



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 25 October 2017

2:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

Members:

Mayor – Councillor Eric Noakes
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Clint Lyon
Councillor Peter Blomfield
Councillor Kevin Ferrier
Councillor William Heazlett
Councillor Jennifer Kealey
Councillor Scott Kermode
Councillor Rachael Wellings

Quorum – 5 Members to be Present

AGENDA

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Dear Mayor & Councillors

You are requested to attend the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on **Wednesday, 25 October 2017** commencing at **2.00pm**.

Yours sincerely

Jack O'Hara
GENERAL MANAGER

INDEX

1.	Apologies	
2.	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	
2.1	Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 27 September 2017 at Walcha Council Chambers.	WO/2017/01738
3.	Business Arising	
4.	Declarations of Interest	
5.	Mayoral Minute	
6.	Senior Officers Reports	
6.1	Review of Public Gates (Ramps) Policy	WO/2017/01835
6.2	Risk Appetite	WO/2017/01812
6.3	Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy Overview	WO/2017/01824
6.4	Waste Strategy & CDS Update	WO/2017/01833
6.5	Work Health & Safety Audit	WO/2017/01740
7.	Notices of Motion	
8.	Matters of Urgency (Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).	
9.	Management Review Report	WO/2017/01813

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



10. Committee Reports

10.1 Nil.

11. Delegates Reports

11.1 Delegate Report from Clr Heazlett – NSW Public Libraries Association
North West Zone Meeting held in Coffs Harbour on Thursday,
21 September 2017. WO/2017/1832

12. Committee of the Whole

12.1

Resolution to adjourn the Ordinary Meeting and to move into Committee of the Whole and to exclude the Press and the Public from the entire proceedings of the Committee Meeting.

Resolution to move into Open Council.

Resolution to adopt Committee of the Whole Report and Recommendations.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Present:

Apologies:

**Confirmation of the Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday,
27 September 2017:**

**Matters arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday,
27 September 2017:**

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

at

3:05pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors PR Blomfield, KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, JM Kealey, SJ Kermode, CM Lyon and RL Wellings.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager, Mr DJM Reeves, Director – Engineering Services, and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

1. APOLOGIES:

Nil.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2017:

45 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kealey that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 30 August 2017, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Item 12.1 Set Sale Price of Property at 21W Churchill Street, Walcha
WINT/2017/02688**

Environmental Services Manager, Lacey Latham, declared a pecuniary interest in this matter as her partner is part owner of a real estate business that may potentially market the sale of the property discussed.

**Item 12.2 Staff Committee Meeting Minutes held on Tuesday, 19 September 2017
WINT/2017/02693**

The General Manager, Jack O'Hara, declared a pecuniary interest in this matter being the subject of the minutes.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

46 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes that the Mayoral Minute be **ADOPTED** by Council as presented.

Council wishes to express its sympathy to the family of the late Ken Hoy. Ken was a well respected and dedicated member of Council's staff, a great friend of many and contributed greatly to the community. Council also wishes to express its sympathy to the family of Doug Laurie. Doug gave many hours of volunteer service to the Tourism Committee and his dedication and insight will be greatly missed. His contribution to the community will be a lasting legacy.

On behalf of Council I would like to congratulate the Tourism staff on their efforts I have received numerous positive comments on their professional, efficient and friendly service.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

47 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Regional Meetings Update WO/2017/01669

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.



6.2 Annual Review of Publication Guide **WO/2017/01633**
48 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that Council **ADOPT** the Draft Publication Guide 2017/2018.

6.3 Interim Audit Management Letter Year Ending June 2017 **WO/2017/01602**
The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.4 Biosecurity Act 2015 Commencement **WO/2017/01674**
49 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Heazlett that Council note the commencement of the Biosecurity Act 2015.

6.5 Committee of the Whole Referral – Set Sale Price of Property at 21W Churchill Street Walcha AND Staff Committee Minutes **WO/2017/01650**
50 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Blomfield that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matter of Set Sale Price of Property at 21W Churchill Street, Walcha be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole of the reason that it would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business **FURTHER THAT** the matter of the Staff Committee Meeting Minutes be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the reason it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

LATE REPORTS:

1. Affix Common Seal – Crown Lands Offer of Licence **WO/2017/01701**
51 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Kermode that Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to all documentation relating to the Crown Lands Offer of Licence **FURTHER THAT** the affixing of the Common Seal be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.

2. Local Development Analysis Annual Report **WO/2017/01675**
The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION
Nil.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY
Nil.



9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

WO/2017/01571

52 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Lyon that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 9.1 to 9.16 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

Afternoon Tea:

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 4:05pm and resumed the Meeting 4:45pm.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Walcha Council Chambers on Thursday, 31 August 2017.

WO/2017/01593

4.4 Signage

53 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Lyon that Council place signs at the boundaries of the shire on the four major roads and also at the four entrances to town acknowledging that you are entering Dunghutti Country.

4.5 Flags

54 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council install an additional flag pole in front of the Council Chambers for the purpose of flying the Aboriginal Flag.

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

11.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held in Armidale on Tuesday, 20 June 2017.

WI/2017/09430

11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Water Alliance Technical Committee Meeting held in Tamworth on Wednesday, 2 August 2017.

WI/2017/10342

12. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

55 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kermode that Council resolve into Committee of the Whole and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole for the reason that item 12.1 relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and item 12.2 for the reason it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

56 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kermode.



The Mayor reported whilst in Committee of the Whole the following matters were discussed.

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

The Environmental Services Manager left the Meeting and took no part in the debate.

12.1 Set Sale Price of Property at 21W Churchill Street, Walcha
WINT/2017/02688

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Lyon that Council list the property for sale with all three Real Estate Agents at an asking price of \$260,000 **FURTHER THAT** Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to all Legal Documents associated with the sale of 21W Churchill Street, Walcha **STILL FURTHER THAT** the affixing of the Common Seal be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.

The Environmental Services Manager returned to the Chambers and was informed of the recommendation.

The General Manager left the Meeting and took no part in the debate.

12.2 Walcha Council Staff Committee Meeting Minutes held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, 19 September 2017.
WO/2017/02693

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** the General Manager’s Performance Appraisal 2016 – 2017 as presented and rate the General Manager’s Performance for 2016 – 2017 as competent and viewed as being above satisfactory.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Lyon and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** the General Manager’s Performance Agreement 2017 – 2018 as presented.

The General Manager returned to the Chambers and was informed of the recommendation.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairman publicly declared the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Committee of the Whole.



The Environmental Services Manager left the Meeting and took no part in the debate.

**12.1 Set Sale Price of Property at 21W Churchill Street, Walcha
WINT/2017/02688**

57 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that Council list the property for sale with all three Real Estate Agents at an asking price of \$260,000 **FURTHER THAT** Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to all Legal Documents associated with the sale of 21W Churchill Street, Walcha **STILL FURTHER THAT** the affixing of the Common Seal be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.

The Environmental Services Manager returned to the Chambers and was informed of the resolution.

The General Manager left the Meeting and took no part in the debate.

**12.2 Walcha Council Staff Committee Meeting Minutes held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, 19 September 2017.
WO/2017/02693**

58 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that Council **ADOPT** the General Manager’s Performance Appraisal 2016 – 2017 as presented and rate the General Manager’s Performance for 2016 – 2017 as competent and viewed as being above satisfactory.

59 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that Council **ADOPT** the General Manager’s Performance Agreement 2017 – 2018 as presented.

The General Manager returned to the Chambers and was informed of the resolution.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:56PM.



Title: Mayoral Minute
Author: Mayor of Walcha
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Ref: WO/2017/01791

Report:

Prior to the September Ordinary Meeting of Walcha Council there was a presentation by Namoi Unlimited regarding the proposed engagement to China. It was recommended that the Mayor and General Manager participate in Namoi Unlimited’s (formerly Namoi Councils Joint Organisation) trade engagement to Ningbo, China. This decision was taken after much deliberation on the pros and cons of such an undertaking. The venture will involve the Mayor and General Manager participating in a four day visit to that region. The Mayors’ expenses are to be met by Namoi Unlimited while the cost of the General Manager’s trip will be met by Walcha Council. This engagement is the largest undertaking by Namoi Unlimited to date and meets one of the priorities of Namoi Unlimited ‘to plan for and resource economic growth in the region’. Namoi Unlimited was set with the assistance of State Government to give Councils who wished to stand alone an opportunity to increase their scale and capacity. This action is the foundation of the ongoing Fit for the Future process.

To remain a stand alone Council, we as representatives of Walcha Council must investigate and pursue any avenue that will lead to Walcha being able to maintain and increase our financial viability and population growth.

The trip will be of four days duration and involve meetings and advocacy to promote investment and trade opportunities that exist between the two entities. Primarily based on agricultural production and investment the aim is to facilitate a more direct network of investment and trade. The intent will be that Walcha Council, along with Namoi Unlimited, will become a conduit to attract and negotiate partnerships to benefit both parties. It is not envisaged that Walcha Council will be in any way involved in financial dealings or partnerships.

Clr Eric Noakes
Mayor of Walcha

RECOMMENDATION: That Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to participate in the Namoi Trade Trip to China with the Mayors travel costs to be met by Namoi Unlimited and the General Manager’s travel costs to be met by Walcha Council.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Item 6:
Senior Officers'
Reports

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2017/1835
Title: Review of Public Gates Policy (Ramps)
Author: Director – Engineering Services
Previous Items: Not applicable
Attachment: WO/17/1824 – Public Gates Policy (Ramps) – Transport & Communications Policy

CSP Ref: 1.1.1 – Develop and maintain a safe and efficient local road and bridge network.

Introduction:

Due to the contentious nature of ramps on public roads and the difficulties faced in enforcing their correct maintenance, Council has endeavoured to review and improve the policy. This policy has been created using a consultative approach, and has been made to ensure that a robust set of rules can be enforced when approaching ramp owners regarding the maintenance of their assets.

Report:

The attached policy has been developed as a result of a Council ramp workshop, public consultation and a review of public feedback at a final workshop. Throughout these phases, Council and the public provided input in relation to the future direction of ramps within the Walcha Local Government Area. This policy embodies the directions provided during the Council workshops and public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council ADOPT the Draft Public Gates Policy (Ramps) as amended.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES



PUBLIC GATE (RAMPS) POLICY

Objective

To ensure the provision of an efficient, safe and effective road system for the community. In addition, ensure that productivity gains that have been made by opening Council infrastructure to higher productivity vehicles is not compromised by privately held ramps. It should be noted that it is Council’s intention is to remove ramps from public roads wherever possible and practical.

Policy

This policy provides Council’s requirements for granting permits for the erection of a public gate and delegate’s authority to the General Manager to administer sections 128 to 137 of the Roads Act 1993 in accordance with this policy.

All new (replacement) public gates and ramps will be subject to the following requirements.

1. New public gates and ramps will not be allowed on any roads managed by Council.
2. The replacement of existing public gates and ramps will be permitted when required, however the new ramp must meet Councils standard requirements as seen in Attachment 1.
3. Ramps must be removed where road reserves are fenced.
4. The gate and ramp will be installed, maintained and administered in accordance with the requirements of Section 128 to 137 of the Roads Act 1993, and Section 67 to 70 of the Roads (General) Regulation 2000).
5. All costs associated erection of the public gate and ramp shall be met by the owner.
6. Despite the yearly maintenance fee described below, all costs associated with the maintenance of the ramp and concrete base structure shall be met by the owner.
7. Council reserves the right to order the maintenance, replacement or removal of a ramp that does not meet the standard requirements listed in Attachment 1.
8. Council will implement in accordance with the below table, a notification of defect system, that outlines the defect on the ramp and provides a timeline for maintenance, replacement or removal depending upon the degree of deterioration:

Defect Group	Time Permitted to Rectify the Notified Defect
Defect that poses an extreme risk to public safety	48 Hours
Defect that poses a high risk to public safety	7 Days
Ramp defect of moderate risk to public safety	14 Days
Ramp defect of minor risk to public safety	1 Month
Ramp requiring removal notice	1 Month
Ramp requiring replacement notice	1 Month

9. If the owners of the ramp do not complete the required works within the above defect response time, Council reserves the right to order the removal of the ramp to ensure public safety.
10. Where ramps are shared between two individual landholders, the whole cost will be exactly halved. Where one individual has installed fencing and therefore no longer

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



requires the ramp, the whole cost will be borne by the landholder that has not fenced the road reserve.

11. Where Council is unable to identify an owner of a ramp, adjoining landholders will be notified and the ramp will be removed.
12. Council will contribute to the removal of any ramp that falls within this policy by allocating machinery and labour to reinstate the disturbed road surface. This work must be coordinated with Council Staff, as this will only occur when Council crews are already undertaking maintenance or construction activities in close proximity to the ramp.

Ongoing Maintenance of Ramps:

In order to ensure the safe, effective and ongoing maintenance of public ramps, Council will assume the responsibility of maintaining the ramp surrounds. In doing so, Council will charge the following annual fees for the maintenance of each public ramp.

Service:	Annual Fee (Ex GST)
Inspection Fee (Compulsory)	\$50
Yearly Maintenance Fee (Exemptions With Approval)	\$200
Cleaning of Gravel / Debris in the Ramp	Quoted for each occasion.
Maintenance of Ramp and Concrete Base	Quoted for each occasion.

The yearly maintenance fee is for the following services:

- Maintenance of the road to the ramp (grading, pothole patching, drainage).
- The administrative requirements of gathering, storing and updating insurances and certification of the ramp.
- The administrative requirements of inspecting and reporting on ramp integrity.

In order to be eligible for exemption from the Yearly Maintenance Fee, the ramp owner must lodge all required insurance, competency and plant certification documents to Council. If all documentation meets Council’s requirements, the ramp owner will be permitted to complete the required maintenance on the ramp approaches. All documentation must be maintained in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Delegation of Authority

The implementation of this policy is bound by the requirements of Division 2, Part 9 of the Roads Act 1993 and the supporting regulations which provide the Council, as the roads authority, with the power to issue and revoke permits for the installation of public gates and bypass structures across public roads. For the purpose of exercising this function, Council has delegated the function to the General Manager pursuant to section 322 of the Local Government Act. The delegation includes the creation and ongoing review of guidelines to assist the public to apply for, construct and maintain public gate infrastructure.

*Supersedes Previous “Transport & Communication Policies – Ramps” – DD/2410
 Adopted Council Meeting 26 August 2009 – Minute No.: 25/2009-2010*

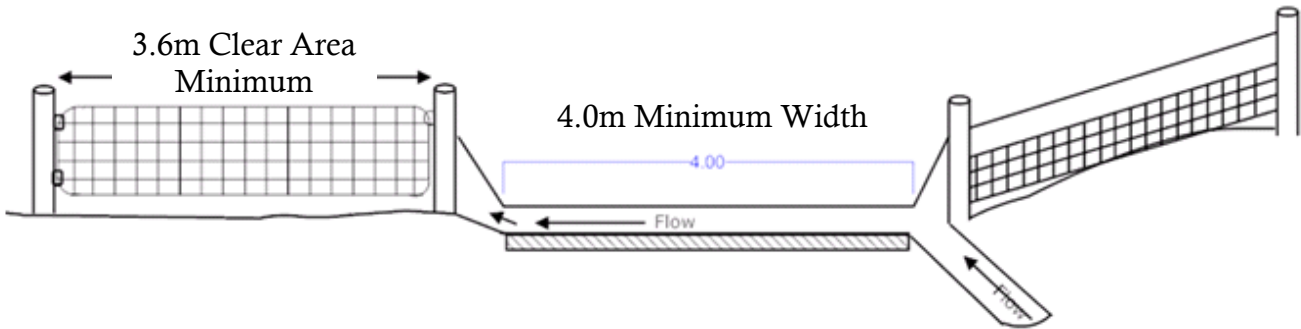
Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



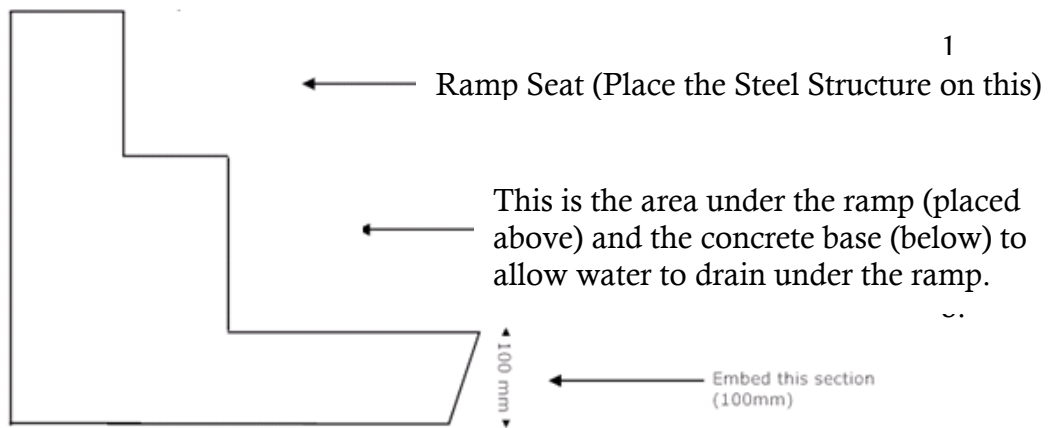
Attachment 1:

Walcha Council Standard Ramp Specifications (Note that this can be reversed with the gate and / or channel on the other side of the ramp)



Standard Ramp Outlay:

Standard Ramp Concrete Base (Left Hand Side) – Cross Sectional View:



1. A gate with a clear opening of at least 3.6 metres shall be erected to one side of the existing road alignment.
2. A stock ramp shall be installed with its centreline corresponding to the centreline of the existing road.
3. The ramp must be installed with a concrete base that allows water to flow under the ramp as specified in the above drawings.
4. The ramp must be installed with appropriate “wings” that do not face oncoming traffic.
5. The ramp shall be certified by a structural engineer as being capable of carrying normal highway loading to comply with the current Australian Standard.
6. The ramp shall have a clear opening of at least 4.0m.
7. The road pavement 10 metres either side of the new ramp shall be sealed with a 2-coat bitumen seal.
8. The ramp shall have appropriate signage, installed in accordance with the Roads Act 1993.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2017/01812
Title: Risk Appetite
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Nil
Attachment: WO/2015/01285

CSP Ref: 8.1.2 – Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.

Introduction:

Risk Management is the logical and systematic method of establishing the context, identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and the communication of risks associated with any activity, function or process in a way that will enable Council to minimise losses and maximise opportunities.

In June 2015 the Risk Management Plan was adopted by the current Council which included adopting the Risk Appetite. The Plan states that Council has developed its risk appetite or tolerance for risk based on its Community Strategic Plan and this risk appetite will evolve as changes are made to conditions in the local government industry. Council’s approach is to identify, analyse and prioritise risks and give the majority of their attention to those with a high priority.

Report:

Councillors are responsible for the adoption and commitment to this Risk Management Plan and the oversight of Council’s risk management framework through the normal course of good governance. Council are asked to review the Risk Appetite set in the Risk Management Plan and to make changes to suit the current Council’s risk appetite.

The purpose of risk management is not to eliminate all risks but rather to reduce them to a level acceptable to Council in accordance with its risk appetite. Council will manage risk with a mature proactive approach while achieving a balance between the costs of managing risks and the anticipated benefits. Some major differences between Council’s traditional risk management and enterprise risk management are shown in the table below:

From	To
Risk as individual hazards	Risk in the context of business strategy
Risk identification and assessment	Risk “portfolio” management
Focus on all risks	Focus on critical risks
Risk limits	Risk plan
Risk with no owners	Defined risk responsibilities
Haphazard risk identification	Monitoring and measurement
Risk is not my responsibility	Risk is everyone’s responsibility

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Scope of Risk Management Activities

Council operates a wide range of diverse services and activities and has a large number of diverse stakeholders with varying needs and expectations with regard to risk management and risk appetite. Therefore the scope of Council’s Risk Management System must encapsulate all activities. Specifically, the context of risk management will include:

- Governance:** Sound processes for decision making – ie the processes by which decisions are implemented or not implemented.
- Compliance:** Meeting the expectations and requirements of those stakeholders who regulate the organisation.
- WH&S:** Achieve fewer and less severe injuries, better trained and informed employers and employees to ensure that a high morale within the workplace is maintained.
- Operational:** Includes activities and processes to deliver products and services outlined in Council’s operation plan.
- Environmental:** Ensure that the risk of environmental damage or risks to the communities health are managed within regulatory and community expectation requirements.

Council States in its Risk Management Policy that its objects are to:

- Maintain the highest possible integrity for services provided by Walcha Council;
- Safeguard and enhance Walcha Council’s assets including human, fiscal, property and environment;
- Create an environment where all Walcha Council employees will assume responsibility for managing operation, strategic and project risks;
- Achieve and maintain legislative compliance;
- Ensure resource and operational capabilities are identified and responsibility allocated for managing risk;
- Ensure Walcha Council can appropriately deal with risk;
- Demonstrate transparent and responsible risk management processes which align with accepted best practice.



Risk Analysis and Evaluation

Risk identification involved analysing factors, circumstances, events and reliance that could give rise to a hazard that would lead to business objectives not being achieved. Each section of Council is responsible for conducting an appropriate identification process. Council staff will undertake a range of activities to identify risks including group meetings and periodic reviews of the risk register. Council has described the likelihood rating of a risk occurring as follows:

Likelihood Ratings

Rating	Likelihood	Description
A	Almost Certain	Expected to occur in most circumstances
B	Likely	Is expected to occur one per year
C	Possible	Is expected to occur once per 10 years
D	Unlikely	Not possible within 50 years
E	Rare	Unlikely within 50 years

The impact of the risk is assessed in terms of consequence, such as physical and financial costs, reputation and other impacts on the community. Council’s Risk Register is located within Statewide / JRS System to enable our risks to directly align with our Insurer and ensure that risk is assessed consistently and recorded appropriately.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



**Consequence/Impact Ratings
 Consequence Description**

Rating	Consequence	Description
A	Severe	Significant/material financial loss >\$150000. Extensive regulatory breaches. Widespread and total degradation of operations and service levels. Impact across critical functions. Threat to immediate viability of business. Deaths. Major environmental loss. Major adverse public/staff reaction and negative publicity. Greater than 8.5 hours of working time lost.
B	Major	Major financial loss of \$50000-\$150000. Significant regulatory breach. Significant degradation of operation and service levels. Impacts multiple and diverse areas of business. Threatens business viability. Death or extensive injuries. Loss of production capability, less than 8.5 hours of working time. Significant environmental loss. Significant adverse public/staff reaction and negative publicity.
C	Moderate	High financial loss of \$5000-\$50000. Significant regulatory breach. Substantial degradation of operations and service levels, less than 2 hours working time lost. Impacts multiple areas of business. Permanent disability caused. Serious environmental loss. Moderate adverse public/staff reaction and negative publicity.
D	Minor	Medium financial loss of >1000<\$5000. Minor regulatory breach. Minor degradation of operations and service levels, less than 1 hour working time lost. Minor injury/injuries sustained. Minor environmental loss. Minor adverse public/staff reaction and negative publicity.
E	Insignificant	Low financial <\$1000 and no injury to property or people, first aid treatment required. No regulatory breach. No adverse public/staff reaction and negative publicity.

Once the likelihood and consequence of a risk has been assessed, these can be placed in the Risk Matrix to determine the level of risk. The following diagram indicates the rating of risk for Council based on likelihood and consequence.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Overall Risk Level Ratings Matrix

Risk Level	A Insignificant	B Minor	C Moderate	D Major	E Catastrophic
A Almost Certain	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
B Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
C Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
D Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

- Very High:** Requires immediate action as the potential could be devastating to the organisation. Stop work and inform the General Manager immediately.
- High Risk:** Requires action as it has the potential to be damaging to the organisation. Inform the General Manager as soon as reasonably practicable.
- Moderate Risk:** Allocate specific responsibility and implement monitoring or response procedures. Inform General Manager of incident and outcomes.
- Low Risk:** Treat with routine procedures.

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse a Risk Matrix that reflects Council’s risk appetite to place in the Risk Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: For Council’s information.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2017/01824
Title: Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy
Author: Director – Engineering Services
Previous Items: Not applicable
Attachment: Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy WO/17/1823

CSP Ref: 1.1.2 – Maintain safe and efficient regional and state road links to, from and through the Walcha Local Government Area.

Introduction:

Due to the continuing deterioration of the Thunderbolts Way and the increase in both light and heavy traffic, MidCoast and Walcha Councils have made a joint funding application under Fixing Country Roads.

Report:

The application built upon the “Bucketts Way Corridor Strategy” which led to MidCoast and other Partner Councils to receive funding under Fixing Country Roads. The corridor strategy focuses upon urgent upgrades that are required along the length of the Thunderbolts Way from Gloucester to Walcha. The report priorities the projects and places values to each project, linking the projects with local, regional and state priorities.

RECOMMENDATION: For Councils Information.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



MIDCOAST
council



Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy Stage 1

2017 -2022



Major road upgrade project in conjunction with The Bucketts
Way Route Development Strategy 2015

Table of Contents

1.0 Executive Summary.....	3
2.0 Background	4
3.0 Project Scope	5
4.0 Traffic Numbers and Accident History.....	6
5.0 Strategic Alignment - Project Linkages to government plans and strategies	8
6.0 Access and Productivity.....	10
7.0 Growth and Economic Benefit.....	11
8.0 Tourism	12
9.0 Deliverability and Affordability	13
10.0 Consultation	14
11.0 Project Selection and Priorities	14
12.0 Priority Projects Details.....	16
Appendix A - Project Location Maps.....	19
Appendix B - Project Photos.....	20
Appendix C - Letters of Support.....	21

1.0 Executive Summary

This strategy has been prepared as a supplementary document to the Fixing Country Roads program currently offered by Transport NSW (Round 3) and future grants opportunities offered by federal and state government. This is a joint strategy shared between the local government areas of Walcha and Midcoast councils. The Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy has been developed in conjunction with the Bucketts Way Route Access Strategy 2015 which is currently in progress.

The Thunderbolts Way is a 290-kilometre regional country road located in the Northern Tablelands region of New South Wales. The road links Gloucester to Walcha (where it crosses the Oxley Highway), Uralla where it very briefly joins the New England Highway and, to Copes Creek, 16 km south of the Gwydir Highway intersection at Inverell. The road is fully bitumen sealed along its length and has very steep terrain on its southern sections near Gloucester.

The Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy 2017 is focussed on five key objectives:

- Aligning with local, regional, state and national plans
- Achieving Productivity Benefits
- Facilitating Growth and Economic Benefits
- Ensuring Deliverability
- Improving road safety
- Increasing Tourism

These objectives will be achieved by:

- Improving safety by upgrading priority sections of deteriorated road pavements
- Identifying and prioritising key upgrade projects across three local government areas that allow the Thunderbolts Way to move towards having access for higher productivity vehicles in the future
- Providing passing lanes to improve safety and benefit to all road all users
- Reduce heavy vehicle accidents through various safety treatments including truck arrestors and road realignments
- Reducing travel times through provision of a superior driving surface
- Reducing operator costs and maintenance costs to all vehicles
- Providing bridge upgrades where required to suit current geometric and structural standards

Currently Thunderbolts Way is a designated 19m B-double route, is classified as a Regional Road on the NSW roads network and provides a strategic link to the Newcastle Port from the Northern Tablelands and hinterlands of the north coast of NSW. The aim of the upgrade project is to increase access for higher productivity vehicles, resulting in reduced traffic numbers, more efficient freight transport, decreasing heavy vehicle impact to roads and improving safety for all users. The project is a staged project with:

Stage 1 prioritised pavement works deemed urgent;
Stage 2 prioritised bridge works subject to future structural investigations
Stage 3 additional passing lanes and road widening

The road also provides the key link for agriculture including local and export, milk, dairy, and beef. It also provides a strategic link to Newcastle Port Terminal from northern tablelands, crucial for the forestry industry hauling timber to Newcastle Port for direct overseas export. The timber industry has foreshadowed significant increases in the harvesting and transportation of softwoods from the region

within the next 10 years, using Thunderbolts Way via The Bucketts Way as the haulage route, placing further focus on the need for upgrade works to accommodate the increased output.

This road is also the main tourist link from Gloucester to Armidale via the towns of Walcha and Uralla linking to the Northern Tablelands region. It is an increasingly popular route for recreational motorcyclists and motorists, with local businesses developing around and relying upon the expanding tourist trade. The Thunderbolts Way is a significant route for freight destined for the New England/Northern tablelands area, supplying agricultural businesses with fertilizers direct from the Newcastle Port.

It is currently estimated that to bring Thunderbolts Way to an acceptable road condition standard that approximately **\$23.72m** is required for various deteriorated pavement sections located within the 150km section of road between the towns of Gloucester and Walcha.

2.0 Background

The Thunderbolts Way is a 290-kilometre regional country road located in the Northern Tablelands region of New South Wales. The road links Gloucester to Walcha (where it crosses the Oxley Highway), Uralla where it very briefly joins the New England Highway and, to Copes Creek, 16 km south of the Gwydir Highway intersection at Inverell. The road is fully bitumen sealed along its length and has very steep terrain on its southern sections near Gloucester.

Thunderbolts Way is the key route for softwood and hardwood transportation which is harvested in the Nowendoc, Walcha, and Gloucester region. Timber is supplied directly to Newcastle Port for export and supplied to local mills for processing for domestic and overseas use.

In addition to the timber production there is a variety of agricultural industries along the route including beef, wool, poultry and dairy and associated consumable products such as feed and fertilizers.

Increasingly the road is providing a link from the New England Highway in the Northern Tablelands of NSW to the industrial centre of Newcastle, which will provide opportunities with proposed improved Newcastle Port Operations.

The road also links to the coastal areas of Forster/Tuncurry and Port Stephens. With the completion of sealing of Thunderbolts Way in 1999, travel times between Newcastle and Uralla via the Bucketts Way are reduced by 1 hour (or 70km), when compared with the New England Highway.

There are a number of Local Government areas responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of separate parts of the Thunderbolts Way which includes Walcha and Midcoast councils. The total length of Thunderbolts Way is approximately 290km however this corridor strategy is inclusive of the section of road between the townships of Walcha (Oxley Highway) and Gloucester (The Bucketts Way) only, a distance of approximately 150km.

Thunderbolts Way is also currently a designated B-Double route for 19m length vehicles.

Figure 1 below from the RMS website shows the current B-Double route between Walcha and Gloucester, linking directly to The Bucketts Way at Gloucester.

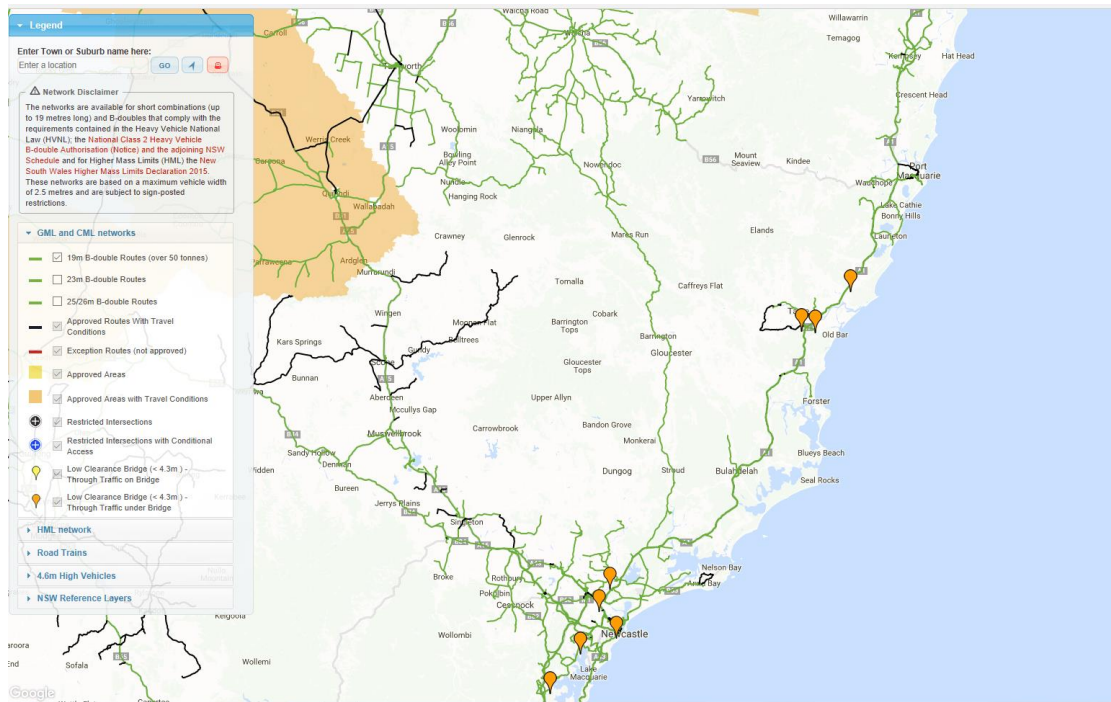


Figure 1

The proposed future upgrade works is the initial step for providing Higher Productivity Vehicles. Future works to be carried out include;

- Pavement upgrades and road widening
- Bridge and culvert upgrades
- Vehicle Passing Lanes and truck speed arresters

This strategy proposes initially to reconstruct the remaining deteriorated sections of Thunderbolts Way within the Local government areas of Walcha and Midcoast Councils. Approximately \$23.72m is currently required to reconstruct the priority sections of road. This strategy has been developed through adjoining Councils working together and identifying the priority road projects for repair and upgrading.

Upgrades will provide the most appropriate outcomes addressing the needs of increasing freight demands, locally and regionally; increasing tourism use; reducing transport costs, reducing travel times and ensuring appropriate safety standards are achieved.

3.0 Project Scope

This strategy is a joint venture between Midcoast and Walcha councils with the extent of proposed works confined to these local government areas, totalling 150km on the Thunderbolts Way route.

The main focus areas of the strategy are;

- Identifying current and potential future heavy vehicle use
- Prioritising road segments requiring immediate reconstruction and upgrade works
- Future identification of road bridges requiring reconstruction or duplication
- Passing lane opportunities
- safety improvement works to reduce vehicle accident frequency

The main treatments proposed are;

- Reconstruction of failed pavements and wearing surfaces currently identified in very poor (condition 5) and poor (condition 4)
- Road widening to a minimum 9.0m width (3.5m travelling lanes and 1.0m sealed shoulders) and improvements of road geometry, through minor realignments, where required
- Bridge improvement works including replacement, realignment, duplication and approach works

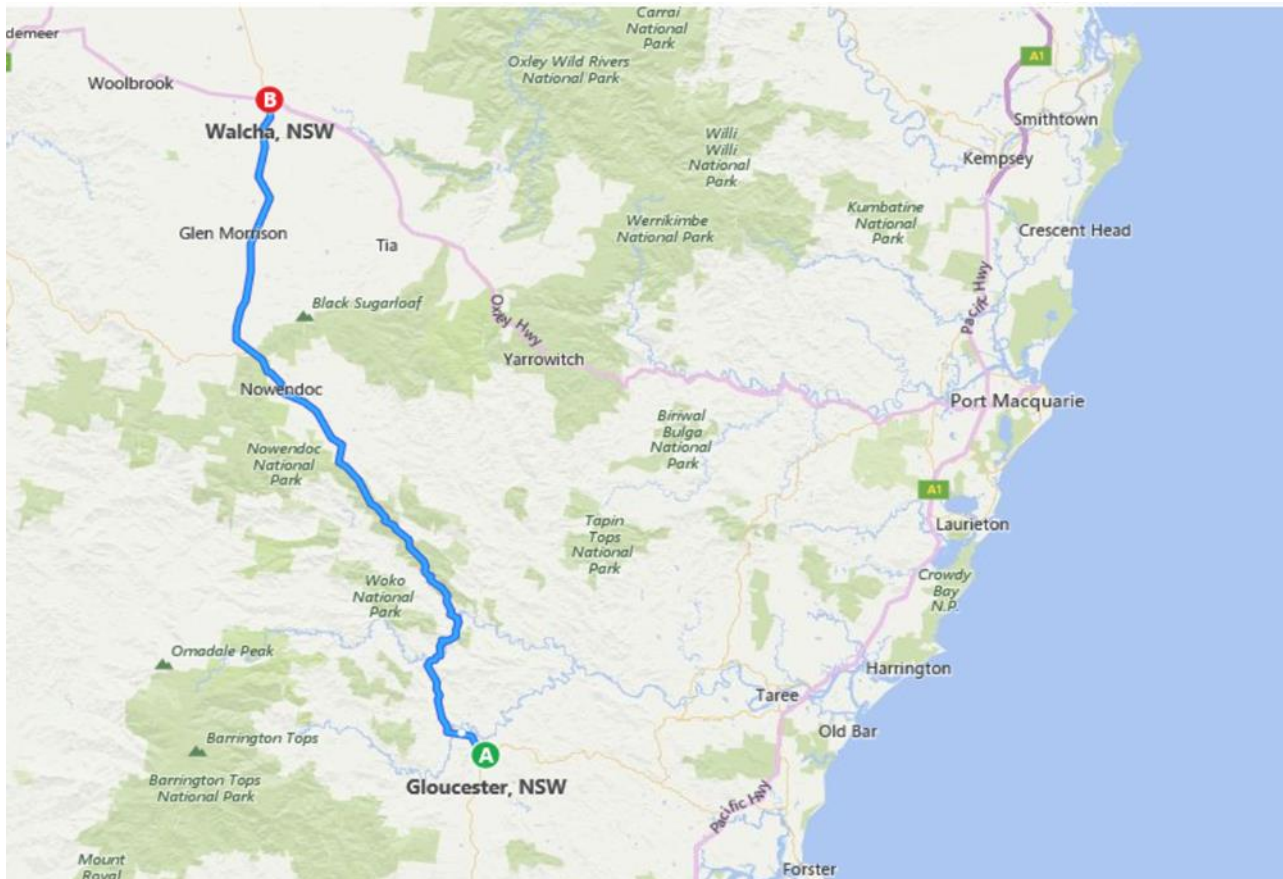


Figure 2 - GENERAL LOCATION MAP THUNDERBOLTS WAY – Gloucester to Walcha

4.0 Traffic Numbers and Accident History

Recent traffic counts completed by Midcoast Council in 2016 on Thunderbolts Way indicates an average of approximately 580 vehicles per day utilize the road, of which approximately 17% are heavy vehicles. The proportion of heavy vehicles confirms the road is a significant haulage route, playing a key role in the region’s economic development. A summary of traffic data for each vehicle type and estimated annual freight carried is shown below in Table 1.

Class	General	Assumed	3	Estimated	Total Freight	% Freight
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	description	Freight (Tonnes)	Months Data	Annual Traffic	Tonnage	Carried
1	Motorcycle or bicycle		1883	7532		
2	Cars		39481	157924		
3	Car & Trailer		2406	9624		
4	2 axle truck/bus	15	3834	15336	230040	22%
5	3 axle truck/bus	22.5	965	3860	86850	8%
6	4 axle truck	26	56	224	5824	1%
7	3 axle truck articulated	24	288	1152	27648	3%
8	4 axle truck articulated	31.5	944	3776	118944	11%
9	5 axle truck articulated	35	270	1080	37800	4%
10	6 axle truck articulated	42.5	1402	5608	238340	23%
11	B double 19m	55.5	1364	5456	302808	29%
12	Road Train		14	56		
			52907	211628	1048254	100%

Table 1 – Traffic and freight statistics for Thunderbolts Way – 2016

Thunderbolts Way has a significant accident history based on the last 5 years of recorded accident data. There is an average of approximately **59.2** accidents that occurred annually over the past 5 years within the Midcoast and Walcha council areas. Table 2 below illustrates the number of accidents by each vehicle type between 2012 and 2016.

Table 2 - 5 year Accident history by vehicle type for Thunderbolts Way – Walcha and Midcoast councils

WALCHA & MCC COMBINED TOTAL ACCIDENTS								
	Car	Light truck	Heavy Truck	Heavy Rigid	Articulated	Bus	Emergency Vehicle	Motor cycle
2016	12	5	8	1	2	4	2	3
2015	24	8	3	1	2	0	0	2
2014	24	14	6	1	1	0	0	13
2013	57	13	4	0	3	0	2	7
2012	48	10	3	2	3	0	0	8
TOTAL	165	50	24	5	11	4	4	33
AVERAGE	33	10	4.8	1	2.2	0.8	0.8	6.6

Table 3 below illustrates the current fatality and injury outcomes recorded for the previous 5 year period on Thunderbolts Way within the Walcha and Midcoast council areas..

****NOTE:** The figures below on fatalities are inclusive of a recent major accident at Giro in July 2017 when a major truck incident caused the fatalities of two vehicle occupants.

Table 3 - Total 5 year fatality & injury numbers for Thunderbolts Way, Midcoast & Walcha Council areas.

WALCHA & MCC COMBINED ACCIDENT OUTCOMES		
	Killed	Injured
2017	2	11
2016	2	35
2015	3	41
2014	2	54
2013	3	37
2012	1	51
TOTAL	13	218
AVERAGE	2.2	43.6

5.0 Strategic Alignment - Project Linkages to government plans and strategies

Thunderbolts Way upgrade proposals has received wide support from local industry, state and national representative bodies, local Councils and the local community. The project is aligned with the following key local, regional, state and national plans.

Note: Due to the recent merging of Great Lakes, Gloucester and Taree Councils to the new Midcoast Council in 2016, the former councils' strategic plans currently apply.

Council and local Plans and Strategies

Midcoast Council Community Strategic Plan (Former Gloucester Council Community Strategic Plan)

This plan is the major directional plan for the Gloucester Community. In addressing Direction 1 and Direction 3 this applies to public assets. It details that infrastructure will be planned, managed and funded to meet agreed levels of service; a full condition assessment has been completed for all transport assets (roads) and the Thunderbolts Way upgrade works have evolved from the directions within this plan.

The Upgrade works directly align to:

- Direction 1 – Maintaining Core Infrastructure; and
- Direction 3 – Creating a Strong Economy

Midcoast Council Operational and Delivery Program (Former Gloucester Council's Operational Plan and Delivery Program (2013 -2016)

Identifies the need for maintaining and improving road networks to meet the community need for strong local communities.

Walcha Council Community Strategic Plan

States that (1.1.2) Walcha aims to Maintain safe and efficient regional and state road links to, from and through the Walcha Local Government Area..

Regional Plans and Strategies

The Upper Hunter Landuse Plan (2012)

Indicates roads located near existing and potential resources are identified key transport linkages. Duralie and Stratford Coal Mines are located adjacent to the Bucketts Way; AGL's Gloucester Gas field is located adjacent to Bucketts Way and Gloucester Resources Limited has the Rocky Hill Coal Mine Project currently under assessment

State Plans and Strategies

NSW 2021 Plan

Focuses upon the key strategy areas of:

- Rebuilding the economy
- Renovate Infrastructure

Both have a component on regional roads, reducing travel times and improving road safety of which the Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy addresses.

NSW State Infrastructure Strategy (2014)

Identifies the State Government planning to increase expenditure on regional roads to meet challenges of increased productivity from regional communities. Thunderbolts Way upgrade does this as outlined for the forestry sector.

NSW Freight and Ports Strategy (2013)

Identifies the NSW State Government will provide necessary infrastructure to support Higher Mass Productivity Vehicles access and improve access for high productivity vehicles; improving network connectivity between networks and key freight precincts. The project is focussed upon creating access for higher mass vehicles. The Port of Newcastle is identified as a key focus, and the majority of export timber is transported along Thunderbolts way via The Bucketts Way to the Newcastle Port.

NSW Transport Masterplan

In 2012 the NSW Government launched an integrated planning approach known as the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan that focused on making the customer the centre of everything we do.

The Master Plan has guided decision making and investment to deliver many enhancements to transport such as introducing Opal, Fixing Country Roads, building light rail across Sydney and in Newcastle, and making transport more accessible for all of our community.

The Future Transport Strategy is the state governments new approach to planning transport and engaging customers. It will be a 20 to 40 year strategy focusing on customer needs and the technological, economic and social changes ahead.

This year as part of developing the Future Transport Strategy that will focus on services and infrastructure for all of NSW, the state government will work on renewing a number of important plans covering freight and ports, road safety and disability inclusion.

National Plans and Strategies

National Remote and Regional Transport Strategy DRAFT (2015)

The focus is to unlock the economic and social potential of remote and regional areas through the development of appropriate transport infrastructure, services and regulation and to ensure that the growth of transport infrastructure and services in remote and regional areas is sustainable and reflects the needs of local residents, transport operators, service provision and businesses. Currently Thunderbolts Way is limited for higher mass vehicles, hampering the regional area achieving its economic potential.

National Land Freight Strategy (2012)

The key objectives of the strategy focus upon an efficient, productive and competitive national land freight system. Thunderbolts Way upgrade delivers this for several agricultural sectors.

6.0 Access and Productivity

By providing access for high mass heavy vehicles there are immediate productivity benefits, including the following expected gains provided by industry;

- With the opportunity to utilise higher productivity vehicles (HPV), carrying up to 55 tonnes, a reduction of approximately 1340 trips per annum is possible. The reduction in heavy vehicle trips equates to 17,802 tonnes of material transported, mostly harvested timber and livestock.
- An opportunity of diesel savings of approximately 207,000 litres p.a. or \$290,000.
- Safety improvements – currently minimum passing opportunities exist on Thunderbolts Way – the strategy proposes a passing lane opportunity in Stage 1 works.
- A reduction in vehicle accidents with substantial improvements in pavement condition
- Reduced vehicle operating and maintenance costs and driving times with an improved driving surface

Timber Transport – Brian Smith Timber Transport Walcha

- Brian Smith Timber Transport (BSTT) is based at Walcha, providing log harvesting and haulage services to the NSW Government and bulk haulage to private concerns. BSTT employs 22 truck drivers, 4 residing in Gloucester or nearby areas.
- BSTT is contracted by the NSW Government (Forestry Corporation) to harvest and transport 170,000 tonnes of radiata pine from the Nowendoc region. The pine is transported to Newcastle, via Thunderbolts Way and Bucketts Way for direct export as logs. BSTT is also contracted to harvest and haul hardwood logs from the Walcha forests, about 10,000 tonnes per annum being transported to various sawmills.
- In addition to the forestry business, BSTT also operates four B-double tipper combinations, three of which are 7 axle combinations and use the same route to transport lime, fertilizer and other bulk products from Newcastle and Gloucester back to the Walcha area. The fourth is a nine axle combination and cannot use the route.
- The NSW Government (Forestry Corporation) has a current contract for the harvest of 170,000 tons of pine in the Nowendoc/Walcha area. The next contract to be completed is expected to have an approximate increase of 50% in the tonnage to be harvested and transported.
- Current harvested timber under this contract, as well as about 10,000 tonnes of hardwood, is transported via Thunderbolts Way and Bucketts Way to Newcastle for export and to sawmills south of Gloucester.
- Bulk haulage operations also haul product from Newcastle and Gloucester back to Walcha using the Bucketts way and Thunderbolts Way.
- Current restrictions limit 19m b-doubles (7 axle) on Bucketts Way and Thunderbolts Way
- One of the key benefits of upgrade works is the improvement in safety. If BSTT could use High Productivity Vehicles as an alternative to current 19 metre mini B-doubles (7 axle).

7.0 Growth and Economic Benefit

By providing access for high mass heavy vehicles there are immediate economic benefits, including the following expected gains provided by industry;

- A reduction of approximately 1340 heavy vehicle trips equating to 17,802 tonnes of material, mostly harvested timber and livestock.
- A diesel saving of approximately 207,000 litres p.a. or \$290,000.
- A reduction in vehicle accidents with substantial improvements in pavement condition

General Freight Transport – McCulloch Bulk Haulage, Tamworth

- McCulloch Bulk Haulage, Tamworth provides a Bulk freight service to the Northern Tablelands of NSW. Bulk freight including agricultural fertilizer is usually carted via the New England Highway to the northern tablelands from Newcastle Port. With the proposed upgrade works to Bucketts Way and Thunderbolts Way, McCulloch Bulk Haulage would use this route for the following benefits:
 - A reduction of kilometres travelled by 70 kilometres per trip, with a result in costs savings of \$210 per trip. On average McCulloch Transport has 5 trips per week carrying fertilizer for agricultural users, saving \$1050 in direct costs per week. This equates to a cost saving for the end user of approximately \$2 - \$3 per ton of fertiliser delivered.
 - A reduction in the number of kilometres travelled will also decrease the travel time, reduce the operational costs and be less demanding on drivers.

8.0 Tourism

The Armidale region can be accessed directly via Thunderbolts Way from Gloucester and is marketed by *Destination NSW* as a key tourist route.

Destination NSW substantially promotes the Armidale area as a tourist destination i.e.;

explore World Heritage national parks, marvel at Australia's second-highest waterfall, and enjoy wine tasting at cool-climate wineries. There are many wonderful things to do and see in the beautiful New England high country.

Halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, getting to the vibrant city of Armidale is easy by road, train or air. The charming towns of Guyra, Walcha and Uralla are all within an easy drive of Armidale and near striking waterfalls, deep gorges, marvellous rivers, ancient rainforest and abundant wildlife.

On some of the finest grazing lands in Australia, this region in the Northern Tablelands of NSW is rich in history and heritage. Join Armidale Heritage Tours and discover grand cathedrals and colonial buildings. The New England Regional Art Museum houses two magnificent Australian art collections. With four distinct seasons, this region is perfect to visit at any time of the year. Outdoor adventures to explore the natural attractions include bushwalking, kayaking, rafting, fishing, rock climbing and mountain biking. For spectacular aerial views, take a helicopter joy flight with Fleet Adventures.

There are four national parks that are part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area - New England National Park, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Cunnawarra National Park and Werrikimbe National Park. Point lookout in the New England wilderness offers breathtaking views. Eagles Nest walking track is in World Heritage rainforest and Oxley Wild Rivers is home to towering Wollomombi Falls. There is campground near the falls. The Waterfall Way is a scenic drive between Armidale and Coffs Harbour, winding through five national parks including the Oxley Wild Rivers. Enjoy other touring routes including Thunderbolts Way, named after the colonial bushranger Captain Thunderbolt, aka Frederick Ward. You'll find plenty places to stay as well as delightful events and delicious food and wine experiences, from cellar doors to tours, farmers markets and festivals.

Source: <http://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/armidale-area>

9.0 Deliverability and Affordability

Midcoast and Walcha Councils have individually identified priority projects for Thunderbolts Way in their respective local government area. These councils have coordinated in a collaborative planning and prioritising process to identify the priorities for funding requirements for Thunderbolts Way. The prioritised projects are listed in section 12.0.

The only formal approvals required for all works is project based Review of Environmental Factors (part 5 Assessment). These approvals are lodged and determined within councils' development assessment department. Initial site inspections indicate there are no major environmental risks identified regarding priority road projects.

Council Contributions

Each council will be contributing a cash component and in kind services for delivery of the projects . The total contribution towards Stage 1 from the two participating councils is **\$ 4,000,000** over the 5 year period.

Deliverability

Midcoast and Walcha Councils are in a position to coordinate and deliver the project in a timely manner. A project timeline and project management plan will be established on confirmation of funding.

Priority Stage 1 Projects will be shovel ready as of June 2018.

Risks and Mitigation

Identified risks include;

- Delays in construction (weather conditions), cost overruns, etc. resulting in cash flow problems;
- Design risks;
- Site conditions and the consequences of unanticipated conditions;
- Availability of contractors

Mitigation Measures

- Design for top three priority projects to be completed in house by December 2017.
- Downturns in the construction and mining industries in the region provide positive market conditions for engagement of contractors

Detailed site inspections and construction estimates have been undertaken for the top three priority projects. The likelihood of over expenditure is low.

Council's tender process is prepared and administered in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4120-1994, Code of Tendering. The Australian standard sets out the ethics and obligations of both the Principal and Tenderers in the tendering process.

Council also complies with the Local Government Act and Regulation regarding tendering.

10.0 Consultation

Consultation with Gloucester Chamber of Commerce and Advance Gloucester, two local community groups focussed upon ensuring a sustainable economic future for the region, are actively advocating Thunderbolts Way upgrade to ensure economic growth for the region's key industries (poultry, dairy and agriculture and timber exports) and securing reduced travel times and increased safety standards.

Letters of support are in Appendix C from Federal Industry Representative Groups, State Industry Representative Groups, local businesses and groups and community

11.0 Project Selection and Priorities

Midcoast and Walcha councils have completed onsite condition assessments and prioritisation process to identify an agreed priority list for upgrade works.

Projects nominated for funding are based on the current road condition. Councils undertake routine condition inspections on all road assets at road segment components and are rated on a 1 to 5 scale (1 being Very Good and 5 being Very Poor). All the road segments nominated are in POOR or VERY POOR condition (condition 4 & 5) and align with the following description;

Grade	Condition	Description	Response	% Asset Life Remaining
5	VERY POOR	<p>Structural: Extensive deterioration and significant defects evident affecting structural integrity.</p> <p>Serviceability: Major pavement roughness and surface defects. Increase in road user costs and a deterioration in the safe performance of the asset. Risk management signage and speed reductions necessary.</p>	<p>Schedule immediately for rehabilitation/reconstruction works</p> <p>Increase risk inspections and maintenance intensity to address recurring defects</p>	0% to 10%
4	POOR	<p>Structural: Serious deterioration and significant defects evident affecting structural integrity.</p> <p>Serviceability: Significant increase in pavement roughness and surface defects. Increase in road user costs and a deterioration in the safe performance of the asset.</p>	<p>Schedule for short term rehabilitation/reconstruction works 1-2 years.</p> <p>Increase risk inspection frequency to address defects</p>	10% to 20%

Projects have been prioritised further based on extent and severity of pavement damage and existing road geometry.

Consequences of Not Proceeding with Project

Should the application not be successful the following consequences are likely to prevail;

- Increased risks to road users due to poor driving conditions and increased accident frequency
- Increased maintenance costs to keep poor sections of road trafficable
- Inefficient freight movements due to capacity limitations
- Decreased reputation on roads authorities as (Council, RMS)
- Safety risks not addressed by not constructing passing lanes
- Risk posed by 19m vehicles with height of 4m not addressed by reducing load heights with the introduction of High Productivity Vehicles- by lowering the loaded height of the current 19m b-double vehicles (lowering the centre of gravity static rollover threshold) from approximately 4m to 3m in height reducing the risk of roll-over accidents
- Constraints and restriction on the haulage of timber increases costs
- No efficiencies realised by reduced travel distances, reduced operator costs as heavy vehicles will not use Thunderbolts Way in current condition and usage may decline with deteriorating road conditions
- Continued inefficiencies in transport for livestock, timber and agricultural industries resulting in increased costs of transport

12.0 Priority Projects Details

Priority projects staged over 5 years are listed below, totalling \$23.72m, averaging \$4.7m per year.

Proposed Year		Council LGA	Segment/Description	Segment/Text Description	Start Latitude	Start Longitude	End Latitude	End Longitude	Length km	Existing Pavement Area	Proposed Pavement Area	Total	Total	Year Amount
2018	Project 1	Midcoast	525	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/COS before Giro Rd - Start of wide sealed shoulder	-31.7374303	151.869883			0.497	4350	GIRO			
2018		Midcoast	530	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Start of wide sealed shoulder - End of wide sealed shou	-31.73418334	151.86939691			0.45	4200	GIRO	\$4,500,000.00	\$ 4,500,000.00	
2018		Midcoast	540	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Bretti Nature Reserve Sign lhs - Gap in guardrail from	-31.730152	151.8672293			0.501	4108	4509	\$ 496,000.00		
2018		Midcoast	545	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Gap in guardrail from truck accident - COS	-31.7275667	151.8630247	31.58459	151.74676	0.571	4682	5139	\$ 566,000.00	\$ 1,062,000.00	
2018	Project 2	Midcoast	625	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/End AC top slip corner - Start brifen fence lhs past to	-31.6717375	151.8310487			0.532	5000	5000.8	\$ 450,000.00		
2018		Midcoast	630	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Start brifen fence lhs past top slip corner - Construct	-31.6680067	151.8274011			0.528	4857	4857.6	\$ 437,000.00		
2018		Midcoast	635	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Construction joint past 90 kmph speed sign - Entrance I	-31.6653994	151.8229422			0.557	4678	5013	\$ 451,000.00		
2018		Midcoast	640	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Entrance lhs along flat top of hill - COS old segment 4	-31.6623674	151.8185918	-31.65978	151.81504	0.433	3637	3897	\$ 351,000.00	\$ 1,689,000.00	
2018	Project 3	Walcha	986	Thunderbolts Way 4710 Town	-30.99602	151.59115			1210	7260	10890	\$1,089,000.00		
2018				Thunderbolts Way 4720 Town			30.97701,	151.59463	900	9000	10000	\$1,000,000.00	\$ 2,089,000.00	\$9,340,000.00

October 2017 Business Paper Page 39

2019	Project 4	Midcoast	600	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/COS before brifen fence rhs - Start brifen fence lhs pa	-31.687828	151.8368177		0.423	3299	3807	\$ 419,000.00			
2019		Midcoast	610	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/End brifen fence rhs - Old segment 38 before top slip c	-31.6812419	151.8319595		0.521	4063	4689	\$ 516,000.00			
2019		Midcoast	615	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Old segment 38 before top slip corner - Start AC top sl	-31.6765595	151.8328121	-31.67316	151.83174	0.422	3291	3798	\$ 418,000.00	\$ 1,353,000.00	
2019	Project 5			Thunderbolts Way 4540	-31.05549	151.58423			1200	7200	10800	\$ 648,000.00		
2019		Walcha	970	Thunderbolts Way 4550					1250	7500	11250	\$ 675,000.00		
2019		Walcha	971	Thunderbolts Way 4560			-31.13755	151.59305	1200	7200	10800	\$ 648,000.00		
2019				Thunderbolts Way 4570					1200	7200	10800	\$ 648,000.00		
2019		Walcha	973	Thunderbolts Way 4580	-31.128061	151.588427			1150	6900	10350	\$ 621,000.00		
2019				Thunderbolts Way 4590					1400	8400	12600	\$ 756,000.00		
2019				Thunderbolts Way 4600			31.11192	151.57739	1000	6000	9000	\$ 540,000.00	\$ 4,536,000.00	\$5,889,000.00
2020	Project 6	Midcoast	310	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Property Gate rhs - Hill past Gloryvale Fire Shed	-31.85360595	151.88508378		0.5	3700	4500	\$ 405,000.00			
2020		Midcoast	315	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Hill past Gloryvale Fire Shed - 60 m before Frasers hou	-31.8497365	151.8856543		0.528	3907	4752	\$ 428,000.00			
2020		Midcoast	320	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/60 m before Frasers house - Motorcycle sign lhs	-31.8450708	151.8866901	-31.84061	151.88553	0.523	3870	4707	\$ 424,000.00	\$ 1,257,000.00	
2020	Project 7	Midcoast	150	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/COS old seg 9 marker - 100 m before	-31.9596605	151.8956604		0.485	3395	4365	\$ 393,000.00			
2020		Midcoast	155	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/100 m before Property 985 lhs - Sag				0.485	3395	4365	\$ 393,000.00			
2020		Midcoast	160	Way/Sag before The Loft - COS 50 m past 1060 rhs			-31.94883	151.88801	0.486	3402	4374	\$ 394,000.00	\$ 1,180,000.00	
2020	Project 8	Walcha	905	Thunderbolts Way (Uralla Road) 4760	-30.960412	151.58024			1020	6630	9180	\$ 551,000.00		
2020		Walcha	910	Thunderbolts Way (Uralla Road) 4810	-30.919401	151.567036	-30.951641	151.578659	1040	6760	9360	\$ 562,000.00	\$ 1,113,000.00	\$3,550,000.00

October 2017 Business Paper Page 40

2021	Project 9	Midcoast	580	Way/90/80 kmph speed sign old segment 35 - COS construction	-31.701815	151.8514726	31.69809	151.84679	0.608	4742	5472	\$ 602,000.00	\$ 602,000.00	
2021	Project 10	Walcha	952	Thunderbolts Way 4370	-31.33014	151.53872	31.32173	151.5404	980	5880	8820	\$ 529,200.00	\$ 529,200.00	
2021	Project 11	Walcha	961	Thunderbolts Way 4460	-31.23688	151.55878			1100	6600	9900	\$ 594,000.00		
2021		Walcha	962	Thunderbolts Way 4470			31.22699	151.55812	1100	6600	9900	\$ 594,000.00		
2021				Thunderbolts Way 4480			31.21714	151.55876	1100	6600	9900	\$ 594,000.00	\$ 1,782,000.00	\$2,913,200.00
2022	Project 12	Midcoast	105	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Property 50 lhs - Dunmore St end of k & g lhs	-31.9725357	151.9158695	31.97346	151.91142	0.424	4409	4580	\$ 412,000.00	\$ 412,000.00	
2022		Midcoast	285	MR 7719 Thunderbolts Way/Old Quarry rhs before Gloryvale Bridge	-31.8610097	151.8678814	-31.86497	151.86554	0.487	3603	4383	\$ 394,470.00	\$ 395,000.00	
2019	Project 13	Walcha	916	Thunderbolts Way 4010	-31.601423	151.756888			1060	9010	9540	\$ 572,400.00		
2019		Walcha	917	Thunderbolts Way 4020	-31.592336	151.753881	-31.51193	151.69375	1200	10200	10800	\$ 648,000.00	\$ 1,220,400.00	\$2,027,400.00
												TOTAL	\$ 23,719,600.00	
												Walcha	\$ 1,000,000.00	200,000 p.a. over 5 ye
												Midcoast	\$ 3,000,000.00	300,000 p.a. + 1,500,00
												FCR amount	\$ 19,719,600.00	

Appendix A - Project Location Maps

Appendix B - Project Photos

Appendix C - Letters of Support



Item: 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2017/01833
Title: Waste Strategy & Container Deposit Scheme Update
Author: Director – Engineering Services
Previous Items: WO/17/813 MAY17 Waste Strategy Update
 WO/16/1960 NOV16 Container Deposit Scheme Registration of Interest
Attachment: Nil

CSP Ref: 6.2 – Solid waste will be managed in a sustainable manner with a continuing reduction in waste generation and disposal to landfill.

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to inform of progress on the actions from the Draft Waste Strategy and to provide an update on Council’s involvement in the NSW Container Deposit Scheme.

Report:

Waste Strategy

Earlier this year Council adopted the Draft Waste Strategy prepared by Impact Environmental and resolved that costings implications and possible finance sources be investigated for the management of the at the Aerodrome Road facility. As such consultants [GHD](#) were engaged to prepare a masterplan for the main waste facility. Phase 1 of the Masterplan project, a design basis document has recently been submitted to the Armidale EPA Office for stakeholder ratification. On endorsement of the design basis development of the Site Masterplan shall commence.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

The commencement date of the NSW EPA *Return and Earn* container deposit scheme is 1 December 2017. In September talks with the then newly announced Network Coordinator ‘Tomra Cleanaway’ commenced and it was confirmed Walcha had been identified as a Manual Collection Point location. Initial discussions with the Network Coordinator have been held up due to the scheme requiring empty containers to be transported from Tamworth to Walcha. This is considered inefficient both economically and environmentally. The Network Coordinators focus is currently on rolling out collection points in the main metropolitan areas before 1 December as such it is expected discussions with Council will resume in 2018.

Further, at the time of writing it is unknown if any *Return and Earn* collection points will be established in either Armidale or Tamworth by the commencement date. The EPA has advised in a media release today that a geolocator map will be unveiled in coming weeks for people to find their nearest collection point.

RECOMMENDATION: For Council’s information.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 6.5 **Ref:** WO/2017/01740
Title: StateCover Work Health and Safety Annual Audit Report
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Nil
Attachment: WI/2017/10674

CSP Ref: 8.1.2 – Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.

Introduction:

As part of its service to members, StateCover provides Councils with an annual Work Health and Safety (WHS) self-audit to assist in the evaluation and monitoring of their WHS management system. This comprehensive audit explores a range of issues that are critical to the effective implementation of a WHS management system and the resulting reduction of worker injuries and illnesses.

The audit consists of two main sections:

- **Section 1 - WHS Management System** - This section examines the 14 key elements of a WHS management system including questions on the availability of WHS documentation and the effective implementation of WHS procedures.
- **Section 2 - Specific Hazards** – This section examines how well your Council manages 21 common types of hazards that can lead to injury or illness.

Report:

Summary of overall results:

Section	Current Year	Previous Year
Section 1 - WHS Management System	71.8%	67.9%
Section 2 - Specific Hazards	88.1%	86.0%

The audit is scored utilising the below system:

Poor	Fair	Good
<50%	50-75%	>75%

In Section 1 **WHS Management System** of the Audit report Council improved in two areas from the previous year:

- Health Monitoring
- Management Review

No areas of the audit decreased from the previous year while two areas remain ranked as poor:

- Planning
- WHS Audits

In Section 2 **Specific Hazards** of the Audit report Council improved on six areas from the previous year these being:

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..... General Manager Mayor



- Chemicals Management
- First Aid
- Volunteer Management
- Working from Heights
- Workplace Stress
- Contractor Management

Two areas decreased from the previous year:

- Manual Handling
- Event Management

Council has no areas that were ranked as poor.

Appendix 1 – Audit Results Trends identifies six area’s as ranking lower than the previous year, some did not alter their overall rankings and remained poor or fair:

- Planning
- Consultation
- Emergency Preparation
- Manual Handling
- Event Management
- Workplace Stress

The reason that rankings in these area’s has decreased can be attributed to two main reasons, firstly areas may have being incorrectly reported in the past. On Page 14 of the report the purple results in 2013 were significantly higher then the following year in 2014 (Green) this is attributed to someone new taking on the WHS Role and interpreting the Audit in a different manner however the trend from 2014 has steadily being increasing as a broader understanding of the impacts of WHS occurs.

Over the last three years Council have being able to secure scholarships every year allowing the WH&S Coordinator to complete their Certificate IV, Diploma of Work Health and Safety and will be completing their Lead Auditor in a Work Health and Safety System within the coming months. This education leads to Council developing a maturing approach to WHS and therefore deficiencies within the system are easily identified and more harshly penalised.

To ensure that Council continue on the Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) the below table is an action plan to address all items flagged in the audit as requiring attention.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council note the report.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



1 - WHS System Elements							
No.	Current Rating	Element	Recommendations	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
1.	Poor	Planning	Develop a comprehensive procedure for WHS planning that outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the information required for planning (e.g. injury trends, audit reports, legal obligations, etc.) ▪ the planning methodology ▪ responsibilities ▪ the process to monitor progress in achieving WHS targets. 	1. Research Council's injury trends, compile audit reports and research Legal Obligations and ensure compliance	WHS Coordinator	30/12/2017	
				2. Attend Lead Auditor Training in a WH&S System (October 2017) – Six months to complete assignments.	WHS Coordinator	30/04/2018	
				3. Consult with Managers to identify responsibilities, methodology and negotiate the process to monitor the progress in achieving WHS targets. DEVELOP PROCEDURE	WHS Coordinator and Managers	28/02/2018	
2.	Poor	Planning	Develop WHS objectives and measureable targets for all key departments and levels within Council.	1.Meet with Department Managers and identify objectives	WHS Coordinator /	30/02/2018	
				2.Develop objectives that are measurable for all departments to include in WHS Management Plan	WHS Coordinator	30/04/2018	

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



1 - WHS System Elements							
No.	Current Rating	Element	Recommendations	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
3.	Poor	Planning	Develop an implementation plan (WHS Management Plan) for achieving WHS objectives and targets. This plan should specify responsibilities, timeframes and required resources to achieve the objectives and targets.	1. Collate objectives and targets from meetings with Managers to ensure that all responsibilities and timeframes have being developed and agreed upon.	WHS Coordinator / Managers	30/04/2018	
				2. DEVELOP THE WHS MANAGEMENT PLAN	WHS Coordinator	30/06/2018	
4.	Poor	WHS Audits	Schedule and conduct periodic internal and/or external audits by qualified personnel to identify any deficiencies in the WHS Management System and the corrective actions required.	1. Attend Lead Auditor in a WHS System training – six months to complete assignments	WHS Coordinator	30/04/2018	
				2. Identify the high risk areas of the WHS Management System – break down into small sections and conduct Audits in accordance to priority. CONDUCT AUDIT	WHS Coordinator	30/05/2018	
5.	Fair	Emergency Preparedness	Develop procedures that identify all potential emergency situations throughout Council. In accordance with AS 3745 “Planning for	1. Review Emergency Evacuation Plan for Office to ensure that all emergency situations are captured	WHS Coordinator	30/01/2018	

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1 - WHS System Elements							
No.	Current Rating	Element	Recommendations	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
			Emergencies in Facilities”, specify the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ emergency procedures to be followed ▪ equipment requirements ▪ required training. 	2. Consult with staff, identify and conduct training (ie Fire Warden Training) FINALISE OFFICE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN	WHS Coordinator	30/03/2018	
				3. Consult with offsite locations and develop a priority list to finalise Emergency Evacuation Plans ALL OTHER EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS TO BE DEVELOPED AND TESTED, TRAINING TO BE IDENTIFIED	WHS Coordinator and other offsite staff	30/05/2018 30/06/2019	
6.	Fair	Emergency Preparedness	Conduct emergency training and evacuation drills at least once per year at all facilities and keep appropriate records to demonstrate compliance.	1. Create evacuation drill procedure and plan for all facilities 2. Conduct drills and ensure that records are maintained in TRIM	WHS Coordinator	30/06/2018 30/06/2018	
7.	Fair	Incident Investigation	Develop a comprehensive procedure for investigating incidents including	1. Review investigation procedure	WHS Coordinator	30/01/2018	

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



1 - WHS System Elements							
No.	Current Rating	Element	Recommendations	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
		n	the composition of the investigation team, the level of investigation required, determining root causes and managing corrective actions.	2. Include Root Cause Analysis and managing corrective actions FINALISE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE	WHS Coordinator	30/01/2018 30/01/2018	
8.	Fair	Incident Investigation	Implement a process to ensure all incidents (including near misses) are routinely investigated. Ensure that effective corrective actions are implemented which follow the Hierarchy of Controls.	1. Incident Investigation team to complete investigations on all incidents including near misses 2. Corrective actions identified using the Hierarchy of Controls to be identified. <i>(See Hierarchy of Controls below.)</i>	Incident Investigation Team Incident Investigation Team	Every incident Every incident	
9.	Fair	Document Control	Develop a procedure that specifies document control requirements including the document identification structure, review process and timeframes, removal of obsolete documentation from circulation, etc.	1. Review CIP (Continuous Improvement Workbook) Information Management WI16/3313 and implement corrective actions.	WHS Coordinator (workbook was completed with L Hobbs and K Kermode)	30/04/2018	

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



1 - WHS System Elements							
No.	Current Rating	Element	Recommendations	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
				2. Consult with GM as to create a new procedure or update current Records Management Policy WO/09/1039 to include a more descriptive Document Control Section COMPLETE PROCEDURE/POLICY	WHS Coordinator	30/05/2018 30/05/2018	
10.	Fair	Document Control	Implement a process to ensure all documents are clearly identified in a consistent manner, routinely reviewed at specified times and obsolete versions removed from circulation.	2. Include a section in the above document to ensure that includes removal of obsolete versions.	WHS Coordinator	30/05/2018	
				2. Obsolete document removal schedule	WHS Coordinator	6 monthly	
11.	Fair	Management Review	Conduct periodic management reviews of progress against WHS targets and modify implementation plans as required.	1. Review schedule to be drawn up	WHS Coordinator	Complete this once targets etc developed	
				2. CONDUCT REVIEW PROCESS	WHS Coordinator	Complete this once targets etc developed	

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



1 - WHS System Elements							
No.	Current Rating	Element	Recommendations	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
12.	Fair	Management Review	Conduct formal annual reviews by senior management to assess the overall effectiveness of the WHS Management System and identify changes required to drive continuous improvement.	1. Gather information on the WHS System and incidents , near misses and incident investigation outcomes, corrective action controls implemented	WHS Coordinator	30/06/2018	
				2. Review all with senior management - document	WHS Coordinator	30/06/2018	

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



2 - Specific Hazards							
No .	Current Rating	Category	Issue	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
1.	Fair	Manual Handling	Identify all hazardous manual handling tasks within Council and assess their level of risk.	1. Audit of jobs to identify hazardous manual handling tasks	WHS Coordinator	30/05/2018	
				2. Assess tasks and rank as to their level of Risk.	WHS Coordinator	30/05/2018	
2.	Fair	Manual Handling	Implement effective control measures that follow the Hierarchy of Controls to minimise risks associated with manual handling tasks.	1. Consult with staff completing tasks to ensure that the correct control is in place	WHS Coordinator	30/06/2018	
				MINIMISE THE RISK WITH A HAZARDOUS MANUAL TASK REGISTER	WHS Coordinator	30/06/2018	
3.	Fair	Volunteer Management	Implement a Volunteer Management Program which; defines the responsibilities of Council and volunteers, identifies volunteers' risks and WHS needs, addresses hazard management, training and equipment requirements and provides adequate supervision.	1. Identify areas with volunteers	WHS Coordinator	30/03/2018	
				2. Collate roles expected from volunteers to develop programs specific to tasks to be completed by volunteers. DEVELOP VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	WHS Coordinator	30/04/2018	

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

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2 - Specific Hazards							
No	Current Rating	Category	Issue	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
4.	Fair	Event Management	Implement an effective risk management process for managing both major and minor events.	1. Identify Events run solely by Council	WHS Coordinator	30/01/2018	
				2. Develop specific Risk Assessments that include WH&S issues for all events – (Walcha Mountain Bike Festival)	WHS Coordinator	30/06/2018	
5.	Fair	Workplace Stress	Implement policies to identify and control factors that can lead to workplace stress, including bullying and workplace violence, in line with WorkCover guidelines.	1. Develop Workplace bullying and workplace violence	HR Manager	30/12/2018	Draft completed September 2017
				2. Consult with workers	HR Manager	21/01/2017	Completed
6.	Fair	Preventative Maintenance	Implement an effective preventative maintenance program for Council plant and equipment.	1. Audit Plant Management for deficiencies	WHS Coordinator/DES/TAO	30/06/2018	
				2. Develop electronic plant management system	WHS Coordinator/DES/TAO	30/06/2018	
7.	Fair	Asbestos	Implement a process to ensure all sources of presumed asbestos-	1. Identify all sources of ACM- update register	WHS Coordinator	30/12/2017	Updated September 2017

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



2 - Specific Hazards							
No .	Current Rating	Category	Issue	Actions Required	Person Responsible	Proposed Completion Date	Completed
			containing material ACM been identified, a register developed and management plans implemented in accordance with the WorkCover code of practice "How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace"	2. Investigate professional report to identify any sources of ACM not contained in Register.	WHS Coordinator	30/12/2017	
				3. Develop/investigate location of Management Plan and update to ensure that it is in accordance with the COP.	WHS Coordinator	30/01/2018	



Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

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Ref: WO/2017/01813

Title: Management Review Report
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

CSP Ref: 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.

Item 9:

Management Review Reports

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Listing of Bank Balances for the Month of September 2017

The Cash Book for each Fund has been reconciled with the appropriate Bank Pass sheets for the month of September 2017, and the Reconciliations have been entered in the Cash Book.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
General	\$1,924,604.30	\$2,050,393.94

The current Interest Rate on the General Fund held with the National Australia Bank is 1.25%.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Interest Earned (YTD)	\$ 3,014.42	\$ 6,370.78

9.2 Investments Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, Clause 19 (3) (A) for September 2017

Please see the following Report for the investments placed in September 2017.

Overdraft Limit

An Overdraft Limit of \$200,000 has been arranged with the National Australia Bank. When utilised an Overdraft Interest Rate of 8.77% applies.

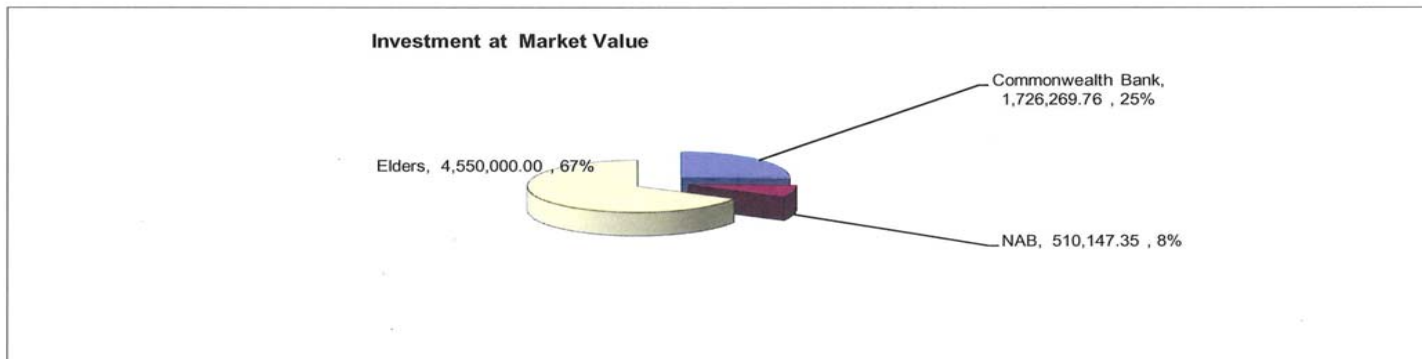
Jack O'Hara
GENERAL MANAGER



REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 30/09/2017

Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Rate	Est. Interest	YTD Interest	Amount Invested	YTD Redemption	Est. Market Value At 30/09/17	MV % of Portfolio	
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit			13-Jul-17			8908.27	-	960,878.74	-	0.00%	
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	28/09/2017	180	28-Mar-18	2.50%	11712.33	12690.96	950,000.00	-	950,000.00	14.00%	
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	4/04/2017	180	04-Oct-17	2.65%	7841.10		600,000.00	-	600,000.00	8.84%	
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit	30/11/2016	326	26-Oct-17	2.66%	20460.93		861,229.57	-	861,229.57	12.69%	
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	28/04/2017	210	28-Nov-17	2.50%	7337.74		510,147.35	-	510,147.35	7.52%	
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	20/06/2017	180	17-Dec-17	2.60%	7052.05		550,000.00	-	550,000.00	8.10%	
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	18/07/2017	180	18-Jan-18	2.55%	7545.21		600,000.00	-	600,000.00	8.84%	
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	20/06/2017	240	15-Feb-18	2.62%	10336.44		600,000.00	-	600,000.00	8.84%	
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	29/08/2017	180	28-Feb-18	2.60%	8334.25	5540.14	650,000.00	-	650,000.00	9.58%	
Elders Rural Bank	Term Deposit	18/07/2017	270	18-Apr-18	2.58%	11450.96		600,000.00	-	600,000.00	8.84%	
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit	17/09/2017	330	17-Aug-18	2.50%	7852.20	10118.45	347,400.27	-	347,400.27	5.12%	
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit	26/09/2017	240	24-May-18	2.54%	8645.30	11034.29	517,639.92	-	517,639.92	7.63%	
							108,568.49	48,292.11	6,786,417.11	960,878.74	6,786,417.11	100.00%

Capital Value of Portfolio	6,786,417.11
Redeemed Value of Portfolio	960,878.74
Market Value of Portfolio 30/09/17	<u>6,786,417.11</u>
Estimated Profit/(Loss) 30/09/17	<u>6,786,417.11</u>



Responsible accounting Officers 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 Rosemary Strobel (Responsible Accounting Officer)

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

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9.3 Work, Health & Safety

September 2017

Workplace Incidents – One minor incident occurred, an investigation was conducted and corrective action put in place to prevent further trips occurring.

Motor Vehicle – Two minor incidents were recorded with no insurance claims arising.

Public Liability – Nil.

Near Misses – Nil.

Preschool – Nil.

9.4 Tourism Report

September 2017

Number of visitors to VIC

Septembert	2017	2016	2015	2014
Walk in's	488	565	384	437
Phone enquiries	22	36	31	31
Email enquiries	0	5	1	1

Website	September	August	July	June
Unique Visits	1,904	4,086	3,594	2,473
Visits	2,435	4,597	4,228	3,126
No of Hits	119,404	35,990	119,122	109,728

Unique visitors refers to the number of distinct individuals requesting pages from the website during a given period, regardless of how often they visit. Visits refers to the number of times a site is visited, no matter how many visitors make up those visits – Google answer.

Comments from the Visitors Book – September

Positive Feedback on Walcha and the Visitor Information Centre, this is every comment in the visitor book for September:

Great advice, thankyou, beautiful area / Just arrived, she looks good / very helpful / excellent / very helpful / helpful / Thank you for your help and advice / Thanks a lot for your help / A wonderful surprise, will be back with friends / a great place! / lovely town / Thanks / Thanks / very helpful / Great service with a smile / ← ditto / Good place for a stay / thank you / very helpful / very helpful / many thanks / Headin' North / fabulous town / Thankyou / thank you / Very Helpful / Good Service / Exc. Showcasing of Walcha's attractions.

Walcha Mountain Festival

We have been very busy organising the Walcha Mountain Festival. There has been an increase in interest for stallholders and attendees this year so we are hoping for a successful Festival. And for the rain to hold off!! Held on the weekend of October 21-22.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



New England High Country

I have been tasked by the New England High Country group to assist with the improvement of the Travelin website (a booking site owned by both old Inland NSW tourism members and Adventure Group Holdings). This is still a work in progress but we are getting there.

DOWNTOWN Magazine feature

Just after a fabulous seven page spread about Walcha in the spring edition of New England Living magazine focusing on Walcha’s art. We have also been published in the popular DOWNTOWN magazine, covering the New England North West, with a feature on local artist, Paula Jenkins (appearing on the front page) and in the *WEEKEND* section Walcha itself featured with a where to stay, where to eat, what to do spread. It was well written and put a shining light on Walcha.

Susie Crawford
Tourism Manager

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

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9.5 Grant Information

Grants Currently Applied for:

Name of Grant:	Purpose of Grant:	Amount Requested:	Council Contribution:	Outcome:
Create NSW Regional Partnerships	Sculpture Symposium	\$70,000	\$8,500	unsuccessful
Create NSW Arts & Cultural Projects (Round 1)	Sculpture Symposium	\$60,000	\$8,500	September
Youth Opportunities Program	Establishment of a homework and learning support centre	\$38,590	\$4,000	October
Stronger Country Communities Fund	Replacement Preschool building	\$660,000	\$340,000 \$52,000	November
Stronger Country Communities Fund	Sporting Ground upgrade	\$120,000	\$0	November
Grandparents Day	Open day at Preschool for grandparents, grandfriends, older community members & WCCC Social Group	\$900	\$300	unsuccessful
Community Building Partnership	Internal fitout of Walcha Council Community Care Building	\$25,000	\$25,000	Unknown
Infrastructure Grants	Redevelopment of Walcha Memorial Cenotaph	\$55,000	\$24,000	November
Regional Arts Fund NSW Community Grants	Sculpture Symposium	\$20,000	\$8,500	November
Regional Arts NSW Country Arts Support Program (CASP)	Artist fee for Sculpture Symposium	\$3,000	\$2,700	November
Fixing Country Roads	For the identification of road related projects – particularly freight productivity			November

Grants Currently Being Investigated:

Name of Grant:	Purpose of Grant:	Closing Date:
Arts Projects – Organisations Community Building Partnership Youth Opportunities Funding Regional Arts NSW website:		Various times
Regional Cultural Fund	Update MPC facilities	TBA

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

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Website Links:

- <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants>
- <http://www.lgnsw.org.au/files/imce-uploads/127/cremf-introduction-1.pdf>
- <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/funding/start-strong/capital-works-grants-program>
- <http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au/>
- <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/funding/blackspots/>
- <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/fixing-country-roads>
- https://infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/pab/active_transport/
- <http://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/about-us/our-initiatives/infrastructure-grants.aspx>
- <https://www.create.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/regional-cultural-fund/regional-cultural-fund-2/>
- <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/invest-in-nsw/regional-opportunities/stronger-country-communities-fund>
- <https://www.create.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/types-of-funding/project-funding-arts-and-cultural-projects>
- <https://www.create.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/types-of-funding/project-funding-regional-partnerships/>
- <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/raf/>
- <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp/>
- <http://australiacouncil.gov.au/funding/>

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



ENGINEERING SERVICES

9.6 Wages & Overtime Summary

Pay Period	Week Ending	Overtime Hours	Amount (\$)
12	17/09/2017	46.75	2,321.24
13	24/09/2017	48.75	2,580.56
14	01/10/2017	41.50	2,094.23
15	08/10/2017	69.00	3,553.02
16	15/10/2017	72.00	3,629.73
TOTAL		278.00	\$14,178.78

9.7 Shire Roads Maintenance

Design and Construct – Five Bridges Tender:

The final two bridges of the Design and Construct 5 Bridges tender are complete and only require guardrail installation prior to opening. Guardrail works are expected to be complete in October, which will mark the completion of the 5 Bridges Tender. The process has been completed within the expected timeframe and has overall been a successful process.



Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

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Emu Creek Road Rehabilitation:

The Emu Creek Road Rehabilitation is now complete and sealed.

The rehabilitation was completed within the expected timeframe and on budget. The productivity seen throughout the stabilisation portion of this project was very high, achieving over 600 lineal meters full road width per day.



Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Brackendale Road (Lowana) – Temporary Bridge Installation:

Due to serious concerns around a triple cell pipe culvert on the Brackendale Road, approx. 1.6kms into the Riamukka State Forest, the Engineering Department have replaced the structure with a temporary steel bridge. The temporary steel bridge is 3m in width, so traffic management devices have been installed around the bridge.



Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



State Roads & Regional Roads – Projects

Thunderbolts Way and Oxley Highway Heavy Patching:



Heavy Patching occurred on the Oxley Highway and Thunderbolts Way, patches on the Highway were targeting the approaching reseals and the Thunderbolts Way Patches targeted areas of safety concern. This patching was completed over a period of five working days.



Urban Roads – Projects:

McHattan Park Upgrade:



The McHattan Park Upgrade is underway, with site fencing installed and excavation works progressing. Once the playground area has been excavated and prepared, a new concrete strip will be installed prior to the installation of soft fall and playground equipment.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

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Completed Maintenance Snapshot

Local Roads	
Maintenance Grading:	Roads:
	Ohio North
	Brackendale
Gravel Re-Sheeting	Roads:
	Abbottsley
Vegetation Control	Roads:
	Brackendale
	Ruby's Nob Road
State & Regional Roads	
Oxley Highway Maintenance:	Tasks:
	Sign Maintenance & Repair
	Servicing Rest Areas
	Vegetation Control
	Guideposts
Regional Roads:	Tasks:
	Repair Potholes
	Edges
	Vegetation Maintenance
	Service Rest Areas
Urban Roads	
Urban Maintenance:	Tasks:
	Sporting Ground Maintenance
	Town Street Cleaning
	Parks and Garden Maintenance
	Pool Pre-Season Works

Proposed Works for the Coming Period

Shire Roads

- ◆ Grading Kangaroo Hills Road, Campfire Road (Woolbrook End) and Hartford Road
- ◆ Continue to clean pipes on Glen Morrison Road
- ◆ Vegetation control on Brackendale Road
- ◆ Complete the Design and Construct Five Bridges Tender.

State & Regional Roads

- ◆ Maintenance
 - Pothole Patching
 - Drainage Works
 - Vegetation Maintenance
- ◆ Reseal Program to Commence

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Works in Town

- ◆ Streetscape Maintenance
- ◆ Sporting grounds maintenance
- ◆ Town Mowing - parks, gardens and cemeteries
- ◆ Finalise works on the Cricket Nets
- ◆ Town Garden Maintenance
- ◆ Pool Pre-Season Works.

Dylan Reeves
Director – Engineering Services

9.8. Water

Current Water Restrictions – Level 1: target usage 250 – 290 Litres/Person/Day

Water usage for the month of September 2017 was as follows:

- ◆ Monthly Usage – 14.21 ML
- ◆ Usage per person per day – 342 Litres

Usage was significantly higher this month due to the unseasonal hot weather conditions. The supply from the Macdonald River held through the month with capacity also allowing for top ups to the Emergency Supply dam at Muluerindie.

Aplsey River Dam Proposal

Stage 3 of this project has commenced with a progress report received Wednesday 18/10. At the time of writing the report had yet to be reviewed.

9.9 Sewer

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) Upgrade

Earthworks on the construction of the new 20ML storage dam are progressing well with the embankments all but complete. Approval has recently been granted by the EPA for the emptying of the existing maturation pond. The effluent water is to be irrigated on to Sugarloaf Hill and is scheduled take a couple of months to complete. Emptying of the pond will be starting next week.

Since the STP Upgrade design phase in 2015 Council has been pursuing opportunities for end users of the recycled water for agricultural irrigation. Discussions are still ongoing with a third party but as yet a formal proposal has not been received.

9.10 Waste

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

See separate report this month.

Waste Strategy

See separate report this month.

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Woolbrook & Nowendoc Waste Transfer Station Conversions

Woolbrook Landfill: The Closure Plan submitted in September to the EPA is awaiting approval.

Nowendoc Landfill: Construction is nearly complete with new security fencing and boundary fencing constructed, recycling bin corrals and general waste skips installed and new signage erected. There are a few teething problems such as residents having difficulty with the height of the skip bins and truck access for the servicing of the skip bins. These issues are being rectified by the building of a ramp behind the skips and a shoulder construction for truck access.

Construction work is scheduled to be complete before Friday 10 November the date for a facility introduction to be held with Deputy Mayor, Clint Lyon and Council’s Waste Manager, Tess Dawson. Information will be given on how the new facility works, what waste goes where and to answer residents questions.

Recycling Markets – China ban on the import of waste products

In July of this year, China notified the World Trade Organization that it will be banning the import of 24 different types of solid waste in a bid to reduce imported pollution. The ban is expected to take full effect by the end of 2017.

Council is already feeling the impact of this announcement with the prices of paper and cardboard falling by 25% in the last month. For more information <http://wastemanagementreview.com.au/china-says-will-ban-foreign-waste/>

Tess Dawson
Senior Manager - Water, Sewer & Waste



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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

- ◆ Development
- ◆ Town Planning & Strategic Planning
- ◆ Construction compliance
- ◆ Environmental management
- ◆ Regulatory services
- ◆ Animal control
- ◆ Building and amenity maintenance

The statistical information contained within this report demonstrates the work carried out by staff in achieving the strategic objectives and delivery actions as outlined in Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2027, Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2017-2018.

A report will be presented to Council each month for comparison purposes, showing the previous year’s totals, and the year to date figures for the current year.

9.11 Development

Development Application (DA) Data		
	2016/2017	2017/2018 YTD
Total Number of DAs Determined	22	6
Number of DAs Outstanding	2	3
Average Determination Time (days)	30.6	24.3
Value of DAs	\$4,024,495.00	\$573,407.00
Number of Single New Dwellings	7	1
Residential	1	-
Village / Large Lot Residential	1	-
Rural	5	1
Number of Multi Unit Dwellings	0	0
Number of Commercial Developments	3	1
Number of Industrial Developments	0	0
Withdrawn / Cancelled	0	1
Refused	0	0

Complying Development Application (CDC) Data		
	2016/2017	2017/2018 YTD
Total Number of CDCs	8	2
Value of CDCs	\$324,300.00	\$63,000.00
Number of Single New Dwellings	0	0
Residential	0	-
Village / Large Lot Residential	0	-
Rural	0	-

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**Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates
 Determinations issued – September 2017**

Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act), as amended, precludes a challenge to the validity of consent more than three (3) months after the date of public notification of the consent. Consents are available for public inspection, free of charge, during ordinary office hours at Council’s Hamilton Street office. In accordance with Section 101 of the Act and Clause 124 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, the following determinations are publicly notified:

DA Number	Description	
10.2017.15	Subdivision of land	14502 Thunderbolts Way, Walcha
10.2017.16	Change of use from a shed to a dwelling	13823 Thunderbolts Way, Walcha
CDC Number	Description	
Nil		

Declaration of Interest by Applicant of a Development Application / Construction Certificate / Complying Development

Nature of Interest	Number Received 2016/2017	Number Received 2017/2018 YTD	Number Received this period
Political Gifts and Donation	0	0	0
Applicant or owner is an employee of Walcha Council or a Councillor	0	0	0
Applicant with any relationship to staff or Councillor	1	0	0

s149 Planning Certificates

Section 149 Certificates are issued under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, it provides information on the relevant planning regulations which apply to any particular piece of land. It is compulsory for every property sold to be accompanied by a s149 Planning Certificate.

S149 Planning Certificates	2016/2017	2017/2018 YTD	This Period
Number Issued	137	18	6

9.12 Environment & Regulatory

Environmental & Public Health Regulatory Services

Council performs a number of regulatory functions to control and manage matters of public health and environmental concern to the community, some of these include:

- *Companion Animals Act 1998* e.g. dogs not under effective control & nuisance dogs (barking),
- *Local Government Act 1993* e.g. overgrown land and accumulation of waste, and

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- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* e.g. dumping of rubbish.
- *Food Act 2003* e.g. hygiene and handling

Penalty Notices

Description	Act	2016/2017	2017/2018 YTD	Issued this Period
Owner of dog which rushes at /attacks /bites /harasses /chases any person /animal	Companion Animals Act 1998	0	1	1

Notices and Orders Issued

Description		2016/2017	2017/2018 YTD	Issued this Period
Overgrown allotment (Order Number 21, Section 124 Local Government Act 1993)	Warning	5	0	0
	Intention	0	2	1
	Order	0	0	0
Accumulation of waste (Order Number 22, Section 124 Local Government Act 1993)	Warning	3	0	0
	Intention	0	2	0
	Order	0	0	0
Keeping of animals (Schedule 2 Local Government Regulation 2005 & Council Policy)	Warning	6	2	0
	Intention	1	1	1
	Order	0	0	0
Nuisance dog (Section 32A Companion Animals Act 1998)	Warning	0	0	0
	Intention	2	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Dangerous dog (Section 34 Companion Animals Act 1998)	Warning	0	0	0
	Intention	1	0	0
	Order	1	0	0
Roaming dog (Section 12A Companion Animals Act 1998)	Warning	2	8	1
	Intention	0	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Companion animal microchipping & registration (Sections 8 & 9 CA Act 1998)	Warning	4	13	1
	Intention	0	0	0
	Order	1	0	0
Vehicles and traffic on nature strip (NSW Road Rules 2014)	Warning	13	0	0
	Intention	0	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Abandoned vehicle (Road Transport (Vehicle and Driver Management) Act 2005 and Impounding Act 1993)	Warning	0	0	0
	Intention	0	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Noise Abatement (Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997)	Warning	0	0	0
	Intention	0	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Environmental Pollution (Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997)	Warning	1	0	0
	Intention	0	0	0
	Order	0	0	0

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For information purposes a summary of the number of customer requests received is provided.

Environmental Services Customer Requests September 2017	
Barking dogs	1
Dog attacks	1
Roaming dogs	1
Roaming stock	1
Other animal issues	4
Public buildings / amenities	1
Food premises	0
Overgrown land	1
Accumulation of waste	0
Environmental pollution	1
Illegal building works	0
Other	1

Tree Management Applications (TMAs)

A Tree Preservation Order exists over the town of Walcha to promote the retention of trees and tree cover and to conserve as far as is practical the existing pattern of vegetation, for information purposes a summary of the tree management applications lodged with Council is provided.

TMAs	2016/2017	2017/2018 YTD	This Period
Lodged	27	6	4
Approved (under delegation)	26	5	2
Approved (Council)	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0

Food Premises Surveillance

Under the Food Regulation Partnership Council is appointed as an enforcement agency under the *Food Act 2003*. As an enforcement agency Council is responsible for food surveillance within the Walcha LGA and Council is required to report our food surveillance activity to the NSW Food Authority annually.

For information purposes a summary of the food surveillance activities undertaken for the 2017/2018 year as at 30 September 2017 is provided.

Food Premises Surveillance 2016/2017						
	High Risk Fixed	Medium Risk Fixed	Low Risk Fixed	Mobile	Temporary	TOTAL
Total No.	27	6	7	2	2	44
No. Primary Inspections	0	0	-	0	0	0
No. Re-inspections	0	0	-	0	0	0
No. additional Re-inspections	0	0	-	0	0	0
No. FSS Required	21					21
No. FSS Current	21					21

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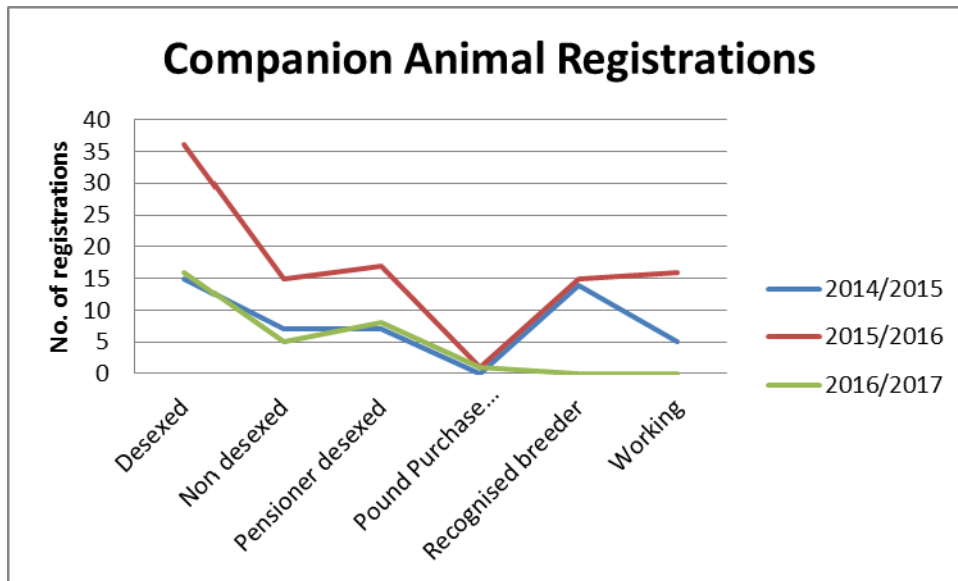


9.13 Animal Control

Council encourages responsible pet ownership in the community, as well as at home. Pet owners should make sure their animals don't disturb their neighbourhood and threaten or harm any other person, pets or wildlife.

Council is required to enforce the registration laws, and the other areas of pet ownership covered by the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Below is a graph demonstrating companion animal registration trends over the previous three years:



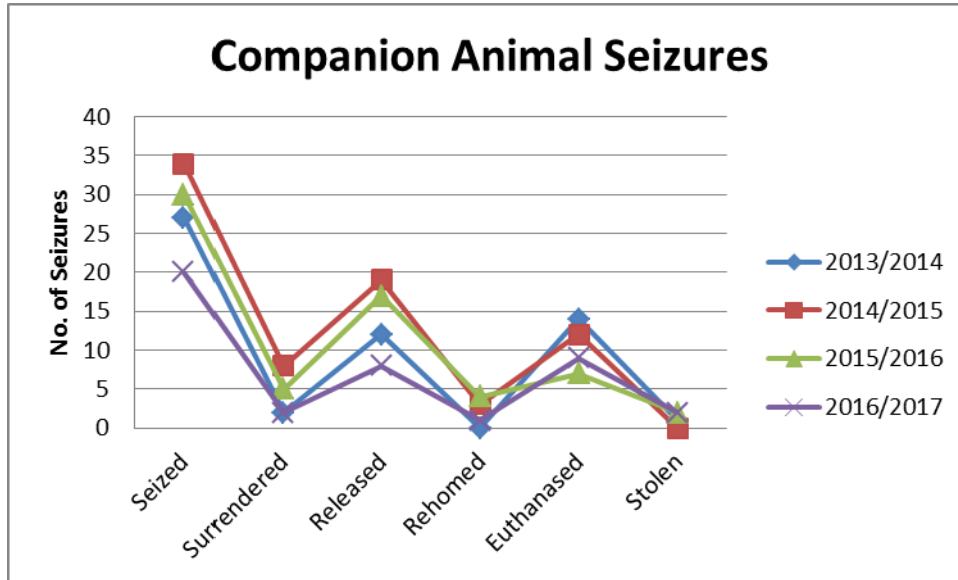
Companion Animals Registrations 2017/2018							
	Desexed	Non desexed	Pensioner (desexed)	Pound Purchase (desexed)	Recognised breeder	Working	Value
							\$
Jul	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
Aug	1	0	0	0	0	0	\$55.00
Sep	0	0	1	0	0	1	\$23.00

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Below is a graph demonstrating companion animal seizure trends over the previous four years:



Companion Animals Seizures 2017/2018						
	Seized	Surrendered	Released	Rehomed	Euthanased	Stolen/Escaped
Jul	2	0	2	0	0	0
Aug	4	0	3	0	1	0
Sep	4	2	1	1	2	0

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

9.14 Walcha Council Community Care

September 2017

Women’s Group and Wanderer’s Group

6 September 2017 – 27 clients from the Women’s Group and the Wanderer’s Group attended morning tea at the Community Day Centre Rooms. The day coincided with Stroke Awareness Month which provided a perfect opportunity to invite Rachel Peake from HNEHealth along to speak to the group about stroke awareness.

20 September 2017 – 24 ladies attended the local day, where the group enjoyed the visit to the Walcha District Historical Society and Pioneer Cottage. Morning tea was held in the Community Day Centre Rooms before the group moved up to the Pioneer Cottage. The volunteers provided a fabulous guided tour of the Cottage and other buildings. Lunch was held at the Walcha Chinese Restaurant



The Women’s Group visiting the
Walcha District Historical
Pioneer Cottage



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Wanderers' Group:

13 September 2017– The group enjoyed morning tea at the Community Day Centre Rooms. Davina Young enlightened the group with lovely ways to decorate pages and present photos through scrap booking techniques. Davina brought in beautiful examples of her own work and some bits and pieces for the group to create a story about a photo for themselves.

27 September 2017– The Wanderer's Group had a lovely day visiting some of the spectacular local scenery. With a visit to the Tia Falls where they also had morning tea and a short walk to the lookout. After morning tea the group called into the Apsley Falls. Although there was not a lot of water going over the falls the group still enjoyed the view from the lookout, a barbeque lunch and the day spent together in the fresh air.



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Men’s Group

12 September 2017 – 15 gentlemen attended morning tea in the Community Day Centre Rooms. The guest speaker, George Pethard, presented a great story and photo exhibition of their trip on the Pan American Highway from the bottom of South America to the USA. The group really enjoyed the presentation and would love to hear and see more of George’s expeditions in the future.

26 September 2017 – 21 gentlemen attended the trip to Glen Innes to visit the White Rock Wind Farm. The wind farm is located approximately 20km west of Glen Innes and 40km east of Inverell at the junctions of the Glen Innes, Inverell and Guyra Shires, south of the Gwydir Highway with the construction and operation of up to 119 wind turbines. The wind farm will result in over 300 MW of renewable electricity being generated.

Stage 1 of the project will consist of 70 turbines, producing 175 MW of clean renewable electricity which is enough to power 75,000 homes annually. Construction of Stage 1 commenced in May 2016 and the wind farm is nearing completion to be operational in the latter half of 2017.

The group visited the White Rock Wind Farm shop front, with local representative Sandra Royal, providing a presentation about the wind farms. The shop front has a number of maps and photomontage diagrams that show what the wind farm may look like and give a reasonable impression of the scale and distance to the wind turbines. The shop front has general information on the wind farm, copies of newsletters and also information on the proposed White Rock Solar Farm.

After the Shop Front visit the group moved next door to the Great Central Hotel for lunch. The group then travelled along the Gwyder Highway to see the turbines in their glory. Unfortunately due to the turbines being on private property we could not get as close to them as we would have liked although you could still see the turbines from the road.

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Dementia Awareness Month Events

7 & 8 September 2017 – The Alzheimer’s Australia NSW Memory Van along with Stuart Torrence visited Walcha for Dementia Awareness Month. Thursday 7 September, the van was parked in Derby Street in the front of the Library for people who just wanted to drop in to seek information or ask questions. Friday 8 September Stuart and the Memory Van were invited to attend the Walcha Men’s Shed for the day. Stuart’s presentation provided information about how to keep your brain healthy by looking after your heart, doing some kind of exercise, by mentally challenging your brain, following a healthy diet and including social activities in your routine.

Stuart has a passion for Men’s Sheds and has assisted Alzheimer’s Australia to complete the Men’s Shed “Your Shed and Dementia Manual”. A very interesting read of how Men’s sheds are proving to be valuable to the community by reducing social isolation and increasing social engagement. Many men with early stages of dementia can be active

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participants in their Men’s Shed with increasing evidence this type of social engagement and support can potentially slow down the progression of dementia and give the person meaningful activities . The morning was lots of fun and the barbeque lunch was well attended.



Top Left - Bob Burnet and John McLeod
Top Right – Group of Men’s Shed members listening to the presentation
Left - Stuart Torrence from Alzheimer’s Australia NSW delivering the “Your Brain Matters” presentation at the Men’s Shed members.

9 September 2017 – Walcha Bridge to Bridge Memory Walk. was a community event held at the Walcha Oval behind Captain Cook Park. September is Dementia Awareness Month and an opportune time to raise awareness about dementia as well as funds for Alzheimer’s Australia research.

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The aim of the walk is to encourage the community to become dementia aware and have a better understanding of what it is like for a person to live with dementia and to create a community where people are supported to live a high quality of life with meaning, purpose and value. The day was well attended with around 150 people registering to walk on the day to also remember those people who have lived or are living with Dementia. Walcha Mayor, Eric Noakes welcomed and thanked people for coming and opened the event with many activities available for people to participate in. The walk began at 11am with people choosing how far they liked to walk along the lovely walking pathways on our Apsley River levee banks



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Transport– September

Medical drives – 12 clients utilized the service with 22 trips during the month.

Access bus – 7 clients used the service making 47 trips during the month.

Bus to Tamworth – 7 clients used the service on 29 September 2017

Bus to Armidale numbers for September were as follows:

- ◆ 5 September 2017 – 6 clients –Walcha Service
- ◆ 12 September 2017 – 5 clients – Uralla Service using TCT Bus and Driver
- ◆ 19 September 2017 – 8 clients – Walcha Service
- ◆ 26 September 2017 – 3 clients – Uralla Service using TCT Bus and Driver

Taxi Vouchers –15 clients used the Taxi Vouchers with Walcha Taxi Service and Walcha Community Transport with a total of 84 Taxi Vouchers returned.

Meals on Wheels

For the period of 1/9/2017 to 30/9/2017, there were 15 clients who received hot main meals with two of those clients also receiving frozen meals for the weekend. The total number of meals for the month was:

- ◆ 208 Hot meals,
- ◆ 92 frozen meals and
- ◆ 149 desserts.

Rural and Remote Exercise Groups

This month for Nowendoc rural and remote exercise group was unavailable.

Feedback and Complaints

Feedback to report for this month below:

- The new bus is just great. Morning teas are lovely and very well served. All the day outings have been well organised and a pleasure to attend.
- Very good day at the Walcha District Historical Museum. Good morning tea, food and lunch. Great bus and very good bus driver.
- Enjoy morning teas. They're always nice. Good trips away. Good outings and good guest speakers.

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..... General Manager Mayor



- Outings, morning teas, friendship and the new bus
- Thankyou for: Friendship, scones with jam & cream, informative speakers, great trips, new bus
- The company, nice outings, bus pickups, Morning teas
- Friendship, nice morning teas, company, bus pickups
- I enjoy all the services we get. I can't think of anything else that we need. I have no complaints. The new bus is terrific. We are so well looked after in this town.
- I enjoy the local outings and the morning teas. Cathy does a really good job and the new bus is great.
- I have no complaints. Happy as things are going- a job well done! The bus service is excellent.
- All the staff members do an outstanding, caring job at the community centre. All activities are well organised and enjoyed by participants. the services are great and well organised. I enjoy whatever activities are on. The new bus is great and the friendships made are worth their weight in gold. The volunteers do a wonderful job- morning teas- scones!
- I find the information about health from people who come to give us information - very good.
- Good trips with the bus. The bus is great and easy with the bus and the morning tea is great.
- We enjoy all our outings - special trips away. Enjoy our new community bus = very comfortable. Everyone is so friendly.
- Have had a few local outings, all most enjoyable. Would like to see more outings like the men do. I enjoy all the services that the girls do. They do a wonderful job for us all. Lovely morning tea etc.
- Enjoy monthly morning tea with other friends. Bus transport is very convenient and service by driver is greatly appreciated.
- Have nice time going out. Nice morning tea and lunch.
- Very happy with everything and a very good bus driver.
- I feel that we receive far out does the amount we are asked to pay. We are helped on and off the bus and give a beautiful morning tea at the HACK rooms and taken back to our homes. The trip to Armidale is delightful.
- Good morning tea. Enjoy the trip we go on. People are nice.
- NDIS client- Hoy family very happy with cleaning provided, enjoys availability of cleaner starting early and extra duties.
- Excellent bus trips. Great food venues on trips. The best of guest speakers (very educational). The best morning teas (esp. sandwiches).
- Enjoy seeing all the countryside while relaxing on the bus. Interesting places and people that we go to and listen to. Great company and a lot of B.S on the bus! Credit to Cathy and her helpers for organising that goes into the outings. It is most enjoyable.
- Enjoy bus trips, Nice food.
- I enjoy the social life as the bus are great and interesting and food for morning very nice. The morning teas at the second Tuesday is great to get together and food you can not complain about anything as it is great.
- Trips that may interest: Don McDonough Gunnedah Model trains, Emerits (Hunter Valley) Stud stallions cattle or sheep stud displays- stock - setup
- Morning tea very good. Buss trips are good & day out
- I have no complaints. We have really good days out, morning tea very nice, with good company.

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- The morning tea and trips away are well planned and a good social get together. The big bus is better than the small bus for the trips away. The volunteers do a great job.
- An excellent service and social gathering. Morning teas are very good. Bus trips are excellent. Coach is very much better than the little bus.
- Generally all is good considering many things are governed by privacy considerations, OH&S rules etc. Guest speakers are interesting- more if possible. Are impressed that Walcha Council have decided not to increase fee charges- THANK YOU! Trips away are great.
- Happy with everything. Enjoy the bus trips. All staff do an excellent job. Morning teas A.1. Guest speakers informative. Enjoy the fellowship.
- Morning teas - excellent. Cross section of consumers makes for conversations. Guest speakers always welcome.
- Bus leaves too early for older people. Do enjoy the trips. Enjoy trips to Railway museum but know they're only a few about. Friendship is great and have made good friends with other consumers. Generally it is all very good and people hope it keeps going for years.
- More outings- now that we have a new bus. Guest speakers- mental health , disability services, Police- safety, security, Music- sing along.
- Safety, mental health. Trip away to Quirindi museum or Werris Creek.
- Would like the Police to come and talk about safety. Health to talk about Blood Pressure and stroke. Chiropractor for arthritis. The community have no problem with the new bus- it is great!
- We love the new bus! Would like to visit Marsupial Park in Tamworth.
- Phone call from John Scott: I would like to Thank you and the volunteer drivers for the wonderful service you provide. It made the process much easier for myself and my wife during my hospital visits with transportation.

Meetings and Training

6 September 2017 – Dementia Forum held at the Community Centre Tamworth

14 September 2017 – Dementia Support Group meeting held at the Community Day Centre Rooms.

14 September 2017 – Point to Point Transport for NSW Forum held at The Power House Motel Tamworth

25 September 2017 - Advisory Committee Meeting held in Community Day Centre Rooms

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Great news, we finally took delivery of our new Walcha Council Community Bus. As you can tell from some of the feedback, everyone that has been a passenger in our new bus is thrilled with it. The comfort and safety features are great.



Cathy Noon
Community Care Coordinator

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



9.15 Library

September 2017

Library stats:

- ◆ Issues – 533
- ◆ Returns – 597
- ◆ Reservations placed – 47
- ◆ New members – 3
- ◆ Wifi – 71
- ◆ Computer use - 112
- ◆ Door count – 833

The school holidays were a huge success this time around with over 50 children attending. Below is a little bit about each workshop that we ran:

- ◆ **2 x mountain bike workshops**, one for primary age and one for high school age. Run by Chris and Jack Feltham. A total of 14 kids attended.
- ◆ **2 x Walcha Handmade workshops** (both booked out) – 1 x Photography Workshop run by Tasha Chawner with 7 kids attending. 1 x Paper craft workshop run by Ces Casey with 10 in attendance.
- ◆ **2 x Robotics workshops** – 1 for 4-7 year olds (3 attended) and 1 for 8-14 year olds (10 attended). The first workshop involved the introduction of CNRL’s Robot, Codey. Codey danced, did tai chi and told stories for the children. They also got to create their own balancing robot. The second workshop involved learning to drive the VEX IQ robots. Then the children got to participate in a VEX Robot ringmaster challenge.
- ◆ **Library Fun Day** – 8-12 year olds (10 attended). This day involved Scavenger Hunts and Marco Polo around the library, The Great Library Race and random bookmarks of kindness. The aim of this activity was to familiarise children with the books, dvd’s, etc that we hold in the library. We also hoped to show children that libraries are fun places with countless resources!
- ◆ **Lego Workshop** – 6 attended and many creative LEGO sculptures were made. The children followed instructions to create LEGO figures such as birds, rabbits, windmills, trucks and houses.
- ◆ The Apsley Falls Bush Walk and The Walcha Clue Trail had to be cancelled due to very low numbers, however given the array of exciting things happening in town during the second week of holidays this was to be expected.

Tech Savvy Seniors has now been running for four weeks with fantastic attendance each week. The last session of the 6 week program will be on 13 October, however if there is still interest the program may go ahead again.

Overall September was a big month from the library, which I think is evident in the door count above. Below is some photos from all the exciting things that have been happening during the month of September.

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Madison Garrad
Library Coordinator/Youth Worker

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9.16 Preschool

September 2017

All year the children have been showing a keen interest in science, therefore the children have been doing experiments and exploring a variety of reactions between different materials. Mixing vinegar and bi-carb soda has been popular and set up for the children to experiment with in a variety of ways. Last term the children were able to see the reaction between coke-a-cola and Mentos, before the Mentos were dropped into the bottle of coke the children hypothesised about what would happen...



After growing crystals using Borax the children were then introduced to making slime as another experiment where the children were able to witness a visible reaction between glue and borax...



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With many international families making up the community at Walcha Preschool and family involvement encouraged it was fantastic to see KiKi Blomfield come and spend some time with her grand children here at preschool during her visit from Sweden. With Kiki here for the morning she assisted in sharing her culture with the children by cooking with the children some traditional food with the class.



With a big interest in farming demonstrated by the children another farm excursion was organised for the children this time it was hosted by Lissie and Andrew Blomfield on their property "Hole Creek". As Lissie is a qualified equestrian coach, horse rides for the children were able to be offered and the children were very excited about this. While at the farm the children also shared morning tea, explored the wool shed collected eggs, planted seedlings in the vegetable garden, fed and brushed the horses and some children were able to feed a poddy lamb which everyone got to pat and hold. On this excursion all of the children who attend on Thursday came, this allowed the younger children come along as well. There were also many family helpers whom without excursions like this could not go ahead. The weather was not ideal, icy winds and overcast, however the children didn't seem to mind one bit.

Zoe Herbert
Preschool Nominated Supervisor

RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 9.1 to 9.16 inclusive, be NOTED by Council.

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Item 11:

Delegate Reports

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 11.1 **Ref:** WO/2017/01832
Title: Delegates Report from NSW Public Libraries Association
North West Zone Meeting held in Coffs Harbour on
21 September 2017
Author: Councillor Heazlett, Delegate
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment:

Meeting was well attended with five Councillors present. Kay from Tamworth and Sonja from Inverell participated by teleconference. The sound was not so good but it saves travelling.

NSWPLA Executive Report:

The executive has been working on a “Strategic Plan” for NSW libraries. Ideas are sought from all for funding. Multi cultural involvement is to be kept. The LG and Library Association are to have a meeting.

Presentation by Stephanie Ney on the reopening of the Sawtell Cinema using ‘crowd funding’, approximately \$500,000 raised. Reopened and operating.

State Library Report:

Assessment and compliance to Walcha Library an opportunity to discuss our Library’s needs and development. Part of a four year cycle to visit all libraries in the State.

State Library has begun work on development plans for modular and prefabricated libraries. They will assist Councils with planning.

Broad scope of digital support from State Library includes: state wide e-Resources; Opt in Databases; database trials; indyreads pilot (local e-content management platform – rolls out this month); digital frontiers seminar held; internet connectivity upgrades available; firewall upgrades; wifi and NBN installed in some libraries; individuals can register to access State Library e-Resources.

Clr Bill Heazlett
Delegate

Submitted to Council: 25 October 2017

..... General Manager Mayor