



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

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:

28 June 2023

..... 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, 28 June 2023** commencing at **3:00pm**.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Hood
Interim 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 Dunghutti 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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| | (Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council). | |
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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.



Item 2: Previous Minutes



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 31 May 2022

at

3.20pm

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, SJ Kermode, AC Pointing, and GDM Schaefer.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Phillip Hood – Interim General Manager, Mr AS Butler – Acting Director Infrastructure & Development, Mr CC Martin – Director Corporate & Community and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

167 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schaefer and Hicks that the Leave of Absence received from Clr Reilly, being a personal commitment, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023:

CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023:

168 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Berry that under Section 13.1 of the Walcha Council Code of Meeting Practice Council **ADOPT** the following items in bulk:

1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 26 April 2023, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.
2. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2023, 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

Item 6.3 Motor Vehicle Policy

Clr Kermode declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest and will leave the Chambers due to his wife being a Council employee who has a Council owned motor vehicle.

Item 7.1 Notice of Motion – Request from Voice for Walcha

Clr Schaefer declared a Non-Pecuniary Non-Significant interest and will remain in the Chambers due to being a host landowner in Winterbourne Wind and a Director and Shareholder in Walcha Wind. His explanation is as per the State Environmental Planning Policy:

“Section 11 Exclusion of application of development control plans

Development control plans (whether made before or after the commencement of this Policy) do not apply to-

(a) State significant development.

CHANGE OF ORDER:

169 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that Council change the order of the Business Paper to bring Item 7.1 Notice of Motion forward.



7. NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1 Notice of Motion No.: 27 – Request by Voice for Walcha

WO/2023/00900

170 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Noakes and Ferrier that Council **NOTE** the Report.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

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

6.1 Quarterly Budget Review Statements as at 30 March 2023

WO/2023/00887

172 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Pointing that Council:

1. **ADOPT** the March 2023 Quarterly Budget Review Statements; and
2. **APPROVE** the variation in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed in this report.

6.2 Council Facilities Opening Hours Review

WO/2023/00899

173 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Pointing that Council:

1. **APPROVE** the change in face-to-face opening hours for Council's Administration Building from 8:30am – 5:00pm to 9:00am – 4:30pm weekdays, with phone service continuing unchanged from 8:30am – 5:00pm.
2. **APPROVE** the new season 2023-2024 operating hours for the Walcha Swimming Pool.

6.3 Motor Vehicle Policy

WO/2023/00885

Clr Kermode declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest and left the Chambers at 3:35pm

174 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Schaefer that Council:

1. **ENDORSE** the updated Light Vehicle Fleet Policy (previously named Motor Vehicle Leaseback Policy & Procedure) as presented.



2. **REPEAL** Motor Vehicle Leaseback Policy & Procedure.
3. **REPEAL** Staff Vehicles Policy.

Clr Kermode returned to the Chambers at 3:40pm and was informed of the resolution.

6.4 Concealed Water Leak Policy **WO/2023/00888**

175 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Kermode that Council:

1. **ENDORSE** the Draft Concealed Water Leak Policy and PLACE on public exhibition for 28 days;
2. **ADOPT** the Concealed Water Leak Policy as presented subject to no submissions received during the public exhibition period; and
3. **AUTHORISE** the General Manager under Delegation to administer the *Concealed Water Leak Policy*.

6.5 Australian Motor Sports Action Group Walcha Car Rally 14 October 2023 **WO/2023/00886**

176 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Hicks that pending support from affected residents, Council APPROVE the use of Council owned roads for the Australian Motor Sports Action Group (AMSAG) Walcha Rally to be held in Walcha on Saturday 14 October 2023.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager **WO/2023/00898**

177 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Pointing that items included in the May 2023 Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.2 Infrastructure & Development **WO/2023/00815**

178 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Pointing that items included in the May 2023 Infrastructure & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.



9.3 Corporate & Community

WO/2023/00709

179 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that items included in the May 2023 Corporate & Community Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

180 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kermode that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Committee Reports as presented

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 28 April 2023

WO/2023/00718

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

Nil.

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

13A Referral to Closed Council – Tenders for Aerodrome and Walcha Pathways

WO/2023/00889

13B Referral to Closed Council – Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Recruitment / Membership

WO/2023/00890

181 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Berry that under Section 13.1 of the Walcha Council Code of Meeting Practice Council **ADOPT** the following items in bulk:

1. That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the matters of:
 - a) Award Tender RFT-W22/226 Aerodrome Access Road and Runway Rehabilitation; and
 - b) Award Tender W22/219 Walcha Pathways Design onlybe referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
2. That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act, 1993* be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and



close the meeting to the public for the reason that the report relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

182 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Hicks.

PRESENT: Present and IN Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of the press and the public.

The Chairman publicly declared the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Closed Council.

3.1 Award Tender W22/226 – Aerodrome Access Road and Runway Rehabilitation WINT/2023/02605

CC26/20222023 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that Council **AWARD** Tender No. W22/226 – Aerodrome Access Road and Runway Rehabilitation to Aitken Civil Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$809,222.00 GST inclusive.

3.2 Award Tender W22/219 – Walcha Pathways – Design and Preparation of Construction Contract WINT/2023/01968

CC27/20222023 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Kermode that Council **AWARD** Tender No. W22/2219 – Walcha Pathways Design and Preparation of Construction Tender Documents to King & Campbell for the lump sum of \$159,650.00 GST exclusive.

3.3 Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Recruitment / Membership WINT/2023/00892

CC28/20222023 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Hicks that Council **APPOINT** Mr Les Hullick and Ms Meredith Caelli as independent members of the Walcha Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee for an initial term of four (4) years in conjunction with Uralla Shire Council who appointed the same in their May Ordinary Council Meeting.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:22PM.



Item 3:

Business

Arising from

Previous

Minutes



Item 4:

Declarations of Interest



Item 5: Mayoral Minute



There was no Mayoral Minute submitted for
June 2023 at time of print.



Item 6:

Senior Officers' Reports

That the Senior Officer's Reports be RECEIVED for further consideration.



Item:	6.1	Ref:	WO/2023/01055
Title:	Adoption of Delivery Program 2022 – 2025, 2023 – 2024 Operational Plan including Budget, Fees & Charges AND Rates & Charges		
Author:	Director Corporate & Community		
Previous Items:	May 2023 – Draft Delivery Program 2022 to 2025, 2023 – 2024 Operational Plan		
Attachments:	WI/2023/07069 – IPART Instrument of Approval		

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 are encouraging active participation at all levels.*

Strategy – 8.1.2 – *Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.*

Goal – 8.2 – *Council rate funding for local government projects will be supplemented by income generated from other sources.*

Strategy – 8.2.1 – *Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council.*

RECOMMENDATION: **That: Council**

- 1. 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 2023 – 2024 Operational Plan (Scenario 2 – IPART approved Special Rate Variation) which includes the 2023–2024 Budget, Revenue Policy and Fees & Charges as Final; and**
 - 2. In accordance with Section 494 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, Council **MAKE** and **LEVY** the Rates and Charges for 2023-2024 for the General, Water and Sewerage Funds, and Waste Management Charges as detailed in the Report (Scenario 2 – IPART Approved Special Rate Variation); and**
 - 3. Council **AUTHORISE** the General Manager to arrange for the preparation and the service of the 2023-2024 Rate notices.**
-

Introduction:

This report is submitted to allow Council to formally adopt the Draft Delivery Program 2022 – 2025 and 2023 – 2024 Operational Plan, which includes the 2023-2024 Budget and the 2023-2024 Fees & Charges, and to make the Rates and Charges for 2023-2024.

Report:

- a) ADOPTION OF DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM (Scenario 2 – IPART approved Special Rate Variation) 2022 - 2025 AND 2023 – 2024 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Public Exhibition of Draft Document

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Draft Delivery Program 2022 – 2025 and 2023 – 2024 Operational Plan was placed on public exhibition



and public comment invited. The report was published on 18 May 2023 and submissions closed 15 June 2023. No submissions were received during the consultation period.

Two scenarios were included in the draft Delivery Program/Operating Plan being Scenario 1 without approval of the special rate variation and Scenario 2 which includes approved special rate variation in full.

The letter provided by IPART and attached to this report indicates approval in full of the special variation application in full.

Changes to the draft Operational Plan (Scenario 2 – IPART approved Special Rate Variation) since it was placed on public exhibition

During the exhibition period, a number of changes have been made as part of Councils further analysis. The changes are listed below and will be included in the final published reports following the ordinary meeting of Council:

INCOME/EXPENDITURE/CAPITAL

Category	Description	Change	Comment
Expense	Private Works	\$100,000	Reduce Expenditure: Error in budget – Expense exceeds costs in budget
Expense	Rural Fire Service Levy	(\$50,000)	Increase Expenditure: Increase in levy not determined at time of budget display.
Expense	Donations	(\$10,000)	Increase Expenditure: No budget allocated for donations with donations program to occur based on recently updated donations policy
Expense	Legal Fees	(\$25,000)	Legal fees for advice on issues relating to renewable energy Planning Agreements
Expense	Memberships	(\$5,000)	CoREM membership
Capital	Financial Reporting Software	(\$16,820)	Increase Capital Expenditure: Quote for accounting software implementation and licencing is \$26,820 (Current draft budget includes \$10,000 with \$16,820 shortfall. The ongoing licence fee is \$6,080 per annum which is included in quote to cover year 1.
NET CHANGE		(\$6,820)	



FEES & CHARGES/REVENUE POLICY

Proposed changes to the fees and charges are listed below:

Fee Description	Current Draft	23-24	Proposed 23-24	Comment
Library Photocopying – A4 B&W – Single Sided			\$0.20	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Library Photocopying – A4 B&W – Double Sided			\$0.30	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Library Photocopying – A4 Colour – Single Sided			\$0.80	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Library Photocopying – A4 Colour – Double Sided			\$1.20	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Library Photocopying – A3 B&W – Single Sided			\$0.40	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Library Photocopying – A3 B&W – Double Sided			\$0.50	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Library Photocopying – A3 Colour – Single Sided			\$1.60	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Library Photocopying – A3 Colour – Double Sided			\$2.40	Fee not included historically and should be included in Fees & Charges
Motorcycle Rally – Merchandise (b)	\$4.99		\$5.00	Rounding
Motorcycle Rally – Ticket – 2 Day Rally Pass (Early Bird)	\$60.01		\$60.00	Rounding
Copies of Transfers – Monthly Emailed	No Charge		\$21.00 per 15 mins	Recovery of admin time



Companion Animals – Impounding First Release	\$50.56	\$51.00	Rounding
Companion Animals – Subsequent Release (within 12 months)	\$101.69	\$102.00	Rounding
Companion Animals – Sale of Dog	\$292.13	\$293.00	Rounding
Companion Animals – Sale of Cat	\$274.16	\$275.00	Rounding
Animal Control – Trap Hire fee for trap – per day	\$6.74	\$7.00	Rounding
Animal Control – Refundable deposit	\$28.09	\$35.00	Covers 5 days additional hire
Cemeteries – Saturdays and Public Holidays – General Internment	\$7,528.12	\$7,530	Rounding
Woolbrook Cemetery – Niche Garden Reservation Fee	\$1,292.14	\$1,295.00	Rounding
Certificates (Planning) Section 603 Certificate – Refund Processing	\$11.24	\$21.00	Current draft fee does not adequately reflect processing time which takes approximately 15 minutes
Development Applications – Other – Sandwich Board (5 year approval)	\$33.71	\$33.70	Rounding
Local Approvals (S68 Applications Fees including inspections – Part C Management of Waste	\$101.12	\$101.00	Rounding
Local Approvals (S68 Applications Fees including inspections – Part D Community Land	\$308.99	\$309.00	Rounding
Local Approvals (S68 Applications Fees	\$101.12	\$101.00	Rounding



including inspections – Part E Public Roads			
Local Approvals (S68 Applications Fees including inspections – Part F Caravan Parks	\$303.37	\$303.00	Rounding
Local Approvals (S68 Applications Fees including inspections – Part F Amusement Device	\$28.09	\$28.00	Rounding
Local Approvals (S68 Applications Fees including inspections – Part F Use a standing vehicle or any article for the purpose of selling any article in a public space	\$303.37	\$303.00	Rounding
Waste Transfer Station Fees – Waste Transfer Station Key Replacement Woolbrook/Nowendoc	“Key”	“Fob”	Word change

Note that companion animals fee changes are not released until July so additional changes may be required and will be provided to Council.

c) MAKING OF THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR 2023-2024

General Fund Rates

On 13 June 2023 IPART announced that Walcha Council was successful in its application for a Permanent Special Rate Variation to increase general rates by 36.5% in 2023-2024. IPART has provided an Instrument under Section 508A of the *Local Government Act 1993* by which Walcha Council is permitted to increase general rates income by 36.5% in 2023-2024. The instrument is provided as an attachment to this report and sets out the requirements and special conditions of the instrument. The proposed ordinary rates reflect the allowable increase provided by the instrument and represented by Scenario 2 in the draft operational plan.

That whereas Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure of the General Fund for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, it has determined pursuant to Sections 534 and 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993* that the following Ordinary Rates be made for the 2023 – 2024 year:



- i. Farmland Rate of 0.142621 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$590.
- ii. Residential Rate of 0.240000 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$590.
- iii. Residential - Walcha Rate of 0.730000 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$590.
- iv. Mining Rate of 1.092694 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$590.
- v. Business Rate of 0.390000 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$590.
- vi. Business - Walcha Centre Rate of 1.002000 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$590.
- vii. Business - Walcha Industrial Rate of 0.740000 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$590.

Walcha Water Supply Charges

That where Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the Walcha Water Supply Local Fund for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, it has determined pursuant to Section 540 of the Local Government Act 1993 that the following Walcha Water Supply Annual Access Charges be set:

Connection Type & Size	Access Charge
Treated Residential – 20 mm	\$447.00
Treated Residential – 25 mm	\$699.00
Treated Residential – 38 mm	\$1,615.00
Treated Residential – 50 mm	\$2,796.00
Treated Residential – 100 mm	\$11,183.00
Residential Vacant Treated	\$447.00
Treated Non Residential – 20 mm	\$447.00
Treated Non Residential – 25 mm	\$699.00
Treated Non Residential – 38 mm	\$1615.00
Treated Non Residential – 50 mm	\$2,796.00
Treated Non Residential – 100 mm	\$11,183.00
Non Residential Vacant Treated	\$447.00
Untreated – 20 mm	\$447.00
Untreated – 25 mm	\$699.00
Untreated – 38 mm	\$1,615.00



That where Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the Walcha Water Supply Local Fund for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, it has determined pursuant to Section 540 of the Local Government Act 1993 that the following Walcha Water Supply Usage Charges be set:

- Treated Residential \$4.12 per kilolitre for 200 kilolitres or less
- Treated Residential \$5.46 per kilolitre for greater than 200 kilolitres
- Treated Non Residential \$4.12 per kilolitre
- Untreated \$2.14 per kilolitre

Walcha Sewerage Charges

That where Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure of the Walcha Sewerage Local Fund for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, it has determined pursuant to Section 540 of the Local Government Act 1993 that the following annual Walcha Sewerage charges be set:

For residential customers, the best practice guidelines have been adopted with a uniform sewerage bill for all properties based on the estimated volume of sewerage discharged from all residential customers. The annual residential sewerage bill is calculated as the Sewer Discharge Factor (SDF) times the annual non-residential sewerage access charge plus SDF times the product of the sewer usage charge (UC) and the average residential consumption. That is

$$B_R = (SDF \times AC_{20}) + (SDF \times C_R \times UC)$$

where

- BR = Annual residential sewerage bill (\$)
- SDF = Sewer Discharge Factor – the proportion of total residential water consumption that is discharged to the sewerage system. A typical value for NSW is SDF = 0.78
- SAC₂₀ = Sewer Annual Access Charge for non residential customers. Calculated to be \$573.00 for Walcha.
- C_R = Average annual residential water consumption (kL). For Walcha last year this figure was 128 kL.
- UC = Sewer usage charge (\$/kL). This has been set at \$1.26/kL which is within the recommended range.

Based on the above formula the sewerage charge for residential customers be set at \$573.00 per year. The unoccupied sewerage charge for residential customers be set at \$293.00 per year.

For non-residential customers, the sewerage bill is similar and is as follows

$$B = (SDF \times AC) + (SDF \times C \times UC)$$



where

- B = Annual non-residential sewerage bill (\$)
- SDF = Sewer Discharge Factor – the proportion of total water consumption that is discharged to the sewerage system
- AC = Customers Annual Access Charge $AC = AC_{20} \times \frac{D^2}{400}$
- C = Customer's annual water consumption (kL).
- UC = Sewer usage charge (\$/kL). This has been set at \$1.26/kL which is within the recommended range.

The non-residential sewer access charge is set at \$574.00 per user, per annum.

The Vacant Non residential sewer access charge is set at \$281.00 per user per annum.

Trade Waste

Council has adopted the best practice guidelines which recommend that Council's responsible for sewerage must levy appropriate trade waste fees and charges as all its liquid trade waste dischargers in addition to the non-residential sewerage bills.

Council's liquid trade waste recommended fees and charges in 2023 - 2024 are:

- ◆ Application fee – fee based on category with a minimum charge of \$216.00
- ◆ Annual Trade Waste Fee:
 - Classification A \$106.00
 - Classification B \$211.00
 - The annual fee for Classification C dischargers will be set on a case by case basis depending on the complexity of monitoring required (for charging purposes and other administrative requirements).
- ◆ Re-inspection fee - \$101.00
- ◆ Trade Waste usage charge - \$1.91/kL with appropriate pre-treatment.
- ◆ Trade Waste usage charge - \$17.69/kL without appropriate pre-treatment.
- ◆ Food waste disposal charge - \$34.00/bed.
- ◆ Portable toilet - \$20.00/kL.
- ◆ Septic Waste
 - Normal (combined effluent and sludge) - \$3.00/kL.
 - Effluent only - \$3.00/kL.
 - Sludge only - \$29.00/bed.

Dischargers requiring nil or minimal pre-treatment of their liquid trade waste will only pay an annual trade waste fee together with a re-inspection fee where required. That is

$$TW = A + I$$

where

- TW = Total annual trade waste fees and charges (\$)



- A = Annual trade waste fee (\$)
- I = Re-inspection fee (\$) (where required)

Dischargers with prescribed pre-treatment will pay a trade waste usage charge per kL plus the annual trade waste fee. That is

$$TW = A + I + (C \times UC_{TW} \times TWDF)$$

where

- TW = Total annual trade waste fees and charges (\$)
- A = Annual trade waste fee (\$)
- I = Re-inspection fee (\$) (where required)
- C = Customer's annual water consumption (kL)
- UC_{TW} = Trade waste usage charge (\$/kL) of \$1.91/kL
- TWDF = Trade waste discharge factor

The TWDF represents the estimated proportion of a customer's metered water consumption that is discharged to the sewerage system as liquid trade waste.



The following table represents sewerage and trade waste discharge factors.

Sewer and Trade Waste Discharge Factor

Business Description	Discharge Factor	
	Sewer	Trade Waste
Bakery	95	25
With a residence attached ¹	70	18
Bed and Breakfast/Guesthouse (max. 10 persons)	75	NA ²
Butcher	95	90
With residence attached ¹	70	65
Cakes/Patisserie	95	50
Car Detailing	95	90
Caravan Park (with commercial kitchen)	75	25
Caravan Park (no commercial kitchen)	75	NA ²
Caravan Park + Laundry (no commercial kitchen)	75	50
Club	95	30
Community Hall (minimum food only)	95	NA ²
Concrete Batching Plant	20	10
Craft/Stonemason	95	80
Day Care Centre	95	NA ²
Delicatessen, mixed business (no hot food)	95	NA ²
With residence attached	70	
Dental Surgery with X-ray	95	80
With a residence attached ¹	70	60
Hairdresser	95	NA ²
High School	95	25 ⁵
Hospital	95	60
Hotel	100	25
Joinery	95	10
Laundry	95	92 ⁵
Mechanical Workshop ³	95	70
Mechanical Workshop with car yard	85	70
Medical Centre	95	25 ⁵
Motels small (breakfast only, no hot food)	90	NA ²
Motel (other than breakfast only, no hot food)	90	20
Nursing Home	90	50
Office Building	95	NA ²
Panel Beating/Spray Painting	95	70
Primary School	95	10 ⁵
Printer	95	85
Restaurant ⁴	95	50
Self Storage	90	NA ²
Service Station	90	70
Supermarket	95	70
Swimming Pool (commercial)	85	NA ²
Take Away Food	95	50
Veterinary (no X-ray), Kennels, Animal Wash	80	NA ²

Notes:

¹ If a residence is attached, that has garden watering, the residential SDF should be applied.

² A trade waste usage charge is not applicable for this Category 1 activity.

³ Includes lawn mower repairers, equipment hire.



⁴ Includes café, canteen, bistro, etc.

⁵ A trade waste usage charge applies if appropriate pre-treatment has not been installed or has not been properly operated or maintained.

Waste Management

The Local Government Act, 1993 Section 504, requires that Waste Management is treated as a separate function and that all monies raised for this purpose are spent on this function. There is to be no cross subsidisation. The Act also requires that a separate charge be levied for the service.

The Annual Waste Management charges for 2023 – 2024 be made and levied as follows:

Service	Rate
Domestic Waste Management (DWM)	\$737.00
DWM Additional 140L General Waste bin	\$258.00
DWM Additional 240L Recycle Waste bin	\$195.00
Commercial Waste Management (CWM)	\$759.00
CWM Green Waste bin	\$76.00
CWM Additional 240L Recycle bin	\$195.00
CWM Additional 240L General Waste bin	\$387.00
Waste Management – Rural	\$284.00
Waste Management Unoccupied Town Charge	\$226.00

Maximum Interest Rate on Overdue Rates and Charges

The Office of Local Government has determined that the maximum interest rate on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 be fixed at 9.00% per annum simple interest calculated daily in accordance with Section 566(3) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Report Implications:

Policy:

Once adopted by Council, the Operational Plan will set the overarching policy direction for Council for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Financial:

Once adopted by Council, the Budget will set the approved program of works, income and expenditure profiles for Council for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Legal:

Council must ensure that it endorses the budget in accordance with various provisions in the Local Government Act (the Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 (the Regulation).



Section 405 of the Act:

(1) A council must have a plan (its "operational plan") that is adopted before the beginning of each year and details the activities to be engaged in by the council during the year as part of the delivery program covering that year.

(2) An operational plan must include a statement of the council's revenue policy for the year covered by the operational plan. The statement of revenue policy must include the statements and particulars required by the regulations.

(3) A council must prepare a draft operational plan and give public notice of the draft indicating that submissions may be made to the council at any time during the period not less than 28 days) that the draft is to be on public exhibition. The council must publicly exhibit the draft operational plan in accordance with the notice.

(5) In deciding on the final operational plan to be adopted, a council must consider any submissions that have been made concerning the draft plan.

Section 494 of the Act:

(1) A council must make and levy an ordinary rate for each year on all rateable land in its area.

(2) Each category or subcategory of ordinary rate is to apply only to land of the same category or subcategory.

Section 496 of the Act:

(1) A council must make and levy an annual charge for the provision of domestic waste management services for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available.

Section 501 of the Act:

(1) A council may make an annual charge for any of the following services provided, or proposed to be provided, on an annual basis by the council:

- i. Water supply services*
- ii. Sewerage services*
- iii. Drainage services*
- iv. Waste management services (other than domestic waste management services)*
- v. Any services prescribed by the regulations.*

Section 502 of the Act:

A council may make a charge for a service referred to in section 496 or 501 according to the actual use of the service.

Social Implications:

The Operational Plan forms part of the direction that the community communicated to Council through the Community Engagement that has taken place. This document is an integral step to achieving the strategic outcomes set out in Councils Delivery Plan and Community Strategic Plan.



Environmental Implications:

Council's Operational Plan identifies a number of environmental strategic objectives, strategies and actions. During 2023-2024 Council is also seeking to undertake a review and plan for future opportunities for the use of renewable energy in Council operations.

Instrument under section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993

Special Variation for Walcha Council for 2023-24 to 2025-26

13 June 2023

This instrument is made by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (**IPART**) as delegate for the Minister administering the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* (delegation of 6 September 2010).

IPART determines under section 508A of the Act that:

1. The percentage by which Walcha Council (**Council**) may increase its general income for the period from Year 2023-24 to Year 2025-26 (inclusive) is 57.74%, consisting of annual increases as set out in the table below:

Year	Annual increase in general income	Cumulative increase in general income
Year 2023-24	36.5%	36.50%
Year 2024-25	8.0%	47.42%
Year 2025-26	7.0%	57.74%

[Note: The Council is required to reduce its income in accordance with the conditions of any previous special variation instrument before it increases its general income in accordance with clause 1.]

2. The percentage increase set out in clause 1 is subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The Council use the Additional Income for the purpose of funding the Proposed Program.
 - b. The Council report in its annual report for each Year from Year 2023-24 to Year 2027-28 (inclusive):
 - i. the program of expenditure that was actually funded by the Additional Income, and any differences between this program and the Proposed Program;
 - ii. any significant differences between the Council's actual revenues, expenses and operating balance and the projected revenues, expenses and operating balance as outlined in its Long-Term Financial Plan, and the reasons for those differences;
 - iii. the outcomes achieved as a result of the Additional Income;
 - iv. the productivity savings and cost containment measures the Council has in place, the annual savings achieved through these measures, and what these savings equate to as a proportion of the Council's total annual expenditure; and
 - v. whether or not the Council has implemented the productivity improvements identified in its application, and if not, the rationale for not implementing them.
3. In this instrument:
 - a. **Additional Income** means:
 - i. the additional general income raised in accordance with clause 1, less
 - ii. the additional general income that would otherwise have been available to the Council under section 506 of the Act.

-
- b. **Long Term Financial Plan** means the long term financial plan of the Council summarised in Appendix B of the Report.
 - c. **Proposed Program** means the proposed program of expenditure set out in Appendix B of the Report.
 - d. **Report** means IPART's report entitled 'Walcha Council – Special Variation Application for 2023-24 – Final Report'.
 - e. **Year** means the period from 1 July to the following 30 June.

13/06/2023

X 

Signed by: Carmel Donnelly

**Carmel Donnelly PSM
Chair**

On behalf of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
As delegate for the Minister administering the *Local Government Act 1993*



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2023/01056
Title: Budget Allocation for Donations
Author: Interim General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: WO/22/3450 and WO/22/409

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal/Strategy Number: **5.2.3:** *Support service, sporting and other community groups.*

RECOMMENDATION: That Council APPROVE the amount of \$10,000 for donations in the 2023-2024 financial year FURTHER THAT applications for donations will be accepted between 17 July to 15 September 2023.

Introduction:

Council has recently adopted a new Community Grants and Donations Policy (CGD). This policy requires Council to set an amount that will be available for donations each year.

Report:

The new CGD Policy requires local organisations to apply for donations using a standard application form, during a set period of time. This will allow Council to review all donation requests and allocate the yearly donations budget in one sitting. Part of this process is Council determining the total amount of money that will be available in the donation budget each year. Council will also need to set the time frame for applications to be received.

As this is a new way of dealing with donations, it is recommended that the application period be sufficiently long to allow Council time to advertise and advise community organisations and past recipients of the new process.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

This will set the amount of money available for donations during the 2023-2024 financial year.



Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

For the first year, some local organisations may be expecting financial support that matches the support provided in previous years. As money is not guaranteed, this may have negative impacts on these organisations that 'miss out' and the services they provide to the community.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



WALCHA COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION POLICY

Community Grants and Donations Policy

Applicability

All Councillors, Council Staff and Community Members

Publication Requirement

Internal and External

Assigned Responsible Officer

General Manager

Document Status

Version	Date Reviewed	Prepared by	Endorsed	Approved
1.0	August 2022	Director Community & Tourism	Resolution: 26/20222023	31 August 2022

Amendment Record

Amendment Version #	Date Reviewed	Description of Amendment



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1. POLICY OBJECTIVE

Council provides various forms of financial assistance to the community through grants, sponsorship, donations, and the waiving of Council fees and charges. This policy will assist Council in assessing these requests.

This policy serves to ensure Walcha Council:

- Complies with the provisions of Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993; and
- Provides a framework within which requests to Council for financial assistance are assessed and accounted for in an open and transparent manner.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to all requests for financial assistance from Council and all events staged within the Walcha Region.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Section 356 of the Local Government Act states:

1. A council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.
2. A proposed recipient who acts for private gain is not ineligible to be granted financial assistance but must not receive any benefit under this section until at least 28 days' public notice of the council's proposal to pass the necessary resolution has been given.
3. However, public notice is not required if:
 - a. The financial assistance is part of a specific program, and
 - b. the program's details have been included in the council's draft operational plan for the year in which the financial assistance is proposed to be given, and
 - c. the program's proposed budget for that year does not exceed five per cent of the council's proposed income from the ordinary rates levied for that year, and
 - d. the program applies uniformly to all persons within the council's area or to a significant group of persons within the area.
4. Public notice is also not required if the financial assistance is part of a program of graffiti removal work.

Section 610E of the Local Government Act states:

1. A council may waive payment of, or reduce, a fee (whether expressed as a actual or a maximum amount) in a particular case if the council is satisfied that the case falls within a category of hardship or any other category in respect of which the council has determined payment should be so waived or reduced
2. However, a council must not determine a category of cases under this section until it has given public notice of the proposed category in the same way as it is required to give public notice of the amount of a proposed fee under section 610F (2) or (3).



Section 377 of the Local Government Act states inter alia:

1. A council may, by resolution, delegate to the general manager or any other person or body (not including another employee of the council) any of the functions of the council, other than the following:
 - a. A decision under Section 356 to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons.

Under this policy, financial assistance including community grants, and the waiving of Council fees and charges are considered as a donation, and provided in accordance with section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

The value of all assistance provided under this Policy will be recorded as an expense to the donations budget with a relevant offset to the budget area that has incurred the associated costs or fee waiver.

4. POLICY COMMITMENT

Walcha Council is committed to providing transparency of the Community Grants and Donations application and decision process to all community members.

5. DEFINITIONS

Application period means the period not less than 21 days after the Council publishes a public notice:

- in a newspaper that is circulating generally in the local government area; and
- on the Council's website.

Council refers to the Walcha Council

Donation is any form of financial or in-kind assistance provided by Council and can be in the form of cash, goods or services, including the reduction of fees and charges to eligible groups and organisations.

Employee refers to any employee, contractor, volunteer etc. of the Council

Community Organisation refers to a not-for-profit (NFP) society, association or club established for community service purposes except political or lobbying purposes. (ATO definition)

Eligible Community Organisation means a community organisation that:

is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation or a company limited by guarantee that has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a charity, tax exempt fund or deductible gift recipient.

Note – Unincorporated groups are eligible to apply, providing that their application is made through an eligible community organisation acting as an auspice.

- a. has public liability insurance over \$20 million.
- b. has acquitted all previous Walcha Council grants.
- c. has no outstanding debt to Council.
- d. has more than 80% of members who are residents within the Walcha local government area
- e. is not:



- i. a State or a government entity, including a government entity or its subsidiary under the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993; or
- ii. a community organisation with a licence under the Gaming Machine Act 1991 for gaming machines; or
- iii. a political party under the Electoral Act 1992; or
- iv. a religious body or religious organisation declared by the Governor-General by proclamation pursuant to the Marriage Act 1961 (Cwlth) to be a recognised denomination for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act.

Funded entity means an eligible community organisation approved by Council to receive a grant.

Grant Agreement means a written agreement between a funded entity and Council about giving a grant.

6. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Grants to Community Organisations

The Council may give a grant to a community organisation only under this policy. The grant may be for any of the following types:

- a. a monetary payment;
- b. works undertaken by the Council to a specified value.

6.2 Guidelines

The Council may make guidelines about:

- a. matters to be considered in deciding a grant under this policy; or
- b. the matters to be considered by the Council in deciding whether the grant will be used for a purpose that is in the public interest; and
- c. the matters to be considered by the Council in deciding whether an organisation is:
 - i. an entity that carries on activities for a public purpose; or
 - ii. another entity whose primary object is not directed at making a profit.
- d. the criteria for a community organisation to be eligible for a grant from the Council; or
- e. the form in which documents may be given under this policy; or
- f. another matter the Council considers appropriate for the administration of this policy.

6.3 Applying for a grant

During the application period, an eligible community organisation can make an application to the Council for a grant. A grant application must:

- a. be submitted on the approved form to the Council (WO/2022/00409); and
- b. be accompanied by any information requested; and
- c. provide copies of financial records (eg. bank statement) to support the need for the grant.



6.4 Exclusions

Council generally does not make donations under this policy for:

- a. Retrospective applications (events that have already taken place);
- b. Federal or State Funded initiatives;
- c. Organisations raising funds on behalf of another organisation which is the recipient of financial assistance from the State or Federal Government (for example P & C's, Hospital Auxiliary);
- d. Financial assistance to individuals, or organisations raising funds on behalf of an individual;
- e. Sponsorship of individuals or teams to attend or participate in representative sporting events.

6.5 Assessing an application for a grant

The Council may give the grant only if it is satisfied the grant:

- a. Fits with the objective of this policy; and
- b. complies with all applicable laws; and
- c. is consistent with the Community Strategic Plan; and
- d. is consistent with the Long-Term Asset Management Plan; and
- e. is consistent with the Annual Budget; and
- f. complies with any applicable guideline made under this policy.

If a community grant application meets most of the applicable guideline criteria (but not all), the community grant may still be approved so long as the information provided allows Council to:

- a. consider whether the community organisation is an eligible community organisation; and
- b. consider if the grant is in the public interest; and
- c. is within the allowable budget for donations.

6.6 Assessment Delegations

Council Officers will check that the application meets the criteria. The full Council will then further review applications to finalise a recommendation that will go to next Ordinary Council meeting for consideration.

6.7 Conflict of interest

If a Council Officer or Councillor is connected to, or a member of, a particular organisation or group that is submitting an application, they must declare a conflict of interest and not be involved in any discussion or voting surrounding that organisation's application.

6.8 Deciding an application for a grant

The Council must give written notice of the decision to the applicant within 10 business days after the decision is made. The decision notice must include the following information:

- a. the decision and the day it was made;
- b. whether the application is approved subject to conditions or refused;
- c. a list of the conditions that the application was approved with (if applicable);
- d. if the application is refused, the reasons for the refusal.
- e. a statement about the requirement of the successful applicant to submit a report on the outcomes of the grant, included what the money was spent on (if applicable);



6.9 Westpac Rescue Helicopter Services

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter service will receive the amount of \$5000 each year, and the organisation **is not required** to submit an application.

7. RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND REVIEW

7.1. Related Legislation and Policies

The following are relative to this policy:

- Local Government Act 1993 NSW;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (NSW)
- Provision of Financial Assistance Under Section 356 of the Local Government Act
- Asset Disposal Policy
- Statement of Business Ethics

7.2. Review

Council reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this policy at any time. This policy will be reviewed every 4 years or following an ordinary election of Council, or earlier if there are relevant statutory or State Government policy changes.

7.3 Related Documents

- TEMPLATE Community Grants and Donations Application Form (WO/2022/00409)
- DRAFT Community Grants Event Funding Guidelines (WO/2022/00400)

Application for Donation from Walcha Council



Organisation applying for Grant	
Applicant name	
Postal address	
Phone contact	
Email contact	
Type of grant requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Refund of Rates charges <input type="checkbox"/> Refund of Water access and/or usage charges <input type="checkbox"/> Refund of Sewer or Waste Management charges <input type="checkbox"/> Annual donation to support operating costs <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Sporting Development Grant <input type="checkbox"/> HSC Scholarship <input type="checkbox"/> Transport costs to access learn to swim <input type="checkbox"/> Hall hire charges for mobile playgroup <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and admission fees for Life Education Van <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution towards maintenance costs of community infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Donation of Development Application Fees <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidised lease of Council facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Donation of goods, services or low value assets <input type="checkbox"/> Waiving of other charges <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Purpose of the grant or donation	
Please provide reasons why you are requesting this grant	



Application for Donation from Walcha Council

What is the community benefit of this grant?	
Additional information you would like provide?	
Application checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> I have read the Community Grants and Donations Policy and believe that my organisation and request meet the eligibility criteria.<input type="checkbox"/> I have provided evidence of financial need<input type="checkbox"/> I am aware that I will be required to sign an agreement prior to receiving any money, and submit a grant acquittal for any money received.<input type="checkbox"/> I have kept a copy of this application for my records
Applicant name	
Signature	
Application date	



Item: 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2023/01028
Title: Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Annual Review
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:**

- 1. RECEIVE and NOTE the Report.**
 - 2. DETERMINE the annual fee payable to Councillors as \$ _____ and the Mayoral Allowance of Walcha Council as \$ _____ for the 2023-2024 financial year.**
-

Introduction:

Council is required to determine the amount that will be paid to the Councillors and Mayor within the guidelines set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal's decision on the range of fees payable to Councillors and Mayors for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Report:

Council is required to determine the amount that will be paid to the Councillors and Mayor within the guidelines set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal handed down its 2023 report on 27 April 2023. Changes this year are:

- A 3% increase to Mayoral and Councillor Fees for the 2023-2024 financial year, with effect from 01 July 2023.
- The Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years under Section 239 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*. The Tribunal undertook a review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination.
- The Tribunal has determined the creation of two (2) new remuneration categories, 'Metropolitan Major' and 'Rural Large'.
- The Tribunal has also varied the criteria of several existing categories.
- As a result of the creation of the two new categories and changes to the criteria of some of the existing categories, the Tribunal has re-categorised twenty-six (26) councils into a higher existing category or into a new category.



A copy of the full report can be seen at: <https://www.remtribunals.nsw.gov.au/local-government/current-lgrt-determinations>.

Sections 248 & 249 of the Act require councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors from 1 July 2023 based on the Tribunal’s determination for the 2023-2024 financial year. A few key points to note include:

- The level of fees paid will depend on the category the Council is in.
- A Council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.
- If a Council does not fix a fee, the Council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.
- The Mayoral fee is in addition to the Councillor fee.

Please note that Walcha Council is still in the Rural Category. Pursuant to Section 241 of the Act the annual fees to be paid in each of the Non-Metropolitan categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 01 July 2023 are determined as follows:

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

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

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

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

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



Legal Implications:

Payment of these fees is a requirement under the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

Financial Implications:

They Mayoral and Councillor Fees for 2022-2023 were:

Councillor Fee: \$12,420

Mayoral Fee: \$27,600

The draft 2023-2024 Budgeted amount for Mayoral and Councillor Fees is:

Councillor Fee: \$13,165

Mayoral Fee: \$28,008

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2023/01036
Title: Councillor Superannuation Payments
Author: Director Corporate & Community
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: NSW OLG Circular – Payment of Councillor Superannuation

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal: 8.2.1 – Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council

RECOMMENDATION: That Council: Review and consider if payment of superannuation to Councillors should commence from 1 July 2023 in consideration of the amendment to the *Local Government Act 1993* that allows Council to make superannuation payments to Councillors.

Following an amendment to the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), Council's may make payments as a contribution to a superannuation account nominated by their Councillors. This amendment was in effect from 1 July 2022.

In the May 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council it was resolved that superannuation payments be forgone by Council for the 2022-2023 financial year due to the ongoing issues of financial sustainability.

The attached Circular outlines what this means to Council.

Legal Implications: Nil

Financial Implications:

Increase in operating costs by approximately \$10,500 annually.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications: Nil

Policy Implications: Nil

Circular Details	22-04/ 15 March 2022/ A811265
Previous Circular	21-07 <i>Commencement of Local Government Amendment Act 2021</i>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council Governance Staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

Payment of councillor superannuation

What's new or changing

- Following an amendment to the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) last year, councils may make payments as a contribution to a superannuation account nominated by their councillors, starting from the financial year commencing on **1 July 2022**.
- The making of superannuation contribution payments for councillors is optional and is at each council's discretion.

What this will mean for your council

- To exercise the option of making superannuation contribution payments for their councillors, councils must first resolve at an open meeting to make superannuation contribution payments for the councillors.
- Where a council resolves to make superannuation contribution payments for its councillors, the amount of the payment is to be the amount the council would have been required to contribute under the *Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* as superannuation if the councillors were employees of the council.
- As of 1 July 2022, the superannuation guarantee rate will be 10.5%. The rate will increase by half a percent each year until 1 July 2025 when it reaches 12%.
- The superannuation contribution payment is to be paid at the same intervals as the annual fee is paid to councillors.
- To receive a superannuation contribution payment, each councillor must first nominate a superannuation account for the payment before the end of the month to which the payment relates. The superannuation account nominated by councillors must be an account for superannuation or retirement benefits from a scheme or fund to which the *Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act* applies.
- Councils **must not** make a superannuation contribution payment for a councillor if the councillor fails to nominate an eligible superannuation account for the payment before the end of the month to which the payment relates.
- Individual councillors may opt out of receiving superannuation contribution payments or opt to receive reduced payments. Councillors must do so in writing.

- Councils must not make superannuation contribution payments for councillors during any period in which they are suspended from their civic office or their right to be paid any fee or other remuneration, or expense, is suspended under the Act.
- Councillors are also not entitled to receive a superannuation contribution payment during any period in which they are not entitled to receive their fee under section 254A of the Act because they are absent.

Where to go for further information

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Melanie Hawyes

Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Local Government



Item: 6.5 **Ref:** WO/2023/01066
Title: Contribution Plans 7.11 & 7.12 – Consideration of Submissions Received after Public Exhibition
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachments: Submission by Voice for Walcha

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 3.2: *The public health and wellbeing of the community will be protected and enhanced.*

Goal 6.1: *Walcha's distinct and diverse natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced.*

Goal 6.6: *The character of Walcha and its surround villages will be maintained while protecting the productivity of our rural land.*

RECOMMENDATION: **That Council:**

- 1. AMEND the Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan to include clarifying paragraph on the non-applicability of this plan to state significant development, and to include 'water' as an additional example extractive material,**
 - 2. ADOPT the amended Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan, and;**
 - 3. ADOPT the Section 7.12 Contribution Plan.**
-

Introduction:

At the April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to accept the draft Walcha Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan and the draft Walcha Section 7.12 Contribution Plan and to place on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

Report:

The public exhibition period ended on 9 June 2023. Two submissions were received.

Submission 1 (via email):

I would like to know if the Wind Turbine and solar Farm developers will be charged a heavy haulage fee to contribute to Council finances?

I would like the plan to state their contributions and obligations in the Council's Plan.

Submission 2 (refer Attachment 1 – Submission by Voice for Walcha)

Both submissions relate to the application of the Section 7.11 Contribution Plan to proposed renewable energy projects.

In most cases, the approval wind and solar farms will be the State Planning Department and NOT Walcha Council, due to the scale of the developments (state significant). As



Council is not the approval authority we are unable to levy a contribution from the developers as per the provisions of our plan. However, Council are able to make representations to the Planning Department, and directly to the developer, to recognise that Council has a Contribution Plan which should be considered in regards to the development and should form part of consent conditions. This may or may not be included as part of a negotiated 'Planning Agreement' between Council and the developer which, again, should form part of consent conditions, or it could be considered separately. But this would be up to the consent authority which is not Council in this case.

It's worth noting, that during Council's Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 19 April 2023, the following was resolved:

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

1. *AUTHORISE the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate Planning Agreements under the provisions of Section 7.4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, for developer contributions for renewable energy developments affecting Walcha Council Local Government Area whereby:*
 - a) *The developer contribution over the estimated life of the project is circa 1.5% of the Capital Investment Value (CIV) of the renewable energy development and;*
 - b) *The developer contribution is allocated via the General Fund to infrastructure, services or other public amenities in accordance with the Operational Plan;*
2. *SEEK legal review of each draft Planning Agreement before presentation to Council for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition prior to finalisation;*
3. *AUTHORISE the Mayor and General Manager to seek a Planning Agreement with Winterbourne Wind consistent with the above to replace their current community contribution scheme.*

This resolution means that Council will negotiate Planning Agreements with renewable energy developers along these guidelines, that the NSW Planning Department should include in their consent conditions. The Planning Agreements themselves will have a public exhibition step, so all residents will be able to see the specific agreements for each state significant development. There is not yet any Planning Agreement in place for any renewable energy project, though the Agreement for Winterbourne Wind is being developed now.

Note that separate to any agreed or conditioned contributions from state significant developments, it will be part of the development consent that damage to Council's road network incurred by the project (particularly construction) will need to be rectified by the developer.

In cases where a separate DA may be required to facilitate a renewable energy project, where Council is the consent authority, then Section 7.11 or Section 7.12 could apply. This



may be a scenario where a new quarry pit DA is required to supply gravel for a state significant renewable energy project, in which case Section 7.11 would be applicable to the quarry.

Due to the questions raised in regards to this plan, it is proposed to amend the Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan with an additional paragraph clarifying the non-applicability of this plan to state significant development, as per the information provided above.

In regards to the question regarding calculation of ESA (equivalent standard axles), the figure of 2.6 is taken from Ballina Shire Council's Heavy Haulage Contributions Plan 2019, which is calculated using Austroads Standards. This factor, along with other estimated tonnages, is considered fair representation.

The Plan can be amended to include 'water' as an additional example extractive material.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



To Phillip Hood
Interim General Manager
Walcha Council
PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

9 June 2023

Dear Mr Hood,

Re: Draft Walcha Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan

We refer to the above contribution plan that is on public exhibition.

It is stated in the Apsley Advocate that “The Walcha Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan is primarily focussed on recouping the cost of the impact on local roads by haulage of extractive materials and sets out a reasonable estimate of the cost per tonne of material hauled that should be paid to Council for the cost of road reconstruction, necessary as a result of the pavement damage to the local road network”

Given that the potential development of large renewable projects in our council are going to have the most significant impact on the road pavement, should they be included in this plan? As this document stands, State Significant Developments are not subject to this levy. Should this plan be amended to include a section on the expectation of contributions to council from SSDs for the damage that will be sustained to the deeper road pavement?

We understand this levy only covers the damage to the road pavement (long term life of the road). It does not include the cost of ongoing roadworks that will be required to maintain the surface of the road through construction, operation and decommissioning of projects. However, this is not clearly stated in the document. The costs of maintenance of the road surface to maintain good order of the roads is an additional cost that needs to be covered by developers. Can this be made clear in the document?

The damage caused by OSOM vehicles using roads not designed for this size/weight vehicle has not been addressed in this document. The damage caused by just one of these vehicles may be significant – this is not necessarily a cumulative effect when roads are subject to vehicles that are heavier than their design can accommodate, but can be damage caused by a single pass.

For traffic associated with the construction of State Significant Projects (wind and solar farms creating extraordinary traffic impacting on roads and resources), could a more heavily weighted index be applied in order to cover unforeseen contingencies like the future maintenance costs of roads enroute to such a development and also to cover the costs of providing and the replacement of resources (limited in the New England region) e.g., water, gravel, sand, rock etc., to a development of State Significance. The construction of these projects will significantly reduce the life of a road, leading to costs to the council and community that are not measured by just damage to the road pavement.

On the bottom of page 19, a statement reads; “An ESA of 2.6 has been used for tonnage calculations”. Much of the following calculations are based on this assumption. Do you have the workings available for this assumption, assuming a 48T truck and dog configuration on 6 axles?

On page 20, step 2, the Standard tonnage hauled is described as 15T. Is this likely to be a fair representation of the tonnage hauled by “Class 4 truck (12m) with dog trailer” configurations?

The bottom of page 5 states that the contribution plan is primarily focused on recouping the cost of the impact on local roads by haulage of extractive materials such as gravel, sand, rock, minerals etc. Should water be included in this list?

Thank you for considering these points.

Voice for Walcha



Item: 6.6 **Ref:** WO/2023/1087
Title: Internal Restricted Fund Movements
Author: Director Corporate & Community
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Nil

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

CSP Ref: 8.2.1 – Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1. Internally restricts the prepaid portion of the 2023-2024 Financial Assistance Grants.**
 - 2. Un-restricts the prepaid portion of the 2023-2024 Financial Assistance Grants on 1 July 2023.**
 - 3. Transfer an amount of \$850,000 from internal unrestricted funds to the Internal Plant Reserve to support the 2023-2024 plant replacement program.**
 - 4. Approve an amount of \$5,000 from the Project Development Reserve to pay the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors membership for 2023-2024.**
-

Report:

Financial Assistance Grants

Financial Assistance Grants for the 2023-2024 financial year will be prepaid with Walcha Council receiving a 100% prepayment of the allocated funding.

The prepaid amount should be internally quarantined to ensure there is no early expenditure.

Internal Plant Reserve

As at 31 May 2023 the Internal Plant Reserve had a balance of \$990,421.

The only plant purchased between 31 May 2023 and 30 June 2023 is the Jet Patcher which is funded via an equipment loan.

The 2023-2024 plant replacement program per the capital plan is \$1,648,000 which considers the sale proceeds.

The program includes the purchase of a new roller for which no prior depreciation has been accumulated in the plant reserve.



It is therefore recommended that the following amounts be internally restricted to the Internal Plant Reserve using internal unrestricted cash:

Plant Depreciation \$450,000
Working Funds \$400,000

The Internal Plant Reserve is currently underfunded as historically, no indexing of plant depreciation has occurred with a number of longer life items due for replacement in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Additionally, in 2016 it appears that transfers into the reserve were less than the depreciation expense.

Project Development Reserves

Membership of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM) will cost \$5,000. It is appropriate that these funds are utilised via the Project Development Reserves which has a balance of \$65,000 as at 31 May 2023

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

Ensure that funding and expenditure are matched to the appropriate financial year as part of our ongoing fiscal management.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.7 **Ref:** WINT/2023/03016
Title: Waste Strategy
Author: Acting Director Infrastructure & Development
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Under Separate Cover: DRAFT Waste Strategy – WINT/23/821

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Strategy Number 8.1.2: *Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.*

RECOMMENDATION: **That Council:**

- 1. ENDORSE the Draft Waste Strategy and PLACE on public exhibition for 28 days;**
 - 2. ADOPT the Waste Strategy as presented subject to no submissions received during the exhibition period.**
-

Introduction:

This strategy defines how Walcha Council will deliver responsible sustainable waste services and manage the Waste Transfer Facilities within the Walcha LGA under Council control.

Report:

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a clear and consistent approach to waste management in the LGA to ensure fair, equitable, sustainable, cost neutral waste management services and strategies.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

The financial implications related to this strategy are to work towards a cost neutral waste services across all Councils waste transfer facilities.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.8 **Ref:** WO/2023/01054
Title: Loan – Jet Patcher
Author: Director Corporate & Community
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment:

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Strategy Number: 8.2.1 – Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1. AUTHORISE the execution of a Chattel Mortgage/Equipment Finance for the purchase of a road patching truck (Jet Patcher); and**
 - 2. APPROVE the affixing of the Council seal to all documentation relating to the establishment of a loan to finance the purchase of a road patching truck (Jet Patcher) FURTHER THAT the affixing of the Common Seal be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.**
-

Report

During the April 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council it was resolved to purchase a road patching truck (Jet Patcher) by way of a loan.

Council has been pre-approved under an equipment loan/chattel mortgage to borrow \$522,828.90 which is the GST exclusive amount of the purchase price. Council immediately claims the GST back and therefore the GST does not form part of the financed amount.

At the Ordinary Meeting in April 2022 the following resolution was made for the purchase and financing of the equipment:

4.2.2 Jet Patcher Business Case

187 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Pointing that Council purchase Jet-Patcher Plant and supporting equipment for \$600,000 via a loan, based on the business case presented at April 2022 Capital Advisory Committee subject to a site visit to inspect patching and other works currently done by similar plant eg: Derby Street.

With the lead time for the equipment of over 12 months the application for finance was not completed at the time of purchase approval and with delivery occurring in June 2023 our finance provider has advised that the original resolution is not sufficient to grant full approval and execution of the required finance. Therefore, pre-approval has been granted pending the resolution to affix the seal. The required resolution is therefore included to meet these requirements.

Below are the relevant sections of Legislation that address borrowing and the affixing of the Council seal.



Section 621 to 622 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides for loans:

621 When and for what may a council borrow?

A council may borrow at any time for any purpose allowed under this Act.

622 What form may a council borrowing take?

A council may borrow by way of overdraft or loan or by any other means approved by the Minister.

Section 400 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005* provides for the use of the Council seal:

400 Council seal

- (1) *The seal of a council must be kept by the mayor or the general manager, as the council determines.*
- (2) *The seal of a council may be affixed to a document only in the presence of—*
 - (a) *the mayor and the general manager, or*
 - (b) *at least one councillor (other than the mayor) and the general manager, or*
 - (c) *the mayor and at least one other councillor, or*
 - (d) *at least 2 councillors other than the mayor.*
- (3) *The affixing of a council seal to a document has no effect unless the persons who were present when the seal was affixed (being persons referred to in subclause (2)) attest by their signatures that the seal was affixed in their presence.*
- (4) *The seal of a council must not be affixed to a document unless the document relates to the business of the council and the council has resolved (by resolution specifically referring to the document) that the seal be so affixed.*
- (5) *For the purposes of subclause (4), a document in the nature of a reference or certificate of service for an employee of the council does not relate to the business of the council.*

Legal Implications: Nil

Financial Implications:

Increase in loan liability and interest payable that will be included in the operating cost of the Jet Patcher and charged accordingly.

Environmental Implications: Nil

Social Implications: Nil

Policy Implications: Nil



Item: 6.9 **Ref:** WO/2023/01088
Title: Rate Cap Submission to IPART
Author: Director Corporate & Community
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Letter to IPART Re: IPART Rate Cap Review – WO/2023/01042

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal: 8.2.1 – Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council

RECOMMENDATION: That Council make a submission to IPART regarding the rate cap review.

Introduction:

IPART is currently conducting a Rate Cap Review and is encouraging submissions by all affected parties to better harmonise the rating process.

Report:

A submission is attached to this report and broadly addresses the current issues with rating in NSW.

Issues include:

- Tailoring rate caps to the various groupings of similar councils e.g. regional and metro.
- Providing a greater range of rate capping to provide better responsiveness to community needs and local economic conditions.
- Addressing issues with the population growth factors that disproportionately disadvantage smaller rural Councils.
- Reforming of the Financial Assistance Grants allocations which do not support Councils to operate sustainably.
- Some measure of community capacity to pay that is tailored to local population conditions.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



28 June 2023

IPART NSW
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: IPART Rate Cap Review

In general, this Council still supports the well thought out submission made by the United Services Union at the beginning of this process. In particular, it is imperative that a future rate cap regime is robust, respective of the democratic process, as well as financially sustainable. If we are to achieve these goals, then the following key changes would need to be incorporated:

1. The rate cap must be tailored to the different costs and needs of at least the following categories: Urban Local Government, Rural Councils and Regional Councils. These different Local Governments provide completely disparate services and face radically different costs.
2. The rate cap must be provided as a range to each Council, rather than a precise figure. IPART can not and does not consider the needs and challenges of each particular Council. In addition, there is significant uncertainty surrounding future inflation predictions, and various measures imputed into the rate cap calculation. The only way to efficiently address this uncertainty is to provide a range of rate caps, say 1 to 2% either side of the number that IPART has in mind (for example a 3% cap would be better presented as 1 to 5% with the Council asked to make a resolution on the precise number to be adopted according to its superior understanding of local economic conditions and need). Doing so would also make Councillors more accountable for their budgets and properly respect the democratic process that leads to these budgets.
3. A population growth component is ill-advised. The ABS themselves state clearly that population is a guesstimate in inter-censal years and even a brief review of data will show very large corrections and revisions after the census data comes to hand. Moreover, most services in Australian Local Government continue to be directed to properties, and the number of properties in a Local Government area is known with certainty. It therefore follows that growth adjustments should be based on number of properties.

4. Sustainable rate caps cannot be nominated without first rectifying the chaotic and empirically indefensible financial assistance grants in New South Wales. Furthermore, any rate cap system needs to take into careful account the amount of grants that councils are able to apply for. This is particularly important for Rural Councils where grants represent a large proportion of revenue. In view of the fact that austerity is likely to be soon implemented in response to the COVID inspired budget problems of the State Government – this important consideration cannot be overemphasised.
5. Some effort needs to be made to measure revenue effort, or community capacity to pay, in a rigorous manner. Rate caps have been applied in a standardised and compound fashion since 1975. However, there were big differences in the level of the rates levied at this time and these differences have been exacerbated by compounding effects over almost five decades. In addition, demographics and industries have changed during this time, further underlining the importance of a statewide review of revenue effort and re-basing, as necessary.

We understand that a number of Rural Local Governments share similar concerns and encourage IPART to engage with this part of the sector further because it is the most vulnerable to potential poor rate cap design.

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hood
Interim General Manager



Item: 6.10 **Ref:** WO/2023/01052
Title: Regional Meetings 2023
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal Number 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 RECEIVE and NOTE the Regional Meetings 2023 report as presented.

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the items raised at this 2023 Regional Meetings.

Report:

Council Presentation

The Mayor welcomed everyone and thanked the host at every venue. Introductions were voiced for Councillors and Staff that were present.

The Mayor, Interim General Manager, Acting Director Infrastructure & Development and Director Corporate & Community spoke on the following items at each Meeting venue:

- Moving Regional Meetings to this time of year due to the public exhibition of the Operational Plan which includes the budget, fees and charges and revenue policy for the next financial year.
- Advised these items need to be on public exhibition for 28 days inviting submissions from the public.
- Advised on various parts of the Budget, Fees & Charges and Revenue Policy. Explained the two (2) scenario due to not having an answer on the Special Rate Variation as yet and we had to plan for both.
- Special mention of the Capital Works Budget, highlighting some of the projects we aim to complete in 2023-2024 - \$28 million. Project Manager currently has 25 projects at the moment.
- Discussed as well was the two scenarios for the budget due to the Special Rate Variation (SRV) not being assessed by IPART as yet. IPART has advised that they will advise of their assessment mid June 2023.
- Waste Depots at Yarrowitch, Nowendoc and Woolbrook were a hot topic. Explanation of a new system being introduced with fobs at Woolbrook and



Nowendoc. The Voucher system for Rural ratepayers was explained – they will be distributed in the new financial year and will be redeemable at the Walcha Waste Depot for General Waste.

Kruthika Nagananda, the Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator, a fully funded position, was invited to attend the Regional Meetings to introduce herself to the public and advise them of her role at Council, helping to encourage the public to utilise her resources and complete the surveys that Kruthika has created to draw information from them.

Community Feedback

Monday 22 May 2023

10:00am "Europambela" Shearers Quarters

Public Attendees: Peter McNeil; Edith Lockyer; Katrina Blomfield; Rob Blomfield; Burgh Blomfield and Tony Overton. 6

Councillors: Mayor Eric Noakes, Clrs: Berry; Hicks; Pointing; Schaefer.

Staff: Interim General Manager Phil Hood; Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler; Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin; Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs and Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator Kruthika Nagananda.

Apology: Warwick Fletcher, Clrs: Kermodé, Ferrier & Reilly.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: If SRV is approved will the \$1.2M loss disappear – Rob Blomfield

A: Yes, we should have a small surplus next year.

Q: Any idea of whether the SRV will be approved? Katrina Blomfield

A: No but we should get something. IPART will assess and review and then advise.

Q: Debt is on depreciation isn't it? Peter McNeil

A: Yes, the DCC then went on to speak about our high assets (Roads).

Q: Emergency Services new Levy was brought up by Burgh Blomfield. Its an amazing amount of money! Extraordinary! Not one paid fire fighter in Walcha – Rob Blomfield. Waste of money: In RFS new ropes which are then not used and then we are told by head office to throw them out after 18 months (expired) – there is nothing wrong with them. Do larger populations pay more? Peter McNeil

A: Yes it's very frustrating – impost on our books before we even have an answer on SRV.

Yes Tamworth is about \$725K, Tenterfield \$97K (4 times more than us) – depends on emergency services within the area.

Q: Section 44 – firebreaks – get money for those. 10 ft tall inside fences. Undergrowth – can't push through it with a dozer, a third of the timber has fallen, if it gets alight it will burn so hot and totally destroy the country and kill all the trees that have survived the last fire. The land is so destroyed it has gone past its tipping point (80%). National Parks (NP) – if they catch alight you can't fight it – no machinery nor man can get through the undergrowth. Written a report and sent to NE Bushfire Management Committee and have sent to RFS and National Parks head offices. Parks said need to plan



a back burn 2 years beforehand. Timebomb! NP don't have a plan for this situation. Too risky for a controlled burn – Rob Blomfield.

A: Mayor – mentioned to form a Motion to LGNSW Conference in September 2023. GM advised that our Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator maybe able to assist. Need to slash around old villages eg: Summervale – hasn't been done for years.

Q: Its all a Tinderbox statewide, Victoria as well. No reduction burn by neighbours due to fear of being sued. RFS have not assisted in this area by venting publicly people should be fined and even gaoled if private landholders light a fire. – Rob Blomfield & Nena Hicks

Comment: Restrictions on National Parks is an issue – can't conduct cool burns to contain the undergrowth so when a big fire comes along it decimates the National Park flora and fauna - Mayor

Comments: Peter McNeil and Rob Blomfield: Walcha Emergency Plan was developed 30-40 years ago after the floods in Blairs Gully. Peter has a hard copy and is happy to show Kruthika. Rob spoke about the Winterbourne / Moona RFS has 15 firefighters. They had a big fire out there and had 50 trucks set up (they all have a fire tanker of some sort) and worked two shifts. People come together in times of need. Up to communities to look after communities themselves when this lights up!

Q: What is the timeline to get plans (building) approved? I thought it was 4-6 weeks but other people told me it takes months. Katrina Blomfield.

A: 4-6 weeks is our target and will be in our Customer Service Charter – if we aren't meeting target let me know as we need to get better.

Q: Winterbourne Wind – Connector. Shutting down power stations will that cause massive outages? Complete chaos including Council forward planning.

A: Risk is current – brown outs if one of the power stations has a failure – share your concerns.

Q: Apart from SRV what is Council doing to make them sustainable? Katrina Blomfield

A: GM: Lots of little things. Project management – primary focus; keeping them all on track and in budget. Efficiencies – plant and fleet; internal plant rates; staff numbers in general; utilising staff first before outsourcing to contractors. Great example of this was OCS – utilised our own Works Manager to Project Management, and saved money within the Project. These monies can be utilised in other water projects.

Q: This is an ageing population. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) have predicted that the population will be 2.5% less in 2040. Nobody has mentioned growth plans. Peter McNeil

A: Mayor – I have been on Council for 6 ½ years – there has been some crap decisions and poor culture. Council have looked at Growth Plan but we need to try and find something (business) to entice people to our town. We have ended up with Aged Care as we are an ageing town. We've looked at abattoirs – no accommodation and not enough water. We have liaised with Regional Development Australia and struggle find something. We need to be better at planning – DA approvals; blocks of land size (100Ha min) and Council themselves have been looking at own land to develop to grow.

Q How much of our LGA is unrateable?



A: 40% which includes National Parks, State Forests, the Old Hospital and schools. Mayor – we need to renew the fight for money off logging for our roads. State Forests pay no rates and employ logging contractors to cart the forestry logs on our roads with no contribution.

Thanked everyone for attending the Meeting Closed at 11:35pm.

02:30pm Ingleba Hall

2:10pm

Public Attendees: John Wark, David Salter, Ian Olrich, Julie Olrich, Carolyn Salter, Don Cameron, Andy McCormack, Allan Kermode, Suzanne Harrison.

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Councillors: Mayor Noakes, Clrs: Berry, Schaefer, Hicks, Pointing and Kermode.

Apologies: Clrs Ferrier, Reilly, Don Kermode and Sally McCormack.

Staff: Interim General Manager Phillip Hood, Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler, Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin, Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs and Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator Kruthika Nagananda.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: Request Geraldine Road be graded please – I have had 4 flats in 2 months. Need to patch on the end of the tarred bit before it falls to pieces – top of rise, wash out on side and 2 cars cannot pass. Susie Harrison

A: Jet Patcher would be great job for that and spoke about budgeted amounts for resheeting. Also advised that we would put that in our system and get it in the schedule.

C: Thank you for the major patching on Aberbaldie Road – Susie Harrison.

There was a hole in the road for six months, near “Abberley”, where you drive into a major hole.

Q: Removing trees alongside road from Glen Morrison to gravel pit especially wattle trees are really bad. A squirt of spray when small saves problems later on – Don Cameron

Q: Tip – we don’t go in every week and if you have more than one bin you have to pay. They ask what is in it and I say ‘rubbish’ and then they check it! Who has the right to check your bin? Invasion of privacy – Don Cameron

A: Licencing issue with EPA – have to ensure that we are abiding by all aspects and that includes ensuring the right rubbish is going into the landfill – eg: in case of asbestos etc. We are looking to a Voucher system for Rural Waste Management payers which is a more fairer and more equitable system.

Q: Are they sending the vouchers to each ratepayer? – Susie Harrison

A: There will be a system in place to assess who uses which tip.

Q: Soft Plastics – adopt a policy like TRC has to collecting soft plastics in recycling bin – Susie Harrison.

A: No not at the moment. Massive issue in waste industry in soft plastics. Packing – reducing and using something else or finding an outsource for them. Am watching this space closely at the moment. Industry wide problem. Network with bigger Councils and businesses to see what they come up with. Could go back to 4 recycling bins.



Q: Is it worth setting up a Stall to show people what can and can't recycle? – Susie Harrison.

A: Absolutely – raise profile; teach at schools more education for community too!

Q: Does ADC still take it (soft plastics)?

A: They are but not sure what they are doing with it.

Q: Englefield Bridge – B double one way only – can we move the fence? Might work.
Allan Kermode

Q: Cutting down some trees at home – took to the dump and it was closed due to Staff shortages – very frustrating, no notice, had paid someone to take them in – Andy McCormack

A: Unfortunately there have been occasions and we have been training people however we hope it improves in the next few months. Lack of notice – staff ring up sick that morning – communicate it as soon as possible through channels that are available – at the moment it is social media.

Q: Macdonald River Bridge new signs? Asked three times and still none – where is it up to? Very hard to give people directions when the bridge isn't named. – Susie Harrison

Q: Niangala Road – quite confusing as people go to Woolbrook – what is going to happen with Emergency Services such as ambulance? Need to change the name – Julie Olrich

Q: On Thunderbolts Way the Glen Morrison turn to Cobrabald – great – appreciated by locals. Lakes Road intersection onto Thunderbolts Way – supposed to be an improvement promised ages ago – now I have been told there is no money and nothing is done! What happened? Don Cameron

A: No scope or plan in detail; funding had to be spent by June 2023 and therefore this intersection was necessary to be removed from Corridor Strategy program.

Reply from Don Cameron: Dangerous intersection – 100m of vision when people are travelling at 100+ kilometres an hour, it's a bomb waiting to happen.

A: Good candidate to apply for funding future application.

At this time in the Meeting Clr Kermode spoke about weeds.

Advised that he is currently the Chair of New England Weeds Authority and he is asking for your feedback. He feels that the service is not good. (Don Cameron advised he agreed!).

- Walcha has a Biodiversity Officer that resides in Armidale. He doesn't come to Walcha much and having been a Weeds Officer himself he can see that they are not having an impact here.
- Inefficiency living in Armidale and travelling here in our time; contractor sprayers do the same and therefore that leaves Walcha with a small window for proactive spraying, inspecting etc.
- Management of NEWA is not great – a lot of the Staff have gone.
- Over governing of ADC is a real problem as they hold 3 seats on the board.
- NEWA runs on funding and Council members contributions. Ours is \$100,000 and they receive our WET funding which is roughly around \$150,000.



- I have tried to champion a Walcha based Weeds (Biodiversity) Officer but they have repeatedly replaced our Officer with Armidale based ones.
- Currently completing a business case (sustainability) on whether Walcha Council can take the Weeds on for our area.
- Complain to New England Weeds Authority and please give me feedback as well.

Questions asked by Clr Kermode to the Meeting:

1. Do you know who our Walcha Weeds Officer is?
2. Has anyone from NEWA visited you in the last three years?
3. Have you been contacted by the Weeds Officer?

All answered NO.

Q: Work crew near "Abberley" on Aberbaldie Road was heavily over staffed. There were two people standing on each end on traffic lights and at one stage there was an escort vehicle. You could see straight through from one traffic light to the other – no corners. Same with slashing on sides of roads. Have a vehicle before the tractor and one behind both with flashing lights – total overkill. Use to be signs and then the tractor. On a road like this one that is a total waste of resources – not a main road.

A: Probably need to review this however WH&S rules apply and have become cumbersome. We currently employ a WHS Coordinator with Uralla Shire Council. He has a wealth of knowledge and we get that at half the cost. Definitely need to have a look at this type of thing though and try to take a sensible view.

Q: In regards to Hazard reduction on verges of roads how far is Council's responsibility

A: Old school – 22 yards from centre of road.

Q/C: How long do signs need to stay on sides of road, including speed signs? OCS speed restrictions signs on top of hill – 60km/h – still there. Other signs that have fallen over, grass grown over them and not picked up. This includes CLOSED ROAD signs – in one instance mail wasn't delivered due to a road closed sign – job finished 6 months beforehand.

Q: Belhaven Road – needs some attention. Where the dam is it overflows onto the road and then through the pipes.

A: Taken on notice.

Q: Wash out on bank at Millhole – why isn't this fixed? Julie Olrich

A: We have applied for funding to do more extensive works- suggestion – rock placed in the middle to help stop erosion.

Q: VMO's – advised there is only Aged Care at the hospital at the moment

A: Two VMO's – Dr Deng and Dr Alison Jones. Document any problems (evidence) so we can take problems to the Health system as a community.

Q: Old Hospital? Any further improvements?

A: Quick answer – no.

Thanked everyone for attending the Meeting – Meeting Closed at 3:45pm.



05:03pm Woolbrook AIF Memorial Hall

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Public Attendees: Tim Laurie, Tony Haling, Natalie Clifford, Shiena Allerton, Dave Allerton, Donna Davidson, Mick Pullen, Elly Pullen, Janelle Smith, Trish Beattie, Gary & Rhonda Olrich.

Councillors: Mayor Noakes, Clrs: Pointing, Berry, Hicks & Schaefer.

Staff: Interim General Manager Phillip Hood, Acting Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler, Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin, Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs and Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator Kruthika Nagananda.

Apologies: Clrs: Kermode, Ferrier & Pointing.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: Thank you for the sealing at the school entrance – appreciated. In revisiting the Woolbrook Tip it appears under current proposed plan that if you don't have a fob then you can't use the tip. Will we be providing a bulky goods pickup a couple of times a year? Or do we have to take it to Walcha?

A: Yes kerbside pickup households won't have access to the tip. No bulky goods pickup – not compliant with EPA regulations. It is all about remaining financially sustainable and at the moment we are running it at a loss. The Income is \$7,000 and skips bins are \$7,000 a year. Therefore any costs to move rubbish to Walcha for people dumping excessive rubbish makes the tip unsustainable.

Q: Variations on that – those that are not in LGA understand an annual rural access fee applies? Happy to pay. What is the range / capture for this tip? Tony Haling

A: Need to verify the boundary, all information is within a spreadsheet. Introduced smart lock (and now fobs) with CCTV cameras to try and get it under control. Waste Strategy will be finalised this month. Revisiting the pickup service, maybe Council can do it instead of contractors. We are looking at everything – what we need to change, or provide service. The fob is on trial. If it deteriorates further then it might close. We will put the CCTV in various places and it will be on sensor. Hoping to send message and get improvements but it is a balancing act. Note: You enter the tip you should close the gate behind you so other people don't come in unless they have their own key/fob.

Need to ensure others use the tip properly – putting waste in the right spot so it doesn't encroach onto the road within the tip.

Q: Metal – no one puts it at the end of the pile. Can you bring a bobcat out to push it up? I tried – bought my machinery in to push it up and did two tyres and tubes. Tony Haling

Q: Timber Bridges replacement – where are we up to? There is not a lot wrong with Boxley Bridge as it had a new deck put on it about 10 years ago. Whereas the Army Bridge is totally stuffed! If the Army Bridge is replaced with a better one that is B Double rated then the roads leading up to the bridge are going to get more traffic. Hoping to also get some resheeting on the hill up to Surveyors Creek on Niangala Road. Gary Olrich

A: Army Bridge we are waiting on a funding variation approval. Boxley Bridge – tender is about to go out.



Q: Roads are getting graded but as soon as we get rain on they will be bad again as the pipes / drains are full on Campfire Road. TRC part of Campfire Road is bad – can we get it back into Walcha Council area?

A: Mayor: Yes it is an investment – need to do it right first time and that should be synchronising the cleaning of pipes/drains just ahead of the grader.

IGM: It is a conversation that we have to have with TRC but we were thinking we could maintain it and then send TRC an invoice for the work on their section of the road.

Q: Ramps Policy – is this still in force as we have been replacing them to that standard as stated – Donna Davidson

A: The Policy hasn't changed.

Q: Problem with drainage on my road which is utilised by trucks utilising the loading ramp for the Woolbrook Sport & Recreation Ground when they hold events. When it rains there is a big stream running down the road, washing the road out, and all the dirt is on my front lawn. Told Council about 18 months ago that the drainage needs fixing.
Trish Beattie

A: Take on notice and put it in our CRM system

Q: You need to get back to basics and rip the roads back to the start, look at basic road making and make sure you do it to comply. Eg: spoon drains; narrowing of roads.
Mick Pullen

A: Any particular road?

Q: Niangala, Campfire near bends, Danglemah – Mick Pullen

A: None of those roads are Walcha Councils roads – all TRC however we will take your comments on board. In regards to roads width it is sometimes a level of service. High flow traffic roads would be wider. A grading team is 3 people and we have 1 Works Engineer for our whole network – staff management.

Q: Roads around Woolbrook need slashing and mowing to boost the community and it might make people want to live here. Kerbside pickups – recycling and rubbish go in the same bin

A: The pickup process was explained by Acting Director Infrastructure & Development.

Q: Old Hospital – any update? Could restore as an Aged Care Facility? Can Council convene a meeting between Lands Council and Health Dept? I wrote to all the Departments you stated in your Mayoral Column – got one reply who referred me to one of the other departments. Dave Allerton

A: Mayor: Know your frustration – have had no update. Can't do anymore than I do now. Consistently asking!

Q: Dam (OCS) – how long until you are going to put water in it? Just want to know in regards to hi-flow water levels in Woolbrook on Macdonald River. Tony Haling

A: Pumping station is the final stage of the OCS. Tender then build and then looking with our current regulations to start filling the dam. Revised licence (3-4 months) pump station will be finished and we can start pumping. We cease to pump (stop) when river is down (hits a certain level).

Q: What is the catchment area for the new dam? Mick Pullen



A: None – zero catchment area all comes from the river. We were only allowed 5% catchment of the land you own – we don't own the land.

Q: If in vicinity (on Campfire Road now) grading Surveyors Creek and Strathleigh Roads

A: Yes we will add it on the list.

Q: Can you move speed limit from highway 100 to 80 and then it comes down town limit. They have already slowed down to take the turn into Woolbrook so why keep it at 100 then down the road about a kilometre its 60. Also, slashed road throwing grass onto road – can we slash or mow to highway and not to the speed limit?

Comment: Mayor: Mirror at Walcha Road Railway Station Road – need to ensure that is put up as well.

Mayor thanked everyone for coming out into the cold. Thanked the Hall for the beautiful fire. Advised also that we are happy that we can speak to you face to face and have a conversation. Meeting closed at 6:27pm

Tuesday 23 May 2023

09:00am Yarrowitch Hall

Public Attendees: Shirley O'Keefe, Peter O'Keefe, Suzanne O'Keefe, Belinda O'Keefe, Marlay Brown, Louise Clarke, Bruce Scivener, Guy Zammit and Berna Zammit. 9

Councillors: Mayor Noakes, Clrs: Hicks, Pointing, Berry & Schaefer.

Staff: Interim General Manager Phil Hood, Acting Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler, Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin, Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs and Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator Kruthika Nagananda

Apologies: Clrs: Ferrier; Kermode and Reilly.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: What is happening with Mooraback Bridge? Louise Clarke

A: 3 bridges (Mooraback, Army and Winterbourne) were packaged together however the prices have all gone up. Asked for a funding variation and we are waiting on that approval. The priority is Army Bridge.

Q: Is it a major risk to Council if something goes wrong with the bridge whilst waiting on funding variation? Maintenance; inspections and carry on – apply through other funding. – Louise Clarke

Q: Asphalt in front of the Yarrowitch Hall needs to be done properly? Shirley O'Keefe

A: Jet Patcher would be a good option for this however no idea when this would occur and there are no promises it will.

Q: Kangaroo Flat Road – some bad parts, pretty good bitumen. Dust suppression Rose Cottage and Dust Suppression near pine forest not great.

Q: Resheeting – will it reduce maintenance costs? How do you assess order?

A: We have allocated the money but the schedule needs to be determined.

Q: Counter on Kangaroo Flat Road – what did it tell you? Interesting to see heavy vehicles to cars – which is the high user?



A: Not sure but we can find out.

Q: Resheeting – 2 x grader crews will we be using contractors?

A: Yes – our crews.

Q: National Parks don't pay rates and Rural Fire Service receive monies. They both have a lot to account for. Need to push National Parks to be more accountable and responsible. Belinda O'Keefe

A: Mayor: You are right Belinda. Report tabled at "Europambela" Regional Meeting and I will be taking something (a motion) to the LGNSW Conference. It will be a big hot fire if one breaks out and everyone seems to be predicting it. Dropped ball on National Parks and Forestry not paying rates. No return on our roads from Forestry. Would be great to get \$10 per tonne to assist with maintenance. Kangaroo Flat Road is a classic example.

Q: Valuations – are you still charging the same rates? Or do they go up with the valuations? Cause you will get a lot if they are on the valuations as properties have gone through the roof.

A: Council are limited to a certain amount – not allowed to have huge rates on big variations in property valuations. Mayor: Rates do not double if valuations do.

Q: Kangaroo Flat Road – ramps – do we have any power to fix those grids as they are not up to scratch? – Clr Pointing

Q: 3metre ramp at entrance and my tractor and seeder are 3.5metres. The land for this ramp is a Forestry lease and the previous leasee was pressured to replace the grid, currently it is leased to someone else who isn't going to replace it either. Grid further out that has no purpose – laned off (near Rose Cottage). I graded the road and graded over the grid deliberately so the grid is now full of gravel. Peter O'Keefe

A: Ramp Policy can remediate – take out at their cost (Forestry & RMS). Data on road will contribute to a case towards the ramp.

Q: Oaklands Road – fill in ramp – smoother to go around the ramp than to go over it. Marlay Brown

Q: What's happening with Windfarms? Impacts everyone cause of roads.

A: Submission stage – no one will probably know anything for about a year. Been a lot of chatter re: VPA's etc and the transmission line proposed route will be out in the next few weeks. Transport for NSW held a Meeting at Council with transport carriers talking about implications to businesses etc. It will not get detoured through Kentucky.

Q: There will be an impact on hospitals and doctors and accommodation within our town. Louise Clarke

A: Rules around coming into a town and taking all of our accommodation. Probably build a donga village in Armidale and bussed to Walcha. In regards to Hospitals – Energy Co will work with them.

Q: Can I ask what the outcome was with Telstra and the loss of 3G and how it will affect everyone here in Yarrawitch? Turning off 3G end of June 2024 – we survive on 3G. Louise Clarke

A: Mayor: Nothing- was invited to two things, one a 2-day Sydney Conference and a lunch at AgQuip. No connectivity plan – need a coverage plan.



Comment: Building a tower in Moona saying it is for Emergency Services and it is near Trig Tower. There is provision for Telstra Mobile Phone connectivity but they will not do it. – Peter O’Keefe and someone else brought this up.

Further Comment from Peter O’Keefe: talking to a Telstra Technician who advised that there is provision within 5G network where they change the parameters for text and talk but no data and it runs parallel to the 5G network and would support the 3G

Bruce Scrivener – I got a FREE satellite phone from Telstra for being a customer for so many years.

Q: Has the slip work finished on the Oxley Highway? Belinda O’Keefe

A: No – years yet. If you subscribe to the text message service you can get regularly updates as Transport for NSW have regular monthly meetings to keep all up to date. Further advised that Live Traffic website/app – www.livetraffic.com.au parts of this can now be managed by Council to ensure up to date information is portrayed.

Thanked everyone for attending the Meeting – Meeting Closed at 10:45am.

11:42am “Brockley Park” Shed

Public Attendees: Deliah Morawitz, Mark Morawitz, Ros Wall, Joe Mansfield, Helen Mansfield, Charles Koebel, Leone Mackaway, Owen Mackaway, Megan Marchant and Kate Mackaway. 10

Councillors: Mayor Noakes, Clrs: Hicks, Pointing, Berry & Schaefer.

Staff: Interim General Manager Phillip Hood, Acting Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler, Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin, Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs and Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator Kruthika Nagananda.

Apologies: Clr Ferrier, Kermodé and Reilly

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: We are all Rural Ratepayers and you have talked about the budget and where it is being spent in town – capital works projects, our roads are not great is there anything being spent in our area? – Megan Marchant

A: In general, yes under the Roads Maintenance budget in local roads network. Specific roads have not been decided or scheduled as yet. We need to try and spend this money over the LGA whilst targeting the worse areas.

Q: Tia Diggins Road was in a bad way not long back after some rain and with the mud on the road the trucks struggled to get up the hill. I rang up and reported it was an accident waiting to happen as it was pretty bad and they were sliding all over the road. Within a day or two the Council came out and fixed it – thank you so much.

A: Mayor advised that these small parts of the road that get very dangerous in wet times and you need to report it as you locals know the road and know how bad it can get quickly. Interim GM advised that we have one Manager in charge of entire road network and we are focusing on money on local road network. Allocation of maintenance budget to local roads as much as we can.



Q: On Brackendale Road the potholes reoccur within three weeks – it is very bad near Stevie Hoy’s place, “Miltiades” where chunks were sitting on top of the road. When you use contractors is there warranty on what they do? – Kate Mackaway

A: Yep absolutely – let us know if something deteriorates shortly after it has been fixed, either by a contractor or Council – Interim GM. The Jet Patcher would be great to fix some of these places on the road – Director Corporate & Community.

Q: Grading of Tia Diggings Road – when you grade this road it needs to have gravel on it. It rained after grading last time and vehicles were sliding all the way along it even in 4WD. Sent emails to Council advising the road needed gravel with no reply. – Leone Mackaway, Megan Marchant

A: Yes – you right.

Q: Road Maintenance – do you allow for cleaning out the drains in the budget? Surely this is something you can prepare for before the grading crew so it happens all around the same time? – Megan Marchant

A: We need to ensure that little more preparation and planning are done before scheduling maintenance – we are getting there. A fixed schedule would assist with this so we can work the teams to clean the culverts/pipes and have the gravel ready for the grader in advance.

Comment: Kevin Hollis – contractor grader – did an amazing job! Best grader driver!

Comment: Regarding money for bridges – 2 bridges when a pipe could have done the job. – Leone Mackaway.

Q: How many graders? – Charles Koebel

A: Interim GM: 2 Mayor: historically 5 and there is 3 people in a crew.

Q: If you run 3 crews for 2 plant – you utilise the plant more! Charles Koebel.

A: Yes it has been suggested to run 3 crews – Interim GM

Struggling with 2 crews being pulled away to do potholes. Hard to resource trained grader drivers. – Director Corporate & Community

Q: Brackendale Road – sprayed on eastern side (suckers) on way to town but not western side of road. Visibility issue in the future – save money now by spraying when they are young and susceptible – it’s a cheap fix!

A: Take on notice.

The Mayor spoke about New England Weeds Authority and asked two questions:

1. Have you seen a Biodiversity Officer from NEWA? Answer was no by all.
2. Do you know who the Biodiversity Office for Walcha from NEWA is? Answer by all No.

Comment: Kate Mackaway advised that they bought cattle from a place that has tropical soda (weed) (21 March 2023) and received an email from NEWA regarding this purchase and the weed. Kate replied to the email and has heard nothing from then since.

Q: Waste Depot – we pay Waste Management fees on our rates but we still have to pay to visit the tip? What is the process? Is it fair?

A: Acting Director Infrastructure & Development explained the ‘Voucher’ idea which will be introduced in the new financial year. Rural ratepayers will receive 52 vouchers (one/week) to take their rubbish (equivalent to one 240L wheelie bin) to the Waste Depot.



If you have more than the allocation you need to use another voucher. Once they have been used then you will have to pay like everyone else - people in town. This will be a much fairer system ensuring everyone gets the same access.

Q: Emergency Service Levy (ESL) – coming up at the LGNSW Conference? If we pay it on rates do we pay it on insurance? Why didn't they bring the ESL on rates? We all should be up in arms about this waste of money. – Charles Koebel

A: Mayor: Yes it will be talked about at the LGNSW Conference. Yes ESL is levied through insurances plus Local Government pick up 17% of the tab (Walcha - \$36,000). They didn't bring the ESL to the rates because they got 'cold feet'. Fire Brigade Levy – run it for a year and then divide annual expenditure between Councils – save money. We are up in arms about it but the Government don't care! The only way to fix this is to change our local Members.

Comment: Noticed there is a lot of fire hazard material around at the moment. Everyone is scared to light it. We should do what generations of landholders have done in the past and drop more matches in winter at least every year and then it would always be a 'cool burn'. – Leone Mackaway

Q: We need to lobby to ensure the Forestry contribute to the roads by paying money to Council. – Owen Mackaway

A: Mayor advised that we have dropped the ball on this as we had a group of Mayors advocating for this. I will try and get this Group to re-visit this issue.

Q: Just wanting to ensure you are aware on access roads there are trees leaning on other trees on verge of roads? Need cleaning up.

A: we will take this on notice.

Q: Update on Off Creek Storage Dam:

- Replace pipeline to town? Owen Mackaway A: No remain as is
- Cement pipeline ? 8 inch? Increase? Mark Mackaway

A: mostly steel with an asbestos section; high pressure near river but there are no high pressure fittings in Australia at the moment; there will be some surge relief improvements and we will fix any leakages throughout the line however we are not looking to increase the size as it has enough capacity.

- Replace high pressure section first? Are you setting money aside? Mark Morawitz

A: that is the plan, can do it in sections.

Q: Is Council looking for Staff?

A: Yes we are. Mayor advised we are in the middle of the recruitment process for General Manager.

Thanked everyone that has attended today and a special thank you to our hosts, Mark & Dee Morawitz for setting up and providing the soup and refreshments - lovely. Closed Meeting: 01:13pm



02:45pm Nowendoc Hall

Public Attendees: Pam Lock, Gail Callighan, Kath Morris, Allan Morris, Cheryl Margery, John Sheahan, Pam Sheahan, Anna Billingham, Margaret Higgins, Paul Hicks, Neil Higgins, Michael Carroll, Lois Carroll, Amanda Sutherland, Sue Lyon, Charmayne Grose.

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Councillors: Mayor Noakes, Clrs: Hicks, Pointing, Berry & Schaefer.

Staff: Interim General Manager Phillip Hood, Acting Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler, Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin, Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs and Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator Kruthika Nagananda

Apologies: Clrs Ferrier, Kermode & Reilly

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: Any chance the State Government will take over Thunderbolts Way – traffic has doubled (my opinion) all day and all night and would love to know how many cars are on it during the day? – Kath Morris

A: It is a funny one – we repleaded our case with the new Government. We are at the end of the Thunderbolts Way Corridor Funding – remains a Regional Road. It attracts more traffic the better the road gets however it is still not a B Double Route.

Comment: Log trucks go through – lose count of them – so many. Topdale Road trees across road – Hams Corner to Niangala Road it is really bad as it cops winds more than other places.

Q: Telstra Update?

A: No update however we are seeing them soon and we will raise the issue again.

Q: Are you able to give assistance to Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) with Dungowan cutting? Verbal or something! It's a disgrace. Port Stephens Cutting \$4 million – is it going ahead or not?

A: We are unable to tell another Council what to do with their road. As far as the \$4 million project we can't comment as we are not sure.

Q: What happened at the dam at Dungowan?

A: Funding was pulled from the project. It is a TRC project so not aware of anything else.

Q: Was listening to the radio regarding someone who is travelling around and the mentioned Gloucester, Uralla and Armidale but no mention of Nowendoc or Walcha.

A: No idea.

Q: Tops Road – is it scheduled to be graded?

A: We are aware of the state of the road as we just came that way in the bus.

Q: Is there funding for improving the incline/decline over the road near Giro?

A: No – it isn't our road and we haven't heard anything of it from Taree.

Q: Are you able to outline how many kilometres of dirt road there is?

A: 600kms – Oxley Highway is a State road and we have a contract with them. We are waiting the arrival of a Jet Patcher which we will utilise straight away. Grave re-sheeting – schedule to be determined. Please advise us of where the main problem areas are.



Q: The other small locations – what sort of things are they asking Council to do for their community? Infrastructure wise eg: footpaths, skatepark – improvements in town however is there anything that Council can give us (Nowendoc)?

A: Funding bodies applications – fit to category. Civil projects in the regions – provide feedback.

Q: Do those items get put to the bottom of the pile? Without the Nowendoc Ladies Auxiliary we wouldn't have got anything. What about giving us feedback? We write letters to Council and we haven't received any feedback. Eg: exercise station – no reply – nothing like "we don't have any monies for that!"

A: Happy to revisit however the Exercise Station on Walcha's levee banks was totally funded and it cost \$90,000.

Q: Why are you updating the skatepark?

A: It isn't utilised properly and especially by smaller children. We have started to make it more inviting and attractive by removing trees which gave more light and exposure to the skatepark. This was a recognised need through our Youth Committee.

Comment: By a Nowendoc person: We are not going to drive to Walcha with bikes etc and take them off the car for kids to do during the day.

Q: Bolts and Maintenance on the bridge hasn't been done and was requested at the last Regional Meetings – will prevent further deterioration.

A: Remember that lack of resources we advised – apologies and we will send someone out to evaluate.

Comment: Thank you for what you do especially on a tight budget!
Fantastic what you are doing!

Mayor reply: Grant money is the only way we can get 'extras' for the community. There is no discretionary money! Eg: \$90,000 for an exercise station is only achievable through grants.

Q: On the drive to town is there anywhere there could be an overtaking lane section?

A: No not at this stage, as it is not identified as a need.

Q: Are you changing the tip? Why?

A: Facility use – some use it appropriately and some don't. Big costs occur when it is not used as it should be, and these costs are not budgeted for. Smart locks / fobs and CCTV will enable who is abusing the privilege and risking it for everyone else! Acting Director Infrastructure & Development explained the new change to fobs and how it will work, advising that you people need to ensure they close the gate when they enter the facility and then open and close it when you leave. Further advised the creation of a new Waste Strategy which will assist with budget, sustainability and ensuring equity for all.

Comment: I am not going to lock the gate when I drive into the facility! Bring the fobs to us as we don't go into Walcha – we mainly go to Tamworth for all our needs.

Mayor advised: you do need to lock the facility (close the gate) when you enter it. This ensures that you won't be blamed for misuse. We are trying to ensure the facility is retained in Nowendoc and to make it work these are things that need to be complied with. Council can't keep feeding money into these facilities, including Woolbrook, Yarrowitch and Nowendoc, as we don't have the money. The only other option is to close them down.



Comment by Sue Lyon: Costs don't cover my husbands wheel tractor.

Q: Gail Callighan: Did we pay for the original key?

A: Think you got it for free and pay if you lost it for another one – will check on it for you though.

Comment: Advised by Director: Second dwelling on property = Second application for a Fob and therefore have to pay the Rural Waste Management fee on the rates, annually, plus \$40 for the Fob.

Comment: By Nowendoc resident: We have two dwellings on the property and happy to pay once but not every year!

Q: Are you reliant on the Telstra tower to download the information from the fobs?

A: No – physically onsite download onto laptop.

Q: How does the Hall get on with the new system at the tip? – Kath Morris

A: I am sure someone on the board has a fob!

Comment: Toilets still run out of water when it doesn't rain – tanks didn't come with indicators.

Thanked everyone for the venue and for attending. Close: 4:00pm



Item 7:

Notice of Motions



There are no Notice of Motions for June 2023



Item 8:

Matters of Urgency

A Matter of Urgency is usually raised by a Councillor – must state why it is a matter of urgency eg: time constraints; public consultation, public safety etc.

It is then considered and then a:

Resolution that the matter of _____ be discussed as a matter of urgency.

IT then has to be ruled as a “Matter of Urgency” by the Chairperson.



Item 9: Management Review Reports



9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2023/01058

Responsible Executive: General Manager

Attachment: Action List May 2023 – WO/2023/00959

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. RESOLUTIONS ACTION LIST

See attached report.

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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Ordinary Meeting – 31 October 2018

60/1819	6.6 On-site Sewage Management Strategy Implementation WO/2018/02306 that Council postpone the implementation of the On-site Sewage Management Strategy until the next financial year.	DED DID	Review 30062022 31032023 29092023 Sept 2023	Review Strategy when suitable resources secured (current vacancy for a Health & Building Surveyor)	Council resolved to put this on hold until the drought conditions subside and suitable resources secured.
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Extra Ordinary – 22 May 2019

167/1819	2.2 Planning Proposal 2 Annual Review WO/2019/01107 that Council: 1. Prepare a planning proposal to include the following: a. Rezone land described as Lot B DP 371356, Lot 7016 DP 94120 and Lot 543 DP 756502 from RU1 Primary Production to RE2 Public Recreation, and to remove the land from the Minimum Lot Size Map. b. Rezone the portion of the land described as Lots 1, 2 & 4 Sec 41 DP 759035 zoned R1 General Residential to RE1 Public Recreation, remove the land from the Minimum Lot Size map and the Height of Buildings map. c. Insert attached dwellings, hostels, multi dwelling housings, residential flat buildings, seniors housing as prohibited uses in the RU5 Village Zone Land Use Table d. Increase the current height restriction from 8.0 metres to 8.5 metres on the Height of Buildings Map.	DED DID	31012023 June 2023 Aug 2023	As per resolution.	Initially due October 2020. Work behind schedule and has been prioritised. Planning Proposal to be submitted to DPE for Gateway Determination. Delay due to Agri land employment lands state leg commencement. Complete by mid Aug 2023
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<p>2. Request Delegation under section 3.36(2) of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i> to make the final instrument.</p> <p>3. Submit the drafted Planning Proposal for a Gateway Determination.</p>				
168/1819 22 May 2019	<p>Motion: It was MOVED Clr Heazlett Seconded Clr Kermode that Council prepare a planning proposal to rezone the portion of the land described as Lot 8 DP1167213 zoned RU1 Primary Production to RE1 Public Recreation, remove the land from the Minimum Lot Size map and reclassify the land from 'community' to 'operational' land to enable the subdivision of the industrial land when required. A FORESHADOWED Motion Clr Lyon that the portion of Lot 8 currently zoned Industrial be rezoned 'public recreation'. The Original Motion was put to the VOTE and CARRIED.</p>	DED DID	31012023 June 2023 Aug 2023	As per resolution.	<p>Initially due October 2020.</p> <p>Work behind schedule and has been prioritised.</p> <p>Planning Proposal to be submitted to DPE for Gateway Determination.</p> <p>Delay due to Agri land employment lands state leg commencement.</p> <p>Complete by mid Aug 2023</p>
Ordinary – 31 July 2019					
6/20192020	<p>6.3 Crown Land Management Plan Preparation WO/2019/01134 that Council:</p> <p>1. Acknowledge that a Walcha Crown Land Management Plan is required to be prepared for Crown Land managed by Walcha Council as required by the <i>Crown</i></p>	DED DID	30062023 30062024	As per resolution.	<p>Underway.</p> <p>Extension granted for 12 months.</p> <p>To be completed by June 2024</p>

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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2. Request ministerial consent from NSW Department of Industry—Lands & Water to manage land known as:
- a. Woolbrook Rubbish Tip - 104 Campfire Road, Woolbrook - Lot 238 DP 753846 being Reserve 82854
 - b. Walcha General Cemetery - 169-179 Darjeeling Road, Walcha - Lot 1 DP 1088076 and Lot 7042 DP 1122396 being Reserve 1018788, Lot 7027 DP 1075451 and Lot 1 DP 117825 being Reserve 1018768
 - c. Old Rubbish Depot - Oxley Highway, Walcha Road - Lot 132 DP 753846 and Lot 7300 DP 1136219 being Reserve 89912
 - d. Waste Transfer Station - 49 Aerodrome Road, Walcha - Lot 532 DP 756502 being Reserve 51457, Lot 7007 DP 1057278 being Reserve 63519 and Lot 7017 DP 1057279 being Reserve 70192.
 - e. Woolbrook Cemetery - 119 Campfire Road, Woolbrook - Lot 7011 DP 94017 being Reserve 1018428
 - f. Walcha Catholic Cemetery - 219E Oxley Drive, Walcha - Lot 7002 DP 94214 being Reserve 43749 and Lot 7004 DP 94215 being Reserve 63559
 - g. Nowendoc Waste Transfer Station - 47 Tops Road, Nowendoc - Lot 171 DP 753691 being Reserve 83987

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	<p>h. Yarowitch Showground - 92 Upper Yarowitch River Road, Yarowitch - Part Lot 125 DP 756475 being Reserve 94641</p> <p>i. Nowendoc Cemetery - 7817 Thunderbolts Way, Nowendoc - Lot 7301 DP 1134898 being Reserve 1016508</p> <p>j. Old Oxley RFS Shed - 6432 Brackendale Road, Nowendoc - Lot 157 DP 753691 being Reserve 95794</p> <p>land as "operational" as per Section 3.22 of the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>.</p> <p>3 Delegate the General Manager authority to:</p> <p>a) Assign the relevant categories to each parcel of Crown Land considered to have a classification of "community" land as per Section 3.23 of the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>,</p> <p>b) Obtain native title manager advice as per the provisions of Part 8 of the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>,</p> <p>c) Consult the NSW Dept of Industry Lands & Water on the content of the draft Walcha Crown Land Management Plan for Council consideration prior to Public Exhibition.</p>				
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Ordinary – 25 November 2020

124/20202021	<p>6.8 Beautification Committee Project Recommendations</p> <p>WO/2020/04068</p> <p>that Council:</p>	<p>DI</p> <p>DID</p>	<p>30102022</p> <p>30042023</p> <p>31072023</p>		<p>Completion of works (Rose Garden Stage 2) identified in LRCI Phase 3 approved Project list.</p> <p>Works delayed due to weather and internal resource limitations.</p>
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ENDORSE the recommendations of the 355 Committee Project Scope forms endorsed by the Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee meeting of 07 October 2020 and approves construction of Mill Hole – Stage 2 and the Rose Garden projects; ACKNOWLEDGES the continuing efforts of the Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee and their contribution to positive Community Strategic Plan outcomes. 				
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Ordinary – 24 February 2021

194/20202021	<p>10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held at Council Chambers on Friday, 12 February 2021 WO/2021/00517</p> <p><u>Item 3.8 – Caravan Access to Water</u> that Council provide a dedicated drinking water refill point separate from dump point tap.</p>	<p>DI DID</p>	<p>30122022 31032023 Dec 2023</p>	DI to investigate options for caravan access to water and present back to Council.	Initial assessment is that business case for compliant, fee-for-service fill location may struggle to stack up due to low use. Issues regarding safety and compliance can be introduced by designating a fill point for specific purpose. Grant money being sought
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Ordinary – 29 September 2021

36/20212022	<p>6.3 Heritage Listing Removal from Walcha LEP Request – 2N Middle Street Walcha – Mrs L Green</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove heritage listing (I017 – being Lot A DP 159627 known as 2N Middle Street Walcha) from Schedule 5 of the <i>Walcha Local Environmental Planning Plan 2012</i>, and Advise the land owner that: 	<p>DED DID</p>	<p>31032021 Aug 2023</p>	Organise the removal of heritage listing of property from LEP 2012 Schedule 5. Advise owner of resolution options.	Owner visited Council March 2022 and advised they are happy for removal to be included in next house keeping Planning Proposal of Council. No date scheduled for next House Keeping Planning Proposal at this stage.
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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	<p>a. The removal of the heritage listing will be included within the next House Keeping Planning Proposal as prepared by Council when there are enough matters to warrant the expense of a Planning Proposal, alternatively</p> <p>b. They are welcome to submit their own Planning Proposal for Council consideration along with \$4,500 deposit towards the cost of processing the Planning Proposal, as this will expediate the processing time.</p>				<p>Will be included in Annual Review Planning Proposal</p> <p>Delay due to Agri land employment lands state leg commencement.</p> <p>Complete by mid Aug 2023</p>
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Ordinary – 27 October 2021

59/20212022 27 Oct 2021	<p>6.2 Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan WINT/2021/08887</p> <p>that Council:</p> <p>1. Adopt the <i>Draft Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019</i> which includes the following amendments:</p> <p>a. Minimal editing and word changes to correct grammar, identification of development controls and to ensure state agency referencing is correct</p> <p>b. Clause 14.6 – Visual Amenity Impacts– Replace the reference to the Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust's <i>Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Stage 1 Report – Identifying Issues, March 2005, Appendix B:</i></p>	DED DID	30062022 Oct 2023	As per resolution	<p>Point 1 of resolution completed.</p> <p>Further work delayed due to resourcing.</p> <p>Completed 1. 3 completed this month. 2 & 4 will be part of LEP Review completed for Gateway by 31 January 2023</p> <p>Additional training required, to be completed by Oct 2023</p>
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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	<p><i>Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Final Issues Paper</i> has been changed to the current guideline being NSW Planning, Industry & Environment <i>Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Clause 41.6(1) - Replace the reference of axis with sector. d. Clause 14.4 - Inclusion of a stated position for State Significant Development in the objectives. e. Clause 14.6(b)(iii) – Extend the wording to include damage, degradation or disruption to groundwater. f. Clause 14.6(u) – Extend the wording to state that Decommissioning Bonds will be considered based on the individual merits of the development. g. Inclusion of Clause 14.5(n) regarding cumulative impact assessment including power line construction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Prepare a further amendment to the <i>Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019</i> in regards to all renewable energy development. 3. Include provision in any future Section 7.11 Development Contribution Plan for a contribution for renewable energy development. 4. Amend the Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 by ensuring all Land Use Tables reflect 				
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	the provisions of all relevant State Environmental Planning Policies				
60/20212022 27 Oct 2021	6.3 Part Day Public Holiday 2022 & 2023 Survey Results WO/2021/04247 that Council: 1. ENDORSE the application for a Part Day Public Holiday for the Walcha Council Local Government Area from 12 noon until 6pm on Friday, 4 February 2022 and Friday, 3 February 2023 for the Walcha Races; 2. SURVEY the community and key stakeholders directly after the 2022 & 2023 Part Day Public Holiday to ascertain their success.	GM	201221 Oct 2022 Feb 2023 May 2023 July 2023		Sent application to Industrial Relations for Part Day Public Holiday – 08112021 Diarise to survey the community and key stakeholders in March 2022 & 2023. – Not completed in March 2022. Update: view is to survey as a component of community consultation re financial sustainability. Unable to undertake review through this process – separate survey to be undertaken in the new year. Survey will be available by 1 June.

Ordinary – 24 November 2021

85/20212022	6.2 Customer Charter WINT/2021/09573 that Council ADOPT the Customer Charter as presented.	DCC	June 2023	As per resolution – Charter was adopted in 2021 however the current format is not fit for purpose and it was not rolled out to staff.	Update customer charter for February 2022 Council meeting. ELT workshop prior. Submitting to June 2023 Ordinary Meeting.
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Ordinary – 16 February 2022

127/20212022	Item: 4.2.12 – Constructive Solutions Update that Council maintain a Contractor Register which is to be regularly updated FURTHER THAT the Director of Infrastructure is to create End of Project Completion Report to include comments on contractor performance.	DI DID	30062022 31032023 July 2023	As per resolution	Engineering team is working on improving all end-of-project functions, including contractor performance and capitalisation. July 2023
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Ordinary – March 2022

156/20212022	10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Capital Advisory Committee Meeting held on	DID	TBA	As per resolution	Project will require a variation approval to proceed.
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	<p>Thursday 17 February 2022 WO/2022/00501 4.2.3 Sgt Andrew Russell Bridge Naming that Council retain Sergeant Andrew Russell Bridge as the name for the new / replacement bridge and relocate the existing memorials closer to the new bridge.</p>				
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Ordinary – 29 June 2022

226/20212022	<p>3.2 Relocation of "The Mother" Sculpture that Council APPROVE relocating the sculpture "The Mother" to the Southern End of Middle Street (near to Nivisons Look Out).</p>	DID	15072022 Dec 2023	Schedule the relocation of sculpture as per resolution.	Following Arts Advisory Committee meeting in August, Council awaiting advice from Stephen King and James Rogers to proceed. Due to be complete by End Dec 2023
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Ordinary – 26 October 2022

65/20222023	<p>6.1 Alcohol Free Zone Walcha Proposal & Alcohol Prohibited Area McHattan Park Proposal Submissions WO/2022/03018 that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE the completion of the consultation period for the proposed Alcohol Free Zone and Alcohol Prohibited Area and consider submissions received during the period. APPROVE the proposal with the following amendments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> that Hamilton Street, between Derby Street and South Street be added to the Alcohol Free Zone Walcha Proposal; 	DID	June 2023 July 2023	As per resolution plus order signs and erect them	Waiting on signage to be delivered and installed. Installation to be completed by June 2023 Signage to be installed by End July 23
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	b) that 1W-5W Fitzroy Street be exempt from the proposed Alcohol Free Zone during opening hours of the Taphouse and under the condition that only alcohol purchased directly from the Taphouse be consumed at this location and in accordance with current liquor requirements for this premises.				
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Ordinary – 30 November 2022

87/20222023	<p>6.3 Waiving of After Hours Pool Hire Fees – All bookings for 2022 – 2023 Season WO/2022/03367</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> APPROVE waiving the After Hours Pool Hire Fees for the 2022 – 2023 season in all circumstances, providing that those using the pool are still paying their entry fees as normal, and there is a booking made with a minimum of 20 users; ENSURE user groups have adequate notification before the next season should the After Hours Pool Hire Fee remain in the 2023 – 2024 Fees & Charges; REVIEW the Learn to Swim Assistance Policy prior to setting the 2023 – 2024 Fees & Charges. 	DID	22122022 30062023	<p>Advise Walcha Flippers Swimming Club & Schools</p> <p>Diarise notification communication for April 2023 (or earlier)</p> <p>Diarise Review of Policy</p>	Fees to be reviewed as part of 2023/2024 Fees & Charges
90/20222023	<p>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</p> <p>Clr Schaefer left the Chambers and took no part in the debate at 03:50pm.</p> <p>7.1 Notice of Motion Number: 26: Business Plan for Proposed Developers of</p>	DID / GM	DEC2023	As per resolution	CoREM have formed a Board of which Mayor Noakes is a member. A Charter is being developed and a Statement of

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	<p>Renewable Energy Projects WO/2022/03423</p> <p>Motion: It was MOVED Councillor Berry Seconded Councillor Kermode that Council ACKNOWLEDGE the Survey results from Voice for Walcha and DEVELOP a Strategic Business Plan for all proposed Developments of Renewable Energy Projects informed by the work of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM).</p> <p>Amendment: An Amendment was MOVED Councillor Hicks Seconded Councillor Reilly that Council DEVELOP a Strategic Business Plan for all proposed Developments of Renewable Energy Projects informed by the work of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM).</p> <p>Division of Voting: For: Hicks Pointing and Reilly Against: Berry Noakes and Kermode. 90 The Original Motion became the Substantive Motion and was put to the VOTE and CARRIED.</p>				Expectations of which will inform Council's Strategic Business Plan.
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Ordinary – 14 December 2022

111/20222023	4.2.1 South Street Pedestrian Crossing that Council APPROVE the South Street Pedestrian Project pending availability of grant funding.	DID	June 2024	Search for funding for project	LRCI Funding Round 4 Review June 2024
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Ordinary – 22 February 2023

CC12/20222023	<p>3.1 New England Weeds Authority WINT/2023/01053 <i>that Council DEFER the New England Weeds Authority Report, to no later than April 2023 Council Meeting, pending further information.</i></p>	GM	14042023 31072024	As per resolution	Review July 2024
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Ordinary – 29 March 2023

138/20222023	<p>6.5 Subdivision of Council Land for Housing Purposes WO/2023/00487 that Council APPROVE a budget of \$5,000, from the Project Development Fund, for the investigation of Lot 20 Sec 1 DP 759035, Lot 25 DP 264515 and Pt Lot 11 DP 1270896 (Site A) for suitability for a residential housing subdivision and report back to Council regarding the outcome.</p>	DCC	12042023	As per resolution	Soil Report has been received and a review of results with contract planner and examination of development options will now occur with a subsequent report to be prepared for Council
140/20222023	<p>LATE REPORTS: 1. Suggestions Received for Naming of Walcha Rose Garden WO/2023/00495 that Council ENDORSE the following Rose Garden Name suggestions to place on a Survey for Public determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Walcha Rose Garden; ■ Charles Erratt Rose Garden; ■ Olga Lisle Rose Garden; ■ Bev Betts Rose Garden. 	EA	28042023	Create public survey FB post and website Actively circulate survey Place in Apsley Advocate advising link and QR code for survey – place hardcopy vote at Council Offices	Survey created and placed on website and FB post. Built Posters with QR Code for Library, front counter, post office, VIC front window and Rose Garden itself. ON TARGET - COMPLETED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4.2.1 Library Public Infrastructure Grant 	DCC / MCT	Sept 2023	Submit application August/September 2023	

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	That Council APPROVE the Library Infrastructure Grant Project application.				
	<p>■ 4.2.3 Electrical upgrade of 6W Hamilton Street Walcha – Carlec Auto Electrician</p> <p>That an additional quote be obtained for this work and a report be prepared for Council.</p>	DCC / MCT	19042023	Prepare as per resolution – April Ordinary Meeting	Currently awaiting quotations

ExtraOrdinary – 19 April 2023

CC17/20222023	<p>3.2 Tender W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal Construction only – Update WINT/2023/01898</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SELECT Convic Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer for Tender No. W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal – Construction; UNDERTAKE post-tender negotiations with Convic in regards to scope and schedule; SUBMIT variation request to funding body in regards to price and schedule; CONSIDER tender award at future Council meeting with additional funding sources identified and confirmed. 	DID	July 2023	As per resolution	For further report at July 2023 Council meeting
CC18/20222023	<p>3.3 Tender W21/67 Fixing Country Bridges Round 1: Design and Construction of Army, Winterbourne and</p>	DID	Aug 2023	As per resolution	Review Aug 2023 – pending revised funding request

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<p>Mooraback Bridges – Award Tender WINT/2023/01897 that Council AWARD Tender No.: W21/67 Design and Construction of Army, Winterbourne and Mooraback Bridges to Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$4,343,241 GST exclusive SUBJECT to a successful grant funding variation approval from Transport for NSW.</p>				
CC19/20222023	<p>3.4 Planning Agreements for Renewable Energy Developments WO/2023/00585 that Council: 1. AUTHORISE the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate Planning Agreements under the provisions of Section 7.4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, for developer contributions for renewable energy developments affecting Walcha Council Local Government Area whereby: a) The developer contribution over the estimated life of the project is circa 1.5% of the Capital Investment Value (CIV) of the renewable energy development and;</p>	GM	300823	As per resolution	Preferred legal representation chosen with consultation with Uralla Shire Council – Walcha Council to take lead on the engagement. Allocation of \$25K in budget for upper fee limit for works.

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	<p>b) <i>The developer contribution is allocated via the General Fund to infrastructure, services or other public amenities in accordance with the Operational Plan;</i></p> <p>2. SEEK legal review of each draft Planning Agreement before presentation to Council for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition prior to finalisation;</p> <p>3. AUTHORISE the Mayor and General Manager to seek a Planning Agreement with Winterbourne Wind consistent with the above to replace their current community contribution scheme.</p>				
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Ordinary – 26 April 2023

155/20222023	<p>6.1 Draft Walcha Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan & Draft Walcha 7.12 Contribution Plan WO/2023/00645</p> <p>that Council:</p> <p>1. ACCEPT the <i>Draft Walcha Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan</i> and the <i>Draft Walcha Section 7.12 Contribution Plan</i>;</p> <p>2. PRIOR to Public Exhibition PREPARE a suitable Work Schedule for inclusion in</p>	DID		As per resolution	
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	<p>the <i>Draft Walcha Section 7.12 Contribution Plan</i>;</p> <p>3. PLACE the <i>Draft Walcha Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan</i> & the <i>Draft Walcha Section 7.12 Contribution Plan</i> on public exhibition for a period of 28 days;</p> <p>4. IF no submissions are received, GIVE delegation to the General Manager to ADOPT the <i>Draft Walcha Section 7.11 (Heavy Haulage) Contribution Plan</i> and the <i>Draft Walcha Section 7.12 Contribution Plan</i> on behalf of Council.</p>				Placed on Public Exhibition – website from 08052023 and in Advocate: 10052023 – Public exhibition closes: 09062023
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Extra Ordinary – 17 May 2023

162/20222023	<p>1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: A verbal Leave of Absence request was received by the Mayor from Clr KW Ferrier. that the Leave of Absence received from Clr Ferrier, being personal reasons, be ACCEPTED.</p>	EA		Noted in Minutes	COMPLETED
165/20222023	<p>4.1 DRAFT 2023-2024 Operational Plan for Public Exhibition WO/2023/00811</p> <p>that Council:</p> <p>1. PLACE the proposed Draft 2023-2024 Operational Plan inclusive of the draft</p>	EA		Place on public exhibition – website and Advocate	Apsley Advocate 31052023 & 14062023

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	<p>budget, fees and charges and revenue policy, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with Section 404 and 405 of the <i>Local Government Act, 1993</i>; and</p> <p>2. REQUEST a further report to be submitted at the completion of the public exhibition period detailing any submissions received during the exhibition or any minor changes are proposed for Council's consideration and final adoption.</p>	DID		Report to Council in June 2023	Website: 19052023
	<p>4.2 Survey Results – Naming of Walcha Rose Garden WO/2023/00763</p> <p>166 RESOLVED on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Schaefer that Council:</p> <p>1. NOTE the Report; and</p> <p>2. ENDORSE the community vote of naming the Rose Garden "Bev Betts Rose Garden".</p>	EA DID	14062023	EA – check with Betts Family to see what they would like on the signage at Rose Garden ie: "Bev or Beverley Betts Rose Garden" DID – ensure sign is ordered with correct name for installation timing with completion of Rose Garden Project.	Spoken to both – will follow up by 14 June – then will advise DID Delayed due to unable to contact one of the family at the moment. Review 03072023

Extra Ordinary – 17 May 2023

167/20222023	<p>1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: that the Leave of Absence received from Clr Reilly, being a personal commitment, be ACCEPTED.</p>	EA	09062023	Update and note in minutes Scan and upload to CM9 the LoA	COMPLETED 01062023
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
168/20222023	<p><u>2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023:</u></p> <p><u>CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023:</u></p> <p>that under Section 13.1 of the Walcha Council Code of Meeting Practice Council ADOPT the following items in bulk:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 26 April 2023, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a TRUE record. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2023, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a TRUE record. 	EA	09062023	Place on website Update Action list with actionable resolutions/tasks Update Resolution Register Send Action List to Directors & GM	On website 05062023 Action List updated 05062023 Resolution Register Completed 09062023 Sent 05062023 COMPLETED 05062023
	<p><u>4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>Item 6.3 Motor Vehicle Policy</p> <p>Clr Kermode declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest and will leave the Chambers due to his wife being a Council employee who has a Council owned motor vehicle.</p>	EA	09062023	Scan and save forms in CM9 Update Disclosure Register.	COMPLETED 01062023

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Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<p>Item 7.1 Notice of Motion – Request from Voice for Walcha</p> <p>Clr Schaefer declared a Non-Pecuniary Non-Significant interest and will remain in the Chambers due to being a host landowner in Winterbourne Wind and a Director and Shareholder in Walcha Wind. His explanation is as per the State Environmental Planning Policy: <i>“Section 11 Exclusion of application of development control plans Development control plans (whether made before or after the commencement of this Policy) do not apply to-</i> (a) State significant development.</p>				
172/20222023	<p>6.1 Quarterly Budget Review Statements as at 30 March 2023 WO/2023/00887</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ADOPT the March 2023 Quarterly Budget Review Statements; and APPROVE the variation in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed in this report. 	DCC	01062023		COMPLETED
173/20222023	<p>6.2 Council Facilities Opening Hours Review WO/2023/00899</p> <p>that Council:</p>	GM DCC DID	09062023	Noted by GM DCC to advertise new Opening Hours and when they	Notice of Front Door 19062023

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Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> APPROVE the change in face-to-face opening hours for Council's Administration Building from 8:30am – 5:00pm to 9:00am – 4:30pm weekdays, with phone service continuing unchanged from 8:30am – 5:00pm. APPROVE the new season 2023-2024 operating hours for the Walcha Swimming Pool. 			<p>commence – notice on doors as well.</p> <p>DID – Ensure new Pool hours for 2023-3024 are advertised.</p>	
174/20222023	<p>6.3 Motor Vehicle Policy WO/2023/00885</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ENDORSE the updated Light Vehicle Fleet Policy (previously named Motor Vehicle Leaseback Policy & Procedure) as presented. REPEAL Motor Vehicle Leaseback Policy & Procedure. REPEAL Staff Vehicles Policy. 	EA	16062023	As per resolution	COMPLETED
175/20222023	<p>6.4 Concealed Water Leak Policy WO/2023/00888</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ENDORSE the Draft Concealed Water Leak Policy and PLACE on public exhibition for 28 days; ADOPT the Concealed Water Leak Policy as presented subject to no submissions 	EA	<p>05062023</p> <p>07072023</p>	<p>Place on public exhibition until 07072023.</p> <p>No submissions – re-save with resolution number etc.</p>	<p>Advertisement: WO/23/965</p> <p>Advocate: 07062023 & 14062023</p> <p>Website from 05062023</p> <p>PO sent to Telecottage 05062023</p>

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	received during the public exhibition period; and 3. AUTHORISE the General Manager under Delegation to administer the <i>Concealed Water Leak Policy</i> .		July 2023	Add to GM's delegations	
176/20222023	6.5 Australian Motor Sports Action Group Walcha Car Rally 14 October 2023 that pending support from affected residents, Council APPROVE the use of Council owned roads for the Australian Motor Sports Action Group (AMSAG) Walcha Rally to be held in Walcha on Saturday 14 October 2023.	GM	TBA	Council will be notified by AMSAG when they have the support from affected residents that the Rally is going ahead.	COMPLETED
CC26/20222023	3.1 Award Tender W22/226 – Aerodrome Access Road and Runway Rehabilitation WINT/2023/02605 that Council AWARD Tender No. W22/226 – Aerodrome Access Road and Runway Rehabilitation to Aitken Civil Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$809,222.00 GST inclusive.	DID	09062023	As per resolution	COMPLETED
CC27/20222023	3.2 Award Tender W22/219 – Walcha Pathways Design and Preparation of Construction Contract WINT/2023/02606 that Council AWARD Tender No. W22/2219 – Walcha Pathways Design and Preparation	DID	09062023	As per resolution	COMPLETED

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<i>of Construction Tender Documents to King & Campbell for the lump sum of \$159,650.00 GST exclusive.</i>				
CC28/20222023	<p>3.3 Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Recruitment / Membership WINT/2023/00892</p> <p>that Council APPOINT Mr Les Hullick and Ms Meredith Caelli as independent members of the Walcha Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee for an initial term of four (4) years in conjunction with Uralla Shire Council who appointed the same in their May Ordinary Council Meeting.</p>	DCC	09062023	As per resolution and advise independent members of their appointment Liaise with USC and Chair of ARIC to organise first meeting	COMPLETED



9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2023/01041

Responsible Executive: Director Infrastructure & 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 Infrastructure & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

1. Development & Construction

Development Statistics 2022-2023	DAs	CCs	CDCs
Number Determined – As at 31.5.2023	34	6	8
Estimated Development Value – 30.4.2023	\$4,965,563	\$227,000	\$130,000

1.1 Determinations Issued

May 2023				
Development Applications				
Number	Description	Address	Determination	Assessment Days
10.2022.27.3	New dwelling	3304 Niangala Road Walcha	Approved Under Delegated Authority	1
10.2022.24	New dwelling	483 Aberbaldie Road Walcha	Approved Under Delegated Authority	13
Construction Certificates				
Number	Description	Address	Determination	
11.2023.3	Alterations & additions	10E North Street Walcha	Approved Under Delegated Authority	
11.2022.15	Carport	15N Towers Street Walcha	Approved Under Delegated Authority	



Complying Development Certificates			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
18.2023.3	Shed	179W North Street Walcha	Approved Under Delegated Authority
18.2023.1	Garage	106N Meridian Street Walcha	Approved Under Delegated Authority

Note: Assessment Days is the assessment day count, and does not include referral days (concurrency State Agency assessment period) and the period where additional information has been requested and not provided.

1.2 Development Applications Outstanding

As at 1.6.2023	
Under Assessment:	4
On Notification	-
Additional Information Requested	1
Waiting on State Agency Comment	-
Waiting on Fee Payment	1
Total	6

1.3 Certificates & Advice

May 2023			
Number Issued	2021-22	2022-23	Current Period
Occupation Certificates	15	10	-
Subdivision Certificates	7	4	-
Planning Certificates	135	300	22
Building Information Certificates	1	2	-
Outstanding Notices Orders Certificates	18	11	5
Bushfire Attack Level Certificates	-	-	-
Dwelling Entitlement Advice	10	-	-

1.4 Compliance Inspections for DAs, CCs and CDCs

As both planning and building certification has now been contracted out. This information could not be collated as per previous reports. The reason being the change in department structure. It is intended to modify this report over the next quarter, further addressing this.

2. Environment & Regulation

2.1 Section 68 Activities

May 2023	2021-22	2022-23	Current Period
Number Issued	50	32	2



2.2 Compliance Inspections for Section 68 Activities

As both planning and building certification has now been contracted out. This information could not be collated as per previous reports. The reason being the change in department structure. It is intended to modify this report over the next quarter, further addressing this.

2.3 Public Health Activities

May 2023			
Compliance Inspections & Reports Issued	2021-22	2022-23	Current Period
On-Site Sewage Management Systems	2	5	-
Food Premises	22	15	5
Private Swimming Pools	-	-	-
Fire Safety Schedules	1	-	-
Skin Penetration Procedure Premises	-	-	-
Advertisements / Advertising Structures (incl. sandwich boards)	1	-	-

3. Animal Control

Companion Animal Registrations 2022-2023								
	Desexed	Non Desexed	Pensioner Desexed	Pound Purchase Desexed	Cat Desexed	Under 6 Months	Working/ Recognised Breeder	Value
Jul	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	\$234
Aug	1	1	2	1	-	-	4	\$625
Sep	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	\$29
Oct	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	\$483
Nov	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	\$207
Dec	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	\$414
Jan	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	\$98
Feb	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	\$167
Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apr	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	\$69
May							2	-
Total	6	2	4	2	1	0	20	\$2326

Companion Animal Seizures 2022-2023						
	Seized	Surrendered	Released	Rehomed	Euthanised	Stolen/ Escaped
Jul	1	-	-	-	-	-
Aug	3	2	3	2	-	-
Sep	2	-	1	1	-	-
Oct	2	1	-	1	1	-
Nov	8	7	1	5	2	-
Dec	-	1	-	1	-	-



Jan	9	9	-	3	6	-
Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar	7	3	1	3		
Apr	11	1	1		9	
May	4		1		3	
Total	47	24	8	16	21	-

Companion Animal Ranger Services 2022-2023				
	Dog Attack Investigation	Roaming Dogs	Roaming Cats	Barking Dogs
Jul	3	3	2	5
Aug	1	2	1	5
Sep	-	4	3	8
Oct	2	1	2	0
Nov	1	4	1	1
Dec	-	1	-	1
Jan	1	5	2	2
Feb	1	7	2	2
Mar	1	3	1	5
Apr		7	10	3
May	2	5	3	0
Total	12	42	27	32

4. Planning Policy

4.1 Amendment to Walcha Local Environmental Plan – Employment Zones

Update – Resolution 2022/144 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held 30 March 2022

The NSW Planning and Environment have advised that the proposed amendment to the Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 to;

- a) Change the zone names of
 - i. B2 Local to E1 Local Centre
 - ii. IN1 General Industrial to E4 General Industrial
 - iii. B4 Mixed Use to MU2 Mixed Use
- b) Business identification sign, home business, home industry and recreation area as defined in the Standard Instrument is to be Permitted Without Consent in the E1 Local Centre Land Use Table
- c) Business identification signs as defined in the Standard Instrument is to be Permitted With Consent in the MU1 Mixed Use and E4 General Industrial Land Use Table
- d) Pond and tank based aquaculture as defined in the Standard Instrument is as Permitted With Consent in the E1 Local Centre, E4 General Industrial and MU1 Mixed Use zones Land Use Tables
- e) Local distribution premises as defined in the Standard Instrument as Permitted With Consent in all zones Land Use Tables



Amending SI LEP Order

The Amendment Order is intended to make a number of changes to the Order including amending the repeal of the business and industrial zones until 26 April 2023 to coincide with the commencement date for Local Environmental Plan (LEP) amendments. Other changes include modifications to objectives and land uses to address matters raised in submissions, as well as comprehensive savings and transitional provisions as previously outlined.

Housekeeping SEPP

DPE identified the need for a housekeeping SEPP which was made in February 2023. The primary purpose of the Housekeeping SEPP amended mapping and included any undrafted consequential amendments. It commenced **26 April 2023**.

Council Action

Council will write to all affected landowners, advising the changes to their property land use zone, as per the request of DPE at that time.

4.2 Section 7.12 Contribution Plans

Update – Resolution 2022/67 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held 31 March 2022

The plan was drafted for consideration at Ordinary Meeting of Council held 14 December 2022. *Resolution 99/2022 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held 14 December 2022*

The consideration of the draft Walcha Section 7.12 Plan was deferred until 2025-2026 budget considerations.

Resolution 155/2023 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held 26 April 2023 – Accept draft 7.11 (Heavy haulage) and 7.11 Plan for public exhibition.




These documents are currently on public exhibition from 10 May 2023 until 9 June 2023.



5. Capital Works Update

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

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

Capital Works Delivery Update

Project	Council PM	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Current Schedule Milestone	Milestone Date	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
LOCAL ROADS												
Middle Street Rehab	WF	Fixing Local Roads R2 - minus kerb and gutter	\$ 565,586	Nov-21	Jun-24	\$ 18,766			Pub RFT			Variation request approved Complete design and scope for RFT
Walsh Street Rehab	WF	Fixing Local Roads R2 - minus kerb and gutter	\$ 403,336	Jan-22	Jun-24	\$ 17,062			Pub RFT			
Aberbaldie Road Rehab	JM	Rehabilitation of Segment 30 - Fixing Local Roads R3	\$ 703,384	Oct-22	Dec-23	\$ -			Pub RFT			The Department have provided extensions for all rounds of the Fixing Local Roads program. Aberbaldie Road Rehab and Forest Way will be pushed to end of 2023.
Forest Way Phase 2	JM	3.6km of sealing, culvert and drainage works on Forest Way - Fixing Local Roads R3	\$ 841,407	Oct-22	Dec-23	\$ -			Pub RFT			Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and conduct in-house survey & design Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and organise construction.
Three Causeways	PF	Rehabilitation works for 2 causeways on Old Brookmount Rd, and Hazeldean Road.	\$ 427,000	Jun-23	Jun-23	\$ 40,000			Pub RFT			Prep D&C Construction tender advertised by 17 March 23. EOT approved for additional 12m. May 23. Design fell short of expectations, develop D&C RFT
Walcha Aerodrome	PF	Seal existing access, Elec supply improvements, regravell existing runway	\$ 1,610,000	Oct-22	Oct-23	\$ 8,187		Additional milestone request sent to the funding body to reduce the amount of WIP for the project.	DEL			RFQ for Elect work awarded and underway RFT for runway & road complete pending council approval Delivery post award
Kerb and Gutter Tender	JM	Several identified areas of kerb and gutter replacement to be packaged together in a single tender. Incl. Middle Street, Walsh Street, North Street.	\$ 595,250	Mar-22	May-23	\$ -		Works are grant funded from various sources - FLR2, LRC13. No previously unfunded works - i.e. not additional to 2022/23 budget.	DEL			Works underway, delays due to RTI with kerb profile tooling. Final delivery
BRIDGES												
Army Bridge	WF		\$ 2,050,850		Dec-23	\$ 147,997		The tendered price is above current Funding and a variation will be required from FCB.	Eval RFT			Deliver post approval
Winterbourne Bridge	WF		\$ 643,104		Dec-23	\$ 55,648			Eval RFT			
Mooraback Bridge	WF		\$ 526,680		Dec-23	\$ 45,774			Eval RFT			
Tia Diggings Bridge 1	WF		\$ 580,000	Jun-23	Apr-23	\$ 59,229		Awarded tender on budget, but with no contingency.	DEL			Completion June Final delivery
Tia Diggings Bridge 2	WF		\$ 553,000	Jun-23	Apr-23	\$ 57,343			DEL			
Niangala Bridge	WF		\$ 655,000	Jun-23	May-23	\$ 72,789			DEL			
Boxley Bridge	PF		\$ 979,000	Aug-24	Aug-24	\$ -		Funding received via Fixing Country Bridges Round 2B, two other bridges unsuccessful	DEL			Deed Executed Geotech and REF to be completed by end June 2023
STATE ROADS												
Oxley Highway - 2022/2023 Routine Maintenance	JM	Annual routine maintenance	\$ 585,000		Jun-23	\$ 188,144			DEL			Routine road maintenance works continuing. Minor pavement patch scoping in progress. Undertaking Pothole patching, inspections, guideposts, etc.
REGIONAL ROADS												
Rehabilitation of Walcha Township Approaches - Derby Street - (Segments 4710 and 4720)	AB	Rehabilitation, drainage, service replacement, kerb and gutter, parking, sealing	\$ 6,960,000	Jun-22	Jun-24	\$ 394,738			DEL			RFT awarded to Collins Williams, contract start meeting conducted, tight program with zero time contingency currently Design, Survey & Geo. Tender for construction Oct 23.

Capital Works Delivery Update													
Project	Council PM	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Current Schedule Milestone	Milestone Date	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
WATER, WASTEWATER & WASTE													
Walcha Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RP		\$ 1,800,000		Jun-23	\$ 1,716,831	Insufficient funds to complete the sludge lagoon Refirb (\$36k)		Eval RFQ			Planning work underway to carry out work By Sept 23	1. Deliver remaining scope item
Walcha Off Creek Storage	AB		\$ 11,000,000	Dec-22	Sep-23	\$ 4,156,210	Next milestone claimed with the completion of Package 1. milestone claim \$2.5M		DEL			1. Package 1 complete 2. Switchboard package RFQ awarded 3. Fabrication RFT advertised closing July 2023 4. Final design Package 4 months behind schedule	Complete Design package and publish RFT's and RFQ's
Walcha Waste Strategy 2025	AB				Apr-23				DEL	Apr-23		Council report for public exhibition June 2023	Adoption and roll out in July 23
John Oxley Sewer Extension	RP	Construction of new SPS at John Oxley Oval, and sewer connection to existing network	\$ 760,541	TBD	TBD	\$ -			Pub RFT			Develop RFT for D&C, Survey works underway	Publish RFT
Water Meter Replacement	RP		\$ 350,000	TBD	TBD	\$ -	No current Budget		Fund RQ			Works cannot proceed until funding secured.	1. Council seeking new source of funding via National Water Grid Connections Funding Pathway 2. Murry Darling Funding Pathway being investigated
Sewer Smoke Testing	RP		\$ 90,000		Jun-23	\$ -	On Track		DEL			Works Complete	Provide EPA with outcome reporting to discharge licence action.
COMMUNITY PROJECTS													
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - Walcha Pool	WF	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 566,087		Oct-23	\$ 58,700	There is not enough money to complete all works identified in condition report, so works will need to be prioritised		Pub RFQ			John Oxley - Works Awarded	RFT for Pool Amenities being reworked and advertised
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - John Oxley Oval	PF	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 130,420		Sep-23	\$ 710			Pub RFQ			John Oxley - Works Awarded	RFT for Pool Amenities being reworked and advertised
Walcha Swimming Pool Refurbishment	PF	Further upgrade of Walcha Swimming Pool via BLER Grant	\$ 1,100,000	Oct-22	Oct-23	\$ 183,718	There is not enough money to complete all works identified in condition report, so works will need to be prioritised		Pub RFT				Tender closed Split up scope items amenities, leakage, safety & compliance. Revisit RFQ & RFT to deliver Request Variation for EOT and funds (\$1.7M)
Renew Walcha Skate Park	WF	New skate park facilities, new fence for John Oxley Oval, CCTV	\$ 966,964		Jun-23	\$ 380,977	tender price is above current funding and a variation will be required. Also a variation of time will be requested from BLERF		Eval RFT			100% Detailed Design delivered. Fence installation completed. CCTV cameras are operating.	Looking to utilise Aerodrome funding surplus to cover shortfall. Project to be split into phase 1 & 2. revised RFT update being requested from suppliers and variation approval to funding body Due for submitting 30 June 2023.
Nowendoc Hall	KN	Replacement of water tanks, provision of disabled car park.	\$ 88,261	Sep-23	Sep-23	\$ 5,700			DEL			Delivery	Delivery

Capital Works Delivery Update

Project	Council P/M	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Current Schedule Milestone	Milestone Date	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
Pathways Project - Town	PF	Construction of various connecting pathways in Walcha	\$ 654,465	Mar-24	Mar-24	\$ 3,593			DEL			Awarded	Delivery of design
Pathways Project - Darjeeling	PF	Construction of pathway from Lions Park to John Oxley Oval	\$ 1,324,455	Mar-24	Mar-24	\$ 3,389			DEL			Awarded	Delivery of design
Pathways Project - Summervale	PF	Construction of pathway from Walcha to Summervale	\$ 1,750,254	Nov-24	Nov-24	\$ 4,428			DEL			Awarded	Delivery of design
Rose Garden	WF	Rock wall and post and rail fence surrounding the rose garden	\$ 45,000	Jun-23	Jun-23	\$ 21,018			DEL			Constructions of rock mowing strip in place of post and rail fence complete	Timber arbour to be completed (final item)
TOTAL			\$ 39,305,044			\$ 7,619,933							



9.3 CORPORATE & COMMUNITY:

Ref: WO/2023/00962

Responsible Executive: Director Corporate & Community

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.

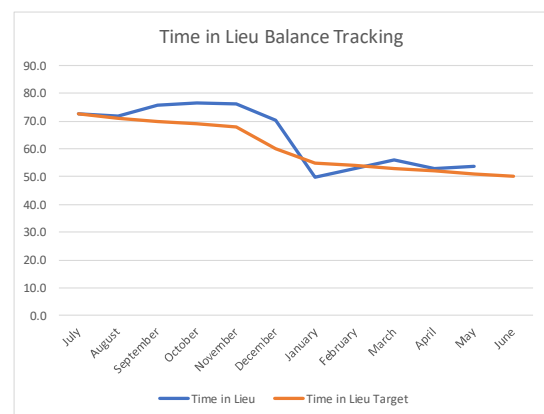
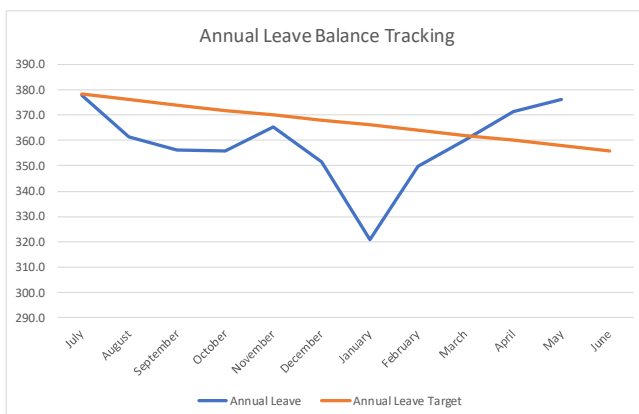
RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Corporate & Community Management Review Report be NOTED by Council.

Corporate and Finance

The purpose of this report is to provide confidence to Council that corporate and financial risk are being managed on a monthly basis by improving visibility of key performance indicators. This report also provides an overview of the monthly operations of the Community Services and Tourism areas of Council.

1. Walcha Council Leave Balances

Directorate	MAY 2023			JUNE 2022			Comments/Reduction Strategy
	Annual Leave Weeks	RDO Weeks	Time in Lieu Weeks	Annual Leave Weeks	RDO Weeks	Time in Lieu Weeks	
Office of the General Manager (14)	109	5	3	102	6	9	Increase in office shutdown has brought leave balances down and is one step to managing Council's leave liability. Leave balances have reduced over the Christmas break however ongoing work is needed to manage balances. A council leave policy will assist with this.
Infrastructure (45)	216	5	45	218	4	58	
Planning & Development (3)	23	2	0	25	1	0	
Community & Tourism (17)	28	2	5	32	2	5	
Totals	376	13	54	378	13	72	



The above table includes June 2022 as a point of comparison to review the movement on leave balances from the end of the 2022 financial year.



The Rostered Day Off (RDO) and Time in Lieu (TIL) weeks are an issue that must be significantly reduced by Council. TIL incurs the same costs as overtime and is currently the issue most urgent to address with leave.

The executive team is currently looking at how we can address this while continuing to deliver a significant uplift in project activity. One strategy that will be reviewed is moving to preference paid overtime rather than accruing Time In Lieu (TIL) and creating a future resourcing issue with excessive TIL balances.

Leave management plans will be developed with employees holding excess leave including staff with leave including annual leave in excess of 8 weeks of which there are 10 staff members with excess annual leave of 70 weeks. Communication by the General Manager to all staff has informed of the issues and work that will be done.

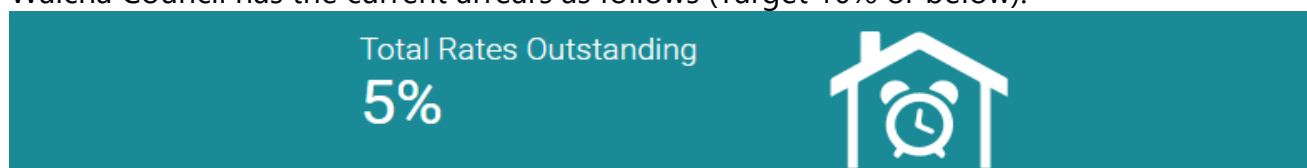
2. Walcha Council Unrestricted Cash Reconciliation

UNRESTRICTED CASH RECONCILIATION		
	May 2023	June 2022
Total Cash & Investments	16,088,694	13,521,720
External Restrictions:		
Contract Liabilities - General Fund	6,338,233	3,025,730
Contract Liabilities - Water Fund	350,977	3,709,846
Specific Purpose Grants	535,643	986,057
Water Fund (interfunding balance)	978,941	701,274
Sewer Fund (interfunding balance)	617,023	502,588
	8,820,816	8,925,495
Internal Allocations	4,344,058	6,684,560
Unrestricted Cash	2,923,820	-2,088,335

Originally unrestricted cash was expected to be in deficit by June 2023 however with significant funding currently being expended Council will not have the resources to complete all own source works resulting in a surplus that would create backlog of works and be spent in future years.

3. Walcha Council Debt Recovery

Walcha Council has the current arrears as follows (Target 10% or below):



Outstanding debtors is trending down steadily as a result active debt collection. A number of rate payers with large water balances are driving up the outstanding percentage in water.



4. Walcha Council Customer Request Management (CRM)

	1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-6 Months to 1 Yr	6 Months +	Total CRM's
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT	18	13	8	2	0	41
ENGINEERING	33	12	6	2	1	54
ADMINISTRATION	0	1	1	1	0	3
Total OPEN CRMS						98

A CRM is created with an incoming request via customer service which is then assigned to the relevant area. The CRM is tracked and provides information including CRM status.



5. Walcha Council Investment Report

REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 31 MAY 2023

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 #
nab	TD	4/01/2023	152	5/06/2023	4.15%	539,035.34	9,315.71	548,351.05	7,446.63		4.13%	972272676
nab	TD	5/12/2022	182	5/06/2023	4.10%	503,797.27	10,299.55	514,096.82	3,797.27		3.86%	486916667
CommonwealthBank	TD	15/12/2022	180	13/06/2023	4.20%	1,060,525.73	21,965.96	1,082,491.69	11,450.73		8.12%	37844807
nab	TD	7/02/2023	150	7/07/2023	4.10%	563,738.99	9,498.61	573,237.60	8,929.60		4.32%	872609622
CommonwealthBank	TD	15/02/2023	152	17/07/2023	4.45%	507,821.33	9,410.69	517,232.02	7,821.33		3.89%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	23/02/2023	151	24/07/2023	4.47%	510,996.19	9,449.51	520,445.70	10,996.06		3.91%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	27/01/2023	180	26/07/2023	4.42%	613,619.11	13,375.22	626,994.33	11,038.76		4.70%	37844807
nab	TD	4/08/2022	365	4/08/2023	3.70%	623,670.24	23,075.79	646,746.03	1,355.46		4.77%	416873585
nab	TD	6/04/2023	120	4/08/2023	4.38%	1,000,000.00	14,400.00	1,014,400.00	-		7.66%	305170588
CommonwealthBank	TD	23/02/2023	180	22/08/2023	4.59%	510,996.19	11,566.71	522,562.91	10,996.06		3.91%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	6/03/2023	182	4/09/2023	4.55%	1,017,901.64	23,093.82	1,040,995.46	17,901.64		7.79%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	6/03/2023	182	4/09/2023	4.55%	1,017,901.64	23,093.82	1,040,995.46	17,901.64		7.79%	37844807
nab	TD	16/09/2022	365	16/09/2023	4.20%	255,778.05	10,742.68	266,520.73	1,380.02		1.96%	444927886
nab	TD	6/04/2023	180	3/10/2023	4.40%	1,000,000.00	21,698.63	1,021,698.63	-		7.66%	305028389
nab	TD	6/04/2023	180	3/10/2023	4.40%	1,020,555.89	22,144.67	1,042,700.56	20,555.90		7.81%	485796165
nab	TD	4/10/2022	365	4/10/2023	4.40%	255,017.13	11,220.75	266,237.88	1,446.05		1.95%	919512554
nab	TD	4/05/2023	180	31/10/2023	4.70%	512,087.79	11,869.22	523,957.01	12,087.80		3.92%	488134669
CommonwealthBank	TD	24/04/2023	210	20/11/2023	4.44%	514,953.12	13,154.58	528,107.71	14,953.12		3.94%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	24/04/2023	240	20/12/2023	4.46%	514,953.12	15,101.53	530,054.65	14,953.12		3.94%	37844807
nab	TD	12/01/2023	365	12/01/2024	4.55%	259,517.32	11,808.04	271,325.36	4,547.55		1.99%	919675556
nab	TD	1/03/2023	365	29/02/2024	5.00%	259,243.57	12,962.18	272,205.75	5,515.29		1.98%	917202309
nab	TD					-	-	-	17,493.31	648,718.95	0.00%	918317642
CommonwealthBank	TD					-	-	-	32,829.87	1,030,207.27	0.00%	37844807

Average rate 4.39% **13,062,109.68** **309,247.67** **13,371,357.35** **235,397.21** **1,678,926.22** **100%**

Capital Value of Portfolio	13,062,109.68
Redeemed Value of Portfolio	1,678,926.22
Market Value of Portfolio 31/05/2023	13,371,357.35
Estimated Profit/(Loss) 31/05/2023	309,247.67

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 31/05/2022

Interest Earned YTD	12,166.00
Market Value of Portfolio	6,505,329.00
Average interest rate	0.85%

Interest Earned YTD 30 June 2022	12,517.00
Market Value of Portfolio 30 June 2022	8,505,681.00

Institutional Exposure

	Investment at Market Value	% of Portfolio
CommonwealthBank	6,269,668	48%
nab	6,792,442	52%
	13,062,110	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)



Community Services and Tourism

Current Grants		
Preschool	Community Grants – Increasing ATSI enrolment and engagement	Extension received until 30/6/2023. Contractor has been found and deposit paid for this work. Grant will be acquitted as at 30 June 2023
Tourism	Regional Event Fund	Application submitted for the 2023 Motorcycle Rally \$20,000 Funding of \$15,000 has been requested from Adam Marshall MP
Youth	Youth Opportunities Grant	Project has started
Library	Public Library Infrastructure Grants – <i>open in August 2023</i>	Identified – opportunity to improve the library building and add additional functionality to the space. Quotes are being obtained.
Building Assets	National Housing Infrastructure Facility – <i>now open</i>	Identified – possibility of using this funding and loans scheme to subdivide vacant Council land for residential development.

Operational Overview	
WCCC	Th restructure has been completed, and the bus driver role was made redundant. A new position (Administration Officer) has been created and will be advertised shortly. Meg our trainee has successfully completed her Certificate IV Community Services – congratulations Meg.
Preschool	I am looking into options for a toilet to be installed in the playground. Currently children need to go up to the toilets in the preschool building. Prices have been obtained, and the logistics are being looked at.
Library & Youth	The library is continuing to operate successfully. School holiday planning for the July holidays is underway.



Early Intervention	Management meetings have been held as are required by the NDIS accreditation authority. Numbers are very strong. Rhonda is compiling a list of resources that will be needed, and these will be purchased when funds allow.
Tourism	Tickets are now on sale for the Motorcycle Rally.
Building Assets	Quotes to repair the electricals in the old Council depot have been requested.

Priorities for June/July

- Complete Child Safe Standards training and policy development
- Community Care Recruitment
- Advisory Committee meetings – WCCC, Preschool, Tourism, Motorcycle Rally and Youth

1. Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC)

May 2023

1.1 Groups

Current Client Numbers: 197

May has been a quieter month, with the combination of the cool weather starting to really be felt as well as a lot of staff illness. That being said we still managed to organize a fantastic day out for the women’s group to Tamworth where they shopped until they dropped before a delicious lunch at Centillion Chinese. The men’s group had to be cancelled unfortunately but we will make it up to them in the coming months! Sue’s art class is going from strength to strength and there are no places left. The excitement and creative energy in the rooms during their sessions is infectious.

Both of the morning teas were well attended and we have started to integrate trivia into the chat. Everyone is enjoying arguing over the questions and discussing the answers when they are finally figured out.

Meg took a group out to Gostwyck to see the changing of the leaves. Gostwyck church is always beautiful but it is unmatched at the height of autumn. They took the back roads to the church before having lunch at the Top pub in Uralla and many of the clients that went have come back to mention how much they enjoyed it.

As we come to the end of the financial year we have decided to close our doors for group activities for a couple of weeks (while still operating our transport and Meals on Wheels services). During this time we will be updating the rooms, organising our filing, storage, kitchen and offices and programming for the second half of the year. We have some great things lined up for when we return.



<p>Women's Group 3/5/23- 13 17/5/23- 16</p>	<p>Men's Group 9/5/23- 13 23/5/23- cancelled</p>
<p>Friday Takeaway 5/5/23- 7 12/5/23- 15</p>	<p>Joint Excursion- Gostwyck 2/5/23- 8</p>
<p>Art Group 10/5/23- 9 24/5/23- 9</p>	<p>Bingo 13/5/23- 14 27/5/23- 14</p>



1.2 Transport – May 2023

Medical drives – 47 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

Bus to Armidale (every Thursday)

4/5/23- 6

11/5/23- 6

18/5/23- 8

25/5/23- 7

Taxi Vouchers – 27 clients used the service with 248 trips being provided.

1.3 Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels volunteers are back in place and we now have a completed monthly roster for this. All security check ups (including police checks) are being maintained to ensure they are up to date.

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: 398

- Mains: 215
- Frozen: 109
- Desserts: 74

1.5 Feedback and Complaints

WCCC received a “Thumbs Up” in the Advocate for the Women’s group shopping excursion to Tamworth.

Jess Goodwin
Community Care Coordinator



2. Library and Youth

May 2023

- **Loans: 583**
- **Returns: 656**
- **Reservations placed & issued: 220**
- **New members: 1**
- **Door count: 720**
- **Wi-fi use: 52**
- **Computer use: 87**
- **Housebound: 11**

Other statistics:

- **eLibrary: Borrow Box**
 - **82 users**
 - **204 eAudiobooks**
 - **95 eBooks**

The Walcha Library loans and returns increased from last month. Reservations placed and issued have also increased accordingly. Visitor averages dropped, compared with April's high traffic due to the school holiday crowds. Usage of wifi and public access computers rose compared to previous months. eLibrary usage increased this month with slightly more users, and items borrowed from BorrowBox.

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
- Library staff have been helping to staff the Council run preschool this month, which is helpful to build relationships with children under school age. Library coordinator Cassie, took part in the National Simultaneous Storytime event which was held at the preschool on a Wednesday, however this usually proves difficult with the library being closed on Wednesdays in previous years.

Social media

The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook page has increased slightly this month, with 338 followers. 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 18 posts on the Facebook page, reaching 1406 people. The 4 Instagram posts shared throughout May received 73 'likes'. Library and Youth Instagram has a steady 263 followers.




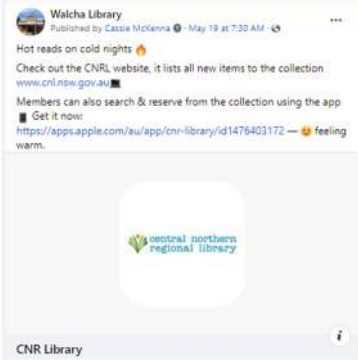

The programs, activities and information shared via Facebook and Instagram this month have been broken into two categories below, Engagement & Service content:

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 10 engagement post	902	55	
Author visit Storytime – share of photos & story about event	173	20	
Instagram story & Share of story on FB: reflecting on Lego Masters workshop held in summer as guests featured on TV show Lego Masters Grand Masters	213	25	
National Reconciliation Week 2023 – share of theme 'Be a voice for generations'	45	10	

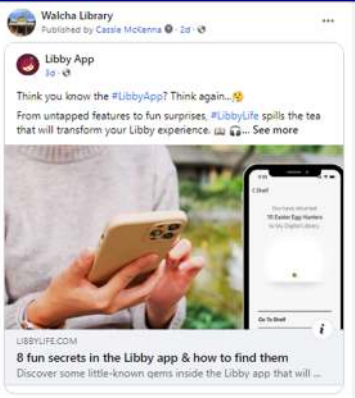



<p>Promotion of NSW Public Libraries Associations newest campaign, 'Birth to Five – Read and Thrive' – with links to the online petition for more funding for early childhood literacy in NSW</p>	<p>60</p>		
<p>Promotion of State Library of NSW 'Law Week' resources "Lunch and the law" session links and dates</p>	<p>60</p>		
<p>Promotion of NSW Youth Advisory Council applications, including online links to apply</p>	<p>244</p>		
<p>RESN HSC study sessions online</p>	<p>107</p>		



Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Total 12 service posts	1224	18	
Advertising the Sydney Writers Festival Live and Local screening at Walcha Library	75 + 72		
Advertise monthly Storytime and Baby Booktime sessions	135 + 91		
Hot reads on cold nights: social media campaign throughout winter, promoting Walcha Library facilities and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website and app - Puzzle Library - State library drug info 'library mocktails' recipe 	60 118 56		 
Friday delivery day promo: - 'New to us' titles (video)	355		
Call for volunteer sewers for Baby's First Library Bag Program 2023	163		



<p>Promotion of eLibrary resources: - Storybox Library with National Reconciliation Week resources - Libby 'how to guide'</p>	<p>34 65</p>	
<p>Walcha Youth Gym Project promotion – photo of equipment being distributed to participants</p>	<p>18</p>	

Programs

This month, library staff have updated puzzle library promotional material including posters, flyers and social media ads. Advertising has started, and will continue over the winter months. A display at the library entrance has helped loans to pick up again this month to a further 7.

Library Volunteer, Veronica, continues to aid at the library on Monday mornings. She is able to assist during the peak item processing times at the library and ensures efficient use of the additional assistance. This month she has also worked on the weeding the collection as well as the usual reservations, returns and home delivery service.

Storytime & Baby Booktime was held at the Library in May, with 19 participants. This included a daycare group, and a number of families with children of different ages. The group read a series of books, sang songs and did a fish counting and craft activity together. There were still a few families who visited the library for their monthly borrowing outside of Storytime, and librarians made time to read to and with the babies to maintain their rapport with the younger readers.

The Central Northern Regional Libraries participated in 'The Sydney Writers Festival' this month, and Walcha joined in for the first time. Streaming the 'Live and local' sessions from the library, Walcha members were able to come along and listen to, and ask questions of the authors on show. Due to a clash with Walcha's 'Biggest morning tea', many bookclub members who wanted to join into this event were unable to attend. The two people who attended enjoyed the opportunity to listen to and ask questions with Australian author Jane Harper.



This month, a display has been set up at the library to promote the Baby's First Library Bag Program. This program enlists the help of volunteer sewers in the community each winter (when the weather calls for indoor activities), to sew library bags which are bundled up with a new boards book and delivered by child health nurses visiting newborn babies. This will be the 4th consecutive year of this program running from Walcha Library, and the library will continue to promote until September, when the collection is sent to the Walcha Hospital child health team. Library staff have noticed recipients from earlier years using the bags they received from this program visiting the library with their families.

Housebound library services were arranged with Riverview twice this month. With April's delivery pushed back to the first week of May, and the May delivery happening in the last week of May, the library was able to check in with their housebound individuals twice this month. Library volunteer once again helped prepare the collection hand-picked for the Riverview residents and a number of housebound individuals.

The Walcha Library Book club, the 'Taphouse' Bookclub and Penny King's Bookclubs held their May meetings with most members in attendance. The Taphouse group had 6 members at the meeting, with 3 new people considering joining this month. The Walcha Library Bookclub held a meeting with 7 in attendance this month, which facilitated some great discussion.

The number of members and visitors using the library facilities for study related purposes increased again this month. The free wifi and study areas have been utilised this month for study, and work purposes. A number of members have used the library for tutoring and group study sessions throughout May also.

Drop in IT support and assistance this month was mostly provided for those using eLibrary apps, with only minimal smart phone and tablet enquiries.

Staff Training

This month, library coordinator Cassie completed an online module with the Niche Academy, which provides public library staff training for those working with homeless people. CNRL have subscribed to this training in order for branch staff to learn more about those in our community effected by trauma. The one hour training this month focussed on 'De-escalation: trauma and the five most important seconds of conflict'.

Youth activities

The Walcha Youth Gym Project has continued this month, with most of the group having their membership and gym access organised, and sessions continuing with the personal trainer. With some members forced to pull out due to change of work commitments, injury & relocation, advertising through the Advocate was used to fill the 5 spaces. Sessions were run, memberships secured and equipment purchased for the project distributed amongst the participants.

With limited staff available for the July school holidays, the NSW Governments Winter Break funding was not sought for the upcoming break. Staff are making use of the resources at hand, and the remaining youth budget to organise a program of activities for the local young people. A technology/STEM activity, some craft workshops, picture plate and dance workshops are being planned alongside the annual NAIDOC Storytime.

Cassie McKenna
Library Coordinator

3. Preschool

May 2023

This month at preschool has been a busy one.

The local fire brigade came to visit and give a talk to the children about fire safety and what do if there was a fire in their house or here at preschool.

One of our parents is a fire fighter in Tamworth so she came along with our local fire fighters to give the talk. The children were given the chance to look in the truck, operate the fire house and check out the uniforms they wear when fighting fires.

This visit was in line with our quarterly evacuation/lockdown drills we are required to undertake and are aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework, **Outcome 2:** Children are connected



with and contribute to their world, Children are able to identify themselves being a part of family and community groups and their contributions to the community. **Outcome 4:** Children are confident and involved learners, gaining the ability to transfer their knowledge from one setting to another, developing symbolic play through these experiences.



We also participated in National Simultaneous story time, which is an Australia wide literacy event where at the same time on the same day the same story is read to children in libraries, schools and other children services across Australia on 24 May at 11:00am. This year the story was The Speedy Sloth by Rebecca Young & Heath McKenzie, which is a fun book with an important message to be proud of your achievements, don't compare yourself to others.

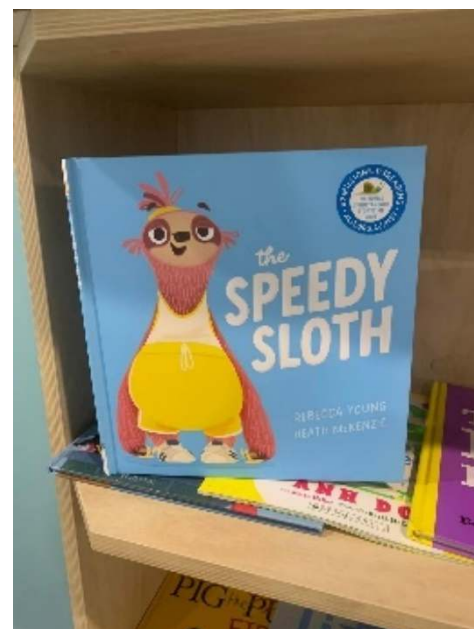
The Educators logged onto the interactive story online using our smart board to listen to the story being read. By participating in this event children are experiencing Learning

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators, engaging with a range of technologies and make meaning using a range of media.

Staffing

This always seems to come up, but happy to say this time we have been able to fill Brianna's position, Sarah Bruce has accepted the position and is fitting in

nicely to the preschool team. Unfortunately, we have had no applications for Emily's Maternity Leave position at this stage but we will keep trying.



Melinda Bird
Preschool Nominated Supervisor



4. Tourism

May 2023

Number of visitors to Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

MAY	2023	2022	2021	2020
Walk in's	446	365	405	Closed due to COVID
Phone enquiries	19	36	35	
Email enquiries	3	7	1	

WEBSITE STATISTICS	May	April	March	February
www.walchansw.com.au				
Total Visits	57,198	20,634	21,017	18,705
Total Pages	242,952	161,661	91,959	247,953
Total Hits	927,233	424,884	397,667	536,198

Statistics comments:

We had great visitation during May, with visitors keen to catch the last of the autumn colour. Notable spikes in website hits coincide with reels posted on social media by Walcha Tourism and Walcha promotion in relevant travel publications. Our top referrer websites are google and the Walcha Motorcycle Rally website, which means visitors are finding our Walcha Tourism website via the Motorcycle Rally website.

Top Referrers			
#	Hits		Referrer
1	113201	12.21%	- (Direct Request)
2	1522	0.16%	https://www.google.com/
3	891	0.10%	https://walchamotorcyclerrally.com.au/
4	528	0.06%	www.google.com
5	507	0.05%	https://www.google.com.au/
6	374	0.04%	https://walchamotorcyclerrally.com.au/where-to-stay-cat/

Australian Geographic

An updated article on Walcha was emailed to the Australian Geographic subscriber base of 80,000 during May. The article refers readers to the Walcha Tourism website and can be viewed at

[A complete guide to Walcha, NSW - Australian Geographic](#)

Insights - Luke Lambley @albertos.travels

Results from travel digital content creator, Luke Lambley's visit in April had a combined total



reach of 51,020. This excellent content on Walcha continues to be viewed and circulated on social media. A breakdown of the results to date is as follows:

@albertos.travels Reels/Carousel	
Combined Reach	18,286
Combined Likes	1,141
Combined Comments	64
Combined Shares	38
Combined Saves	72
@albertos.travels Stories	
Combined Reach	31,419

Total Reach	
Reach/Views	49,705
Interactions	1,315
Combined Total	51,020

SOUNDTRAILS STATISTICS

SOUNDTRAIL NAME	WEBSITE VISITS	OPENS
Apsley Falls - Oxley Wild Rivers NP	11	26
Walcha Sculpture	39	41

SOCIAL MEDIA – WALCHA TOURISM

Statistics from our Walcha Tourism social media pages are as follows:-

Facebook + Instagram Account Insights					
Insight period: 01/05/23 - 31/05/23					
Facebook Followers	Facebook Reach (Organic)	Facebook Post Engagement	Instagram Followers	Instagram Reach (Organic)	Instagram Content Interactions
1,838 <small>Number of accounts that 'follow' this page</small>	7,860 <small>Number of accounts that saw any of our posts at least once</small>	82 <small>Median posts, reactions, comments & shares</small>	918 <small>Number of accounts that follow this account</small>	5,534 <small>Number of accounts that saw any of our posts at least once</small>	1,023 <small>Post likes, comments, saves & shares</small>
Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period
+45	-65%	-3.5%	+38	+321.2%	+82%



Top 3 Performing Posts (by reach) – Facebook

1. @apache_1415 visited Walcha during cycling trip



Posted by
Walcha Tourism

2. Shopping + art in Walcha



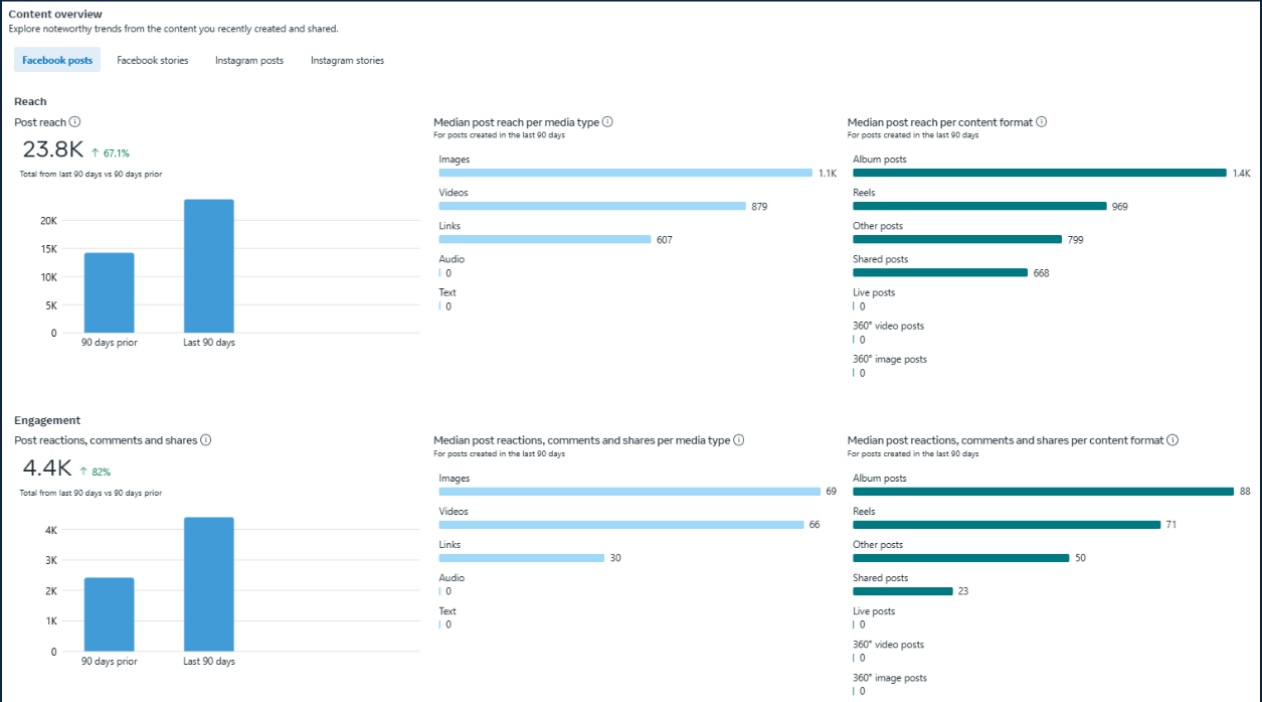
Posted by
EJ Freelance

3. Eat + drink in Walcha



Posted by
EJ Freelance

Facebook Post Insights: Last 90 Days





Total Instagram posts published: 12 (4 by EJ Freelance)

Recent content	Type	Reach	Likes and reacti...	Comments	Shares
This great aerial shot of Walcha tha... Tue May 23, 4:27pm	Reels	3,329	131	9	27
The first frozen morning of the yea... Mon May 8, 3:48pm	Reels	2,090	52	2	18
What is your definition of happines... Mon May 15, 11:03pm	Reels	2,017	80	0	3

Top 3 Performing Posts (by reach) – Instagram

1. Aerial shot of Walcha – Image by @robert_papa_photography

Posted by Walcha Tourism

2. 1st frozen morning of Walcha

Posted by Walcha Tourism

3. What is your definition of happiness? The beauty of Walcha

Posted by Walcha Tourism

Visitor Information Centre – Visitor book comments

Comments from visitors to the Walcha Visitor Information Centre this month include: Absolutely spectacular country/town with best public toilets ever – so clean. Tourist Information Centre is so helpful, locals so friendly & welcoming. Best kept secret ever! (Allan & Beulah, QLD). Have been looking forward to visiting this locality for decades (Gary & Carmel, Byron Shire). Very helpful (Ann & Chris, Townsville). Very informative, lots of info and helpful (Nigel, Beverley & kids, Albion Park). Very helpful, friendly staff (Roger & Diane, Engadine). Very helpful & friendly staff (Jo & Rob, Wollongong). Extremely helpful staff (Lloyd & Gail, Bundaberg). Very helpful (Karyn, Chinchilla QLD). Great centre, very friendly (Di & Rob, Sydney). Good service, great area (Eric & Pat, Portland VIC). Great, very helpful (Ian & Branda, Stanthorpe QLD). Extremely helpful (Dianne Smith, Woy Woy). Great service & info (Cindy, SA). Very interesting town (Mirrabooka, NSW). Albert was very helpful (Danny, Tamworth). Very good (Paul, QLD). Beautiful (Greg, SA). Great spot (Greg & Ruth, QLD). Top spot (Max, Swan Hill VIC).

Lisa Kirton
Tourism and Visitor Information Services Coordinator



Item 10:

Committee Reports

That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Committee Reports as presented.



Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

held on

Tuesday, 6 June 2023

at

9.30am

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Chair welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

PRESENT: Mayor Eric Noakes (Chair), Clr Nena Hicks, Phillip Hood (Interim General Manager), Paula Jenkins, Lauren Mackley (Arts North West), Stephen King, Amy Hood (Administration Officer), Harley Fontanella (Coordinator Urban Works), Alan Butler (A/Director Infrastructure & Development).

Committee Minutes



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING

Recommendation: It is RECOMMENDED that Council review all Expressions of Interest for the current vacancy on the Art Advisory Committee and formally APPOINT a new member.

APOLOGIES:

Nil.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES & ACTIONS ARISING

Previous Minutes of **7 February 2023** Meeting were adopted without amendment.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

3.1 Current Committee Membership and call for nominations

The Chair and Committee members expressed thanks to James Rogers for his service over many years to the Arts Advisory Committee. The Chair advised members that there is now a vacant position on the Committee. Paula Jenkins advised members there has been some interest within the Arts community and enquired as the process for nomination and appointment. The Chair advised that a call for expressions of interest for membership to the Committee would be advertised publicly in the Apsley Advocate next Wednesday 14 June 2021. Expressions of Interest received would be considered by Council with the new appointment decided at the 28 June 2023 Council Meeting.

Action: Council to call for nominations for the current vacancy on the Arts Advisory Committee via public advertisement from Wednesday 14 June 2023.

Recommendation: It is RECOMMENDED that Council review all Expressions of Interest for the current vacancy on the Art Advisory Committee and formally APPOINT a new member.

3.2 Committee's Deductible Gift Recipient Status

The Committee still has its ATO Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. The General Manager and Chair gave members background on the change of status of the Committee to an Advisory only Committee. The DGR Status means that any donations to the Committee are tax deductible for Donors.

Committee members further discussed the accumulation of funds for procurement of new art. As an advisory Committee there is capacity to isolate any donated funds or Grant Funding within Council's budget and allocate these funds specifically for Arts Funded projects etc. Stephen King advised that there had previously been a resolution of Council to set aside \$5000 per year towards new art procurement. What is the status of these funds? The Chair advised



that it is likely any accrued amount may not have been placed in restricted funds. If there was a past resolution of Council for these funds to be restricted then this will need to happen. The General Manager has discussed with the CFO the status of these funds. Any funds donated by the public are a separate issue, these will automatically be made restricted funds within the budget and will only be spent on Art in accordance with the Committee's advice and Council's recommendations.

Action: Interim General Manager to determine the amount of funds to be made restricted within the budget for procurement of new Art and any donated funds and advise members at the next meeting.

Action: Secretariat to add the Arts Restricted Funds as a standing item on the Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda.

3.3 Director Infrastructure & Development – Current & Future Project/s Update

The A/Director Infrastructure & Development provided members with an update on major infrastructure updates as follows:

- Derby Street – development of the final design has been awarded. This phase of the project is the ideal opportunity for the Committee to raise any opportunities for art within the design, streetscape etc.
- John Oxley Amenities Upgrade

As major Infrastructure projects progress the Director Infrastructure and Development will make details available to the Committee for input.

3.4 Grant Funding Applications – Update

- **Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal - Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital stream**
- **Regional Development Australia - Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups**

Members discussed the details of both grants and confirmed that the Committee will apply for both. Lauren Mackley advised the Committee that she has been in communications with the Uralla Foundry to discuss the potential fabrication of plaques for the Walcha Open-Air Art Gallery. Lauren advised it is approx. \$400 for a standard plaque. The Committee also discussed potential for plaque installations for the Sound Trails and agreed that it would be of significant benefit to the installation.

The long-term vision was for all of the *Open Air Gallery* works to become part of the Sound trails. Paula Jenkins advised it is currently a little confusing to follow the Sound trails Brochure as you tour the Artworks without plaques.

Council will provide the Committee with costings for the plaque installations. There are over 70 sculptures in the collection that are candidates for plaques and the Committee may need to prioritise plaques based on the complexity of installation for each sculpture. The cost for



installation may vary per Artwork but Council can provide an average cost for each. The Interim GM proposed a 50/50 split for costs for plaque installations. The Committee agreed that there are other Arts Projects or installations that might be eligible for current grant funding, specifically for subsidy of the maintenance of the *Open Air Gallery*.

The Committee agreed that there maybe other events and opportunities that may qualify under other grants and requested that the Committee engage Walcha Tourism in the application process and in future discussions. The GM will circulate information about these two Grants to Walcha Tourism for information and extend an invitation to Walcha Tourism to attend future meetings.

Action: Council to provide the Committee with costings for the installation of plaques at the *Open Air Gallery* and Sound Trails Installation.

Action: Walcha Tourism to be invited to attend future Arts Advisory Committee Meetings.

Action: In preparation for the Committee applying for the two grants, Stephen King and Coordinator Urban Works will undertake a site visit to prioritise the top ten plaques for installation and send details through to Lauren Mackley at Arts North West by early August.

Action: Lauren Mackley to draft and submit applications on behalf of the Arts Advisory Committee and Council for the following two grants:

- **Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal - Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital stream**
- **Regional Development Australia - Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups**

3.5 Pool Refurbishment – Concept Design

The A/Director Infrastructure & Development updated members on the status of the Pool Refurbishment Project. In the context of rescoping this project we are seeking input into the amenities upgrade specifically and any opportunities for Art within that upgrade. There is potential to allocate the space where there was a previous garden bed at the entrance to an art installation. The Committee agrees that this is an excellent location and the Committee recommends the removal of the existing garden bed in anticipation of installing a sculpture at this location.

Members note the existing Murals each side of the entrance on the front façade was completed by the School. The Director advised there is an opportunity/funding available to liaise with the School or Community Groups to discuss the current Murals at the entrance of the Pool and their possible renewal.

The Committee would like to have an option to have Art Work/Murals on the internal walls of the Amenities Block, the brick would not necessarily need to be rendered, however this could



be considered as part of the future Art Project. The Committee would like to develop a priority list for potential locations for Art, including within major infrastructure projects so that we are ready to make any grant applications as they become available. Committee members requested this be drafted and be made a standing item at future meetings to be added to an amended as per the Committee's advice.

Action: Secretariat to draft a priority list document and add this as a standing item to the Arts Advisory Committee Agenda.

Action: The Committee recommends the removal of the existing garden bed at the entrance of the Pool in the Final Pool Refurbishment Design, in anticipation of installing a sculpture at this location in the future.

Action: The Committee will reach out to the local Schools to discuss options for renewal of the front facade Murals at the Walcha Swimming Pool.

3.6 Walcha Pathways Project – proposed locations and potential site visit

There is currently \$3.7 million in grant funding obtained for the pathways project. There may be potential opportunities for future Art Installations via the interconnected pathways in town and Darjeeling locations.

There is potential in future rounds of this grant funding to look at additional works in the surrounding area. If members have a specific project in mind to consider moving forward, then we can consider this and add it to the newly created priority list. The Committee discussed the potential for adding aggregates to the pathways or adding aboriginal art via imprints at several locations. This could easily be achieved with minimal cost. There may also be potential for a boardwalk to be installed at the cross over near the Lions Park. The Director gave an overview of the draft design.

Action: Secretariat to provide contact details to members for the Walcha Pathways Project for a potential site visit and liaison re: opportunities for Art Work.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

Hospital Wall Mural and The Mother Sculpture

Stephen king advised the Mother sculpture and Hospital Wall Murals will be complete and/or ready for re-installation by the end of the year.

Stephen is liaising with local Aboriginal artists to commission a totem artwork in the amount of \$50,000 for a sculpture installation beside the Middle Street/Shirley Davidson Bridge.

Next Meeting: 5 September 2023

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:50AM.



Walcha Council Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

held on

Wednesday, 07 June 2023

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 (Interim General Manager), Phyllis Hoy, Faye (Col) King, Gweneth Higgins, Peter Blomfield, Robyn Vincent.

IN ATTENDANCE: Anna Lummis (Administration Officer), Alan Butler (Acting Director Infrastructure & Development), Cynthia Morris (Team Leader - Horticulture), Will Fenwicke (Manager Project Delivery), Paul Fritsch (Project Engineer).

Committee Minutes



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING:

2.1 Tidy Towns 2023 Entry

RECOMMENDATION: That Council APPROVE the entry in the 2023 Tidy Towns Awards in the following categories:

- **The Waste Strategy drafted by Acting Director Infrastructure & Development under the “Resource Recovery & Waste Minimisation Category”;**
- **The Rose Garden Project under the “Bush Spirit Category”;**
- **Walcha Central School’s Indigenous Garden Project under the “Heritage & Culture Category”;**
- **Gerry Moran’s work with the Men’s Shed Project as well as his contribution to the clean up activities along the levy banks under the “Local Legend Category”.**

APOLOGIES:

Apologies: Stephen King, Caroline Street and Harley Fontanella (Coordinator Urban Works).

1. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES & ACTIONS ARISING

Previous minutes of **15 February 2023** were endorsed by members without correction.

The Chair and members provided updates on any Actions Arising from the previous meeting.

Members discussed the Peter Fenwicke Oval Fencing; in previous meeting minutes it was noted that at the end of the project if there was money left over Council would look at putting in an additional gate as requested by Phyllis Hoy. Interim GM informed members that there is no money left over from this project, instead we are short \$400,000 to complete all works, and we are currently looking for grant funding to finish this project (skatepark). Peter Blomfield informed the Committee of the possibility of installing a few stile/s on the fence as a cheaper option to an additional gate.

Action: Manager Project Delivery to look at the possibility of installing these.

Declaration of Interests: Nil

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

2.1 Tidy Towns 2023 Entry

Members agreed that we should submit an entry into Tidy Towns 2023 Awards, entry requires at least four or more individual categories to be submitted, members agreed to limit the number of categories to the minimum required.

The suggestions for the categories Walcha Council could enter under in the overall entry were; the “Resource Recovery & Waste Minimisation Category” (Waste Management Strategy), the “Bush Spirit Category” (Rose Garden Project), the “Heritage & Culture Category” (Walcha Central School’s Indigenous Garden Project) and the “Local Legend Category” (Gerry Moran’s work with the Men’s Shed as well as his efforts with the Clean Up Activities along the levy banks).



2.2 Rose Garden Fence Adjustment

Manager Project Delivery (Will Fenwicke) spoke about the two options for the fence design at the Rose Garden; a full post & rail fence or a rock edge. The full post & rail fence not only blocks the view into the garden but also has the potential to cause confusion with visitors to Walcha as to whether it is a private facility/land or a public garden, this option is more maintenance intensive so would have higher ongoing maintenance costs. The rock edge option uses the leftover rocks from the wall project that are already onsite, will bring the project just under budget, will hold the mulch within the garden and ongoing maintenance costs will be significantly less than the full post & rail option.

Action: Urban Works team to start constructing the rock edging option.

2.3 Ohio North Shelter Garden

Peter Blomfield spoke about the original design idea of having a circle garden within the circular road space and surround it with bigger sized rocks so it can be retained and not driven over by motorists; plant natives or equivalent species within the circle garden that are hard wearing and easily maintained; remove a couple of problem trees but the members advised these trees may have been removed already since the last site inspection held a few years ago. Acting Director of Infrastructure & Development spoke about the Derby Street Project and how the survey scope has been increased to cover the sewer extension aspect so this garden project may be able to be considered within this project.

Action: Acting Director Infrastructure & Development to discuss the potential to include the addition of this garden and some gravelling within the Derby Street Project with Collins Williams Pty Ltd.

2.4 Development of a 5-year plan for tree plantings

Team Leader – Horticulture will look at this over the coming months. Members discussed that Caroline Street was previously looking at developing a plan with former Urban Works Supervisor, Mr Steph Sweeney.

Action: Ongoing. Cynthia will work on this with Members.

2.5 Collins Williams Pty Ltd Derby Street Upgrade pre-design consultation

Acting Director Infrastructure & Development spoke about the overall plan for the Derby Street Project and explained that it is very early on in the design phase so there is currently no pre-design consultation needed but the Committee will be kept up to date as this progress and the Committee will be consulted as needed during the project. He explained there are “must haves” within this project but there will be scope for the “would be nice” add in’s, but there are constraints around what these add in’s will be. Phyllis Hoy noted the importance of the consultation between these contractors and the Beautification Committee as they are from a different town with a completely different climate and the plantings they may suggest could be completely wrong from Walcha’s climate etc. The Interim GM & Director Infrastructure & Development advised that the contractors have been made aware of the importance of this.

Action: Ongoing.



3. OTHER BUSINESS:

3.1 Walcha Pathways Design Project

Interim General Manager spoke about this project and what it entails. There are three components in this project:

1. various locations of pathways within the township itself;
2. extending current pathway out to John Oxley, past the cemetery, and the length of Darjeeling Road to the Lions Park; and
3. a pathway out to Summervale.

Col King enquired if we could use a recycled material for the pathway material, the Interim General Manager advised that we have the ability to make choices such as these but it needs to meet specifications and it is dependent on what suits the location which is what the contractor is weighing up during the current design process. Peter Blomfield suggested that we have suitable trees planted along the pathway to provide shade for pedestrians using the pathway.

3.2 Swimming Pool Refurbishment

Interim General Manager spoke about the liaison with the Arts Advisory Committee on this Infrastructure project as it has future art integration potential within the amenity upgrade component of this project. The Arts Advisory Committee suggested that the Beautification Advisory Committee could advise on the future of the current garden outside the pool facility and what we may like this space to look like.

Phyllis Hoy commented on the current design inclusion of cladding existing brick work with tongue & groove boards being impractical. Acting Director Infrastructure & Development advised he has challenged this and other design aspects that are maintenance intensive.

3.3 LRCI funding for potential community projects

Acting Director Infrastructure & Development spoke about next year's Capital Works Budget being exponential and that there is LRCI funding that is currently unallocated and this funding can be applied to either road or community projects and would the Committee have any community projects in mind that could be potentially be undertaken under this funding. Cllr Pointing spoke about whether the Pool Refurbishment Project could be completed with this funding, Interim GM said that it could potentially be.

Phyllis Hoy spoke about the potential to have the front of the squash courts painted/rendered and have it aesthetically tied in with the amenities building at the pool. Manager Project Delivery advised that we will do the Pool Refurbishment first and then if we could complete the squash court painting/rendering work under the LRCI funding at a later date, it would be tied in aesthetically to the Pool buildings.

Phyllis Hoy mentioned the potential of a mural on the Youth Hall at the Showground on the side you see when heading into Walcha from Uralla being completed under this funding.



Peter Blomfield relayed James Rogers suggestion to put rock work on the corner of Jamieson Street and Derby Street; adjacent to the Rose Garden at the Showground, to tie in with the Rose Garden rock work. Manager Project Delivery advised that a rock wall or any large fixed structure is not suitable for this site as it impacts safety of motorists and there is already a lot needed at this site with the showground parking and heavy vehicle use of this intersection. He said that painting a mural would be a way that we could update and enhance this intersection without causing safety concerns. Acting Director Infrastructure & Development said this suggestion is the type of consultation that will occur with Collins Williams Consulting in regards to the Beautification aspect of the Derby Street Upgrade Project.

Next Meeting: Wednesday September 2023 – this date will be advised closer to September so that it can tie in with the schedule of the Consultants of the Derby Street Upgrade Project and a potential consultation session between the Committee and the Consultants.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED MEMBERS AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:55PM.



Item 11:

Delegate Reports

That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Delegate Reports as presented.



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

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

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2023 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.31am

1. Chairmans Welcome

2. Acknowledgement to Country

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

3. Acknowledgement of Parliamentarians

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

4. ATTENDANCE:

Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Tod Redwood, Deputy Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Mr Anthony McMahan, CEO
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Jo Cook, Deputy Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Mr Mark Dicker, General Manager
Bogan Shire Council, Cr Glen Neill, Mayor
Bogan Shire Council, Mr Derek Francis, General Manager
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor
Bourke Shire Council, Ms Leone Brown, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy mayor
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael York, Mayor

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

Muswellbrook Shire Council, Cr Steve Reynolds, Mayor
Muswellbrook Shire Council, Derrick Finnigan, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Cameron Lander, Deputy Mayor
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Mr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO
Shellharbour City Council, Cr Chris Homer, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council, Mr Stephen Dunshea, CEO
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Mr Alex Waldron, General Manager
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Kate Jessep, General Manager
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Phil Hood, Acting General Manager
Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor
Warren Shire Council, Mr Gary Woodman, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Craig Bembrick, Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr Damien Thomas, Director Advocacy
LGNSW, Mr Shaun McBride
LGNSW, Bronwen Regan
ALGA, Cr Linda Scott, President
OLG, Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary
OLG, Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development
RAMJO, Ms Yvonne Lingua, CEO
CNSWJO, Ms Jenny Bennett
The Hon Leslie Williams - Shadow Minister for Women, Prevention of Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault and Aboriginal Affairs
The Hon Wendy Tuckerman – Shadow Minister for Local Government
The Hon Aileen McDonald – Shadow Minister for Youth Justice
The Hon Scott Farlow – Shadow Minister for Planning & Public spaces, Housing
and Cities
The Hon Bronnie Taylor – Shadow Minister for Regional Health

The Hon Gurmeh Singh – Shadow Minister for Tourism, Emergency Services and North Coast
The Hon Adam Marshall – Member for the Northern Tablelands
The Hon Kevin Anderson – Shadow Minister for Gaming, Racing, Arts and Heritage
The Hon Wes Fang – Shadow assistant Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Mr Michael Kemp – Member for Oxley
Ms Tanya Thompson – Member for Myall Lakes
Mr Dave Layzell MP

APOLOGIES:

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

SPECIAL GUESTS:

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

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

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

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

NIL

7. ALGA Update Report

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

Grants, Disaster recovery Funding, New Bank Closure Protocols, and National General Assembly. A copy of the report was included in the business paper.

RESOLVED That the report be noted

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

8. LGNSW Update Report

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

Resolved That the report be noted

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

9. Membership

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

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

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

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

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

11. Correspondence

Outward

Mr Andrew Clennell, Sky News Political Reporter	Thanking for being master of ceremonies at the "Meet the Leaders Forum" on the 21 February 2023
Cr Neil Smith, Mayor, Junee Shire Council	Advising that Junee Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023
Cr Steven Reynolds, Mayor Muswellbrook Shire Council	Advising that Muswellbrook Shire Councils application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023
Cr Barry Holman, Mayor, Bourke Shire	Advising that Bourke Shire Councils

Council	application for membership was approved at the General meeting held on the 9 March 2023
Cr Nuatali, Lord Mayor, Newcastle City Council	Thanking her for hosting the welcome function on the 8 March 2023 and updating her on Newcastle's application for associate membership of the Country Mayors Association
Mr Craig Carmody, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Newcastle	Thanking him for hosting the Country Mayors meeting on the 9 March 2023 and updating him on the Port of Newcastle's application for associate membership of the Country Mayors Association
The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier	Congratulating him on his elevation to the position of Premier and offering an open invitation to address our members at future meetings
The Hon Timothy Crakanthorp MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education, The Hon Daniel Mookhay MLC, Treasurer, The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Hon Ron Hoening MP, Minister for Local Government, The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, and Youth, The Hon Ryan Park MP, Minister for Health and Regional Health, and The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW	Congratulating them on their elevation to the Ministry outlining the CMA's priorities and offering an opportunity to address our members at a future meeting
Department of Fair Trading	Notifying them of the change to the Constitution to create the position of Immediate Past Chairman
The Hon Damien Tudehope, MLC, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Treasurer, The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Ms Eleni Petinos MP, Shadow Minister for Finance and Sport, Mr Gurmesh Singh MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Emergency Services and North Coast, The Hon James Griffin MP, Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Customer Service and Digital Government. The Justin Clancy MP, Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Ms Kellie Sloane MP, Shadow Minister for Environment,	Congratulating them on their elevation to the Shadow Ministry outlining the CMA's priorities and offering an opportunity to address our members at a future meeting

<p>The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Shadow Minister for Gaming, Racing, Arts and Heritage, The Hon Leslie Williams MP, Shadow Minister for Women, Mr Mark Coure MP, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Opposition Leader, Leader of the Liberals, Mr Mark Taylor MP, Shadow Minister for Corrections and Western Sydney, The Hon Matt Kean MP, Shadow Minister for Health, The Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Shadow Minister for Families and Communities, Disability Inclusion, Homelessness and Youth, The Hon Paul Toole MP, Shadow Minister for Police, Ms Robyn Preston MP, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Medical Research, The Hon Sam Farrow MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning and Western NSW, The Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Housing, Cities, Hunter and the Central Coast, The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water and Crown Lands, Mr Tim James MP, Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building, The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Small Business, The Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC, Shadow Minister for Youth Justice, The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Shadow Attorney General, The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional Health, Trade and Seniors.</p>	
<p>Mr Phillip Donato MP, Member for Orange</p>	<p>Congratulating him on his election to State Parliament and seeking a meeting with him on the 25 May 2023</p>
<p>The Hon Yasmin Catley MP, Minister for Police and Counter- terrorism</p>	<p>Congratulating her on her appointment as Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and seeking a meeting with her on the 25</p>

	May 2023
Mr Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon	Congratulating him on his election to State Parliament and seeking a meeting with him on the 25 May 2023

Inward

Department of Fair Trading	Advising that the changes to the Constitution having the Immediate Past Chairman as a member of the Executive Committee has been registered
Mr Greg Warren MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, and Shadow Minister for Western Sydney	Regarding the CMA priorities for the next election (Copy Attached)
Mr Robert Borsak MLC, Shooters and Fishers and Farmers Party NSW	Advising that they will hold the Government to account regarding Regional NSW (Copy Attached)

Media Releases

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

RESOLVED THAT THE INFORMATION BE NOTED

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

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

The Minister has already had meetings with several councils. Integrated plans that look at people first are important. Reclassifications of roads is a great opportunity. Unfortunately in 2019 it was unfunded and in some cases councils have had to wait up to 8 years for their reclassification. Things have now moved on. Disaster Recovery funding has changed the way councils are looking at reclassifications so priorities are changing.

The Government wants to give councils the cash now rather than having to wait. The city was getting \$5 for every \$1 that the country was getting in road funding. This has now been addressed and regional NSW will be getting double what it is now plus emergency repair funds.

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

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

The presentations were followed by Question and Answers from members

14. Carmel Donnelly, Chair, IPART

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The presentations were followed by Question and Answers from members

15. Scholarship Program Update

RESOLVED That the amended Scholarship program be adopted

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

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

16. Aligning Membership Criteria of CMA with LGNSW

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

The motion was LOST

17. Country Mayors Association Associate Members

RESOLVED That the following new clauses be added to the Constitution

6. Those Councils, for Profit Organisations and not for Profit Organisations that are not eligible under clause 3 and 3a. Clause 4 conditions apply to obtain Associate Membership

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

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

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

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

18. Rural Councils Victoria Forum Echuca 14 July

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

RESOLVED That the information be noted

Moved Junee Shire Mayor, Councillor Neil Smith
Seconder Muswellbrook Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Steve Reynolds

19. Review of Pensioner Rebate Subsidy

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association advocate to the State Government for a more realistic and timely indexing process for pensioner concessions and rebates to assist pensioners in paying their Council rates and charges. This advocacy is to include increased funding support from the State Government for the cost of providing pensioner rebates

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

20. Daylight Saving

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

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

21. Gifts for Future Presenters

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

RESOLVED that the information be noted

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

22. The Accounting Treatment of RFS Assets

RESOLVED That the NSW Country Mayors Association

1. Confirms its strong position that local councils do not control RFS assets and therefore should not have to account for RFS assets in their financial statements
2. Rejects outright NSW Treasury's current policy position that the State Government does not control the RFS assets and that Local Government therefore does
3. Rejects and dismisses any argument that vesting under the RFS Act equates to control in terms of accounting standards (where 'substance over form' sees control in the accounting sense sitting squarely with the RFS)
4. Rejects outright the Auditor General's position that she must audit in accordance with Treasury's policy position instead of Australian Accounting standards, noting also that the AG is supposed to be independent of government, not a voice for government
5. Writes to the Premier of NSW and the NSW Parliamentary Accounts Committee to ask that they
 - (i) immediately investigate the basis behind all 40 Councils' qualified financial statements for YE 21/22 (especially given that nothing changed in YE 21/22 from prior years when absolutely NO Councils were qualified for having accounting policies that did not account for RFS assets), and
 - (ii) Immediately investigate statutory remedies that enshrine in legislation the reality regarding control of RFS assets, being that RFS assets are entirely controlled by the NSW RFS.

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

23. CMA November Meeting

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

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

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

24. Launch of Country Mayors Association Website

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

25. Survey Results

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q6 - 39 responses to our request for further advocacy positions

26. Next Meeting

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

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

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW



Item 12:

Questions with Notice



There are no Questions on Notice for June 2023



Item 13:

Referral to Closed Council Meeting



Item: 13A **Ref:** WO/2023/01063
Title: Referral to Closed Meeting – Request for Reimbursement of Water Usage Charges – 105N Meridian Street Walcha
Author: Executive Assistant
Previous Items: Nil.
Attachment: Nil.

RECOMMENDATION: That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the matter of Reimbursement of Water Charges – 105N Meridian Street Walcha be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the report relates 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 10A (2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

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



Item: 13B **Ref:** WO/2023/01062
Title: Referral to Closed Meeting:
1. Award Tender REGPRO102324 Ready Mixed Concrete; and
2. Replacement of Survey Equipment
Author: Executive Assistant
Previous Items: Nil.
Attachment: Nil.

RECOMMENDATION: That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the matters of:

1. Award Tender REGPRO102324 Ready Mixed Concrete; and
2. Replacement of Survey Equipment

be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

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 10A (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

Approval to refer the matters to Closed Council is sought because the reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.