund application
- Advisory Committee Meetings – re-establish (Youth, Community Care and Preschool)
- Community Care future operations and funding review

Anticipated issues affecting delivery of identified priorities

I will be relocating to the main Council office so I can continue to work closely with the other members of the executive team.

Karen Kermode
Director Community & Tourism

1. WALCHA COUNCIL COMMUNITY CARE (WCCC)



June has been a hard month for Walcha, with a number of accidents and deaths that occurred. People were also starting to really feel the cold and so were less likely to come out of their warm houses. We also saw the beginning of building work in the carpark at WCCC which restricted our access and led to us having to cancel some of our programming. Meg went on leave to the UK and Trish was still recovering from an extended illness. With 185 clients and limited staffing or volunteers being available this has been challenging, especially as our client’s needs tend to escalate as it gets colder and the days shorter as they become less mobile in this time. Overall it has been a tough month!

We still managed to find the fun in this time and saw the art group create some even more fantastic work. The felting class had similar good fortune and created felted bowls during their session. The Women’s Group had a great trip to Bendemeer Pub and we are looking forward to our excursion to the Bingara Orange Harvest Festival on Saturday 1st July.

We sadly lost two of our clients during the month as well and this has been hard for all. We have a procedure in place to make sure that the staff are told as quickly as possible and with as much support as we can and time is always made to attend the funerals if staff would like that closure. The Coordinator does their best to ensure their attendance at each of these memorials regardless to show the family the support from WCCC.

During this period of loss, WCCC has been working closely with the Support Group. We have identified that there is a large gap in the supports available in Walcha, in particular with palliative care. As a result, we are creating a volunteer group of compassionate individuals who can go to the homes of the identified individuals and join them for a cup of tea, prepare their food for the day or do the dishes. Providing just an hour of support each day during their end of life care can allow them to stay in their home in comfort for longer and be less isolated from their community. This will be identified as Individual Social Support from our program and be coordinated as such.

New Clients for the month- 5

Exited Clients- 3 (2 passed away, 1 moved)

Total Active Clients- 185

Women’s Group 1/6/22- 7 15/7/22- 13	Wanderer’s Group CXL
Men’s Group 14/6/22- 8 28/6/22- 3	Art Group 29/6/22- 5



Bingo 11/6/22- 12 26/6/22- 12	Card Group 7/6/22- 3 14/6/22- 5 21/6/22- 3 28/6/22- 4
Friday Takeaway 3/6/22- 7 10/6/22- 6 17/6/22- 6 24/6/22- 4	Thursday Creatives 8/6/22- 5 -day moved to Wednesday 9/6/22- 6 16/6/22- 4

1.2 Transport – June 2022

Medical drives – 48 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

Walcha Access bus 3/6/22- 4 17/6/22- 3	Bus to Armidale 3/6/22- 3 9/6/22- 5 16/6/22- 3 23/6/22- 2 30/6/22- 7
Taxi Vouchers – 23 clients used the service with 180 trips being provided.	

1.3 Meals on Wheels

We recently lost a volunteer in a horrible farm accident. Jeanette Wark was a long-time member of our Meals on Wheels family and it has been a huge loss to our organisation. We are all feeling the loss greatly and would like to make this an acknowledgment of her great commitment to her community.

As winter approaches we are getting higher and higher numbers for Meals on Wheels. This will be unsustainable in the long term when we cannot reallocate other funding and can only use dedicated Meals funding in the new model that is currently being designed by the Federal Government. We are continually looking for new ways to alleviate this burden as our population continues to age.

This month clients received hot main meals with some of those clients also receiving desserts and frozen meals throughout the 7-day week.

The total number of meals this month was: 677

- 352 hot meals
- 158 frozen meals
- 167 desserts.



1.5 Feedback and Complaints

There have been no complaints received this month. The Coordinator received flowers and a thank you card from a family for their work with their mother during her end of life care.

Jess Goodwin
Community Care Coordinator

2. LIBRARY AND YOUTH

June 2022

- Loans: 700
- Returns: 556
- Reservations placed & issued: 190
- New members: 2
- Door count: 810
- Wi-fi use: 27
- Computer use: 70
- Housebound: 11

Other statistics:

- eLibrary: Borrow Box
 - 72 users (8 new)
 - 196 eAudiobooks
 - 70 eBooks

The Library saw an increase in loans and renewals this month, however general usage remained average. The door count, public computers and wifi usage remained similar to last month. With some programs, meetings and an increase in puzzle library usage this month providing a majority of the traffic.

Outreach & Promotion

Outreach and library promotional activities have allowed Walcha Library to engage with the community this month. They include:

- The notice board in the library window regularly being updated with library and community information and events
- Staff have continued to use a systematic and measured approach to the use of social media to engage with the community and library members this month

Social media



The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook page increased this month, with 9 new page likes: 269 people have now liked the page and there are 291 followers. The number of posts shared in June decreased from last month. Staff have continued to use the systematic approach to ensure the content was engaging, useful and an effective use of staff time. The library shared 12 posts on the Facebook page reaching 1245 people (reach increase by 45%). The 7 Instagram posts shared throughout June received 69 'likes' (significant increase



to last month). Library and Youth Instagram posts are now followed by 230 people, with 6 new followers this month.

The programs, activities and information shared via Facebook and Instagram this month have been broken into two categories below, Engagement & Service content:



Engagement content: fun and interactive posts shared to engage with the library community and/or acknowledge events/themes being celebrated in wider community	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Total 1 engagement posts		13	
Walcha Council Skate Park precinct renewal project consultation workshop promotion		5 + 7	

Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Total 17 service posts	2191	59	
4 x posts Did you Know? Series of posts promoting CNRL programs & services; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - App - Free to use - Register online - Puzzle library 	89 58 76 51		
CNRL Author talk promotion	65		



<p>Puzzle Library promotion</p>	<p>99</p>		
<p>#Fridaydeliveryday promoting collection post</p>	<p>68</p>	<p>19</p>	
<p>Baby Booktime with Kelly promotion (speech language pathology collection focus)</p>	<p>139</p>	<p>9</p>	



<p>Promotion of Baby's First Library Bag Program for 2022 – calling on volunteer sewers to start making bags</p>	<p>867 + 89</p>	<p>9</p>	 <p>Walcha Library 22 hrs · 🌐 Shout out to Walcha's crafty volunteers... we'd love your help!</p> <p>WALCHA COUNCIL LIBRARY Baby's First Library Bag Program</p> <p>Every year around 40 babies are born in the Walcha region. Walcha Council Library want to get them off to a great start by giving them their very own library bag, and one of their first books. We will work with our community health nurse in Walcha to distribute the bags.</p> <p>We can't do it without your help! We are looking for volunteer sewers and crafty people to help to make the bags for this project, or donate some scrap fabric & materials.</p> <p>It's quite easy! The bags should be: - made of colourful sturdy fabric, and preferably lined - approximately 30cm wide & 60cm high - have an internal library card pocket 10cm wide x 7cm high - have a strap/traps around 10cm long</p> <p>If you are interested, please contact Cassie at the Walcha Library for more information on 67742550</p> <p>3 2 shares</p> <p>Like Comment Share</p>
<p>Promotion of CNRL Robot Soccer as part of the school holiday program at Walcha</p>	<p>68</p>	<p>6</p>	 <p>Walcha Library Published by Cassie Holman · June 28 at 10:46 AM · 🌐</p> <p>The hugely popular CNRL Robot Soccer returns to Walcha! Grab a controller, enter the arena and take control of our robots against other players to push, nudge and kick to victory!</p> <p>Each game starts with 2 teams of robots and 3 rings to kick around the arena to the goals at either end - but once a team has scored 3 goals the arena is FLOODED with rings in a frenzied free-for-all to score as many goals as possible!</p> <p>Strictly for ages 8 and up, call the library now to book yo... See more</p> <p>ROBOT SOCCER</p> <p>Walcha Library Monday 4 July - 10pm to 1pm Ages 8+ Book now 0774 2550</p> <p>68 People reached 2 Engagements 4.1x lower Distribution score</p> <p>1</p> <p>Like Comment Share</p>
<p>Promotion of the Winter School Holiday Program</p>	<p>522</p>	<p>16</p>	 <p>Walcha Council WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM</p> <p>CNRL Robot Soccer Mon 4th July 12-1pm @ Walcha Library Ages 8+</p> <p>'Move it' gym session Try an exercise class that mixes dance, boxing and aerobics. Wednesday 6th July 9 - 11am @ Walcha Community Gym Ages 10 - 17 yrs</p> <p>"Kids in business" workshop Fun activities to inspire Walcha's youth entrepreneurs Thurs 7th July 2-5pm - Ages 8 - 17 @Walcha Council Community Care, 115 Middle Street</p> <p>NAIDOC Storytime Stories, craft & games to celebrate NAIDOC Week for all ages Friday 8th July 10am - 12 noon @ Walcha Preschool</p> <p>Little Lego Masters Building challenges & games for ages 4-7 yrs Monday 11th July 10:15am @ Walcha Library</p> <p>Board game tournament Meet your friends for some games - prizes on offer! Wednesday 13th July 2-5pm - Ages 8+ @ Walcha Council Community Care, 115 Middle Street</p> <p>Learn to sew session Sew library bags for the 'Baby's first library bag program' Thursday 14th July 2-4pm @ Walcha Handmade - Ages 12yrs+</p> <p>All activities are sponsored by Walcha Council and FREE to attend. Bookings essential as places limited via Walcha Library library@walcha.nsw.gov.au or 67742550</p>

Programs

The Walcha Puzzle Library has proved popular again this month. With an increase in loans again, there was also more donations received. The collection now holds over 60 puzzles, varying from childrens to adults, in many sizes. The library was promoted again this month, given that winter is perfect weather for puzzling. The local advertising last month resulted in a number of new users taking up this great resource.

June has seen an increase in the number of hours the library volunteer is able to work at the library. After some settling in and training, Veronica is now providing some assistance on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons. Both shifts are during the peak item processing times at the library and ensures efficient use of the additional assistance.



This month has seen the commencement of the “Baby Booktime with Kelly” series. Speech pathologist/early education librarian Kelly Makepeace from Tamworth Library offered to provide this series in Walcha which focuses on



baby language development and steps parents through the new speech language pathology resources



available through CNRL. The first two sessions were held in June and the final two sessions will be held after the July school holidays. The first two sessions were very popular – attracting 7 parents and 13 children aged 0-4 yrs, with the average age of participants being 12-18 mths old.

The junior Walcha Library members who have visited this month have continued to contribute to the group craft project set up at part of May’s ALIA National Simultaneous Storytime. The book titled, ‘Family Tree’ encouraged readers to consider their heritage, and family structures, so members were encouraged to illustrate or write something about their family on a leaf, to stick on the communal tree.

Housebound library services were arranged with Riverview and delivered by Walcha Library staff this month. A collection hand picked for the Riverview residents and a number of housebound individuals were ordered and delivered in the last week of the month. Walcha Library staff and volunteer were able to make the deliveries this month.

The Walcha Library Bookclub and the ‘Taphouse’ Bookclub’s both met this month. The Walcha Library Bookclub met as usual in the library, with 7 members in attendance. There were 5 members able to meet for the ‘Taphouse’ Bookclub.

The number of members and visitors using the library facilities for study related purposes has remained high again this month. The free wifi and quiet study areas have been utilised atleast 2-3 times per week this month for study purposes. Use of the facilities by people escaping the colder weather has continued this month.

Training

This month library coordinator Cassie McKenna attended two training sessions.

- The manual handling course provided by Council was specifically for indoor staff. This session provided vital information about workstations and lifting to ensure safe practices at the library.
- The Mental Health First Aid Course (refresher) was a two day program which provided insight into a variety of common mental health illnesses and a course of action a first



aid responder can take to assist. This course provided helpful information to guide Council staffs interaction with both colleagues and clients and provided mental health first aide accreditation.

- Niche Academy's 1 hour online training – Mental Illness Part 3

Youth activities

The Winter School Holiday Program was launched this month, to ensure adequate time for advertising and bookings to be taken for the July 4 – 14 holiday period. 7 activities have been planned including CNRL robotics workshop, kids gym session & kids in business session, NAIDOC Storytime, Lego, board game tournament and Walcha Handmade sewing class. Each of these activities have been prepared with minimal cost to council, through the use of Council owned facilities and library materials & resources.

Council's Youth staff member was able to assist with promotion of the next consultation workshop for the Council's Skatepark renewal project this month. Use of social media, school & youth group contacts were used. There was 6 community members who attended the session at the library and provided their thoughts and opinions at the workshop.

Staff have started planning for the Youth Opportunities Grant for the 2022/2023 round. Staff are investigating ideas previously provided by Walcha youth, through the Youth Advisory Committee, and the Youth Strategy. Further consultation will be made in coming weeks, to gauge if any youth-led projects could be submitted in the grant application.

Cassie McKenna
Library Coordinator

3. Preschool

June 2022

Report for May 2022

The 4-5 year old room have been engaging in sustainable living and learning how to grow their own vegetables. We started by planting seeds in small pots inside and creating seedlings, watching them sprout. The children then transferred them to the outside veggie patch and learned that the plants need water and sunlight to grow big enough for us to pick them and eat them.

The children enjoy trying new veggies that they have grown, this encourages children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.



3-4 Year old Children have been learning about Aboriginal Culture, this was instigated by the children's interests and a questions that were asked. This developed the programs direction for the month of May.

They have been reading lots of different Dreaming stories and learning about how the birds got their colours and making their very own Rainbow Serpents.

When children are taught about a range of cultures assists children in being able to learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.



Report for June 2022

This month we have had two visits from Kelly Makepeace from Tamworth Library to conduct a special story time with the children. Kelly is a part of the Central Northern Regional Library group and also visits Cassie here at our Library or story time, Kelly is also a trained speech pathologist and provides the children with an interactive story time. Each child is given the opportunity to create a craft item that related to the story that is being told. This visit the children made pirate hats which was a great hit amongst the children.

We are hoping for Kelly to return in Term 3.



This has brought us to the end of Term 2, with 2 weeks off we set to return to preschool on Monday 18 July.

Melinda Clark
Nominated Supervisor



4. Tourism

June 2022

Number of visitors to Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

JUNE	2022	2021	2020	2019
Walk in's	326	263	Closed COVID	316
Phone enquiries	22	58		56
Email enquiries	1	2		3

WEBSITE STATISTICS	June	May	April	March
www.walchansw.com.au				
Visits	17,674	14,196	14,063	14,651
Pages	89,979	91,058	97,868	127,281
Hits	332,431	340,003	342,397	373,452

SOUNDTRAILS STATISTICS

OPENS	WEBSITE VISITS		DOWNLOADS
	Apsley Falls	Walcha Sculpture	
	22	25	30
	26	12	23






Social Media – Walcha Tourism Facebook and Instagram

Facebook Followers: 1,397

Instagram Followers: 669

Top Performing posts: Engagement content	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Page followers	1397	669	
Page reach	8756	2328	
Comparison to previous period	4.5% increase	154.4% increase	
Engagement content	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	



<p>The Walcha Gallery of Art</p>	<p>1318</p>	<p>412</p>	
<p>In the spirit of tonight's State of Origin</p>	<p>2549</p>	<p>357</p>	
<p>"Can't wait to come back and explore more"</p>	<p>958</p>	<p>389</p>	
<p>"These falls were absolutely gushing"</p>	<p>3076</p>	<p>457</p>	
<p>The Milky Way sparkling above grand old Lanford House</p>	<p>5751</p>	<p>357</p>	



Walcha Motorcycle Rally

Advertising has recently been undertaken in several key motorcycle publications and we are seeing ticket sales increase as a result of these advertisements. We have had a good response to our Sponsorship packages and letters. The Rally program is now finalised and our current focus is on firming up Exhibitors, increasing online promotion and finalising our Rally promotion video for circulation.

The value of Tourism

Some interesting statistics. According to [Remplan](#) there are 238 jobs (employment) in our LGA with \$87.9m economic output for our LGA. 36 jobs are supported by tourism in Walcha (1.3%) whilst in the Northern Inland region, tourism supports 2,705 jobs.

Tourism directly contributes [\\$6.809m](#) to the local economy with a further [\\$3.16m](#) provided in value added contributions. So, tourism contributes about 11.2% of our \$87.9m Gross Regional Product – not bad. This site also talks about the [value of each visitor](#).

Lisa Kirton
Acting Tourism Manager

5. Community Recovery Officer

June 2022

Yarrowitch Recreation Reserve Land Managers hosted the Resilience Small Halls Festival Tour on Sunday 5 June 2022. The afternoon/evening was a huge success, with the target number of people (120) reached! Lane Pittman was a welcomed addition as a support act, and the event received some great feedback. Here are some statistics:

- 42 tickets sold online (\$905)
- 4 tickets sold at the door (\$50)
- 79 tickets sold locally (\$1,975)
- 10 volunteers (all counted in paid tickets, above)
- Two guests

On the show itself, the promoter passed on the message that the production and musicians team loved it. The audience was a great mix of demographics – farmers from around the area, loads of families, fewer 20 – 30 year olds but definitely a representation from all age and gender groups. People drove from up to an hour away. The audience were attentive and felt like they enjoyed the show, and the production team left comments on how much they enjoyed working with the Yarrowitch community- 'beautiful display of community' and 'beaut team. Also in attendance were RAMHP, NRRRA, RFS and Angus Scrivener had an information table on his blue tree project which attracted interest.

During this month, I have been mainly centred around reporting and assisting with the Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Project Control Group review diagnostic reports and gap analysis, stakeholder lists and action items. Early in the month, milestone



reporting was due to the EPA Bushfire Greenwaste clean up program combined with their regular monthly report and completion of the Allowable time limit (ATL) extension form for submission to Resilience NSW took time liaising with Council executive and Resilience NSW to complete the NRRRA form correctly.

Yarrowitch Rebuilding - The Development Application for this re-build was approved in early June, although the contracted builder contacted Council with some slight amendment requests from Publics Works Advisory. These changes have been submitted to Council and are in the process of being reviewed. The landholder has been updated of this and Council continue to process the application.

Connecting Moona contact list project - After several delays, I met with two community members from the Moona area this month to discuss a project idea to bridge the gap between emergency services, dwelling location and community. This project is centred around sharing a contact list of neighbours and residents along Moona Plains Road and surrounds to ensure that in the case of an emergency or incident, exact location details are known to provide a triple 0 operator. Further to this, in the 2019/2020 fires, dwellings on properties were not on emergency service maps being used, nor did anyone know if these dwellings were occupied. This project aims to share basic information, while still maintaining privacy while providing education around assisting emergency responders in time of an emergency or disaster

Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund (BCRRF) 2.1 – I have been liaising with project staff at the BCRRF projects team on returning unspent grant funding. This has been an arduous process which has generated an audit of expenses around staff wages, and subsequent inability to claim certain staff wages and adjust on-cost amounts. It should be noted that council did not receive clear DRFA guidelines or information on staff wages/costs until July 2021 during reporting and when most of the projects had already been completed. No guidelines were provided to Council on receipt of the non-competitive grant, only the funding agreement.

NSW EPA Bushfire Green waste clean up program - This month has seen the Bushfire I have been assisting in the capacity of liaising with the EPA Project staff on timeframes to complete the work, variation requests, smarty grant reporting and minor administration tasks (reporting to Council). The first location has been completed during this month, machinery moved to Yarrowitch, although contractor staffing has slowed work this month and work is due to recommence in first week of July.

Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) program - diagnostic gap analysis, actions and the draft RDRP have been reviewed. I assisted with reviewing draft templates that may be used by local councils when the program is rolled out. Surveys were still open during June and the consultant has been able to finally engage the Aboriginal local land council which is currently going through a turbulent time in Walcha at the moment.



Community Recovery Officer Program evaluation survey – I have drafted and completed the survey through the platform SurveyMonkey. On 30 June 2022 we commenced disseminating the survey through to stakeholders and community members and have received responses already.

Nowendoc Community meeting on telecommunications - During this month, some time has been expended to arranging a community meeting to discuss the current telecommunication issues at Nowendoc. Whilst I was carrying out recovery action planning engagement and working with the Nowendoc community, the maintenance and viability of their tower was brought up, and how they have recently endured several lengthy outages, impacting day to day life, connectivity and even connection to emergency services. The community have arranged Federal member The Hon Barnaby Joyce to attend and other representatives from Telco's and Councillors on 6 July 2022 at Nowendoc Memorial Hall. Information sharing and communication is highlighted as "must have" for this community and the remote community's connectivity is crucial to their recovery post disaster.

I have working with ***Relationships Australia and local youth Angus Scrivener, on the Blue Tree Project.*** Angus was able to have a table at the Small Halls Festival at Yarrawitch and share his project with the community. The date for the painting of the tree is 10 September 2022. A grant application has been submitted by Relationships Aust to cover paint, elevated work platform hire and a number of other items for the project.

Brooke Jeffery
Community Recovery Officer



Item 10: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION: THAT Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Committee Reports as presented.



Walcha Council
Beautification Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

held on

Tuesday, 21 June 2022

at

2.00 pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Chair welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

PRESENT: Clr Aurora Reilly (Chair), Clr Anne-Marie Pointing, Phillip Hood (Director of Infrastructure), Phyllis Hoy, Gweneth Higgins, Jim Hallenan, Peter Blomfield, Caroline Street and Stephen King

IN ATTENDANCE: Anna Lummis (Administration Officer) Amy Hood (Administration Officer), Harley Fontanella (Coordinator Urban Works) and Cynthia Morris (Team Leader – Horticulture)

Committee Minutes



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING

Crocodile Bridge

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Committee RECOMMEND that the garden beds at the Crocodile Bridge be extended along both sides of the bridge blocking pedestrian access to the bridge and that the footpath be partially removed to accommodate the garden beds. Further works i.e. removal of remainder of the footpath and installation of signage may be considered should there be funding remaining.

2.1 Placement of Hardwood Bench – McHattan Park

RECOMMENDATION 2: The Committee RECOMMEND that after consultation with the Country Womens Association the new hardwood bench seat for McHattan Park be installed within the existing BBQ shelter.

Captain Cook Park – Skatepark Upgrade works

RECOMMENDATION 3: The Committee RECOMMEND that several problematic willow trees with invasive roots, dropped leaves and branches be removed from Captain Cook Park as part of the Walcha Skatepark Upgrade works.

APOLOGIES:

Robyn Vincent

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEEING MINUTES HELD:

Members were given time by the Chair to read through the previous minutes from 25 October 2021. The Chair invited the Director of Infrastructure to give an update to members on the status of projects detailed in these previous meeting minutes.

Crocodile Bridge

There was a previous motion of Council to address pedestrian issues with this bridge. This is still the current standing motion. Members advised that pedestrian safety works be undertaken as soon as possible for public safety reasons.

Team Leader Horticulture advised that Council would like to extend the types of plantings that are already existing on site into the proposed new garden beds. Members discussed removal of concrete and rocks from a section of the drainage bed and be replaced with soil and vegetation (e.g. bulrushes) to reduce any fall impacts. Members agreed to only remove enough concrete to accommodate the extended garden beds in order to reduce costs. Members also suggested that signage could be included on site.

Hospital Wall Upgrade

Stephen King advised the Committee that additional external funding has been obtained for completion of the mural.

Members discussed planting and stoneworks edging options for the eastern end of the wall. Team Leader (Horticulture) confirmed that edging is required for the existing garden bed.



ACTION: That the Secretariat of the Arts Advisory Committee add the original plan and details of additional external funding for the Hospital Wall Mural to the Agenda for the next meeting of the Arts Advisory Committee.

Rose Garden

Phyllis Hoy advised that she can provide additional resources to prune the Rose Garden if needed by the Team Leader (Horticulture).

Mill Hole

Additional funds are required for concreting to finish the edging on the eastern side of the site. Members advised that some basic planting e.g. Salvia, will finish the site.

Streetscaping

Derby Street works will be undertaken this financial year with some funds anticipated to be allocated for streetscaping works. Pine trees were removed in the past from the roadside along the boundary of the Showground and members would like to see some other trees reinstated at this location.

ACTION: That the Secretariat of the Beautification Advisory Committee add landscaping for the Derby Street works (subject to approved funding) to the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Beautification Advisory Committee meeting in September.

Glen Row

Members discussed the Glen Row works.

ACTION: That the Director of Infrastructure to follow up on Glen Row works progress/status and advise members on its progress at the next meeting. Secretariat to add the Glen Row works to the agenda for discussion at the next Beautification Advisory Committee meeting in September.

Street Trees

Members advised Japanese Maple is ideal to be planted on Tower Street and suggested various additional locations within the town.

ACTION: Coordinator Urban Works and Team Leader (Horticulture) to inspect and assess proposed and potential locations for planting Japanese Maple as street trees and report back to Director of Infrastructure.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE & CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chair talked members through the Terms of Reference including Purpose of the Committee, Accountability, Overview, Key Roles and Responsibilities, membership and conditions of membership. Members signed the Terms of Reference without objection or amendment.



The Chair talked members through the Council Code of Conduct as it applies to Committee Members.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

2.1 Placement of Hardwood Bench – McHattan Park

Members discussed the installation of the Hardwood Bench seat in McHattan Park, specifically the best placement of the seat within the park. There is a preference for the seat to be installed undercover. Members attended a site visit and recommended that the bench seat be placed within the existing BBQ area, this placement was confirmed verbally by the CWA.

2.2 New Niche Gardens at the Walcha General Cemetery

Coordinator Urban Works gave a brief description of the current site and requested input from members for future plantings within the new niche garden. Team Leader (Horticulture) proposed a rose garden and hedging requiring minimal maintenance. Members suggested Lemon/Lime Nandina as also suitable for the location. Members noted the layout for the new garden has changed from the previous hexagonal design as this posed ongoing issues for maintenance. Coordinator Urban Works advised that Council will install new niche plaques in rows. New plantings will be placed in October 2022 and pansies are currently in place until the permanent plantings can be installed in the Spring.

ACTION: Committee Members to forward a detailed list of species for planting in the new niche garden to the Team Leader (Horticulture) prior to the next Advisory Committee meeting.

3. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS:

3.1 SkatePark Upgrade

Members advised that planting natives shrubs within the skatepark garden beds would be a good choice as they are hardy and easily maintained.

Members agreed that the garden bed behind the court may be trampled and is an unacceptable option. Members proposed synthetic turf as one option instead of the proposed plantings.

Members advised that rugby league and union play every weekend and/or every second weekend from April to September – this is a paid event and will need at least temporary fencing in place between the skatepark and the oval to prevent unpaid access. Members agreed that the existing fencing around the skatepark should be removed for aesthetic reasons.

There are ongoing issues with willow trees (i.e. invasive roots, dropped leaves and branches) to the North of the skatepark and members requested these trees be removed as part of the upgrade works.

3.2 John Oxley Oval Tree Replacement



Members discussed the conifers that were removed from the John Oxley Oval, although there is no urgency to replace these conifers, the Director of Infrastructure advised that this replacement can be incorporated into a future replacement/planning budget.

3.3 Mill Hole to Nivisons Lookout (including the Koala Walk)

Members advised that this access is overgrown. Members requested maintenance work be undertaken by Council to clear this pathway access. Further works may be considered.

ACTION: Council to undertake general maintenance of the Nivisons Lookout access (including the Koala Walk).

3.4 Additional Member Nomination

Phyllis Hoy nominated Colleen King as a new member of the Committee. The Chair and members seconded the nomination.

ACTION: Secretariat to add Colleen King to the Committee membership and extend a formal invitation to the next meeting to the new member.

3.5 Preferred Meeting Days

Members expressed a preference that future meetings be held on a Wednesday afternoon. Director of Infrastructure advised members that future meetings will be scheduled on Wednesday's at 2pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7 September 2022 2:00pm–4:00pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:45pm.



Item 11:

Delegate
Reports



There are no Delegate Reports for July 2022



Item 12:

Questions with Notice



There are no Questions with Notice items for
July 2022



Item 13:

Referral to Closed Council Meeting



Item: 13A **Ref:** WO/2022/02065
Title: Referral to Closed Meeting – Waiving of Interment Fees
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Nil.
Attachment: Nil.

RECOMMENDATION: That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matter of Waiving of Interment Fees BE discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

Introduction:

Council approval is sought for matters to be discussed in Closed Council.

Report:

Council approval is requested to refer matters for discussion in Closed Council and close the Meeting to the public in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Approval to refer the matter to Closed Council is sought because the reports relate to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).