



Item 9: Management Review Reports



9.1 INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2023/00453

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.

Planning & Regulatory Services – February 2023

GRANTS SUMMARY					
Grant	Description	Funding	Status	Deadline	Comments
NSW P&C (Heritage NSW)	Heritage Advisor	\$6K 2022-23 \$1:\$1	Successful	30/06/2023	On track
OLG	Council Crown Land Management – Plans of Management	\$48,616	Successful	30/06/2023	On track
NSW EPA Council Regional Capacity Building Program	Building capacity in management of contaminated land	\$420K	Successful	Not set at this time	Namoi Unlimited Project
NSW DPE API	API Integration with NSW Planning Portal	\$80K	Successful	31/3/2023 Extension has been requested.	Investigation on proposed vendor being undertaken



OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

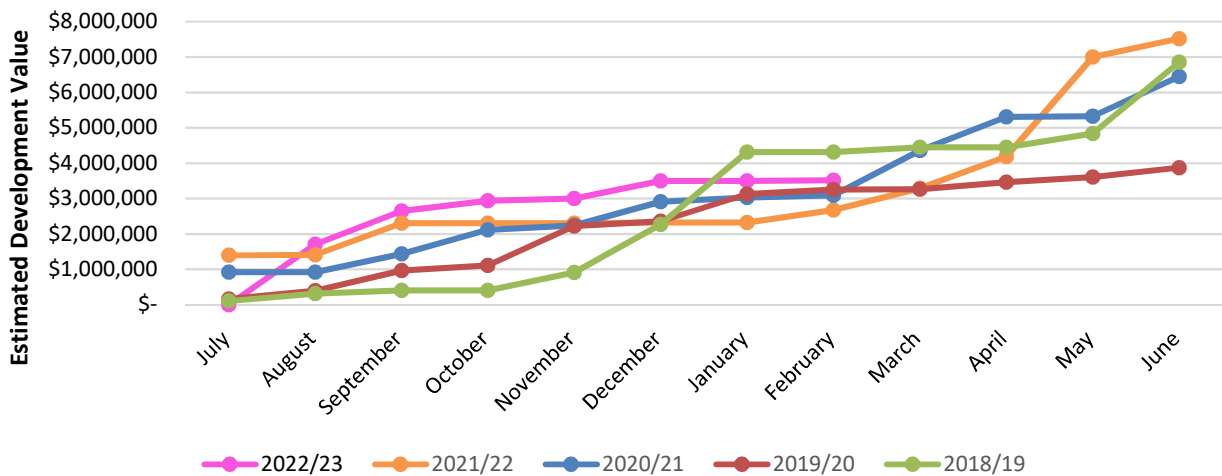
1. Development & Construction

Development Statistics 2022-2023	DAs	CCs	CDCs
Number Determined – As at 28.2.2023	23	6	4
Estimated Development Value – 31.1.2023	\$3,517,700	\$227,000	\$130,000

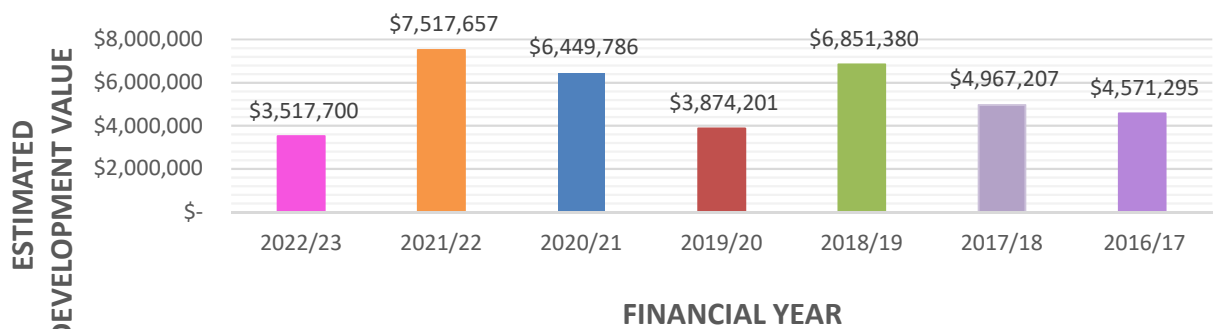
For Councillor information, the following graphs show the combined (DA & CDC) approved development value for the LGA trend for the financial years from 2018/2019. The development value includes those applications determined by private certification; but does not include civil works such as roads, bridges and the like. These graphs are only current until 28 February 2023.

The 2022/23 financial year is still trending a strong approved estimated development value compared to the last 4 financial years.

**Approved Estimated Development Value Comparison
 Monthly/Financial Year**



**Approved Estimated Development Value
 Financial Year Comparison**





1.1 Determinations Issued

February 2023				
Development Applications				
Number	Description	Address	Determination	Assessment Days
10.2021.41	Signage	18N Derby Street Walcha	Approved Under Delegated Authority	
Construction Certificates				
Number	Description	Address	Determination	
Nil				
Complying Development Certificates				
Number	Description	Address	Determination	
18.2022.10	Shed	7E Jamieson Street Walcha	Council Certification	

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 1.12.2022	
Under Assessment:	7
On Notification	0
Additional Information Requested	0
Waiting on State Agency Comment	0
Waiting on Fee Payment	2
Total	9

1.3 Certificates & Advice

February 2023			
Number Issued	2021-22	2022-23	Current Period
Occupation Certificates	15	8	0
Subdivision Certificates	7	5	0
Planning Certificates	135	111	45
Building Information Certificates	1	1	0
Outstanding Notices Orders Certificates	18	2	1
Bushfire Attack Level Certificates	-	-	-
Dwelling Entitlement Advice	10	3	2

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

February 2023	2021-22	2022-23	Current Period
Number Issued	27	25	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

February 2023			
Compliance Inspections & Reports Issued	2021-22	2022-23	Current Period
On-Site Sewage Management Systems	2	5	1
Food Premises	22	10	4
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
Total	6	2	4	2	1	0	18	\$2257

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16	11	5	10	3	-

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
Total	9	27	13	24

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.

1. **16 December 2022 and will commence on 26 April 2023** – amendments to all LEPs that are being amended via self-repealing SEPP (134 LEPs in total. This included Walcha.)

Self-repealing SEPP – LEP amendments

On 14 December 2022, 134 LEPs to introduced employment zones. These amendments will commence on 26 April 2023.

2. **22 February 2022** - housekeeping SEPP to update any anomalies as well as to make the mapping coversheet for LEPs with PDF maps. This has not yet been finalised.

Housekeeping SEPP

DPE have identified the need for a housekeeping SEPP which will be made in February 2023. The SEPP will cover off on anything that gets picked up as problematic and unintentionally omitted between 14 December 2022 and early February 2023. The primary purpose of the Housekeeping SEPP will be to amend mapping and to include any undrafted consequential amendments. It was intended to be made late **February 2023** and will commence **26 April 2023**. No update has been given by NSW Planning and Environment as to status.

Council Action

Planning staff are reviewing the LEP data, particularly checking that:

1. The correct employment zone has been applied and to the correct areas;
2. Environmental Zones have been updated to Conservation Zones;
3. All Additional Permitted Uses or Key Sites have been mapped correctly.

4.2 Section 7.2 Contribution Plan

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.

4.2 Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping

Update – Resolution 2019/130 – Ordinary Meeting of Council held 27 March 2019



Whereby the Draft Walcha Bush Fire Prone Land Map was endorsed and the NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner was requested to certify the plan.

Background

On 1 August 2002, the *Rural Fires and Environmental Assessment Legislation Amendment Act 2002* amended the *Rural Fires Act 1997* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* to provide significant improvements in bush fire safety. This included a requirement for the preparation of a bush fire prone land map identifying vegetation within LGAs that has the potential to support a bush fire and a review to be undertaken every 5 years. The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) prepare Bush Fire Prone Land (BFPL) mapping to designate areas of the State that are considered to be higher bush fire risk for development control purposes.

On 1 March 2013, the *EP&A Act* was amended allowing the NSW RFS to update bush fire prone land maps for in a streamlined fashion and the methodology is one that is to be applied State wide for comparative purposes. These map and data requirements are necessary to ensure a coordinated and standardised approach to generating and maintaining BFPL maps..

The last Walcha BFPL Map came into force on 12 December 2008, and was reviewed in XX March 2019. The NSW RFS Commissioner has now advised that the NSW RFS are satisfied that the lands mapped are categorised correctly and hence has certified the Walcha Bush Fire Prone Land map on 13 March 2023.

Bush Fire Prone Land Map Categories

The methodology for categorising bush fire prone land is to identify and determine vegetation types for all land within the LGA (both private and public tenure), using the RFS Guide *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2016*. Thus, classifying vegetation into the following categories based on vegetation types and potential risk:

Vegetation Category 1 - is considered to be the highest risk for bush fire. It is represented as red on the bush fire prone land map and is given a 100m buffer. This vegetation category has the highest combustibility and likelihood of forming fully developed fires including heavy ember production. Vegetation Category 1 consists of areas of forest, woodlands, heaths (tall and short), forested wetlands and timber plantations.

Vegetation Category 2 - is considered to be a lower bush fire risk than Category 1 and Category 3 but higher than the excluded areas. It is represented as light orange on a BFPL map and is given a 30 metre buffer. This vegetation category has lower combustibility and/or limited potential fire size due to the vegetation area shape and size, land geography and management practices. Vegetation Category 2 consists of:

- Rainforests.



- Lower risk vegetation parcels. These vegetation parcels represent a lower bush fire risk to surrounding development and consist of:
 - Remnant vegetation;
 - Land with ongoing land management practices that actively reduces bush fire risk. These areas must be subject to a plan of management or similar that demonstrates that the risk of bush fire is offset by strategies that reduce bush fire risk; AND include:
 - ✓ Discrete urban reserve/s;
 - ✓ Parcels that are isolated from larger uninterrupted tracts of vegetation and known fire paths;
 - ✓ Shapes and topographies which do not permit significant upslope fire runs towards development;
 - ✓ Suitable access and adequate infrastructure to support suppression by firefighters;
 - ✓ Vegetation that represents a lower likelihood of ignitions because the vegetation is surrounded by development in such a way that an ignition in any part of the vegetation has a higher likelihood of detection.

Vegetation Category 3 - is considered to be medium bush fire risk vegetation. It is higher in bush fire risk than category 2 (and the excluded areas) but lower than Category 1. It is represented as dark orange on a BFPL map and is given a 30 metre buffer. This category consists of grasslands, freshwater wetlands, semi-arid woodlands, alpine complex and arid shrublands.

Exclusions - Vegetation excluded from being mapped as bush fire prone includes:

- Single areas of vegetation less than 1 hectare in area and greater than 100 metres separation from other areas of Category 1, 2 or 3 vegetation;
- Multiple areas of vegetation less than 0.25 hectares in area and not within 30 metres of each other;
- Strips of vegetation less than 20 metres in width, regardless of length and not within 20 metres of other areas of Category 1, 2 or 3 vegetation;
- Areas of "managed grassland" including grassland on, but not limited to, recreational areas, commercial/industrial land, residential land, airports/airstrips, maintained public reserves and parklands, commercial nurseries and the like;
- Areas of managed gardens and lawns within curtilage of buildings;
- Non-vegetated areas, including waterways, roads, footpaths, buildings and rocky outcrops.
- Managed botanical gardens;
- Agricultural lands used for annual and/or perennial cropping, orchard, market gardens, nurseries and the likes are excluded;
- Saline wetlands including mangroves.



- Other areas that, due to their size, shape and overall risk are not considered Vegetation Category 1, 2 or 3.

Impact on Walcha LGA

There has been a dramatic change in the area of land that is now classified as being bush fire prone. Land previously categorised as being bush fire prone within the urban area of Walcha has been removed, but the Vegetation Category 3 has been introduced. Currently 66% of the land within the Walcha LGA is classified as being bush fire prone and 99.8% of the land will be classified as being bush fire prone under the new map. This is an increase of a major increase.

Vegetation Category 3 is new, but has mostly being included within Vegetation Category 2 in the current BFPL map. What is new is the extent of its application to the Walcha LGA and that is a one size fits all set of measures which have been developed for development within grasslands. This is part of a major review that was undertaken by the NSW RFS in 2015 which recognised that grasslands have more fire potential than rainforest.




The major impact will be on development, where bushfire will have to be taken into account, and a higher construction standard will be required to meet Australian Standard 3959-2009 – *Construction of buildings in bush fire prone areas*. This will also include some bushfire prevention measures for example, gutter and window screening guard, reduction of ember hazards, and a larger quantity of water being available for fire fighting, identification of potential water sources for fire fighting.



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													
Glen Morrison Road Rehab	JM	Rehabilitate and widen existing sealed road to ease curve - Fixing Local Roads R1	\$ 299,000		Mar-23	\$ 18,066			DEL			Start of works pushed to new year - workforce delayed attending to disaster recovery jobs.	Complete
Middle Street Rehab	WF	Fixing Local Roads R2 - minus kerb and gutter	\$ 565,586	Nov-21	Jun-23	\$ 14,141	Budget increased from \$495,000 to \$565,586 using unspent funds from Moona Plains Road	Pub RFT				The Department have provided extensions for all rounds of the Fixing Local Roads program. Middle Street and Walsh Street will be pushed to the end of 22/23 FY.	Variation to funding deeds (increase in funding) approved by TfNSW. Works to be begin mid-2023.
Walsh Street Rehab	WF	Fixing Local Roads R2 - minus kerb and gutter	\$ 403,336	Jan-22	Jun-23	\$ 13,830	Budget increased from \$332,750 to \$403,336 using unspent funds from Moona Plains Road	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.	Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and conduct in-house survey & design
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.	Conduct pavement investigations, finalise scope and organise construction.
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					Construction tender advertised by 17 March 23
Three Causeways	CW	Rehabilitation works for 2 causeways on Old Brookmount Rd, and Hazeldean Road.	\$ 427,000	Jun-23	Jun-23	\$ 40,000		Pub RFT	17/03/2023			In design phase currently.	RFQ for elec works in Feb, with access road delivered in 2023
Walcha Aerodrome	PF	Seal existing access, elec supply improvements, regravell existing runway	\$ 1,610,000	Oct-22	Oct-23	\$ -	Additional milestone request sent to the funding body to reduce the amount of WIP for the project.	Pub RFT				Variation request submitted to complete works in 2023. Program deadline is March 2024.	Tender Awarded, Post tender meeting complete, start 13/3/23
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-22	\$ -	Works are grant funded from various sources - FLR2, LRC13. No previously unfunded works - i.e. not additional to 2022/23 budget.	DEL				Schedule will be tight to complete this FY.	
BRIDGES													
Army Bridge	WF		\$ 2,050,850		Dec-23	\$ 147,997	The three bridges to go out to open D&C tender as Coastal works are no longer able to complete the works. It is anticipated that current budget may be inadequate and a variation will be required.	Eval RFT				TfNSW have extended this program by an additional year. Variations on price need to be approved.	Tender closed eval in progress likley extra funding from FCB
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		DEL					
Tia Diggings Bridge 2	WF		\$ 553,000	Jun-23	Apr-23	\$ 57,343	Awarded tender on budget, but with no contingency.	DEL			Site established for Tia Diggings 1 & 2, Niangala mid-Feb.	Tia Diggings open for traffic May,	
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	Pub RFT				Deed Executed	Geotech and REF to be completed by EF FY
STATE ROADS													
Oxley Highway - 2022/2023 Routine Maintenance	JM	Annual routine maintenance	\$ 585,000		Jun-23	\$ 188,144							Routine road maintenance works continuing. Minor pavement patch scoping in progress. Undertaking Pothole patching, inspections, guideposts, etc.

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	
Oxley Highway - 2022/2023 Resealing Program	JM	Annual routine resealing	\$ 500,000		Mar-23								Works to begin Febuary	Complete
Oxley Highway - Heavy Patching	JM	Annual heavy patching works	\$ 897,207		Jun-23	\$ 83,243								Heavy patching program to be completed by May 23.
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		Council has received an additional \$4,560,000 for this project via the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program. There is \$2.4M remaining Corridor Strategy funds.	Eval RFT				Variation request submitted to TfNSW for EOT on Corridor Strategy funding.	RFT published, closes 11 April 23
Rehabilitation of Old Crockford - Segment 4170	JM	Rehabilitation; widening of pavement to 8m seal width	\$ 500,000	Jun-23	Jun-23	\$ -		New project, budget from R2R and \$139k REPAIR Grant						Works to begin in March 2022
Thunderbolts Way Heavy Patching Program	JM	Heavy patching - various locations	\$ 350,000		Jun-23			Additional heavy patching on TBW due to block grant no longer being required for Derby Street	DEL					Heavy patching program to be completed by March 23.
WATER, SEWER & WASTE														
Walcha Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RP		\$ 1,800,000		Jun-23	\$ 1,716,831			DEL				1. Identify outstanding scope items with DPE 2. Plan delivery of outstanding items and report back with updated completion date.	1. Final scope items agreed with PWA & funding body 2. EOT approved for sludge lagoon empty and refirb by end June 23
Walcha Off Creek Storage	RP		\$ 11,000,000	Dec-22	Sep-23	\$ 4,156,210		First 3 Milestone payments (\$6.5M) received. Project tracking under budget with plenty of cash in advance of invoices, however project management and design costs are over budget. Variations: V005 - Disposal of Northern spoil \$75,000 V008 - Additional stormwater works \$21,500 V011 - Augmentations to inlet tower for future installation of trunnion inlet \$57,998 V012 - Construction of boat ramp \$146,562.94 EOT & Delay Costs \$47,535.71	DEL				Package 1 Embankment Construction bulk earthworks completed. Package 4 (Design) underway but running two months behind schedule.	KCE due to complete in the next month with EOT for weather and additional scope items.
Walcha Waste Strategy 2025	AB				Apr-23				C R	Apr-23			1. Develop additional detailed costing for bin lift rates. 2. Develop CBA for hook bin options 3. Develop plan for additional kerbside collection areas and costs for inclusion 4. Report back next month with revised plan.	1. Councillor briefing roadshow planned for Mar/Apr 23 2. Present final draft Waste Strategy Apr 23 with view of full roll out 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				SCCF5 funding only just annouced, no milestone dates set yet.	1. Excicuted deed. 2. Design and survey RFQ being scoped.
Water Meter Replacement	RP		\$ 350,000	TBD	TBD	\$ -		Grant application submitted 10/02/22 for funding to replace current meter fleet with SMART meters was unsuccessful. Seeking new revenue sources	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

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
Sewer Smoke Testing	RP		\$ 90,000		Jun-23	\$ -	Grant funding unsuccessful, works need to proceed using own source revenue.		Award			EPL Variation for to licence approved, effectively giving Council until June 2023 to complete testing.	1. Preparing scope to undertake works early 2023. 2. Obtain quotes for smoke testing and manhole assessment. 3. CAC approval to fund from reserve funds presented and approved. 4. Contractor ceased trading resulting in second choice supplier increase in budget required to \$135,000 EOT for EPL to be submit
COMMUNITY PROJECTS													
Levee Bank Walk Lighting	WF	Installation of solar lighting along both sides of Apsley River Levee Bank, from Blue Hogan to Middle Street	\$ 279,911	Jun-22	Oct-22	\$ 271,000	No further costs to be invoiced. Project within budget.		DEL			Project complete.	Project completion report to be submitted (due End Mar) . Defect & Liability period to Dec 23.
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - Walcha Pool	WF	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 566,087		Oct-23	\$ 56,800	There is not enough money to complete all works identified in condition report, so works will need to be prioritised		Eval RFT			BEC completing design tender docs.	RFT closing 11 April 23 Recommendation to go EOCM Apr
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - John Oxley Oval	PF	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 130,420		Sep-23	\$ -	No costs to date		Eval RFT			No works to date	Scope of works and delivery strategy are being developed by the project team.
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		Eval RFT			BEC completing design tender docs.	RFT closing 11 April 23 Recommendation to go EOCM Apr
Renew Walcha Skate Park	WF	New skate park facilities, new fence for John Oxley Oval, CCTV	\$ 966,964		Jun-23	\$ 360,376	Additional \$100K applied for via Stronger Country Communities Round 5.		Eval RFT			100% Detailed Design delivered. Fence installation completed. CCTV cameras are operating.	RFT closing 11 April 23 Recommendation to go EOCM Apr
Upgrade Walcha Lions Park	WF	New park facilities at Lions Park	\$ 410,554	Feb-22	Apr-23	\$ 11,600	Tender within project budget.		DEL			Construction to start 6 Feb. Lions Club have removed existing equipment	Installation of park equipment, Due completion end Mar 23
Nowendoc Hall	KN	Replacement of water tanks, provision of disabled car park.	\$ 88,261	Sep-23	Sep-23				Pub RFQ				RFQ published 10/3/23 due to close 21 days post
Pathways Project - Town	PF	Construction of various connecting pathways in Walcha	\$ 654,465	Mar-24	Mar-24				Pub RFT				Deeds excicuted, still to develop scope and location to RFT
Pathways Project - Darjeeling	PF	Construction of pathway from Lions Park to John Oxley Oval	\$ 1,324,455	Mar-24	Mar-24				Pub RFT				Deeds excicuted, still to develop scope and RFT
Pathways Project - Summervale	PF	Construction of pathway from Walcha to Summervale	\$ 1,750,254	Nov-24	Nov-24				Pub RFT				Deeds excicuted, still to develop scope and location to RFT
Rose Garden	WF								DEL				
TOTAL			\$ 42,496,716			\$ 7,947,477							



Progress Report (Feb 2022)

Progress Summary

Ongoing project administration, including submission of this progress report and associated progress claim / invoices.

Ongoing involvement from Council, Hunter H2O, Entura to review technical RFIs and detailed construction methodologies for Package 1. Final site visit by Entura planned upon completion of remaining works to allow a final signoff of construction to be obtained.

Council personnel continue to assist with site surveillance and procurement of Principal Supplied Items, with assistance from the Project Management Team (PMT). Terms of Reference and project roles updated last month to reflect internal personnel changes within Council.

Package 1 works continue to progress, with all road base installed and trimmed, spillway culvert crossing installed, spillway crest wall constructed and rip rap scour protection installed. Relocation of a portion of stockpiled soil approved for disposal at Council's waste facility (disposal at tendered rates), and a number of variations approved or sought prior to Package 1 Contractor demobilising from site.

Package 6a (rising main) construction works nearing completion, pending connection to OCS1 outlet valve pit and pressure testing.

Stage 2 design development variation formally approved at last CAC meeting, with works well underway – pending completion next month, followed by procurement for delivery of Packages 6 – 9. Two additional variations (one for design of a trunnion offtake for OCS1 and one for integration of updated SCADAPacks for the switchboard design) also formally approved at last CAC meeting.

Procurement of Principal Supplied Items and works packages is proceeding progressively, fast tracking delivery and maximising local content where possible. New OCS1 pumps and valves/actuators currently on order pending delivery, with early procurement of switchboard platform planned shortly.

Project Risks

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

Managing procurement of Principal Supplied Items and planning of temporary pumping (to accommodate planned pumping station augmentations) with regards to timing and approvals is a key project risks which is in focus for the next month – conversations are underway with key personnel.

Budget / Cashflow

Please see attached for the updated Project Cashflow and Project Financial Control Sheet. Realised expenditure continues to track well, with total costs continuing to track well within the established budget.

Recent approval of variations for value-add additional design works and additional construction works has resulted in a decreased project contingency of \$2,457,764.15 (from \$2,479,771.36 in the last progress report), despite a ~\$20k spend from the contingency this month (Council indirect costs).

Hunter H2O's progress claim and invoicing to be submitted shortly.

Safety

All current works on site are under the Package 1 WHS / Enviro PMP for safety. No incidents or near misses to report.

Ongoing site surveillance (by Council / Hunter H2O) and periodic audits (by the Package 1 Contractor) undertaken to ensure identified hazards are being communicated within the project team and adequately mitigated.

Environment / Community Relations

All current works on site are under the Package 1 WHS / Enviro PMP for environmental. All water released from site below maximum value established in Water Quality Management Plan, and flocculant levels are within relevant guidelines.

Ongoing liaison with the private landowner regarding the works by Council, and all broader community liaison will be in accordance with DPE guidance.

Issues Requiring Council Input

Items pending Council input include:

1. Continued input into Stage 2 design development
2. Review and approval of Package 1 variations (requested additional works)
3. Outage planning for pumping station construction.

Time

Please see attached for the updated project program, noting the planned date for Completion is now 17/11/2023 (previously 17/10/2023). This change is primarily due updates to expected lead times for Principal Supplied Items (based on market conditions – exact lead times TBC).

This program has also been updated to reflect the latest construction program received from the Package 1 Contractor, which reflects a number of Extensions of Time (for poor weather and variation works).

Quality

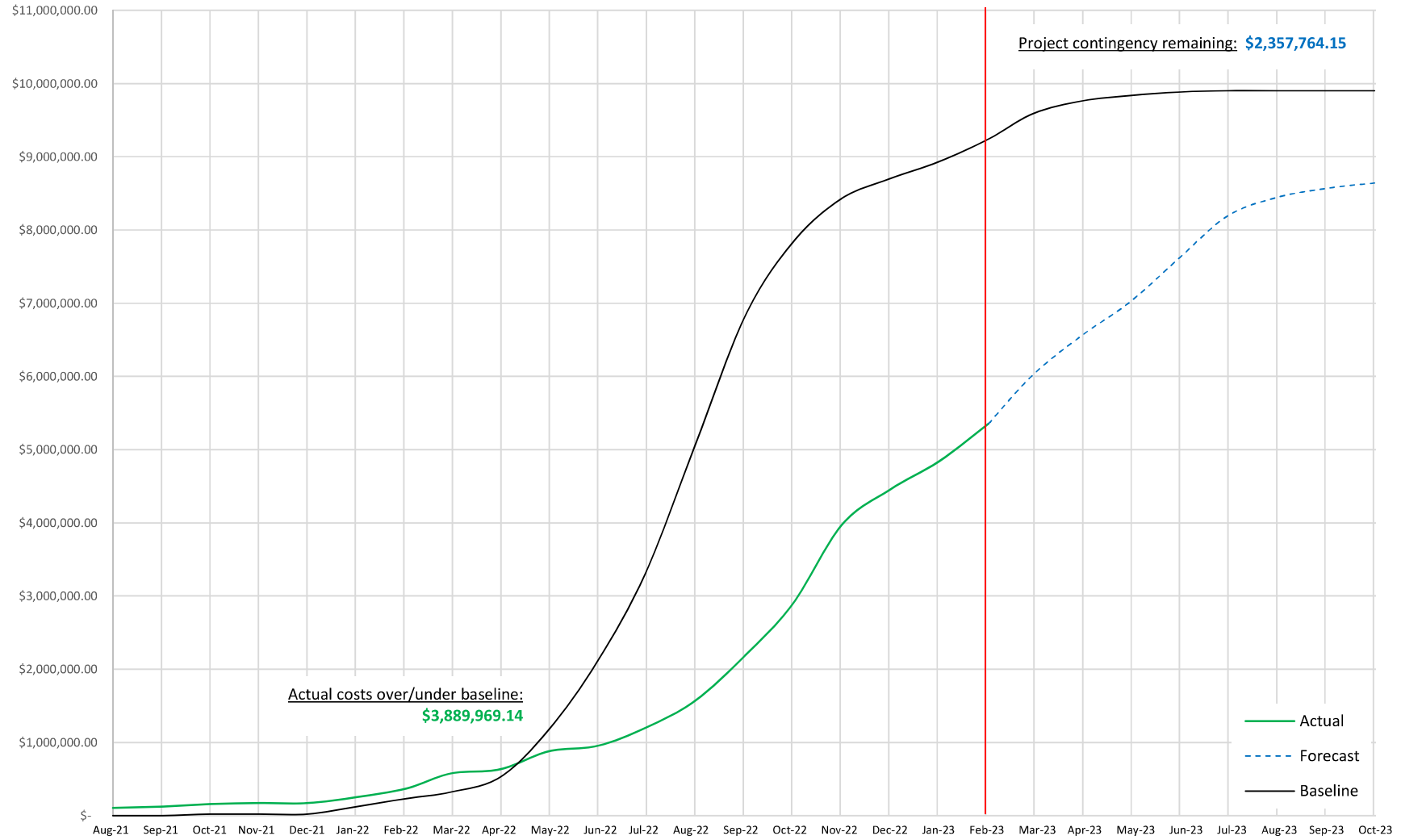
All deliverables are being developed in accordance with Beca HunterH2O's Quality Management Systems.

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

Innovation / Value Added / Other

Identification of value-add opportunities to utilise the currently mobilised Package 1 Contractor to deliver works to improve future-proofing and operability of the OCS1 storage.

Walcha Off Creek Storage (OCS1) EPCM Project Cashflow (Feb 2023)





9.2 CORPORATE & COMMUNITY:

Ref: WO/2023/00354

Responsible Executive: Director Corporate & Community

Attachments:

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.

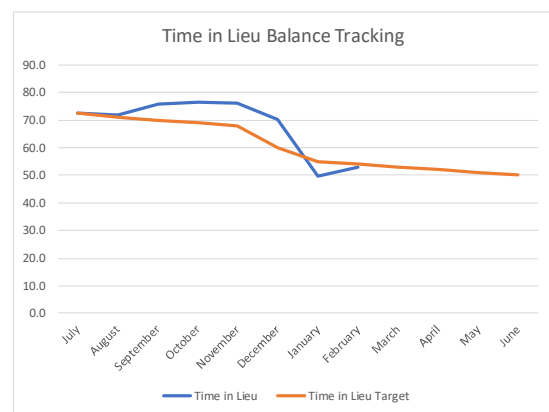
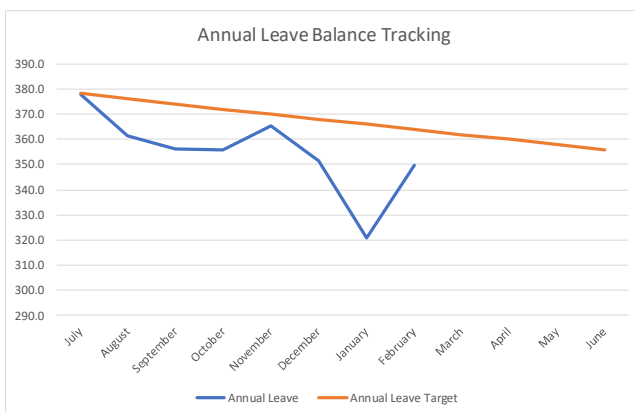
RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Corporate & Community Review Report be NOTED by Council.

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	FEBRUARY 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)	107	5	4	102	6	9	Increase in office shutdown has brought leave balances down and is one step to managing Council's leave liability.
Infrastructure (45)	188	1	44	218	4	58	Leave balances have reduced over the Christmas break however ongoing work is needed to manage balances. A council leave policy will assist with this.
Planning & Development (3)	23	2	0	25	1	0	
Community & Tourism (17)	32	2	5	32	2	5	
Totals	350	9	53	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.

With the extended Christmas shutdown Council has seen a significant reduction of leave which Council needs to continue to manage however the leave balances are beginning to grow.

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		
	February 2023	June 2022
Total Cash & Investments	17,516,691	13,521,720
External Restrictions:		
Contract Liabilities - General Fund	7,196,480	3,025,730
Contract Liabilities - Water Fund	1,533,263	3,709,846
Specific Purpose Grants	471,170	986,057
Water Fund (interfunding balance)	848,404	701,274
Sewer Fund (interfunding balance)	571,863	502,588
	10,621,179	8,925,495
Internal Allocations	4,344,643	6,684,560
Unrestricted Cash	2,550,869	-2,088,335

Unrestricted cash is still expected to be in deficit by June 2023 however with significant funding currently being expended Council may not have the resources to complete all own source works resulting in a surplus that would create backlog of works and be spent the following year.

3. Walcha Council Debt Recovery

Walcha Council has the current arrears as follows:

General Rates - \$78,000 (2.17% outstanding with benchmark 10%)

Water Rates - \$110,000 (10.78% outstanding based on average consumption with benchmark 10%)

Current outstanding percentage is approximately 4.2%, trending down steadily as a result active debt collection. A number of rate payers with large w



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	15	0	1	0	0	16
ENGINEERING	25	8	0	6	1	40
ADMINISTRATION	3	1	0	1	4	9
Total OPEN CRMS						65

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 28 FEBRUARY 2023

Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Est. Interest	Est. Market Value At Maturity	YTD Interest	MV % of Portfolio	TD Account #
nab	TD	3/08/2022	210	1/03/2023	3.35%	254,341.40	4,902.17	259,243.57	613.12	2.02%	917202309
CommonwealthBank	TD	6/09/2022	181	6/03/2023	3.61%	1,000,000.00	17,901.64	1,017,901.64		7.93%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	6/09/2022	181	6/03/2023	3.61%	1,000,000.00	17,901.64	1,017,901.64		7.93%	37844807
nab	TD	7/11/2022	150	6/04/2023	3.91%	1,004,416.44	16,139.46	1,020,555.90	4,416.44	7.96%	485796165
CommonwealthBank	TD	26/09/2022	210	24/04/2023	4.11%	503,057.53	11,895.59	514,953.12	3,057.53	3.99%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	26/09/2022	210	24/04/2023	4.11%	503,057.53	11,895.59	514,953.12	3,057.53	3.99%	37844807
nab	TD	4/01/2023	120	4/05/2023	4.05%	505,358.91	6,728.89	512,087.80	5,358.91	4.01%	488134669
nab	TD	15/11/2022	181	15/05/2023	4.05%	635,946.88	12,772.08	648,718.96	4,721.23	5.04%	918317642
CommonwealthBank	TD	27/10/2022	210	25/05/2023	4.10%	1,006,460.27	23,741.43	1,030,201.70	9,082.87	7.98%	37844807
nab	TD	4/01/2023	152	5/06/2023	4.15%	539,035.34	9,315.71	548,351.05	7,446.63	4.27%	972272676
nab	TD	5/12/2022	182	5/06/2023	4.10%	503,797.27	10,299.55	514,096.82	3,797.27	3.99%	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	8.41%	37844807
nab	TD	7/02/2023	150	7/07/2023	4.10%	563,738.99	9,498.61	573,237.60	8,929.60	4.47%	872609622
CommonwealthBank	TD	15/02/2023	152	17/07/2023	4.45%	507,821.33	9,410.69	517,232.02	7,821.33	4.02%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	23/02/2023	151	24/07/2023	4.47%	510,996.19	9,449.51	520,445.70	10,996.06	4.05%	37844807
CommonwealthBank	TD	27/01/2023	180	26/07/2023	4.42%	613,619.11	13,375.22	626,994.33	11,038.76	4.86%	37844807
nab	TD	4/08/2022	365	4/08/2023	3.70%	623,670.24	23,075.79	646,746.03	1,355.46	4.94%	416873585
CommonwealthBank	TD	23/02/2023	180	22/08/2023	4.59%	510,996.19	11,566.71	522,562.91	10,996.06	4.05%	37844807
nab	TD	16/09/2022	365	16/09/2023	4.20%	255,778.05	10,742.68	266,520.73	1,380.02	2.03%	444927886
nab	TD	4/10/2022	365	4/10/2023	4.40%	255,017.13	11,220.75	266,237.88	1,446.05	2.02%	919512554
nab	TD	12/01/2023	365	12/01/2024	4.55%	259,517.32	11,808.04	271,325.36	4,547.55	2.06%	919675556
Average rate					4.11%	12,617,151.87	275,607.71	12,892,759.58	111,513.15	100%	

Capital Value of Portfolio	12,617,151.87
Redeemed Value of Portfolio	-
Market Value of Portfolio 30/09/2022	<u>12,892,759.58</u>
Estimated Profit/(Loss) 30/09/2022	<u>275,607.71</u>

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 1/02/2022

Interest Earned YTD	8,745.32
Market Value of Portfolio	4,352,833.70
Average interest rate	0.39%

Interest Earned YTD 30 June 2022	43,301.76
Market Value of Portfolio 30 June 2022	6,505,681.00

Institutional Exposure

	Investment at Market Value	% of Portfolio
CommonwealthBank	7,216,534	57%
nab	5,400,618	43%
	<u>12,617,152</u>	<u>100%</u>

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 31/3/2023. Unable to complete – unspent funding will need to be returned.
Tourism	Regional Event Fund – <i>now open</i>	Identified – application to be submitted for the Motorcycle Rally \$20,000
Youth	Youth Opportunities Grant	Approved
	Youth Week	Approved
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.
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	Planning for the funding changes commencing in July 2024 has been underway. We have been focusing on increasing outputs and keeping costs as low as possible to set ourselves up for a successful transition. All areas of the Community Care have been reviewed for efficiency gains.
Preschool	<p>Preschool numbers are strong and the opening of both rooms on Fridays and adding the bus as an option has been well received. Previously we only operated with one mixed ages room each Friday with no bus.</p> <p>I noticed in a pre state election media release that Walcha Central has been earmarked as a school that will have a transition room built on-site. If this goes ahead, the impact of this on our preschool service is not yet known. No announcements have been made around the future of preschool funding once this is introduced.</p> <p>We have been unable to complete some of the work funded under the Community Grant due to high infrastructure staff workload so this money will need to be returned. It is approximately \$8,000.</p>



	<p>Works planned will still continue but be funded from the general preschool budget at a later date.</p>
Library & Youth	<p>The exterior library wall was identified as needing urgent repairs due to the high amount of rainfall over the past 2 years. This has now been completed.</p> <p>Planning is underway for the Youth Gym Project that we have received funding for.</p> <p>Some planning and discussions have been held regarding the Public Library Infrastructure Grant that will open later in the year.</p>
Early Intervention	<p>Following our audit in April 2022, we have finally received our Certificate of Registration from the National Disability Insurance Authority. Registration lasts for three years, and we are required to have a mid-term review halfway through the registration period to ensure that we have continued to implement any suggested process improvements.</p>
Tourism	<p>We will be saying goodbye to Corinne as she has submitted her resignation due to family reasons. Her role will be advertised during March with a replacement appointed in early April.</p> <p>Work has started on the Motorcycle Rally Strategic Plan. We plan to have this to Council for review in April or May.</p>
Building Assets	<p>Work for the 2023/24 budget has highlighted that there has never been a building repairs and maintenance budget for Council owned buildings. It will be proposed that each structure have its own allocation, or a "bucket" created that can be used when urgent building repairs are needed. Planned maintenance can also be funded from this allocation.</p> <p>Identified capital improvement works will continue to be specified in each year's budget for separate approval by Council.</p>

Priorities for March

- Budget and Fees & Charges
- Motorcycle Rally Strategic Plan



1. Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC)

February 2023

1.1 Groups

February was the month to get back into our excursions with a vengeance, with a full day trip to Dorrigo. We hired a 25-seat bus and still didn't have enough room for everyone so we ended up taking the Community Care bus as well. With 30 clients, we visited the Dangar Falls, had lunch at the Heritage Hotel, a brief shop in the main street and a trip out to the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre for a look at the Skywalk. It was a huge day, leaving Walcha at 8:30am and not returning until 7pm (with an ice cream stop on the way home) but everyone had a great time and got off the bus asking where the next big trip is on!

The Women's Group had a great returning morning tea, and stayed local for their excursion this month. We headed to the Apsley Arms for lunch and everyone seemed to really enjoy their meals.

The Men's Group also had a great morning tea and headed out to 'Cheyenne'- Burgh Blomfield's property to play with all things mechanical. While Meg and Jess set up a lovely lunch overlooking the gorge, the gentlemen cranked handles and cleaned spark plugs and got as many of Burgh's weird and wonderful contraptions going as possible. They also had a trip down to his amazing museum that he has curated over the past 60 years.

Community Café also started up again. We will be doing this once a month and it is something that will be much easier to achieve with our new oven and dishwasher. Apricot chicken with rice and broccolini was the main, with mini mixed berry pavlovas for dessert. This proved popular and we had 19 attendees. Starting in March, we will have a guest speaker each month to talk prior to the meal.

Art group is now happening fortnightly, at the clients request and has seen some new faces come through the door in 2023. Sue has them working on still life at the moment and will be introducing new techniques each month.

Women's Group 1/02- 17 15/02- 12	Wanderer's Group 22/02- 0	Men's Group 14/02- 13 28/02- 14
Art Group 8/02- 7 22/07- 7	Bingo 4/02- 17 18/02- 16	Friday Takeaway 10/02- 9 17/02- 6
Community Café 24/02- 19	Joint Excursion 7/02- 30	



1.2 Transport – February 2023

Medical drives – 36 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

Walcha Access bus (every Friday) 17/02- 4 24/02- 5	Bus to Armidale (every Thursday) 2/02- 4 9/02- 4 16/02- 5 23/02- 7
Taxi Vouchers – 23 clients used the service with 202 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. We have also advertised for some more volunteers.

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: 469

Main: 248

Frozen: 116

Dessert: 105

1.4 Feedback and Complaints

Community Care received a “Thumbs Up” in the Advocate for the trip to Dorrigo. Jess and Meg also received a Valentine’s Day card each from Terry Olsen that thanked us for all of our work and expressed his appreciation for all of the effort made for the clients. The men’s group all thanked the team publicly for the great day out.





Jess Goodwin
Community Care Coordinator

2. Library and Youth

February 2023

- Loans: 562
- Returns: 546
- Reservations placed & issued: 222
- New members: 7
- Door count: 699
- Wi-fi use: 32
- Computer use: 59
- Housebound: 8

Other statistics:

- eLibrary: Borrow Box
 - 78 users
 - 217 eAudiobooks
 - 99 eBooks

The Walcha Library has consistently shown a high number of loans and returns this month. Reservations placed and issued have remained steady and new member registrations increased to 7 this month. Visitor averages remaining high at 53 people per day, with similar public access and wifi usage to last month. The number of members using the Borrow Box eLibrary, and the number of eBook and eAudiobook loans have again increased compared to last month.

Outreach & Promotion

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



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

Social Media

The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook page remained the same this month, with 326 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 only 461 people (a 75% decrease to last month). The 5 Instagram posts shared throughout February received 29 'likes' (down 84% to last month). Library and Youth Instagram posts are now followed by 257 people, with 8 new followers again this month.

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


Engagement content: fun and interactive posts shared to engage with the library community and/or acknowledge events/themes being celebrated in wider community	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Total 2 engagement post	47	6	
Australian Governments eSafety commissioners 'Safer Internet Day 2023' share of key messages: connect. reflect. protect	47	6	

Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs	# people reached on	People engaging on Instagram
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	Facebook		
Total 14 service posts	1063	23	
Library closure information for Walcha Jockey Club's Race Meeting 1/2 day public holiday	185		
eLibrary promotional posts: - Libby by overdrive 'Hidden Gems, features you may not know about'	75		
ALIA Library Lovers Day 14 Feb 2023 - 2 x Share of Walcha activity - Photos of display - 2 x Share of Tamworth Library 10 'lovely facts'	85 & 59 76 52 & 51	7	
Storytime and Baby Booktime advertising	193		
2 x Promotion of Youth Week planning meetings	52 & 149	10 & 6	



<p>New to Walcha #Fridaydeliveryday post</p>	<p>86</p>	
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Programs

This month library staff are using the new catalogued barcodes to issue jigsaw puzzles from the Walcha Puzzle Library. Donations continue to come in from community members, so that the collection can be fine tuned to include the puzzles in best condition. In the month of February, only 3 puzzles have been borrowed by our members, and there are currently 88 in the collection. Staff are preparing to promote this collection as the weather cools and daylight savings finishes, which is the better puzzling conditions.

Library Volunteer, Veronica, continues to aid at the library on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons. Both shifts are during the peak item processing times at the library and ensures efficient use of the additional assistance. This month she has also worked on projects and collection maintenance as well as the usual reservations, returns and home delivery.

Storytime & Baby Booktime received a healthy 17 bookings this month, however with 3 family daycare groups cancelling due to illness, only 2 families attended. Library staff were able to provide a baby booktime session for the small group, giving parents some additional information about the Speech Language Pathology collection. When the daycare groups recovered, they visited the library for impromptu storytime with library staff, and to do their monthly borrowing.

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



The Australian Library and Information Association encouraged public libraries to participate in “Library Lovers Day” in February this year, culminating on Valentines day on 14 February. The theme this year was, ‘Only you’ recognising that library users are some of the greatest advocates for public libraries, and asked members to write notes on red love hearts to share what they love about their library. Some sweet treats (lollipops) were given to members and children who participated in the activity set up in the kids corner and the main counter area.

The kids-corner activity this month was an activity linked to ‘Library Lovers Day’ where children were given love heart cards to write or draw what they love about the library, for used in a display to celebrate the library. When library staff were available to interact with children, it was a great opportunity to talk to them about what the library can offer, and go over what other people enjoy about the library.

The Walcha Library Book club, the ‘Taphouse’ Bookclub and Penny King’s Bookclubs held their February meetings most members in attendance. Many of the newest bookclub members haven’t used the library for many years, and commented on how pleased they are with the CNRL bookclub kit service and their new found love of ebooks through the library free Borrow Box app.

The number of members and visitors using the library facilities for study related purposes was significantly lower than usual this month, likely due to the late start of tertiary courses. The free wifi and quiet study areas have been utilised occasionally this month for study, and work purposes.

The demand for IT support and assistance with computers, email, smart phones, tablet devices, printing, photocopying and scanning was noticeable this month. A series of 10-15 minute interactions were noted, and totalled almost 2 hours this month. Staff monitor the need for this support, and take expressions of interest for further instruction so that there is data available to support applications for ‘Tech Savvy Seniors’ workshops in the new financial year.

Staff Training

This month both permanent library staff were able to attend the CNRL Regional Training Day in Quirindi Library. This whole day training was focussed on the Law and Drug resources provided by the State Library. It included ways to check resources are up-to-date, use the website resources and the drug info kits available for loan from CNRL. Some general business was raised, but the training was mostly run by the State Library team. These regional training days are a great opportunity to liaise with CNRL staff, who we usually only speak to over the phone or via email, and other branches who share similar challenges. Based at the new Quirindi Library, staff were able to talk to the librarian and discuss the furniture choices, layout of the collection and childrens corner. The whole day training and travel time was also helpful for staff to discuss plans for library activities, programs and tasks for the year ahead, as they usually don't work at the same time.



Youth activities

Preparations have begun for the NSW Youth Week activities and the Easter school holiday program in April. Staff have organised planning sessions with local youth in the library on Thursday afternoons, to help with organisation and provide input and feedback for the annual Youth Week activity.

Cassie McKenna Library Coordinator

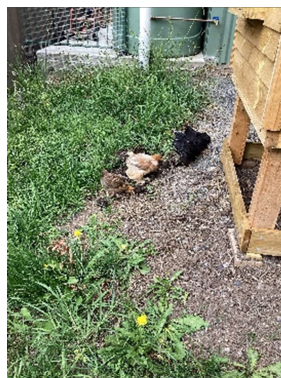
3. Preschool

February 2023

During February we have had the donation of 4 chickens for our chicken coop, the children are loving the experience of being able to catch and feed the chickens on a daily basis. We have had children bring food scraps from home to feed to the chickens, we also separate our scraps at morning tea and lunch time that we also feed to the chickens or in our worm farm. Having continued family involvement with in our preschool is building strong relationships and creating learning environments that are supportive and flexible.

The children have been learning the value of sustainability with our preschool and how we can contribute to our preschool community. Educators and children have active roles in creating and promoting sustainable living. The children have been assisting Educators in planting winter vegetables in our garden and caring for the already established fruit trees we have.

By involving the children in these experiences' educators recognise children's interest in their world, their ability to engage with concepts of sustainability (Early Years Learning Framework – Principles: Sustainability). Play based learning approaches allow for different types of play and recognise the intentional roles that both the children and the educators take in children's learning.



The *Koala* room (3-4 yrs) have also been exploring and working on a group project about sunflowers. One of the children had brought in a sunflower that had been growing at home to show her class. This has then sparked lots of conversations amongst the children, they have been learning what they grow from, how the seeds grow, what they need to grow. The children have also been creating their own versions of a sunflower in our creative arts experiences.

During these experiences Educators are building strong connections with families and children, by having strong connections and relationships children feel safe secure and supported and will interact with other with care, empathy and respect (Early Years Learning Framework: learning outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity) .





Staffing

This year we have seen two members of our staff go on maternity leave and another of our casual staff members step down from any roles at this time due to family and personal reasons. This has led to us trying to find more casual staff to help fill the gaps when our regular staff are away or sick. We have been lucky enough that Cassie McKenna who is also our local librarian off her assistance on Fridays when she is not working at the library and Sheetal Puri, she also is only available when she is not working in her own business.

Mel Clark
Preschool Nominated Supervisor

4. Tourism

February 2023

Number of visitors to Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

FEBRUARY	2023	2022	2021	2020
Walk in's	333	261	357	285
Phone enquiries	34	19	32	32
Email enquiries	45	3	1	1

WEBSITE STATISTICS	February	January	December	November
www.walchansw.com.au				
Total Visits	18,705	78,573	20,525	24,129
Total Pages	247,953	310,748	123,537	311,603
Total Hits	536,198	621,625	354,923	561,735

Note:

Key entry pages for our tourism website are our business directory and where to stay in Walcha (see table below).



Top 10 of 126 Total Entry Pages					
#	Hits		Visits		URL
1	6832	1.27%	4241	25.06%	
2	160261	29.89%	2975	17.58%	/business-directory/
3	306	0.06%	2480	14.66%	
4	1913	0.36%	2332	13.78%	
5	1040	0.19%	903	5.34%	
6	22504	4.20%	386	2.28%	/where-to-stay-cat/
7	397	0.07%	287	1.70%	/racing/
8	386	0.07%	275	1.63%	/cycling/
9	1742	0.32%	246	1.45%	/show-event/
10	436	0.08%	226	1.34%	/where-to-stay/

SOUNDTRAILS STATISTICS

SOUNDTRAIL NAME	WEBSITE VISITS	OPENS
Apsley Falls - Oxley Wild Rivers NP	15	16
Walcha Sculpture	33	47



SOCIAL MEDIA – WALCHA TOURISM

Facebook + Instagram Insights

Insight period: 01/02/23 - 28/02/23

Total posts (incl. reels) to Facebook: 14

Total of those posts by EJ Freelance: 4

Total posts (incl. reels) to Instagram: 6

Total of those posts by EJ Freelance: 4

Stories shared: 3

See next page for notes

Facebook Followers	Facebook Reach (Organic)	Facebook Engagement	Instagram Followers	Instagram Reach (Organic)	Instagram Engagement
1,634 Number of accounts that 'like' this page	27,138 Number of accounts that saw any of our posts at least once	5,381 Number of accounts that interacted with content (e.g. through likes, comments, shares + saves)	837 Number of accounts that follow this account	1,129 Number of accounts that saw any of our posts at least once	1,129 Number of accounts that interacted with content (e.g. through likes, comments, shares + saves)
Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period	Comparison to Previous Period
+26	-351.9%	+142%	+17	-1.4%	-2.8%

Top 3 Performing Posts (by reach) – Facebook

1. Street Procession Walcha Truck & Machinery Show



Posted by Walcha Tourism

2. Jacky Barkers campground Nowendoc NP



Posted by EJ Freelance

3. 63km Tractor Trek Walcha Truck & Machinery Show



Posted by Walcha Tourism



Go 55s

We undertook a 3-month digital campaign with Go55s magazine, which included a Walcha banner linking to our tourism website, an article posted on the home page, article appearing on fortnightly eDM and Facebook post. To read the article go to [Walcha drop in and visit us – we'd love to see you! - \(go55s.com.au\)](https://www.go55s.com.au)

Wanderer Magazine – New England High Country (NEHC)

NEHC has an 8- page feature in the February issue of The Wanderer magazine. An online version of the article appears on their website and in an eDM to Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia Ltd (CMCA's) 70,000+ members. You can read the promotional article at [A New Adventure Awaits \(cmca.net.au\)](https://www.cmca.net.au)

New attraction – It's Not a Train Set

Local, Alan Churchill, has recently opened up a new attraction for Walcha. This incredible creation is something else. It combines an abstract and semi-abstract environment with a working model railway. To view the teaser video, go to <https://www.itsnotatrainset.au>

Visitor Information Centre – Visitor book comments

Some of the comments from visitors to the Walcha Visitor Information Centre during February include:

Lovely, Interesting, Helpful, Very helpful! Very friendly, Beautiful – great staff here!

Lisa Kirton

Tourism and Visitor Information Services Coordinator



Item 10:

Committee Reports

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



Walcha Council Capital Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

held on

Thursday, 16 March 2023

at

8.00 am

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The General Manager and Chair welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

PRESENT: Interim General Manager – Phillip Hood (Chair), Mayor - Eric Noakes, Clr Mark Berry, Clr Scott Kermode, A/Director Infrastructure & Development – Alan Butler, Director Corporate & Community - Christian Martin and Senior Management Accountant - Rose Strobel, Secretariat – Anna Lummis.

IN ATTENDANCE: Hunter H20 - Jeff Staples, Works Manager – Roads - Josiah McDonald, Coordinator – Fleet and Depot Services - Darren Bird, Clr Anne-Marie Pointing.

Committee Minutes



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING

4.1.3 Infrastructure Capital Works Progress

RECOMMENDATION: That Council APPROVE the increase in Budget to deliver the Pollution Reduction Program (PRP) on Councils Environmental Pollution Licence (EPL) of Smoke Testing.

4.2.1 Library Public Infrastructure Grant

RECOMMENDATION: That Council APPROVE the Library Infrastructure Grant Project application.

4.2.2 National Housing Infrastructure Grant

RECOMMENDATION: That a report be prepared for Council for the three sites listed but that it is noted that the first site is recommended by the CAC for this grant.

4.2.3 Electrical upgrade of 6W Hamilton Street - Carlec

RECOMMENDATION: That an additional quote be obtained for this work, then a report be prepared for Council.

4.2.5 Quota Club of Walcha – Seats and Bubblers

RECOMMENDATION: That Council APPROVE the Walcha Quota Club seats and bubblers project.

1. APOLOGIES:

Nil.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES HELD:

Minutes of meeting held 9 February 2023 were reviewed and confirmed.

Actions Arising and Actions Outstanding from the 9 February 2023 Meeting were noted with the following updates:

Actions Outstanding

Action: DCC and GM to develop a program for Team Leaders/Supervisors on cost control (for Projects, etc) and roll out training to all applicable staff.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

4. GENERAL BUSINESS:

4.1 Reports

4.1.1 Capital Works & Grant Funding Progress Report and Update - Director Corporate & Community and Senior Management Accountant

Members discussed the following current capital works and grant funding:

- OCS - Mayor questioned where the money will come from for the current approved variations and how KCE are tracking for time and budget. Confirmed at this stage the final project figure will be under the budget amount.
- Solar Lighting – Budget was discussed, confirmed that it went over budget by \$2700, however; originally the project had a \$30,000 co contribution that was not spent.



- Quarries – Remove the Quarry Management Plan \$90,000 as it will not be spent this year.
- Jet patcher – still on target for mid-May delivery. Tank at the depot scheduled to be cleaned this month and waiting on power repair.
- Derby Street – funding deeds have been received by Council and project has been added to the capital works spreadsheet.
- Shared Pathways – Funding deeds haven't been received by Council. GM/SMA to chase up as the design tender is due to go up this week. Construction tender to come later, Mayor asked for an approximate timeline- GM advised the design tender starts in April 2023, linking pathways is aimed to get done by December 2023, Summervale is aimed to be done by November 2024. Dependent on whether we can do the construction tender as one tender for all three pathways.

4.1.2 Draft Capital Plan 2023/24 – Director Corporate & Community and Senior Management Accountant

Members discussed the following Capital Plan including:

- Change of governments will result in a dive of capital works funding.
- Phone system upgrade (Mayor enquired about the large budget of \$150,000), the price is an order of magnitude.
- LCRI Phase 4 funding can be spent over 2 years.
- Fixing country bridges is now in the Grants register, the Get Active fund is as well, as is Derby Street.
- Increased the gravel resheeting budget from \$400,000 to \$700,000, as part of our long-term financial plan as per our submission to IPART. This still doesn't meet our asset management plan recommendations.
- Dust suppression policy, is it still current? Policy needs to be reviewed.
- Water fund has \$940,000 showing – that rests on what we can leverage from what we have left from OCS project. This amount includes a small package of works for safety improvements and \$500,000 reflects the critical needs of the filter (media refurb) - Mayor enquired if we can apply for grant money for this type of work? DID confirmed it is maintenance works that grants don't cover.

4.1.3 Infrastructure Capital Works Progress – Director Infrastructure & Development

Members discussed the following current Capital Works projects including:

- Middle and Walsh Street (Mayor asked if kerb & gutter could be included as it says it's not on the spreadsheet and GM advised that it just hadn't been updated), bridges need additional funding or to minimise the scope of works, Tia Diggings getting close to finishing, Derby Street quite an aggressive tender/project in terms of time, OCS covered below, waste strategy going to April meeting (spoke about potentially changing our landfill to transfer station and transfer our general waste to ARC as they have constructed a new landfill).
- Sewer smoke testing preferred contractor has fallen through due to illness and the new cost we have sourced is greater. Budget required to increase from \$90,000 to \$135,000 to carry out the work and discharge the Pollution Reduction Program (PRP) on Councils Environmental Pollution Licence (EPL). Need a policy to cover the residents who don't



do their works – debt collection. It costs us to not do this project as we are pumping and it also has an environmental impact. This will then drive the sewer replacement project.

4.1.4 Depot, Plant and Fleet Update – Director Corporate & Community

Members discussed the proposed Depot Masterplan details including:

- Administration systemic issue with timesheets, and staff not recording correct plant use; need to upskill staff to address this. A better induction system is needed for staff.
- Plant replacement: Eric spoke about the lack of staff resources to operate the proposed new grader makes it hard to warrant the money in comparison to hire plant; trailers are 16 years old (2 of them), water carts need updating, and a smooth drum roller (currently hiring).

4.1.5 Walcha Off-Creek Storage & HH2O Update – Manager Water & Waste

HH2O presented at the meeting and provided an update to members on the Off-Creek Storage Project progress including:

- Mayor enquired about the fencing being “complete” but the money left over, it is an error and the fencing component hasn’t been finished. Dynamic Duo were engaged in a 2-part contract and still have to come back to finish the second part.
- Mayor enquired about month delay on the project and stated he is disappointed. HH2O explained that the date for completion of design is still the same as last month so it hasn’t changed, its more the supply of goods for the project having a long lead time. Not a new delay it’s just a more accurate reflection on the lead times. HH2O discussed a temporary solution for the pumping delay we will experience due to the project being pushed back.
- Mayor enquired about the pumped hydro option, floating solar is a more feasible option.
- Topsoil saving with the new stockpile solution instead of disposal.
- Trunnion modification works were discussed.
- Switch board design is all but complete and will go out for RFQ next week.
- Pumps, valves and actuators ordered.
- Elevated platform and stairs still to be procured.
- Stage 2 design element - reinstated Friday morning meets.
- Relocation of southern soil stock pile isn’t going to happen, it will just be tidied up and a drain/trench put in to divert any organic material to the spillway rather than into the water storage.
- Spoke about grasses for planting.
- Budget perspective - project contingency hasn’t changed.
- The clay blanket on the bottom of the dam acts as a water blanket, the vast boat ramp length is needed as it has to follow the water because if we are in a drought we will need to get down to take the trunnion float off so that it doesn’t crush the trunnion pipe.

4.1.6 Pothole and Road Repair Grant Funding Allocation – Manager Works – Roads

Members discussed the proposed pothole and road repair grant funding allocation including:

- Mayor advised the thing that worries him is how much the unallocated money is and what is it being planned to be spent on?



- Pothole patching funding to be spent on jet patcher, Mayor doesn't agree on the plan to use an external plant rate for this work as this will reduce the amount of work that can be delivered.
- Disaster funding has to be used on Thunderbolts Way where the disaster occurred.
- Thunderbolts Way could have some extra money, won't know until June and at that point could be shifted into resheeting, jet patcher etc.
- Jamieson street asphalt works to be completed.
- Report will go to Council but the patches that will be done need to be formatted into the roads and the amount spent per road (WM-R).
- Report is based on 1 million dollars of disaster funding, if this is more or less the allocations of money to projects will have to be amended.

4.2 Project Applications

4.2.1 Public Library Infrastructure Grant – Manager Community and Tourism

Members discussed the Library Infrastructure Grant including:

- o Disability toilet has been scrapped from the plans due to funds, instead the existing petition will be removed to make the space bigger and more user friendly.

Recommendation: That council APPROVE the Library Infrastructure Grant application.

4.2.2 National Housing Infrastructure Facility – Manager Community and Tourism

Members discussed the National Infrastructure Facility EOI including:

- o This funding can be used for the subdivision, rezoning and services connection costs for preparation of Council owned land for sale or development.
- o The block behind the pool is the most popular choice, there is existing power and water and it doesn't need to be rezoned. Perfect for a duplex or units.
- o Block with dam near Apsley street seems to be more work and investigations with potentially more complications.
- o The largest of the lots, near WCS; is potentially more enticing to buyers as the lot size of the blocks will be larger; but a larger lot means higher costs, there is no current services connected sewer and this lot has a privately-owned lot in the middle of it.
- o This project consists of a grant as well as a loan being obtained by Council to meet the grant availability criteria.

Recommendation: That a report go to Council for the three sites but that the first site is recommended by the CAC.

4.2.3 Electrical Upgrade of 6W Hamilton Street - Carlec – Manager Community and Tourism

Members discussed the Electrical repairs required at 6W Hamilton Street including:

- o Quote from 2020 for the electrical upgrade was \$20,000.



Recommendation: That another quote be obtained for this work then a report go to Council. CAC advised they are happy to do the repairs and keep the current long-term tenant dependant on the costs of the repairs.

4.2.4 DRRF Program and Rural Signage Subsidy – Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator
Moved to Council meeting.

4.2.4 Walcha Quota Club – Seats and Bubblers – Interim General Manager

Members discussed the Quota Club seats and bubblers including:

- There will be only ongoing maintenance costs to Council, no project cost as it will be funded by the Quota Club.
- Mayor suggested a seat outside the “Antipodeon Tinker” building as a lot of people park up there and walk down to access the main street.
- Another location suggestion was along the levy near the tennis court – approved.
- Another location suggestion was along the cemetery reserve or at John Oxley to tie in with the shared pathways project. Dog bowl filling station is a good option at John Oxley.

Recommendation: That Council APPROVE the Walcha Quota Club seats and bubblers projects.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mayor suggested that we should inform the Jockey Club of possible grants to enable them to connect to our sewer main whilst we are doing the mains extension and shared pathway works out there.

Next Meeting Date: 18 May 2023

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12:20PM.



Walcha Motorcycle Rally Committee Meeting

held on

Friday, 17 March 2023

at

8:05am

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Clr Mark Berry (Chairperson), Christian Martin (Director Corporate & Community), Lisa Kirton (Tourism and Visitor Information Services Coordinator), Corinne Annetts (Tourism Officer), Andy Burwell, Karen Barnes, Kim Burnett.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clr Eric Noakes (Mayor), Karen Kermode (Executive Manager Community & Tourism), Sally Munday (Barrel racing organiser)

1. APOLOGIES:

Tracy Hoy, Shane Carey, Jason Cox

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

It was MOVED on the Motion of Burwell and Kirton that the Minutes of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally Committee Meeting held at Walcha Council Chambers, 15 February 2023, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a TRUE record.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Tourism & Information Services Coordinator shared the final report including budget for Walcha Motorcycle Rally 2022. Budget for 2023 is looking conservative and using figures from the 2022 budget as a base figure. Excess merchandise not sold will rollover to 2023 and \$5,000 for attractions has been set aside.

Committee Minutes



Flagship Grant to be applied for of \$20,000 from DNSW specifically targeting promotion of established events this will include, printing, website, flyers, statistics etc. The aim is to expand events and generate more visitors and tourism in regional NSW. This is an ongoing fund for the next 2 years. This will no longer include entertainment but will include videographer and photographer and other promotional and media areas.

Director Corporate & Community noted the budget must reflect the visitor information centre work cost needed to run the event and how we resource the things we are doing. Mayor Noakes stated that all areas of Council require to show exactly where costs are being spent due to Council's budget being tight.

4. DIRECTORS REPORT

NIL

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Motorcycle Rally Strategic Plan Update

Kermode will incorporate modelling around ticket numbers and what the objectives are into the strategic plan. How does this look if there are no grants and Council is no longer able to support the event? If these objectives are not met, what is the exit strategy? How is this event going to be sustainable into the future?

Mayor Noakes reflected that the strategic plan must show how this event is sustaining the community and how the community can be engaged better. Some feedback from the community indicates council should not be spending own funds/in-kind on an event when there is an imminent SRV.

Director Corporate & Community suggested canvassing the community further in regards to feedback for the Rally and hopefully result in narrowing this gap with Council.

Burnett noted that open support from Council during the rally would create a positive spin.

Public perception is that money is being spent although Director Corporate & Community clarified that the event only uses a small amount of the committed funds with revenue covering most of Council's costs. Kermode will send a copy of the strategic plan to the committee for input before going to Council in April. Director Corporate & Community indicated the strategic plan will reflect a communication strategy.

5.2 Sponsors / Grant Funding

- Email to 106 businesses including the packages asking for sponsorship.
- Letter to be sent to Adam Marshall MP requesting \$15,000 in support.
- DNSW Flagship Grant to be applied for, \$20,000 with a focus on promotion and marketing. Print media/ Flyers/ Social media Boosts. Could T-Shirts be considered marketing?
- Major sponsor to be sourced as a way to secure the event for the future.



5.3 Budget / Ticket Pricing

- Fees/pricing will go to Council next meeting in March and will be on display for public comment for 28 days. It is expected the ticket price will be approved by April/May.
- Discussion involving the possibility of a super early bird price "buy your ticket at 2023 price", at the end of the Rally2023. Director Corporate & Community to research if this is possible and how this is reflected in the budget.
- The budget for 2023 should be completed earlier and securing a 2024 ticket price will be a quicker process.

5.4 Ticket Sales – Opening Date

March Council meeting, 28 day for comment possibly April/May tickets will go on sale.

5.5 POS Platform

Research indicates that using a Square system will be beneficial, although to open an account requires an individual's details, Director Corporate & Community will research this. The platform is easily integrated into the current website. Using this type of platform will effectively capture data for future planning.

5.6 Merchandise

Tourism & Information Services Coordinator has obtained quotes for merchandise to be sold. Quotes include different colour t-shirt, bottle opener, beanies, beer coolers, stickers etc. This has been reflected in the budget.

5.7 Exhibitors / Food Stalls

Tourism Officer to send "Save the date" email to potential stallholders while waiting for fees to be approved.

5.8 Micro Events / Performers / Bands

Thursday Night easy listening, bands locked in for Friday/Saturday. Coordinating events with organised rides i.e. Barrel racing, programming, main attractions to be finalised.

5.9 Site Plan

To be completed by the Events Manager Andrew White and the show society. Accurate sites and power to be mapped. Showground has been booked verbally, request for confirmation formally.

5.10 Organised Rides

Burnet, Burrell and Carey in the process of finalising organised rides. Option of a trail bike track to be added and speed bike ride. Utilising You tube links to promote these rides.

5.11 Businesses



Tourism Officer has been communicating to businesses about creating opportunities to promote during the Rally, a window display competition suggested.

Discussion on how to bring the bikes into town and display the various styles. Best selfies with a bikie. Possibly block off Fitzroy Street and Derby Streets have a bike only area after the street procession where community and visitors are able to interact.

5.12 Marketing / Promotion

- Youtube links posted to social media.
- Advocate regular updates regarding the Rally.

5.13 Other Business

- Mayor Noakes - Community feedback has been that the Rally is not an event for the community. Council would like to see the community being a larger part of this event as Council is seen to be investing \$35,000.
- Discussion that the Rally is a Tourism event attracting visitors to Walcha for multiple nights and returning visitation. Benefits to businesses economically.
- Barnes reflected that the community is becoming more engaged with this event as it continues, positive feedback regarding the street procession in conjunction with the Farmers Market and timing, the demolition derby is always a community favourite. Some businesses did extremely well and this should continue to grow and engage the community. Barnes commented that community groups are planning already on how to collaborate events during the Rally. Bridge to Bridge Duck Race.
- Kermode to provide follow up reports in the Advocate regarding the event and "Fun Facts", "we are ramping up for this year". Mayor Noakes suggested a monthly grab keeping it in the community's newsfeed. Good news quotes.
- Surveys for 2023 will engage council to develop questions that target specialised answers regarding the Rally.
- Gloucester Motorcycle Expo, volunteer to promote. 6/7 May, Cox and Carey to attend.

6. NEXT MEETING

Friday 28 April 2023 8.00am

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.38 AM



Item 11:

Delegate Reports

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

Community Consultative Committee

Meeting held at Council Chambers on 14.2.2023 at 12noon

Members Present – Sue Green (Chairperson) Vicki McIvor (Secretary) Snr Constable Gen. Howard, Bill Heazlett, Lloyd Levingston, Aurora Reilly, Lyn Smith, Bob Burnell.

Apologies – Sergeant Brock Freeman, Ron Denham, Mary Hoare, Don McHattan, Nigel Forsyth, Jaz Taylor (Neighbourhood Centre),

Moved by Bob and Seconded by Lloyd that apologies be accepted as read

Minutes of the previous meeting distributed by email/post.

Vicki moved that the minutes be accepted as read, Seconded by Sue. Carried

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

RSL signage no longer needs to be mentioned in our minutes. It is not a Police matter

Correspondence out from previous meeting - Nil

Correspondence in for today's meeting – 2023 Meeting dates for members

Correspondence received and read by Secretary Seconded by

Business from Correspondence – Dates for 2023 meetings given to members present and Council Reception for notation in Council Diary. Other members will be notified by email.

Police Report

1. Spike in Youth Crime over the Christmas & New Year period. This was dealt with quickly and some are still under investigation. The Community were helpful with these matters.

2. The Police have been busy at the Station with offences

3. Few car accidents

4. There were a few issues with Domestic violence

5. No rural issues arising

6. Walcha Police are fully staffed which includes Walcha Road and Nowendoc

7. New Phone number for Walcha Police Station – 67383530. If you can't get through then speak with Tamworth Police and they will take details and access the situation, then respond with the closest car if applicable.

Questions to Police

Q. Do we have housing in Walcha for Domestic Violence victims.

A. No, the closest is Armidale. Walcha has appropriate services for short term.

Members held a discussion in regards to this issue.

S.E.S. Report – Bob Burnell

1. Minimal accidents to report.

2. Car off the road at Woolbrook – no issues arising from that

3. Mitch Parker – Area Controller is leaving & a replacement has not been organised yet.

Question to Bob – who looks out for members after being through a traumatic event?

A. As local Controller Bob does.

Other Reports

1. Sue mentioned that a new Neighbourhood Centre Coordinator will be Jaz Taylor.

Council Ref: WI/2023/02090

2. Aurora stated that our reports are now taken to Council meetings and discussed as necessary, and the next meeting is the 22nd Feb. A copy is sent to Liz Hobbs, Managerial secretary.

Youth Report

1. Harry Cutmore is a Youth Liaison Officer who has dealt with issues in Walcha.
2. Sue also helps with a Young offenders program
3. A Community based Counselling program will be available with an appointment at the Community Neighbourhood Centre with Talking for mixed sessions on Mondays and Food kitchen on Fridays

General Business

1. Vicki mentioned that our AGM was always in June and due to the disruption of Bushfires, droughts, floods we have gotten off track, so should we resume in June again. Members discussed this matter and all agreed to have June as our AGM month.
2. Matthew Palmer - Deputy Principal Walcha Central School has left so members discussed inviting the new person to step into this role. Secretary will contact the School and ask for updated details of new DP.
3. Sue will get emails for Harry Cutmore and Nigel Forsyth – involved in Youth programs
4. Secretary will contact Graham Barnes – Presbyterian Minister and ask if he would like to attend as he runs a Youth group at the Church.
5. The Walcha Rotary Club are involved with a Youth Group at the Central School, perhaps they could be contacted. Secretary will ask.

Meeting closed at 1pm

Next meeting Tuesday 11th April

Vicki McIvor
Secretary
0427 772 950
vicete@aapt.net.au

Sue Green
Chairperson/ President

**Meetings will be held in the Walcha Council Chambers 12noon and normally only go for 1 hour
An Agenda will be sent out a week before and if you require anything to be added, email me or
send an apology if you can't attend.**

Dates for 2023

14th February
11th April
13th June - AGM
8th August
10th October
12th December

Council Ref: WI/2023/02090

CoREM Minutes / Summary of Discussions

21 February 2023

2:00pm – 4:00pm

ANZAC Room, The York Club

Attendees:

- Rob Banham: Mayor, Glen Innes Severn Council
- Bernard Smith: General Manager, Innes Severn Council
- Robert Bell: Deputy Mayor, Uralla Shire Council
- Kate Jessup: General Manager, Uralla Shire Council
- Ambrose Doolan: Mayor, Warrumbungle Shire Council
- Des Kennedy: Mayor, Mid-Western Regional Council
- Sam Coupland: Mayor, Armidale Regional Council
- Todd Redwood: Deputy Mayor, Armidale Regional Council
- Eric Noakes: Mayor, Walcha Shire Council
- Phil Hood, Acting General Manager, Walcha Shire Council
- Russell Webb: Mayor, Tamworth Regional Council
- Judy Coates: Councillor, Tamworth Regional Council
- Paul Bennett: General Manager, Tamworth Regional Council

-
- David Gainsford: DPE
 - Felicity Greenway: DPE
 - Clay Prenshaw: DPE
 - Matt Riley: DPE
 - Mike Young: EnergyCo
 - James Hay: EnergyCo
 - Matt Kean: Treasurer + Minister for Energy

Cumulative Impact

Ask

DPE / EnergyCo to provide sufficient funding for each REZ to prepare a cumulative social, environmental and economic impact assessment for the full development scenario of each Renewable Energy Zone. The study should cover the periods of both construction and operation, which includes (but is not limited to):

- Housing
- Employment
- Infrastructure – roads / waste
- Impact on agricultural land

Comment:

LGA's lack the resources (\$ and personnel) to assess the impact of renewable projects in a timely manner which is leaving communities exposed. A detailed cumulative impact assessment will be essential for LGA's to properly plan for the REZ.

Response:

EnergyCo will undertake a Cumulative Impact Study.

- a) Have done so in the CWO REZ
- b) Will look to complete on in the NE REZ in the 2023 calendar year
- c) CWO REZ councils have been offered \$250,000 per annum for three years by EnergyCo to assist with engineering, infrastructure reports and the like. NE REZ councils will be made an offer in 2023

New Rating Categories

Ask

DPE to expand rating categories to enable councils to apply rates specifically for renewable projects.

Comment:

The current rating categories are too broad. The area of a wind tower compared to a solar array may vary enormously. Accordingly, councils should have the option to rate the following categories:

- a. Renewable – Wind
- b. Renewable – Solar
- c. Renewable - Other

Response:

- i. DPE does not regulate / determine rating categories
- ii. DPE will assist CoREM with an approach to the OLG and IPART to enable the creation of applicable rating categories
- iii. DPE are willing to have a 'without prejudice' discussion with CoREM in relation to the total amount that councils are requiring renewable proponents to pay (rates and Planning Agreements)

Wind and Solar Guidelines – Planning Agreements + Guidelines

Ask

- i. DPE to amend the Large-Scale Solar Farm Guidelines to remove reference to \$300/MW as a VPA quantum.
- ii. In drafting the amended Wind Farm Guidelines DPE to flag a VPA but not specify the quantum.

Comment:

CoREM Councils are collectively requesting 1.5% of the Capital Investment Value as a VPA quantum. Developers have shown a willingness to contribute to this level.

Intervention by DPE to hamstring councils in this regard breaches all sense of partnership between DPE and Councils that is necessary for a REZ to be successfully implemented.

Response:

DPE are working on draft wind guidelines but are not willing to share with CoREM until after the state government election on 25 March 2023.

Significant discussion was had in relation to:

- From the perspective of the councils, the lack of engagement and consultation by DPE in the process was eroding goodwill and risks jeopardising the success of the REZ
- DPE undertakes to engage with councils prior to the release of the revised wind guidelines

Wind and Solar Guidelines – adherence by renewable energy proponents

Ask

DPE to work with CoREM to identify elements of the guidelines that need to be enforced, tightened or legislated so that renewable energy proponents are not initially proposing what amounts to an ambit claim for a project. Areas of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Tower setbacks from dwellings
- Visual assessments
- Noise assessments

Comment:

There is significant social friction that arises between host landholders and near neighbours when the existence of a renewable project becomes public knowledge and is further compounded when the project is not remotely close to adhering to the guidelines. This approach is tearing at the fabric of our communities and is being repeated over and over again because of the large number of projects within a REZ.

The guidelines are being abused by renewable developers in that they are initially proposing a project that is well outside the guidelines and then paring it back to show they have listened to the 'community engagement'.

The resultant social friction comes at the cost of the social licence of the REZ.

Response:

See above.

EnergyCo Access Fees

Ask

Energy Co to confirm that access fees will include \$1,700/MW for community benefit and \$600/MW for employment purposes will be applied in all Renewable Energy Zones.

Comment:

CoREM understands this is the commitment made to CWO REZ and want assurance that the same will be applied to the NE REZ.

Some guidance on the proposed mechanic of how these benefits will be applied would be welcome.

Response:

EnergyCo has agreed to the above. More detail to follow.



Country Mayors Association Inc of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
PO Box 63, Gunnedah NSW 2380
0467 402 412
ABN 92 803 490 533

MEETING MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 9 March 2023 held at the Offices of the Port of Newcastle, Level 4, 251 Wharf Road, Newcastle.

The meeting opened at 8:45am

1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, Mayor
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor
Dungog Shire Council, Cr John Connors, Mayor
Dungog Shire Council, Mr Gareth Curtis, General Manager
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
Federation Council, Mr Adrian Butler, General Manager
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Troy Arandale, Deputy Mayor
Glen Innes Shire Council, Mr Bernard Smith, General Manager
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Peter Walker, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Cr Doug Curran, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Groth, General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Leo Hauville, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager
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
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Nathan Skelly, Acting General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor

Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Lester Rogers, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
Narramine Shire Council, Cr Dawn Collins, Deputy Mayor
Oberon Council, Cr Lauren Trembath
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Kate Jessep, General Manager
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr Scott Phillips, CEO

APOLOGIES:

Ms Linda Scott, President ALGA and as submitted

Further apologies taken from the floor:

- Kent Boyd, GM Parkes
- Cr Rick Firman, Mayor Temora

SPECIAL GUESTS

- (a) Cr Darriea Turley AM, President, LGNSW
(b) Mr Scott Phillips, CEO, LGNSW

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 18 November 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record

Moved: Narrabri Mayor, Councillor Ron Campbell

Seconded: Kempsey Mayor, Councillor Leo Hauville

Carried

Meeting suspended at 8:50am, and Jamie introduced Darriea and Scott

Darriea addressed current matters for LGNSW including Red Fleet and then handed over to Scott, LGNSW. Scott addressed the following:

- Councillor Conduct Framework
- IPART Review of Rate Peg Methodology- new CEO doesn't believe that they can have report to Government by April deadline, and have been granted a 3 month extension

Chairman Chaffey introduced Craig Carmody at 9:00am

Mr Carmody gave the meeting an overview of the operations and aspirations of Port of Newcastle.

Mr Carmody wrapped up at 9:50 with a presentation of a book to Jamie.

Mayor of Singleton, Councillor Sue Moore made a presentation as a token of appreciation to Craig.

Meeting broke for morning tea to resume at 10:15am.

Meeting resumed at 10:15am

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

There were no matters arising.

4. Membership:

Motion: That Junee Shire Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Bourke Shire Council be admitted as members of the Association.

Moved: Forbes Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Federation Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Chaffey read correspondence received last night from Mayor of Newcastle, which requested that the association grant Newcastle City Council associate membership.

Discussion ensued.

Motion: That Country Mayors Association move to work on consideration of change to our membership to align with that of LGNSW rural regional.

Moved: Forbes Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Lachlan Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf

Carried

Motion: That 2 months notice be given that there be constitutional change to allow for there to be associate membership to the association.

Moved: Parkes Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith

Seconded: Tenterfield Mayor, Councillor Bronwyn Petrie

The matter was suggested to be deferred pending the investigation of realignment of membership as per the previous motion. The Chair determined to allow it as it was a separate matter to that of Newcastle's request.

Carried by 75% majority

It was noted that the executive would work towards putting words around what associate membership would entitle and how much it would be.

5. Correspondence:

Correspondence Outward and Correspondence Inward sheets provided with General Meeting Agenda

Motion: That the correspondence be noted.

Moved: Lachlan Mayor, Councillor John Medcalf

Seconded: Tamworth Mayor, Councillor Russell Webb

Carried

- (a) NSW Fair Trading Form A12 – T2 Annual Summary of Financial Affairs Tier 2
- (b) Local Government NSW Update for CMA Meeting on 09/03/23
Clr Darriea Turley AM, President, LGNSW provided update and addressed CMA members regarding membership

6. Financial Report:

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

Moved: Parkes Mayor, Councillor Ken Keith

Seconded: Glen Innes Deputy Mayor, Councillor Troy Arandale

Carried

7. General Business

(a) Change to CMA Constitution

At the 18 November meeting it was resolved that notice of 2 months be given to members to change the Associations Constitution to provide for the position of Immediate Past Chairman to be a member of the Executive.

Under clause 32 of the Constitution, no alterations to the Constitution shall be made unless two months' notice in writing is first given and unless the alteration be supported by 75% of the members present at the meeting at which the vote is taken. Notice of the proposed change was notified to members by e-mail on the 28 November 2022

Motion: That the Country Mayors Association change the Associations Constitution to create the position of Immediate Past Chairman and provide for that position to be a member of the Executive.

Moved: Forbes Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Tamworth Mayor, Councillor Russell Webb

Carried unanimously

(b) Acknowledgement to Country

Motion: That the Country Mayors Association includes an Acknowledgement to Country at its future meetings with the wording of such to be as follows:

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

Moved: Kempsey Mayor, Councillor Leo Hauville

Seconded: Bellingen Mayor, Councillor Steve Allan

Carried unanimously

(c) **Quotes**

CMA Banners (Llyod Signs)

Website (Two Cats Creative)

Motion: That the Country Mayors Association accepts the quotes for CMA Banners received from Lloyd Signs and for CMA Website received from Two Cats Creative.

Moved: Goulburn Mayor, Councillor Peter Walker

Seconded: Berrigan Mayor, Councillor Matthew Hannan

Carried

(d) **Revised and amended Scholarship Program**

It was noted by the Chair that there was some concern with this item by parties external to CMA as the amount offered was greater than the first prize for the Bluett.

Motion: That the matter of the scholarship program be deferred to the May meeting of CMA.

Moved: Forbes Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Tamworth Mayor, Councillor Russell Webb

Carried

(e) **CMA Position on distribution of Letters of Support for Funding**

The Chairman recently received a request for a Letter of Support for a member council to assist with a grant funding application to a State Government program. A draft letter was presented to the Executive for their approval as CMA currently do not have an endorsed position on the provision of such request for support. It should be noted the letter was supported by the Executive but it was not unanimous and after further discussion with the Executive it was decided that this issue should be debated at the next General Meeting of CMA for a formal position to be developed.

Motion: That the Country Mayors Association not give letters of support to our member Councils for their grant funding applications.

Moved: Forbes Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Singleton Mayor, Councillor Sue Moore

Carried

General Business from the floor:

Motion:

That the Association, at a future meeting, report on holding two meetings a year in non-metropolitan locations with application criteria being determined by the Executive. These meetings would commence in 2024 if adopted.

Moved: Kempsey Mayor, Councillor Leo Hauville

Seconded: Forbes Mayor, Councillor Phyllis Miller

It was clarified by the Chair that this is 2 additional meetings to the 4 meetings per year that CMA will hold in Parliament House aligned with sitting dates, or alternate venue such as York Club.

Carried

Motion:

That the Country Mayors Association write to the Board of LGNSW and request that a motion be moved at the next LGNSW Conference to:

1. Revoke the previously passed motion to disallow real estate agents and developers and associated families of such from standing as councillors through NSW LGAs; and
2. That if the motion is successful that the board write to both major political parties advising them of the decision.

The Chair sought, given the nature of the motion, leave from the meeting about whether the motion should be accepted. The motion was accepted and put to the vote.

Moved: Broken Hill Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jim Hickey

Seconded: Federation Mayor, Pat Bourke

Carried

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:15am

The members remained to receive a briefing from Viv May on the Remuneration Tribunal deliberations this year.

A Guided Tour of the Newcastle Port Facilities was then held on conclusion of the meeting.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Friday 26 May 2023**, location in **Sydney** with venue to be advised.

Cr Jamie Chaffey

CHAIRMAN

COUNTRY MAYOR'S ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC.



Item 12:

Questions with Notice



There are no *Questions on Notice* this month.



Item 13:

Referral to Closed Council Meeting



There are no Closed Council items for
March 2023