



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

Commencing at

3:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

Members:

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

Quorum – 4 Members to be Present

AGENDA

Submitted to Council:

13 December 2023

..... General Manager

..... Mayor



Dear Mayor & Councillors

You are requested to attend the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on **Wednesday 13 December 2023** commencing at **3:00pm**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Hood'.

Phillip Hood
General Manager

NOTICE:

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

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

INDEX

1.	Leave of Absence	
	1.1	
2.	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	
	2.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at Walcha Council Chambers.	WO/2023/02319
3.	Business Arising	
4.	Declarations of Interest	
	Nil.	
5.	Mayoral Minute	
	5.1	
6.	Senior Officers' Reports	
	6.1 Mandatory Notifiable Data Breach Reporting Policy	WO/2023/02388
	6.2 2022-2023 Annual Report	WO/2023/02414
7.	Notice of Motion	
	7.1 Nil	
8.	Matters of Urgency	
	(Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).	



9. Management Review Reports

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 9.1 Office of the General Manager | WO/2023/02409 |
| 9.2 Infrastructure & Development | WO/2023/02410 |
| 9.3 Corporate & Community | WO/2023/02386 |

10. Committee Reports

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2023 at the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha | WO/2023/01805 |
| 10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday 30 October 2023 at the Walcha Preschool. | WO/2023/02389 |
| 10.3 Minutes of the Walcha Council Australia Day Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday 6 November 2023 at Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha | WO/2023/02382 |
| 10.4 Minutes of the Walcha Council Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha | WINT/2023/04364 |
| 10.5 Minutes of the Walcha Council Australia Day Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday 4 December 2023 at Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha | WO/2023/02405 |

11. Delegate Reports

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11.1 Minutes of the New England Weeds Authority Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 15 August 2023 at NEWA Office, Rusden Street, Armidale | |
| 11.2 Minutes of the New England Weeds Authority Special Meeting held on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at NEWA Office, Rusden Street, Armidale | |
| 11.3 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Annual General Meeting held on Friday 24 November 2023 at Parliament House, Sydney | |
| 11.4 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association of NSW General Meeting held on Friday 24 November 2023 at Parliament House, Sydney | |

12. Questions with Notice

Nil.

13. Reports to be Considered in Closed Council

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 13A Referral to Closed Council – Tender Evaluation W22/223 – Old Brookmount & Hazeldean Causeways | WO/2023/02424 |
|---|---------------|

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

Resolution to move into Open Council.

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



Item 2: Previous Minutes



Item 3:

Business

Arising from

Previous

Minutes



Item 4:

Declarations of Interest



Item 5: Mayoral Minute



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



Item 6:

Senior Officers' Reports

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



Item: 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2023/02388
Title: NSW Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme NSW - Data Breach Policy
Author: Director Corporate & Community
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: NSW Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme NSW - Data Breach Draft Policy – WO/23/2327
Information and Privacy Commission NSW - Guide to Preparing a DBP – WI/23/14195
Information and Privacy Commission NSW - Fact Sheet Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme May 2023 - WI/23/14196

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1 **APPROVE the DRAFT Data Breach Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days;**
 - 2 **in the event that no submissions are received, ADOPT the policy; and**
 - 3 **if any submissions are received, request the Customer Service Coordinator prepare a further report to Council with details of the submissions.**
-

Introduction:

The NSW Mandatory Notification Data Breach (MNDB) Scheme comes into effect on Tuesday 28 November 2023, which Council is obligated to adhere to, in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) (PPIP Act). These amendments replace the existing voluntary data breach reporting scheme which Walcha Council (Council) has previously complied with.

Report:

The MNDBS, which applies to NSW Local Councils, requires specific actions to be taken prior to its commencement and mandatory obligations to be met thereafter and during its operation. A DRAFT Data Breach Policy (DBP) has been prepared to inform individuals and the community about the MNDBS, advise how Council will respond to an eligible data breach, and provide guidance to Council on the actions necessary should an eligible data breach be identified. This DBP is required under the PPIPA to be published and be publicly available on Council's website from 28 November 2023.



A 28-day public exhibition period of the DBP is legislative and this period will run concurrently with the commencement of Council's obligations under the MNDBS from 13 December 2023.

The MNDB scheme applies to breaches, identified as 'eligible data breaches' of:

- 'Personal information, as defined by the PPIP Act, meaning information or an opinion about an individual whose identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained from the information or opinion; and
- 'Health information' as defined by the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW) (HRIP Act), meaning information about an individual's physical or mental health, disability, and personal information connected to the provision of a health service.

Council is committed to keeping data safe and protected, and in response to commencement of the MNDB scheme, this new policy has been developed that explains:

- What our response to a data breach will be
- How we will notify those affected by an eligible data breach
- What actions we will take to prevent eligible data breaches in the future

The following are the key preparatory compliance obligations for Council:

- preparation and publishing of a DBP in compliance with Section 59ZD of the PPIP Act; noting that publishing means making the DBP publicly accessible;
- establishing an Internal Incident Register of eligible data breaches in compliance with Section 59ZE; and
- establish and maintaining a Public Notification Register of eligible data breaches in compliance with Section 59N (2)

Legal Implications:

There may be legal implications should Council fail to achieve compliance with the MNDBS on 28 November 2023 and thereafter. The 28 day public consultation period for the Draft Data Breach Policy will commence from 14 December 2023 on our website and will be advertised in the Apsley Advocate on Wednesday 20 December 2023.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.



Policy Implications:

The Privacy Management Plan may need to be updated to ensure consistency and compliance with the MNDBS and the DBP. The introduction of the DBP will be a new publicly notifiable policy. Once the final DBP is adopted by Council it will be included in Council's General Policy Register and publicly available on Council's website.



WALCHA COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION POLICY

DRAFT NSW Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme – Data Breach Policy

Applicability

All Council Staff

Publication Requirement

Internal

Assigned Responsible Officer

Customer Service Coordinator

Document Status

Version	Date Reviewed	Prepared by	Endorsed	Approved
1.0	28/11/2023	Customer Service Coordinator		

Amendment Record

Amendment Version #	Date Reviewed	Description of Amendment



Table of Contents

1. PURPOSE.....	3
2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY	3
3. APPLICATION OF THE POLICY	3
3.1 Council Obligations:.....	3
3.2 Data Covered by this policy:.....	3
3.3 Elements of a data breach	4
3.3 Exemptions from the obligations of the MNDB scheme.....	4
4. COUNCILS APPROACH TO MANAGING A DATA BREACH.....	5
4.1 Data Breach response steps.....	5
4.2 Notifying a Data Breach to Council	6
4.3 Council notifying you if you're affected by an Eligible Data Breach	6
4.4 Internal Eligible Data Breach Incident Register	6
4.5 Public Notifications Register	6
4.6 Notifications to the Privacy Commissioner.....	7
5 POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION.....	7



1. PURPOSE

This policy outlines Walcha Councils (Council) approach to a data breach that is constituted under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) (PPIP Act), and which is notifiable to the Privacy Commissioner under the NSW Mandatory Notification of Data Breach Scheme (MNDB). It provides guidance to Council staff and the community on how to prepare for and restrict harm to an individual as a result of a data breach, and also describes Council's procedures for managing a data breach, including the considerations around notifying persons whose privacy may be affected by the breach.

This policy does not apply to data breaches that do not involve personal information or health information, or to breaches that are not likely to result in serious harm to an individual. Walcha Council will continue to respond to other types of data breaches in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.

2. COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY

This Policy commences on 28 November 2023 and will be reviewed at least annually.

3. APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

Council is committed to protecting all data held about an individual, but now has explicit obligations, and is bound by the MNDB scheme.

3.1 Council Obligations:

Council general obligations:

- Making this Data Breach Policy publicly available
- Maintaining an internal Eligible Data Breach Incident Register, and
- Maintaining a Public Notifications Register on the Council website that provides a summary of eligible data breaches where certain circumstances are met.

Council specific obligations should a data breach be identified:

- Immediately make all reasonable efforts to contain the breach
- Undertake an assessment within 30 days where there are reasonable grounds to suspect an eligible data breach has occurred
- During the assessment period make all reasonable attempts to mitigate harm done by the suspected breach
- Decide whether a breach is an eligible data breach or that there are reasonable grounds to believe the breach is an eligible data breach
- Notify the Privacy Commissioner and affected individuals of the eligible data breach

3.2 Data Covered by this policy:

The MNDB scheme applies to:



- 'Personal information' as defined in section 4 of the PIPP Act, meaning information or an opinion about an individual whose identity is apparent or can reasonably be ascertained from the information or opinion, and
- 'Health information' as defined in section 6 of the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW) (HRIP Act), meaning information about an individual's physical or mental health, disability, and personal information connected to the provision of a health service.

3.3 Elements of a data breach

An 'eligible data breach' occurs where:

- There is an unauthorised access to, or unauthorised disclosure of, personal information held by Council or there is a loss of personal information held by a public sector agency in circumstances that are likely to result in unauthorised access to, or unauthorised disclosure of, the information; and
- A reasonable person would conclude that the access to or disclosure of the information would be likely to result in serious harm to an individual to whom the information relates.

For the purposes of this policy, 'serious harm' can include physical, financial, material, emotional, psychological or reputational harm. This policy however recognises that the impact of the harm can vary from person to person and this will be taken into consideration when assessing whether a data breach is an eligible data breach.

Importantly, an eligible data breach may be accidental or deliberate and may occur across a range of different means or channels, including but not limited to, loss or theft of physical devices, misconfiguration or over-provisioning of access to sensitive information or systems, inadvertent disclosure, social engineering or hacking.

Some examples of data breaches include:

- Accidental loss or theft of information or equipment on which information is stored (e.g., loss of a paper record, laptop, or USB stick)
- Accidental or unauthorised disclosure of personal information (e.g., an email containing personal information is sent to the incorrect person)
- Unauthorised access to information, or systems that hold information, by way of malicious behaviour, phishing attacks, or malware
- The browsing of personal information or health information held by Council without a legitimate purpose
- Publicly publishing a person's private information in a Council report, business paper or other communication

3.3 Exemptions from the obligations of the MNDB scheme

There is only one exemption available to Council from temporarily meeting its obligations under the MNDB scheme:

- Where the General Manager reasonably believes that notification of an eligible data breach would worsen Council's cyber security or lead to further data breaches, the General Manager may decide to exempt Council, for a temporary period of time, from its requirement to notify affected individuals or make a public notification.



Should this exemption be applied, Council will notify the Privacy Commissioner by written notice of the exemption period and methods being undertaken to review the exemption period, e.g., Council will review the exemption each month should the exemption period extend beyond one month.

For the purposes of applying this exemption:

- 'Reasonable belief' is a belief that results from the exercise of sound judgement and which is based on the information available
- 'Cyber security' are the measures used to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems and information.

4. COUNCILS APPROACH TO MANAGING A DATA BREACH

In preparing to meet its obligations under the PPIP Act and MNDB scheme, Council has established a Privacy MNDB Response Team (Response Team), who will manage Council's responsibilities under this policy and in accordance with Councils Data Breach Response Plan.

In addition, Council:

- Maintains an effective and integrated risk management framework, allocating resources, responsibility and accountability to manage risks across the organisation;
- Has a range of supporting policies to control and mitigate exposures to breaches of data; and
- A comprehensive set of information technology controls which includes robust access controls, data encryption, network and endpoint security measures, data loss prevention systems, and incident response plans.

4.1 Data Breach response steps

When identifying or being notified of a possible or confirmed data breach, the Response Team will follow five key steps:

1. **Triage** and perform an initial assessment of the suspected data breach as soon as practicable to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to suspect an eligible data breach with consideration to the type of information that was disclosed, the number of individuals affected, and the potential risk of harm that could be caused to individuals and Council by the breach.
2. **Contain** the data breach to minimise possible damage or harm.
3. **Assess** within 30 days of identifying or being notified, the information involved in the breach and the risks associated to determine whether an eligible data breach has occurred, next steps required, and any additional actions needed to further mitigate risks, damage, or harm. In the event of an eligible data breach being confirmed, details of this will be added to the internal Eligible Data Breach Incident Register.
4. **Notify** affected individuals and the Privacy Commissioner if assessed as an eligible data breach. Public notification will also be made with details of the eligible data breach being added to the Public Notifications Register on Council's website.
5. **Prevent** a repeat of the data breach by conducting a post incident review and implementing necessary preventative actions identified.



4.2 Notifying a Data Breach to Council

If you believe there has been a data breach involving Council, you can notify this to the Response Team by email to: council@walcha.nsw.gov.au, or in writing to:

PO Box 2

Walcha NSW 2354

All suspected or confirmed data breaches identified by Council staff, including contractors or third parties engaged by Council, MUST be reported immediately to the Response Team.

4.3 Council notifying you if you're affected by an Eligible Data Breach

If Council determines that you are affected by an eligible data breach, Council will make all reasonable efforts to notify you in writing and advise:

- The date the breach occurred, a brief description of what happened, and the type of breach that has occurred
- A description of the personal information or health information that is the subject of the eligible data breach
- The actions taken by Council or planned to be taken by Council to take to control or mitigate the harm done to you
- The steps you should consider taking yourself
- Information about how to seek an internal review of the agency's conduct or how to make a privacy complaint to the Privacy Commissioner.

Council may, depending on the circumstances of the eligible data breach, provide assistance to replace compromised government issued identity documents or credentials such as a driver's licence.

4.4 Internal Eligible Data Breach Incident Register

Council will maintain an internal register for eligible data breaches. Each eligible data breach will be entered on the register and will include, where practicable:

- Those notified of the breach
- When the breach was notified
- The type of breach
- Details of the steps taken by Council to mitigate harm done by the breach
- Details of the actions taken to prevent future breaches
- The estimated cost of the breach

4.5 Public Notifications Register

Council will maintain its public notifications register of eligible data breaches on Council's website, where it will publish notifications in circumstances where notification to individual affected persons by an eligible data breach cannot be achieved or where notification to any or all impacted individuals is not reasonably practicable. The General Manager may also, under some circumstances, make a public notification on the public notification register even if impacted individuals have been notified.

A public notification will remain on the public notifications register for at least 12 months from the date of notification was first published.



4.6 Notifications to the Privacy Commissioner

Mandatory notifications to the Privacy Commissioner of an eligible data breach will be made using the form provided by the Information and Privacy Commission.

5 POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION

Policy Authorised by: Phillip Hood

Next Scheduled Review: November 2024

Title: General Manager

Current version: 1



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2023/02414
Title: Walcha Council's 2022 – 2023 Annual Report for Notation
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

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

RECOMMENDATION: That Council NOTE the Walcha Council 2022 – 2023 Annual Report.

Introduction:

The purpose of the report is to formally note the Walcha Council 2022 – 2023 Annual Report.

Report:

Section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states a Council must produce an Annual Report within five months after the end of each year. The Annual Report must be placed on Council's website and the link sent to the Office of Local Government by 30 November.

Each Annual Report must contain certain information which includes a copy of Council's Audited Financial Statements as well as other information as per the Regulations or the Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines under Section 406 may require.

The 2022 – 2023 Annual Report will be available on our website for viewing:

<https://walcha.nsw.gov.au/council/council-documents-walcha/annual-reports/>

Legislative Implications:

The Annual Report needs to be completed within five months of the 30 June annually.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.



Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2022/02428
Title: Modification to Development Application 10.2022.22.2 –
Construction of Shed and 3 Lot Residential Subdivision
Applicant: Phillip Bowden (Calco Surveyors) for Peter Berry
Author: Contract Town Planner
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachments: Applicant's Supporting Document

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

- Goal 1.1** – *Walcha will be serviced by an integrated and efficient transport network.*
Goal 6.1 – *Walcha's distinct and diverse natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced.*
Goal 6.5 – *The character of Walcha and its surrounding villages will be maintained while protecting the productivity of our rural land.*
-

RECOMMENDATION: That Council REFUSE the Application to Modify Development Consent 10.2022.22.2 regarding Conditions 8 and 33 in the Notice of Determination for DA 10.2022.22 being for the construction of a shed and 3 lot residential subdivision on Lot 2 DP 1135130 known as 201W Hill Street, Walcha, for the following reasons:

1. The construction of a domestic shed for personal storage purposes that is not ancillary to a dwelling house is prohibited development under the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012*.
 2. The removal of the requirement for the provision of kerb and gutter infrastructure along the site's frontages to Hill Street and Tower Street or the expectation for Council to fund the provision of this infrastructure will create an unfair burden on the Walcha community.
 3. The approval of the above would not be in the public interest.
-

Introduction:

Development application 10.2022.22 for the construction of a domestic shed and 3 lot residential subdivision of Lot 2 DP 1135130 (201W Hill Street, Walcha) was approved by Council under delegated authority on 31 March 2023. The location of the site is shown in Figure 1 below. The development was approved to be undertaken in stages with the construction of the shed as Stage 1 and the 3-lot subdivision as Stage 2. An extract of the approved plans showing the subdivision layout and shed location is provided in Figure 2 below.



Figure 1 – Site Location Map

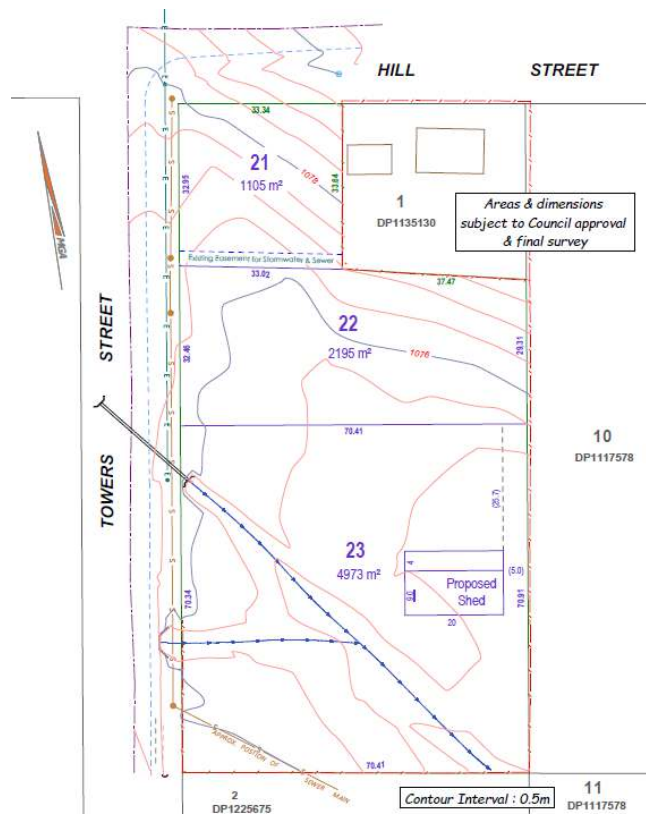


Figure 2 – Approved Subdivision Plan and Shed Location



Development application 10.2022.22 was approved subject to a range of standard conditions of consent. Two of the consent conditions are the subject of an application to modify the consent lodged with Council on 14 July 2023 and the subject of this report.

Condition 8 – Construction of Shed

Condition 8 in the Notice of Determination for DA 10.2022.22 reads as follows:

8. *The construction of the shed is a deferred commencement until such time as the plans for a dwelling have been submitted and approved by Council. This is because a shed in a residential area is ancillary to a dwelling.*

The subject land is within zone R1 General Residential under the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012*. The construction of a domestic shed on vacant land in the R1 zone can only be permitted when ancillary to and associated with an existing dwelling house or other residential use on the land. As a result, the shed proposed by the applicant in DA 10.2022.22.2 is a prohibited land use.

For this reason, the approval was granted subject to the requirements of Condition 8 which requires approval of a dwelling on the land prior to the construction of the shed. It should be noted that Condition 8 does not require the complete construction of the dwelling, but rather the formal approval of a dwelling on the land to legitimise the construction of a domestic shed.

In the modification application, the applicant has requested that Council give approval to construct the shed prior to any residence [dwelling] approval. No evidence has been submitted with the application to demonstrate why the requirement to obtain approval for a dwelling on the land cannot be met nor does it adequately address compliance with the LEP provisions as outlined above.

Based on this, the recommendation is that the request to remove the requirements of Condition 8 from the consent and enable the construction of the shed prior to the approval of a dwelling not be supported. To grant consent for the construction of the shed prior to the approval of the dwelling would result in the authorisation of a prohibited land use and potentially result in the issue of an invalid consent document. For this reason, the recommendation is that the applicant's request to remove or modify the requirements of Condition 8 be refused.



Condition 33 – Provision of Kerb and Gutter Infrastructure

Condition 33 in the Notice of Determination for DA 10.2022.22 reads as follows:

33. Full kerb and gutter are to be provided along all frontages. This is to be constructed to a standard approved by Council, at the applicant's expense.

The provision of kerb and gutter and other infrastructure services are standard requirements when subdividing and undertaking development that will facilitate the intensification of land uses. Typically, the costs for this infrastructure is borne by the developer as a result of the increased demand and as part of the uplift in land value directly benefitting the developer.

In the modification application, the applicant has requested that Council "provide a significant monetary contribution" to the construction of new kerb and gutter and have argued that the cost of the provision of this infrastructure will be onerous.

As stated above, it is a standard requirement in urban residential development for the developer to fund and facilitate all necessary infrastructure to service the development and provide necessary infrastructure upgrades in the immediate surrounds. In addition to kerb and gutter, this can include such infrastructure servicing as road widening, stormwater drainage and the extension and augmentation as required to water, sewer, electricity and telecommunications services to each new lot.

In the notice of determination for DA 10.2022.22 there are other infrastructure requirements for the development to ensure the proposed lots are adequately serviced in addition to Condition 33 including Condition 29 (water and sewer reticulation), Condition 30 (stormwater management), Condition 34 (provision of access crossings to each lot) and Condition 37 (telecommunications and electricity services).

For Council to remove or subsidise the provision of essential infrastructure to service the subdivision results in an unfair burden on the wider Walcha community who will indirectly need to contribute to the provision of the infrastructure at the expense of other services elsewhere.

Based on this, the recommendation is that the request to remove or for Council to subsidise the infrastructure provision requirements of Condition 33 not be supported. It is recommended the applicant's request for Council to modify



Condition 33 and subsidise the provision of kerb and gutter infrastructure for the approved subdivision be refused.

Legal Implications:

Consideration under the provisions of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012*, *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* and the *Walcha Community Participation Plan 2020* has been undertaken.

The application to modify consent granted to DA 10.2022.22 has been lawfully made under the provisions of section 4.55(1A) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Council has the option to accept and approve the applicant's request to modify the conditions of consent either in full or in part or refuse the request either in full or in part.

Under the provisions of Sections 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, an applicant may request the Council to review the determination.

If the applicant is dissatisfied with a decision to refuse the application to modify consent, Sections 8.9 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* gives them the right to appeal to the Land and Environment Court within six (6) months after the date on which they receive their notice of determination.

Financial Implications:

Part of this application to modify consent relates to Condition 33 of DA 10.2022.22 which requires the developer to provide kerb and gutter infrastructure along the Hill Street and Towers Street frontage of the site. The applicant has requested Council subsidise the cost of providing kerb and gutter infrastructure which is contrary to the standard requirements for a developer to fully fund and provide all necessary infrastructure to service a development.

For Council to support the applicants request and subsidise the provision of infrastructure for the development will result in the shifting of the cost of this infrastructure to the wider Walcha community necessitating the reduction and loss of services elsewhere. In addition, revised or updated budget requirements will need to be addressed to enable the reallocation and redistribution of public resources to assist with a private development.



Environmental Implications:

The provision of standard urban infrastructure to service the additional demands generated by the intensification of land use on the public realm is standard practice in the orderly planning and delivery of the built environment. The requirement for the provision of kerb and gutter along the site's street frontage is not considered highly onerous and is a standard requirement for the subdivision and development of urban land. Kerb and gutter infrastructure will aid and assist in the management and operation of both Hill Street and Towers Street to service the new lots with improved stormwater drainage and reduced maintenance costs.

Social Implications:

The provision of kerb and gutter infrastructure for new urban subdivisions will be a community expectation and will result in a positive social impact.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

Our Ref: PB:4088
Council Ref: 10.2022.22

7th June 2023

The General Manager
Walcha Council

Attention: Libby Cumming

Re: Proposed Subdivision - 201W Hill Street, Walcha

Dear Libby

The landowner Peter Berry has drafted a letter to address a couple of concerning conditions in the Notice of Determination recently released by Council. Below are his comments:

Dear Libby,

I refer to the above address and ask for a review or meeting to discuss 2 points in relation to the DA approval Lot: 2 DP: 1135130.

1 – Stage 1 Condition #8 - The construction of the shed is a deferred commencement until such time as the plans for a dwelling have been submitted and approved by Council. This is because a shed in a residential area is ancillary to a dwelling.

The main purpose for buying the block was to build a shed at this stage. I currently operate the new England hotel Motel in Walcha which has a three bedroom apartment upstairs where I live. The lease for this is 10 years from August this year, this will take the lease through to 2034. I also own a house in 111n Meridian street with which I have vehicles and other materials stored because of a lack of room at the pub. All shed space is taken up by traveller's staying at the motel. My Main purpose for building the shed and subdividing was to sell at least one block or two, this would then assist with some added funds to build a house. The shed was my main focus. I also have a concern that this may take another twelve months to get approvals for a house. The cost associated with building, sheds and approvals are rising very quickly as they have in the last twelve months.

2 – Stage 2 Condition # 33 - Full kerb and gutter are to be provided along all frontages. This is to be constructed to a standard approved by Council, at the applicant's expense.

I would ask council to reconsider this as this will be a huge cost where there is currently no Kerb and Guttering on any street from Thee Street down Hill Street. None at all along Towers Street from North to Fitzroy Street and none along Apsley Street. I believe this is an unfair decision as there are no existing kerb and guttering. The total length is over 200 metres and this would be a substantial cost on top. There have been new dwellings erected recently in the nearby areas that don't have the Kerb and Guttering. While I am happy to contribute to the cost I believe this is unfair for my development to bear all the cost as council's water already runs onto my block as there is no existing drainage.

Thank you for addressing my concerns and I would appreciate a timely reply so that we can make progress with this project.

Thanks

Regards
Peter Berry
Timber Training Pty Ltd
PH : 0427772418
111n Meridian Street
Walcha NSW 2354
Email : p.berry@bigpond.net.au

We look forward to a favourable response in due course.

Yours faithfully



Phillip Bowden
Consulting Surveyor

Encl



Item 7:

Notice of Motions



There are no Notice of Motions for
December 2023



Item 8:

Matters of Urgency

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

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

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



Item 9: Management Review Reports



9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2023/02409

Responsible Executive: General Manager

Attachment: Action List November 2023 – WO/2023/02391

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

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

1. RESOLUTIONS ACTION LIST

See attached report.

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

Ordinary Meeting – 31 October 2018

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

Extra Ordinary – 22 May 2019

167/1819	2.2 Planning Proposal 2 Annual Review WO/2019/01107 that Council: 1. Prepare a planning proposal to include the following: a. Rezone land described as Lot B DP 371356, Lot 7016 DP 94120 and Lot 543 DP 756502 from RU1 Primary Production to RE2 Public Recreation, and to remove the land from the Minimum Lot Size Map. b. Rezone the portion of the land described as Lots 1, 2 & 4 Sec 41 DP 759035 zoned R1 General Residential to RE1 Public Recreation, remove the land from the Minimum Lot Size map and the Height of Buildings map. c. Insert attached dwellings, hostels, multi dwelling housings, residential flat buildings, seniors housing as prohibited uses in the RU5 Village Zone Land Use Table d. Increase the current height restriction from 8.0 metres to 8.5 metres on the Height of Buildings Map.	DED DID	31012023 June 2023 Aug 2023 April 2024	As per resolution.	Initially due October 2020. Work behind schedule and has been prioritised. Planning Proposal to be submitted to DPE for Gateway Determination. Delay due to Agri land employment lands state leg commencement. Complete by mid Aug 2023 Focus on current planning backlog then prioritise delivery for completion End April 2024
----------	---	------------------------------	---	--------------------	---

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	<p>2. Request Delegation under section 3.36(2) of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i> to make the final instrument.</p> <p>3. Submit the drafted Planning Proposal for a Gateway Determination.</p>				
168/1819 22 May 2019	<p>Motion: It was MOVED Clr Heazlett Seconded Clr Kermode that Council prepare a planning proposal to rezone the portion of the land described as Lot 8 DP1167213 zoned RU1 Primary Production to RE1 Public Recreation, remove the land from the Minimum Lot Size map and reclassify the land from 'community' to 'operational' land to enable the subdivision of the industrial land when required. A FORESHADOWED Motion Clr Lyon that the portion of Lot 8 currently zoned Industrial be rezoned 'public recreation'. The Original Motion was put to the VOTE and CARRIED.</p>	DED DID	31012023 June 2023 Aug 2023 April 2024	As per resolution.	<p>Initially due October 2020.</p> <p>Work behind schedule and has been prioritised.</p> <p>Planning Proposal to be submitted to DPE for Gateway Determination.</p> <p>Delay due to Agri land employment lands state leg commencement.</p> <p>Complete by mid Aug 2023</p> <p>Focus on current planning backlog then prioritise delivery for completion End April 2024</p>

Ordinary – 31 July 2019

6/20192020	<p>6.3 Crown Land Management Plan Preparation WO/2019/01134 that Council:</p> <p>1. Acknowledge that a Walcha Crown Land Management Plan is required to be prepared for Crown Land managed by Walcha Council as required by the <i>Crown</i></p>	DED DID	30062023 30062024	As per resolution.	<p>Underway.</p> <p>Extension granted for 12 months.</p> <p>To be completed by June 2024</p>
------------	---	--------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------	--

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

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

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

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

Ordinary – 25 November 2020

124/20202021	<p>6.8 Beautification Committee Project Recommendations WO/2020/04068</p> <p>that Council:</p>	<p>DI DID</p>	<p>30102022 30042023 31072023 Aug 23 Jan 2024</p>	<p>Completion of works (Rose Garden Stage 2) identified in LRCI Phase 3 approved Project list. Works delayed due to weather and internal resource limitations.</p>
--------------	--	-------------------------------------	--	--

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

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

Ordinary – 24 February 2021

194/20202021	<p>10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held at Council Chambers on Friday, 12 February 2021 WO/2021/00517</p> <p><u>Item 3.8 – Caravan Access to Water</u> that Council provide a dedicated drinking water refill point separate from dump point tap.</p>	<p>DI DID</p>	<p>30122022 31032023 Dec-2023 Apr 2024</p>	DI to investigate options for caravan access to water and present back to Council.	Initial assessment is that business case for compliant, fee-for-service fill location may struggle to stack up due to low use. Issues regarding safety and compliance can be introduced by designating a fill point for specific purpose. Grant money being sought Currently no finding available under ongoing review
--------------	---	--------------------------------------	---	--	--

Ordinary – 29 September 2021

36/20212022	<p>6.3 Heritage Listing Removal from Walcha LEP Request – 2N Middle Street Walcha – Mrs L Green</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove heritage listing (1017 – being Lot A DP 159627 known as 2N Middle Street Walcha) from Schedule 5 of the <i>Walcha Local</i> 	<p>DED DID</p>	<p>31032021 Aug-2023 Apr 2024</p>	Organise the removal of heritage listing of property from LEP 2012 Schedule 5. Advise owner of resolution options.	Owner visited Council March 2022 and advised they are happy for removal to be included in next house keeping Planning Proposal of Council. No date scheduled for next House Keeping Planning Proposal at this stage.
-------------	--	---------------------------------------	---	---	---

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	<p><i>Environmental Planning Plan 2012</i>, and</p> <p>2. Advise the land owner that:</p> <p>a. The removal of the heritage listing will be included within the next House Keeping Planning Proposal as prepared by Council when there are enough matters to warrant the expense of a Planning Proposal, alternatively</p> <p>b. They are welcome to submit their own Planning Proposal for Council consideration along with \$4,500 deposit towards the cost of processing the Planning Proposal, as this will expediate the processing time.</p>				<p>Will be included in Annual Review Planning Proposal</p> <p>Delay due to Agri land employment lands state legislation commencement.</p> <p>Complete by mid Aug 2023</p> <p>Focus on current planning backlog then prioritise delivery for completion End April 2024</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

Ordinary – 27 October 2021

<p>59/20212022 27 Oct 2021</p>	<p>6.2 Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan WINT/2021/08887</p> <p>that Council:</p> <p>1. Adopt the <i>Draft Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019</i> which includes the following amendments:</p> <p>a. Minimal editing and word changes to correct grammar, identification of development controls and to ensure state agency referencing is correct</p> <p>b. Clause 14.6 – Visual Amenity Impacts– Replace the reference to the Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust's <i>Wind Farms and</i></p>	<p>DED DID</p>	<p>30062022 Oct-2023 Apr 2024</p>	<p>As per resolution</p>	<p>Point 1 of resolution completed.</p> <p>Further work delayed due to resourcing.</p> <p>Completed 1. 3 completed this month. 2 & 4 will be part of LEP Review completed for Gateway by 31 January 2023</p> <p>Additional training required, to be completed by Oct 2023</p> <p>Focus on current planning backlog then prioritise delivery for completion End April 2024</p>
------------------------------------	--	----------------------------------	---	--------------------------	---

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	<p><i>Landscape Values: Stage 1 Report – Identifying Issues, March 2005, Appendix B: Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Final Issues Paper</i> has been changed to the current guideline being NSW Planning, Industry & Environment <i>Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Clause 41.6(1) - Replace the reference of axis with sector. d. Clause 14.4 - Inclusion of a stated position for State Significant Development in the objectives. e. Clause 14.6(b)(iii) – Extend the wording to include damage, degradation or disruption to groundwater. f. Clause 14.6(u) – Extend the wording to state that Decommissioning Bonds will be considered based on the individual merits of the development. g. Inclusion of Clause 14.5(n) regarding cumulative impact assessment including power line construction. <p>2. Prepare a further amendment to the <i>Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019</i> in regards to all renewable energy development.</p> <p>3. Include provision in any future Section 7.11 Development Contribution Plan for a contribution for renewable energy development.</p>				
--	--	--	--	--	--

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	4. Amend the Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 by ensuring all Land Use Tables reflect the provisions of all relevant State Environmental Planning Policies				
--	--	--	--	--	--

Ordinary – 16 February 2022

127/20212022	Item: 4.2.12 – Constructive Solutions Update that Council maintain a Contractor Register which is to be regularly updated FURTHER THAT the Director of Infrastructure is to create End of Project Completion Report to include comments on contractor performance.	DI DID	30062022 31032023 July 2023 Dec 23 Feb 2024	As per resolution	Engineering team is working on improving all end-of-project functions, including contractor performance and capitalisation. Project Management Framework being developed to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception –Initiation – Project Charter • Project Planning – Project Plan • Project Implementation • Project Control • Project Close Project evaluation tool development underway Oct/Nov 2023. Key project management framework packages to be scoped out and delivered early 2024
--------------	--	-----------------------------	--	-------------------	---

Ordinary – March 2022

156/20212022	10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Capital Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022 WO/2022/00501 4.2.3 Sgt Andrew Russell Bridge Naming that Council retain Sergeant Andrew Russell Bridge as the name for the new / replacement	DID	TBA	As per resolution	Project will require a variation approval to proceed. Approval for variation received and submitted to September 2023 Council Meeting Once construction of bridge is finished then the relocation of existing murals
--------------	--	------------	-----	-------------------	--

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	bridge and relocate the existing memorials closer to the new bridge.				closer to the new bridge can be completed.
--	--	--	--	--	--

Ordinary – 30 November 2022

90/20222023	<p>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</p> <p>Clr Schaefer left the Chambers and took no part in the debate at 03:50pm.</p> <p>7.1 Notice of Motion Number: 26: Business Plan for Proposed Developers of Renewable Energy Projects WO/2022/03423</p> <p>Motion: It was MOVED Councillor Berry Seconded Councillor Kermode that Council ACKNOWLEDGE the Survey results from Voice for Walcha and DEVELOP a Strategic Business Plan for all proposed Developments of Renewable Energy Projects informed by the work of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM).</p> <p>Amendment: An Amendment was MOVED Councillor Hicks Seconded Councillor Reilly that Council DEVELOP a Strategic Business Plan for all proposed Developments of Renewable Energy Projects informed by the work of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM).</p> <p>Division of Voting: For: Hicks Pointing and Reilly Against: Berry Noakes and Kermode.</p>	DID / GM	DEC2023	As per resolution	CoREM have formed a Board of which Mayor Noakes is a member. A Charter is being developed and a Statement of Expectations of which will inform Council's Strategic Business Plan.
-------------	--	----------	---------	-------------------	---

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	90 The Original Motion became the Substantive Motion and was put to the VOTE and CARRIED .				
--	--	--	--	--	--

Ordinary – 14 December 2022

111/20222023	4.2.1 South Street Pedestrian Crossing that Council APPROVE the South Street Pedestrian Project pending availability of grant funding.	DID	June 2024	Search for funding for project	LRCI Funding Round 4 Review June 2024. Availability of own source funds to complete this project before June 2024.
--------------	--	------------	-----------	--------------------------------	---

Ordinary – 22 February 2023

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

Ordinary – 29 March 2023

138/20222023	6.5 Subdivision of Council Land for Housing Purposes WO/2023/00487 that Council APPROVE a budget of \$5,000, from the Project Development Fund, for the investigation of Lot 20 Sec 1 DP 759035, Lot 25 DP 264515 and Pt Lot 11 DP 1270896 (Site A) for suitability for a residential housing subdivision and report back to Council regarding the outcome.	DCC	12042023 Sep 2023 Feb 2024	As per resolution	Soil Report has been received and a review of results with contract planner and examination of development options will now occur with a subsequent report to be prepared for Council. Contract Planner investigating funding avenues to proceed with development of this land.
	■ 4.2.3 Electrical upgrade of 6W Hamilton Street Walcha – Carlec Auto Electrician	DCC / MCT	19042023	Prepare as per resolution – April Ordinary Meeting	Currently awaiting quotations. Likely to occur in the 2025 FY

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	That an additional quote be obtained for this work and a report be prepared for Council.				
--	--	--	--	--	--

ExtraOrdinary – 19 April 2023

CC17/20222023	<p>3.2 Tender W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal Construction only – Update WINT/2023/01898</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SELECT Convic Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer for Tender No. W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal – Construction; UNDERTAKE post-tender negotiations with Convic in regards to scope and schedule; SUBMIT variation request to funding body in regards to price and schedule; CONSIDER tender award at future Council meeting with additional funding sources identified and confirmed. 	DID	<p>July 2023</p> <p>Aug 23</p> <p>Oct 23</p> <p>Dec 2023</p>	As per resolution	<p>For further report at July 2023 Council meeting.</p> <p>Submission to funding body July 23 awaiting response.</p> <p>Still waiting response currently planning award for Dec 2023 if funding is confirmed.</p>
CC19/20222023	<p>3.4 Planning Agreements for Renewable Energy Developments WO/2023/00585</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> AUTHORISE the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate Planning Agreements under the provisions of Section 7.4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, for developer 	GM	<p>300823</p> <p>Oct 23</p>	As per resolution	<p>Preferred legal representation chosen with consultation with Uralla Shire Council – Walcha Council to take lead on the engagement. Allocation of \$25K in budget for upper fee limit for works.</p> <p>Final draft with Winterbourne Wind for review/comment, prior to public exhibition.</p>

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

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

Extra Ordinary – 17 May 2023

166/20222023	4.2 Survey Results – Naming of Walcha Rose Garden WO/2023/00763	<p>EA</p> <p>DID</p>	<p>14062023</p> <p>Sep 2023</p> <p>Jan 2023</p>	EA – check with Betts Family to see what they would like on the signage at Rose Garden ie:	Spoken to both – will follow up by 14 June – then will advise DID
--------------	--	------------------------------------	---	--	---

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	<p>166 RESOLVED on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Schaefer that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE the Report; and ENDORSE the community vote of naming the Rose Garden "Bev Betts Rose Garden". 			<p>"Bev or Beverley Betts Rose Garden" DID – ensure sign is ordered with correct name for installation timing with completion of Rose Garden Project.</p>	<p>Delayed due to unable to contact one of the family at the moment. Review 04082023 EA – Sign name: "Beverly Betts Rose Garden" – advised Project Manager and DID. - 24082023 Finalise signage and arrange for official opening during Spring 2023. End of November seems to be better for the flowers in the garden – Parks & Garden Dept. 17102023</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

Ordinary – 30 August 2023

26/20232024	<p>5. MAYORAL MINUTE 5.1 Mayoral Minute – Apsley Riverview Aged Care Facility WO/2023/01618</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ESTABLISH a Working Group to assist in finding a suitable provider of aged care services for the Apsley Riverview Aged Care Facility with the name to be 'Apsley Riverview Working Group'; APPROVE the membership to consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor The General Manager Director Corporate & Community 	EA / GM / Mayor	14092023	<p>As per resolution: CM9 Folder Terms of Reference – purpose, membership etc Organise Meetings Minutes</p>	<p>Report to November 2023 Council Meeting</p> <p>Community Consultation is the next step</p>
-------------	---	------------------------	----------	---	---

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Manager Community & Tourism ○ One Councillor ○ Dr Adrian Allen ○ Julie Blake ○ Graham Barnes <p>3. ENDORSE the purpose of the Apsley Riverview Working Group to be to investigate, contact and review suitability of identified aged care providers.</p>				
35/20232024	<p>LATE REPORT:</p> <p>1. Request for Donation of Land WO/2023/01598</p> <p>that Council enter into discussions with the Armidale Women's Shelter and investigate the possibility of donating suitable land for the establishment of emergency crisis accommodation in Walcha.</p>	DCC	14092023	As per resolution	No further information as at 19102023

Ordinary – 27 September 2023

55/20232024	<p>6.7 Formation of a Local Traffic Committee for Walcha Local Government Area WO/2023/01713</p> <p>that Council:</p>	GM	06102023	As per resolution	Letter to Adam Marshall MP asking for nominee
-------------	--	-----------	----------	-------------------	---

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> APPOINT the Director Infrastructure & Development as Council's representative to the Committee; and CONSULT with the Local State Member, Adam Marshall MP, to advise his nominee. 				
58/20232024	<p>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</p> <p>7.1 Notice of Motion Number 29: Pedestrian CrossingsWO/2023/01809</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> approach Transport for NSW to investigate and implement a traffic calming device to slow traffic approaching the pedestrian crossing in Fitzroy Street. investigate and implement a traffic calming device to slow traffic approaching the pedestrian crossing in Derby Street. 	GM / DID	Mar 2023	As per resolution	<p>To be discussed at Traffic Committee</p> <p>10122023 Review</p> <p>Requests sent to TfNSW currently planning traffic committee meeting for Feb 2024</p>

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

Ordinary – 25 October 2023

72/20232024	<p>6.2 Purchase 15T Rubber Tracked Excavator and Mulcher Head Attachment WO/2023/01987</p> <p>that Council APPROVE the purchase of a 15T rubber tracked excavator, including the purchase of an appropriate mulching head attachment, that will be funded from the existing approved plant replacement budget.</p>				
73/20232024	<p>6.3 Arrangements for Christmas for Council Staff WO/2023/01986</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ALLOW the combined Staff Christmas Party to be held during working hours on Thursday 21 December 2023 from 12:30pm; A DONATION of \$3,500 be made towards the cost of the Function. 	<p>GM / EA</p> <p>DCC</p>		<p>Organise advertisements, notifying Staff, booking venue and organise catering</p> <p>Ensure funds are allocated to this event.</p>	<p>In progress – booked venue, organising catering etc</p>
CC18/2324	<p>13.1 Tender for Gravel Resheeting W23/81 WINT/2023/04651</p> <p>that Council REJECT ALL Tenders for Tender No.: W23/81 – Gravel Resheeting – Construction only and enter into negotiations with the preferred tenderer OK Earthmoving for a reduced scope of work.</p>	DID		As per resolution	

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
-------------	-------	----------------------	-----------	---------------------	-----------

Ordinary – 29 November 2023

86/20232024	<p><u>2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2023:</u></p> <p><u>CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON THURSDAY 02 NOVEMBER 2023:</u></p> <p>that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 25 October 2023 AND the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 02 November 2023, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a TRUE record.</p>	EA / GM	13122023	Update Resolutions Register Place on website	COMPLETED 05122023
88/20232024	<p>6.1 Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements 2022-2023 WO/2023/02251</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ADOPT the Audited Financial Statements including the audit report for the year ending 30 June 2023; PLACE on public display the Audited Annual Financial Statements including the Independent Auditors Report pursuant to Section 418(1) of the <i>Local Government Act, 1993</i>; 	DCC	21122023	As per resolution	COMPLETED

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	3. NOTE the presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023 and Independent Auditors Report pursuant to Section 419(1) of the <i>Local Government Act, 1993</i> .				
89/20232024	6.2 Quarterly Review of the Operational Plan & Budget as at September 2023 WO/2023/02276 that Council: 1. ADOPT the September 2023 Quarterly Budget Review Statements; and 2. APPROVE the variations in Income and Expenditure as detailed in the report.	DCC	21122023	As per resolution	COMPLETED
90/20232024	6.3 Walcha Antique Machinery & Truck Club – Request for Sponsorship of Waste Removal WO/2023/02260 that Council APPROVE Sponsorship for the Walcha Antique Machinery & Truck Show in 2024 by waiving the Waste Gate Fees for the 50 wheelie bins of waste at Council's Waste Management Facility, in the amount of up to \$247.50	DID		As per resolution. Ensure JR Richards fulfil their contribution Advise Waste Depot Staff	
	10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at the Council Chambers WINT/2023/04363 3.3 Cultural Gifts Proposals:				

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
95/20232024	<p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ACCEPT "Sitting Man" by Stephen King and "Eyebeam" by Ben Tooth artworks as cultural gifts and place the "Sitting Man" at the Multi Purpose Health Service Walcha and "Eyebeam" to be placed at the Walcha Memorial Baths; SEND a letter of thanks to Stephen King and Ben Tooth for donating these artworks to Council. 	DID	21122023	As per resolution	
	Request regarding the Beverly Betts Rose Garden Ceremony – is it going to be before Christmas? Has the plaque been received?	DID	13122023	As per request – Question on Notice	
	<p>Mayor Noakes requested if Director Corporate & Community can report back to Council on the following plant purchased, how they are performing against their business cases to purchase said plant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jet Patcher - Rubber Tracked Excavator <p>This request can be reported early in 2024</p>	DCC	28022023	As per request – Questions on Notice	<p>Report to completed for February Council Meeting.</p> <p>Rubber tracked excavator currently out to market for formal Request For Quote via vendor panel.</p>



9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2023/02410

Responsible Executive: Director Infrastructure & Development

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

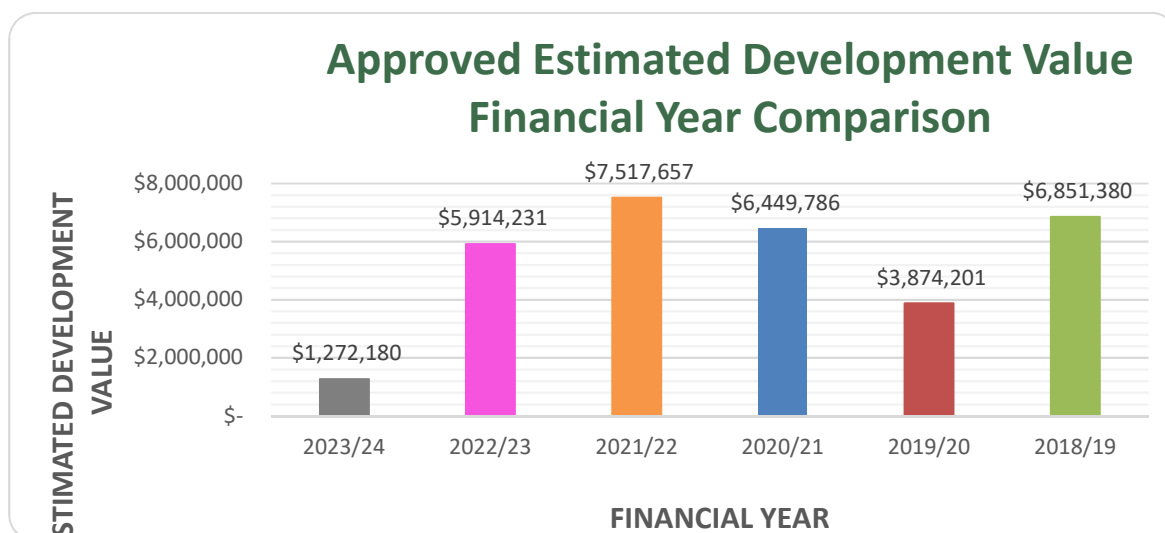
Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

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

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

1. Development & Construction

Development Statistics 2023-2024	DAs	CCs	CDCs
Number Determined – As at 30.11.2023	10	4	2
Estimated Development Value – 30.11.2023	\$1,469,000	\$912,000	\$87,180



1.1 Determinations Issued

November 2023				
Development Applications				
Number	Description	Address	Determination	Assessment Days
Nil				



Construction Certificates			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
Nil			

Complying Development Certificates			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
Nil			

Note: Assessment Days is the assessment day count, and includes referral days (concurrence State Agency assessment period) and the period where additional information has been requested.

1.2 Development Applications Outstanding

As at 30.11.2023	
Under Assessment:	11
On Notification	-
Additional Information Requested	2
Waiting on State Agency Comment	-
Waiting on Fee Payment	1
Total	14

1.3 Certificates & Advice

November 2023			
Number Issued	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Occupation Certificates	10	7	-
Subdivision Certificates	4	3	-
Planning Certificates	340	295	38
Building Information Certificates	2	1	-
Outstanding Notices Orders Certificates	11	10	3
Bushfire Attack Level Certificates	-	-	-
Dwelling Entitlement Advice	-	3	-

2. Environment & Regulation

2.1 Section 68 Activities

November 2023	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Number Issued	27	8	3



2.2 Compliance Inspections for Section 68 Activities

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

2.3 Public Health Activities

November 2023			
Compliance Inspections & Reports Issued	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
On-Site Sewage Management Systems	5	-	-
Food Premises	15	-	-
Private Swimming Pools	-	-	-
Fire Safety Schedules	-	-	-
Skin Penetration Procedure Premises	-	-	-
Advertisements / Advertising Structures (incl. sandwich boards)	-	-	-

3. Animal Control

3.1 Companion Animal Registrations 2023-2024

November 2023			
Number Registered	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Desexed	6	11	1
Non Desexed	2	1	1
Pensioner Desexed	4	4	3
Pound Purchased Desexed	2	1	-
Cat Desexed	2	3	-
Under 6 Months	-	-	-
Working/Recognised Breeder	21	2	-
Total	38	12	5
Value	\$2,395	\$908	\$252



3.2 Companion Animal Seizures 2023-2024

November 2023			
Number	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Seized	53	32	9
Surrendered	24	16	-
Released	9	11	1
Rehomed	21	5	-
Euthanised	21	3	1
Stolen/Escaped	-	1	1
Total	128		30

3.3 Companion Animal Ranger Services 2023-2024

November 2023			
Number	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Dog Attack Investigation	19	11	3
Roaming Dogs	59	28	6
Roaming Cats	32	8	2
Barking Dogs	40	13	3
Total	25	60	14

3.4 Companion Animal Ranger Services 2023-2024

November 2023			
Number	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Cautions	63	16	4
Dangerous Dogs	Notice	1	-
	Order	-	-
Nuisance Dogs	Notice	-	-
	Order	-	-
Menacing Dog	Notice	-	-
	Order	-	-
Penalty Notices	6	-	-
Total	70	16	4

4. Regulatory Service

4.1 Regulatory Services Financial Year Comparison

As at 30.11.2023			
Number	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Overgrown Allotment	50	10	6
Accumulation of Waste	2	3	-



Keeping of Animals	146	33	1
Vehicles on Nature Strip	-	-	
Abandoned Vehicle	11	10	4
Noise Abatement	37	19	3
Environmental Pollution	4	-	-
Total	250	85	14

4.2 Regulatory Action Financial Year Comparison

As at 30.11.2023			
Number	2022-23	2023-24	Current Period
Complaint Investigated	148	66	36
Warning Issued	100	34	18
Notice of Intention Served	2	-	-
Order Served	-	-	-
Penalty Notice Issued	-	-	-
Total	250	100	54

4.3 Monthly Breakup of Action Taken Against Relevant Service




November 2023						
Regulatory Service	Complaint Investigated	Warning Issued	Notice of Intention Served	Order Served	Penalty Notice Issued	Total
Overgrown Allotment	2	1	-	-	-	3
Accumulation of Waste	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	3	1	-	-	-	4
Vehicles on Nature Strip	-	-	-	-	-	-
Abandoned Vehicle	4	2	-	-	-	6
Noise Abatement	3	2	-	-	-	5
Environmental Pollution	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12	6	-	-	-	18



5. Capital Works Update

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

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

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

Capital Works Delivery Update													
Project	Council PM	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Current Schedule Milestone	Milestone Date	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
LOCAL ROADS													
Middle Street Rehab	WF	Fixing Local Roads R2	\$ 565,586	Nov-21	Jun-24	\$ 21,251	On Track	On Track	Pub RFT			Internal design overdue	Delivery
Walsh Street Rehab	WF	Fixing Local Roads R2	\$ 403,336	Jan-22	Jun-24	\$ 17,062	On Track	On Track	Pub RFT				
Aberaldie Road Rehab	JM	Rehabilitation of Segment 30 - Fixing Local Roads R3	\$ 703,384	Oct-22	Dec-23	\$ 3,450	On Track	On Track	Pub RFT	Oct-23		On Track	COMPLETED
Three Causeways	PF	Rehabilitation works for 2 causeways on Old Brookmount Rd, and Hazeldean Road.	\$ 427,000	Jun-23	Jun-24	\$ 40,000		Tendered prices over budget allocation, additional funding sources being explored.	Pub RFT			Design and Construction tender closed 19 September. Review of submissions tender award	Pending response from funding body for award in Dec 2023 (OLG Grant)
Walcha Aerodrome	PF	Seal existing access, Elec supply improvements, regravelling existing runway	\$ 1,610,000	Oct-22	Oct-23	\$ 1,161,321		Additional milestone request sent to the funding body to reduce the amount of WIP for the project. Tendered works significantly under budget Additional Change Requests submitted to deliver runway seal design \$50k.	DEL			Elect: finalized on 20/10/2023	Rwy: Design specification confirmation with runway consultant and geotech.
BRIDGES													
Army Bridge	WF		\$ 2,050,850		Dec-23	\$ 151,319		Army Bridge awarded with funding variation secured FCB	Eval RFT			50% design complete	Site establishment and works commencing
Winterbourne Bridge	WF		\$ 643,104		Dec-23	\$ 59,244		The tendered price is above current Funding and a variation will be required.	Eval RFT			Works cannot proceed until funding secured	Winterbourne and Mooraback funding cocontribution applied for via Bridge Renewal Program (BRP)
Mooraback Bridge	WF		\$ 526,680		Dec-23	\$ 49,157			Eval RFT				
Boxley Bridge	PF		\$ 979,000	Aug-24	Aug-24	\$ 32,175		On Track	DEL			Boxley Bridge awarded with funding FCB	Side track built, 50% design approved waiting on fisheries to finalise sidetrack Target completion 30/03/24
STATE ROADS													
Oxley Highway - 2022/2023 Routine Maintenance	JM	Annual routine maintenance	\$ 682,000		Jun-24			On Track	DEL			On Track	Routine road maintenance works continuing. Minor pavement patch scoping in progress. Undertaking Pothole patching, inspections, guideposts, etc.
REGIONAL ROADS													
Derby Street - (Segments 4710 and 4720)	AB	Rehabilitation, drainage, service replacement, kerb and gutter, parking, sealing	\$ 6,960,000	Jun-22	Jun-24	\$ 394,738		On Track	DEL			Application request for EOT requested with Restart NSW and change in milestone dates with HWSPP.	Design Review Completion Due Dec 23 Community Consultation 4/12/23 - Complete
WATER, WASTEWATER & WASTE													
Walcha Off Creek Storage	AB		\$ 11,000,000	Dec-22	Sep-23	\$ 4,156,210		Final milestone can be claimed upon the award of final packages 6b & 7	DEL			1. Package 1 complete 2. Switchboard package RFQ awarded 3. Fabrication Awarded - underway 4. Package 7 Electrical & Control Published 31/8/23 - under evaluation 5. Package 6b Mechanical & Civil - under evaluation 6. Initial filling commenced 5/7/23 @23/s approx. (2 MLD) - Current approx 15% full approx 50ML delivered from dead volume to current level.	Final package awarded commence on site 27/12/23

Capital Works Delivery Update														
Project	Council PM	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Current Schedule Milestone	Milestone Date	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months	
John Oxley Sewer Extension	RP PF	Construction of new SPS at John Oxley Oval, and sewer connection to existing network	\$ 760,541	TBD	TBD	\$ 5,966	Change request due to alignment change and manholes. Additional \$98,580	DEL			On Track	Delivery		
Water Meter Replacement	RP		\$ 350,000	TBD	TBD	\$ -	No current Budget	Fund RQ			Works cannot proceed until funding secured.	1.Council seeking new source of funding via National Water Grid Connections Funding Pathway 2.Murry Darling Funding Pathway being investigated		
COMMUNITY PROJECTS														
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - Walcha Pool	PF	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 566,087		Oct-23	\$ 61,851	On Track	DEL			Works commenced	Pool Open ammeneties due to be complete Mid Dec 2023		
Walcha Swimming Pool Refurbishment	PF	Further upgrade of Walcha Swimming Pool via BLER Grant	\$ 1,100,000	Oct-22	Oct-24	\$ 268,572	Scope of works and design has been reviewed to align with the funded budget. Additional funding being sought via Growing Regions Fund	Pub RFT			Scope of works for completion works next closed season (2024)	Building on track for completion Xmas shutdown2023 RFT prep for water/structurla work closure 2024		
Renew Walcha Skate Park	WF	New skate park facilities, new fence for John Oxley Oval, CCTV	\$ 966,964	Jun-23	Jun-23	\$ 381,995	Tender price is above current funding and additional funding needs to be secured in order to proceed.	Eval RFT			100% Detailed Design delivered. Fence installation completed. CCTV cameras are operating. Variation for time submitted to BLER	Looking to utilise either Aerodrome funding surplus or Growing Regions (pending grant) to cover shortfall. Also awaiting funding application growing regions grant.		
Pathways Project - Town	PF	Construction of various connecting pathways in Walcha	\$ 654,465	Mar-24	Mar-24	\$ 115,944	On Track	DEL			Design completed - IFT in progress	RFT publication Mid dec 2023 construction Feb - Apr 2024		
Pathways Project - Darjeeling	PF	Construction of pathway from Lions Park to John Oxley Oval	\$ 1,324,455	Mar-24	Mar-24	\$ 76,334	On Track	DEL			Design completed - IFT in progress	RFT publication Mid dec 2023 construction Feb - Apr 2024		
Pathways Project - Summervale	PF	Construction of pathway from Walcha to Summervale	\$ 1,750,254	Nov-24	Nov-24	\$ 77,160	On Track	DEL			Design completed - IFT in progress	RFT publication Jan 2024 construction Mar - Jun 2024		
Rose Garden	WF	Rock wall and post and rail fence surrounding the rose garden	\$ 45,000	Jun-23	Jun-23	\$ 39,985	On Track	DEL			Constructions of rock mowing strip in place of post and rail fence and Timber arbour complete	Replacement Rose plants and new Name sign to be installed (final item)		
TOTAL			\$ 34,068,706			\$ 7,113,734								



9.3 CORPORATE & COMMUNITY:

Ref: WO/2023/02386

Responsible Executive: Director Corporate & Community

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

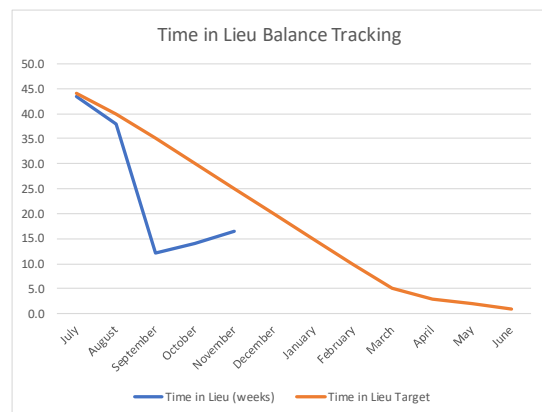
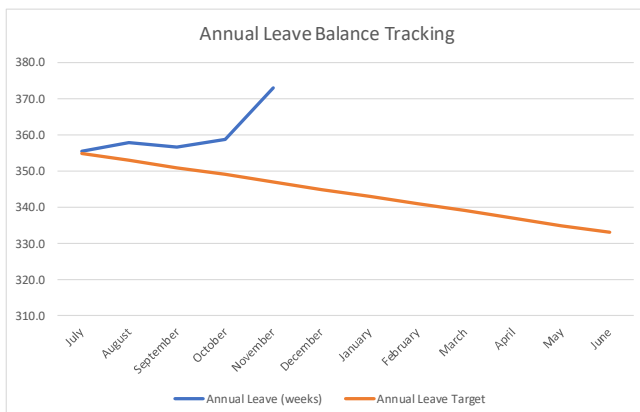
RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Corporate & Community Management Review Report be NOTED by Council.

Corporate and Finance

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

1. Walcha Council Leave Balances

Directorate	NOVEMBER 2023			JUNE 2023			Comments/Reduction Strategy
	Annual Leave Weeks	RDO Days	Time in Lieu Weeks	Annual Leave Weeks	RDO Days	Time in Lieu Weeks	
Office of the General Manager (14)	112	4	4	109	4	3	
Infrastructure (45)	211	11	21	198	4	46	
Planning & Development (3)	11	0	0	18	2	0	
Community & Tourism (17)	40	1	4	26	1	5	
Totals	373	16	30	351	11	54	



The above table includes June 2023 as a point of comparison to review the movement on leave balances from the end of the 2023 financial year. Year on year has seen a total reduction in leave



from June 2022 of 463 weeks, June 2023 of 416 up to 419 in November 2023. Leave plans are currently being put in place following the 2023 Annual Review's. This excludes Long Service Leave which will also need to be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

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

2. Walcha Council Debt Recovery

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

General Rates: 2.7% (October)

Water Rates: 9.3% (October)

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

Debt collection is currently being undertaken and a number of outstanding debtors are now on payment plans for their outstanding balance. Debtors outstanding are expected to reduce over the coming months.

3. Walcha Council Customer Request Management (CRM)

	1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-6 Months	6 Months +	Total CRM's
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT	28	14	8	6	2	58
ENGINEERING	30	23	22	9	2	86
ADMINISTRATION	2	2	2	3	1	10
Total OPEN CRM's						154

October CRM = 163

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

4. Walcha Council Investment Report

In accordance with Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 212, the purpose of this report is to provide Council with a register of investments held as at 30 November 2023



and to provide Responsible Accounting Officer certification that investments comply with the Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.

A summary of investments is shown below with a complete list of investments following:

INVESTMENTS SUMMARY - NOV 2023	
Opening Balance	14,162,124
New Deposits	
Interest Reinvested	32,064
Deposits Redeemed	(514,953)
Closing Balance	13,679,233

Note: Investments are not fund specific; all funds are included in the investments portfolio. Interest income is distributed to Water and Sewer Funds based on the Interfunding Balances (shown below) at the end of each month



REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2023																																					
Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Est. Interest	Est. Market Value At Maturity	YTD Interest	YTD Redemption	MV % of Portfolio	TD Account #																									
	TD	5/08/2023	182	4/12/2023	5.00%	548,352.06	13,871.24	562,023.30			4.01%	972272876																									
	TD	4/08/2023	122	4/12/2023	5.00%	1,000,000.00	16,712.33	1,016,712.33	14,400.00		7.31%	305170588																									
	TD	24/04/2023	240	20/12/2023	4.46%	514,953.12	15,101.53	530,054.65			3.76%	37844807																									
	TD	26/07/2023	149	22/12/2023	5.09%	626,994.33	13,027.91	640,022.24	13,375.22		4.58%	37844807																									
	TD	5/08/2023	210	1/01/2024	5.00%	514,096.81	14,789.08	528,885.89			3.76%	486916667																									
	TD	12/01/2023	365	12/01/2024	4.65%	259,517.32	11,808.04	271,325.38			1.90%	919675556																									
	TD	28/08/2023	210	24/01/2024	5.47%	1,000,000.00	31,471.24	1,031,471.24			7.31%	371400828																									
	TD	22/08/2023	181	19/02/2024	4.91%	522,562.90	12,723.48	535,286.38	11,566.71		3.82%	37844807																									
	TD	31/07/2023	210	29/02/2024	5.30%	1,000,000.00	30,493.14	1,030,493.14			7.31%	416873585																									
	TD	1/03/2023	365	29/02/2024	5.00%	259,243.56	12,982.17	272,205.73			1.90%	917202309																									
	TD	6/11/2023	120	5/03/2024	5.05%	583,165.16	9,681.14	592,786.30	19,367.16		4.26%	872609622																									
	TD	31/07/2023	240	27/03/2024	5.30%	1,000,000.00	34,849.31	1,034,849.31			7.31%	416873585																									
	TD	31/10/2023	149	28/03/2024	5.10%	523,957.02	10,908.35	534,865.38	11,869.22		3.83%	488134069																									
	TD	27/11/2023	151	26/04/2024	5.10%	1,022,196.17	21,566.95	1,043,763.12	22,196.17		7.47%	371151983																									
	TD	3/10/2023	210	30/04/2024	5.15%	1,042,700.57	30,895.35	1,073,595.92	22,144.67		7.62%	485796165																									
	TD	4/09/2023	242	3/05/2024	5.03%	1,040,995.46	34,716.77	1,075,712.23	23,093.82		7.61%	37844807																									
	TD	4/09/2023	274	4/06/2024	5.05%	1,040,995.46	39,463.71	1,080,459.17	23,093.82		7.61%	37844807																									
	TD	4/08/2023	367	5/08/2024	5.25%	646,746.03	34,140.21	680,886.24	23,075.80		4.73%	416873585																									
	TD	18/09/2023	365	17/09/2024	5.20%	266,579.60	13,862.15	280,441.75	10,801.55		1.95%	444927886																									
	TD	4/10/2023	365	3/10/2024	5.25%	266,237.89	13,977.49	280,215.38	11,220.75		1.95%	919512554																									
	TD			17/07/2023					9,410.69	507,821.33	0.00%	37844807																									
	TD			24/07/2023					9,456.92	510,996.19	0.00%	37844807																									
	TD			3/10/2023					21,898.64	1,000,000.00	0.00%	305170588																									
				20/11/2023					13,154.58	514,953.12	0.00%	37844807																									
Average rate					5.06%	13,679,233.47	416,821.58	14,096,055.06	259,925.72	2,533,770.64	100%																										
Capital Value of Portfolio						\$	13,679,233																														
Redeemed Value of Portfolio						\$	2,533,771																														
Market Value of Portfolio 30/06/2024						\$	14,096,055																														
Estimated Profit/(Loss) 30/06/2024						\$	416,822																														
PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 30/11/2023																																					
Interest Earned YTD						\$	42,406																														
Market Value of Portfolio						\$	12,548,087																														
Average interest rate						3.60%																															
Interest Earned YTD 30 June 2023						\$	276,938																														
Market Value of Portfolio 30 June 2023						\$	14,021,200																														
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">MONTHLY ACTIVITY</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Interest</th> <th>Avg Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New Deposits</td> <td>0</td> <td>\$ -</td> <td>\$ -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TD Redeemed</td> <td>1</td> <td>\$ 514,953</td> <td>\$ 13,155</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TD Reinvested</td> <td>2</td> <td>\$ 1,005,301</td> <td>\$ 31,248</td> <td>5.08%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>													MONTHLY ACTIVITY						Number	Amount	Interest	Avg Rate	New Deposits	0	\$ -	\$ -		TD Redeemed	1	\$ 514,953	\$ 13,155		TD Reinvested	2	\$ 1,005,301	\$ 31,248	5.08%
MONTHLY ACTIVITY																																					
	Number	Amount	Interest	Avg Rate																																	
New Deposits	0	\$ -	\$ -																																		
TD Redeemed	1	\$ 514,953	\$ 13,155																																		
TD Reinvested	2	\$ 1,005,301	\$ 31,248	5.08%																																	
Institutional Exposure			Investment at Market Value	% of Portfolio																																	
			3,746,501	27%																																	
			9,932,732	73%																																	
			13,679,233	100%																																	
Responsible Accounting Officer's Certification Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Paragraph 212																																					
The investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Walcha Council's Investment Policy.																																					
Signed Rose Strobel (Responsible Accounting Officer)																																					



5. Walcha Council Unrestricted Cash Reconciliation

UNRESTRICTED CASH RECONCILIATION		
	NOV 2023	June 2023
Total Cash & Investments	17,977,127	16,275,800
External Restrictions:		
Contract Liabilities - General Fund	3,385,837	4,919,975
Contract Liabilities - Water Fund	1,106,181	0
Specific Purpose Grants	4,090,276	2,219,877
Water Fund (interfunding balance)	2,504,157	837,030
Sewer Fund (interfunding balance)	329,860	566,819
	11,416,310	8,543,701
Internal Allocations	4,390,483	7,539,223
Unrestricted Cash	2,170,334	192,877

Cash & Investments is made up of:

Term Deposits	\$13,679,223
Operating Account	\$4,297,893
Total	\$17,977,127

- Operating account balance is kept high due to large payments required for materials and contractors.
- Council has an overdraft facility of \$200,000 that has not been utilised for some time.
- Council's credit card limit is \$48,000 (all cards)



Community Services and Tourism

Current Grants		
Library	Public Library Infrastructure Grants	This application has been submitted. We will hear in March 2024 if we are successful.
Youth	Summer & Autumn Holiday Activities	Successful

Operational Overview	
WCCC	<p>Operations have begun to slow down as the focus moves to updating policies and procedures over the December/January period. Meals on Wheels and transport will be delivered over this time, but group social support will take a break.</p> <p>The mural is finished and looking amazing – a big thank you to Sue our Administration Officer for her work.</p>
Preschool	<p>We are awaiting a quote to renovate our sand pit, and replace our rubber softfall under the main playground area.</p> <p>Final quote has been received for the preschool toilet. I will need to liaise with the building surveyor for the DA requirements.</p> <p>Funding for the 2024 year has been confirmed and accepted.</p>
Library & Youth	<p>We were successful with the application for the Summer Holiday Break so planning is well underway for the December/January school holiday activity program.</p> <p>Finalisation of the Youth Opportunities Grant acquittal has been completed.</p>
Early Intervention	Revision of NDIS Audit report to prepare for mid term audit review.
Tourism	The Motorcycle Rally has been held and the numbers are looking very positive so far. A final report will be submitted in February once all of the costs are known.
Building Assets	The library guttering has rusted through and a quote has been obtained for their replacement. Further quotes are required,



	<p>however we will need to use some of the building maintenance budget for these repairs.</p> <p>Active termites were found at the Depot and were treated, with a follow up visit booked to check on the activity.</p>
--	--

Priorities for December/January

- Policy and induction document development for the implementation of the Child Safe Standards
- Riverview Working Group

1. Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC)

November 2023

1.1 Groups

So far, our attempt at 'winding down' for the end of the year has not been overly successful! There are too many things to see and do and while everyone is keen to attend, we are equally keen to provide the opportunities.

After waiting impatiently for COVID-19 restrictions to lift, Saumarez house finally re-opened its doors to the public. An excursion was instantly planned and a large group went to visit the house and the grounds surrounding it. Many had been before and commented that it was as beautiful as they remembered. A big thank you to Karrin Scott from the outdoor crew who stepped up to drive the bus after the Coordinator ended up with an injury that retired her from driving for the year. Karrin did an

amazing job, as did Meg, and all had a fantastic time, winding up the day with a fabulous lunch at Top Pub in Uralla.





Sue organised for the Art Group to go on a painting excursion out to New Country Swamp. All the participants got out their easels and painted the beautiful surrounds as well as enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Meg. It was a great opportunity to explore the different environments and grow their skills.

Melbourne Cup is always a great day and this year was no exception. Jo Wicks was hosting a wonderful event at the Bowling Club so we decided to join in! Great food, fun games, lots of sweeps and of course a 'best dressed' competition. The WCCC crew did very well, with two of our clients winning in the 'Best Hat' and 'Best Dressed' categories.





Women's Group 7/11- (Melbourne Cup) 14	Men's Group 21/11- 10
Art Group 8/11- 7 22/11- 10	Bingo 11/11- 14 25/11- 14
Joint Excursion 15/11- Saumarez House- 21	Friday Takeaway 3/11- 4 10/11- 8 17/11- n/a 24/11- 7

1.2 Transport – November 2023

Medical drives – 49 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

Bus to Armidale (every Thursday) 2/11- 8 9/11- 7 16/11- 5 23/11- 8 30/11- 6
Taxi Vouchers – 32 clients used the service with 291 trips being provided.

1.3 Meals on Wheels

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

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

The total number of meals this month was: 482

Mains: 271

Frozens: 116

Desserts: 95



1.5 Feedback and Complaints

WCCC received a 'Thumbs Up' in The Advocate for the art excursion to New Country Swamp. The notice particularly highlighted Meg and Sue's great work on the day.

Jess Goodwin
Community Care Coordinator

2. Library and Youth

November 2023

- Loans: 493 steady
- Returns: 570
- Reservations placed & issued: 174
- New members: 5
- Door count: 762
- Wi-fi use: 49
- Computer use: 73
- Housebound: 7

Other statistics:

- eLibrary: Borrow Box
 - - users
 - - eAudiobooks
 - - eBooks

The Walcha Library welcomed an average number of loans, returns, reservations, door count, wifi and computer access this month. New memberships spiked with some new residents joining, and the door count was slightly less than average due to some staffing issues. eLibrary usage was unavailable at time of reporting this month.

Outreach & Promotion

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

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

Social media

The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook page has remained steady at 358 followers in November. Staff have continued to use the systematic approach to ensure the content was engaging, useful and an effective use of staff time. The library shared 13 posts on the Facebook page, reaching 269 people, 44% less than last month. With only 3 Instagram posts shared






throughout November, posts received only 21 'likes'. Library and Youth Instagram didn't attract any new followers this month, and now has 266 people following the library and youth events and information shared through this media.

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

Engagement content: fun and interactive posts shared to engage with the library community and/or acknowledge events/themes being celebrated in wider community	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Total 9 engagement posts	346	15	
Share of Wiggles Supported Playgroup held in Walcha each Wednesday	71		 <p>Walcha Library Published by Cassie McKenna · 6d · 🌐</p> <p>egg carton CATERPILLARS</p> <p>Eryn Barlow · Walcha Kids Community Board · 6d · 🌐</p> <p>Hello Walcha families! Wiggles Supported Playgroup is on this Wednesday from 10 till 12! This week we will make rainbow egg carton caterpillars and rejoice in... See more</p>
Share of Advocate for Children and Young People's DIY Board Game Competition	94	3	 <p>Walcha Library Published by Cassie McKenna · 4d · 🌐</p> <p>Are you 18 or under and live in NSW? Enter the NSW Children's Week 2023 Board Game Competition. Create a board game you would enjoy playing with your friends and family. Your board game could be about your favourite places, people, movies or activities. Entries close: Wednesday, 15 November 2023. Click here: https://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/nsw-childrens-week-2023-board</p> <p>acyp</p> <p>Children's Week DIY BOARD GAME COMPETITION</p>
6 X Scam Awareness Week – share of social media posts and hosting of webinar	48, 44, 37, 27, 20, 5		 <p>Walcha Library November 2 at 4:50 PM · 🌐</p> <p>Join experts from Legal Aid NSW and Fair Trading NSW to talk about the latest scams, what to look out for and how to protect yourself from them. TODAY! Tuesday 28 November at 12 – 1pm. Register at</p> <p>Legal Aid Scams Awareness Week 👉/scamsawareness</p> <p>LINKTREE Scams Awareness Week Linktree Linktree. Make your link do more.</p>



Council Pool Opening announcement (much anticipated by local youth)		12	 <p>Walcha Pool Opening November 17 2023</p> <p>Season tickets available at the Council Office Family ticket \$168 Individual ticket \$84</p>
---	--	----	---

Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Total 6 service posts	518	6	
CNRL STEM kit promotion (shared from Kootingal library)	94		 <p>Walcha Library Published by Cassie McLennan · November 3 at 6:28 AM ·</p> <p>Kootingal Library November 1 at 6:00 PM ·</p> <p>STEM Kits for all ages! Did you know CNRL now has a collection of STEM Kits available for 1-week loans? Each kit supports learning in Science, Technology, Engi... See more</p>
3 x Baby booktime advertising & 1 notice of postponement	157, 93, 90, 84	6	 <p>Walcha Library. 21h ·</p> <p>Reminder Baby Booktime is on TODAY at 10am! See you there 📖❤️</p> <p>Walcha Library STORYTIME & BABY BOOKTIME 3rd Monday of each month</p>

Programs

The puzzle library loans continue to be popular this month with some regular borrowers. There were 15 loans in August, 19 loans in September, 24 loans in October, and 15 loans in November, which shows the effect of the school holiday period on borrowing of these items. Donations were received again this month, and some puzzles with damage were weeded from the collection. The Walcha Library now holds 117 jigsaw puzzles in its collection.

This month the Seed Library collection was given some additional advertising when local Walcha Garden Club member Diana Lisle chose to speak about the collection on her regular gardening segment on local radio in Tamworth. Library staff attended garden club meetings in previous

years to inform them of the resource, and seek the clubs assistance in collecting seeds for the collection. Since then, an email or conversation with any of the members is sufficient to remind the club to share information at their next meeting.

This month the library changed the main display to 'Like the movie? You'll love the book' with a selection of books that have been made into movies, or DVD's that were based on books. A selection of children's science non-fiction books were kept on the lower part of the display to accompany the CNRL STEM kit collection.



Library Volunteer, Veronica, continues to aid at the library on Monday mornings. She is able to assist during the peak item processing times at the library and ensures efficient use of the additional assistance. This month she was able to assist with the reservations, returns and collection maintenance such as puzzle library accessioning and donation book covering.

Library staff have spent November working on cleaning the library shelves. Taking items off and cleaning each shelf in the library was an on-going project that took the whole month to complete. Some rearranging, merchandising and new labels were created as staff could focus on each section. The new junior non-fiction signage was created by using existing shelf markers that were unused, with colour labels and contact.



The November Baby Booktime was affected by staff illness this month. After heavy advertising on social media and text message reminders, it had to be postponed at the last minute. Despite healthy bookings for the Monday session, when librarian Cassie was feeling better & back on deck on Thursday, there was only one family able to attend. The Spring has Sprung display in the children's space has offered colouring in and insect-related items, which will be swapped out for Christmas themed activities next month.



Housebound library services were arranged with Riverview, Elizabeth Cross Wing at the Walcha Hospital and our housebound members who receive deliveries again this month. Staff hand-picked items for the Riverview residents and a number of housebound individuals.

The Walcha Library Book club, the 'Taphouse' Bookclub and Penny King's Bookclubs held their November meetings this month. The groups submitted preferences for the coming year, with one of the groups deciding to read library books and purchased books alternatively in 2024, so arrangements were made for this. With the warmer weather and longer days, the Taphouse bookclub attendance has predictably grown again this month.

The number of members and visitors using the library facilities for study related purposes remained steady this month. The free wifi and study areas have been utilised this month for study, and work purposes. There was also a number of members seeking reliable internet and somewhere to update their devices, download emails and travellers downloading tickets and itineraries. Community use of the library facilities this month included the Walcha Motorcycle Rally preparation and a Voice for Walcha meeting with NSW government.

Drop in IT support and assistance this month peaked, with regular visits from members who needed support with using eLibrary apps, but also included general smart phone and tablet assistance with a handful of members. With staff now recording these 5, 10 & 15 minute interactions, they totalled 1.25 hours this month.

Walcha Library coordinator participated in a series of Niche Academy online training sessions this month. These included Substance abuse 101: effects and risks of common drugs, Drunk or high: how to de-escalate someone who is under the influence and Social workers in the library. All training was targeted at public library staff and provided information useful in the library setting, which has been particularly relevant to client interactions recently.

The plans, quotes and information gathered for the public library infrastructure grant application was submitted this month, with a result expected in March 2024. This submission included a renovation of the library, and included a bathroom & kitchenette upgrade, relocated kids space,



improved IT facilities and heating/cooling improvements. Works which, if successful, wouldn't commence until mid-2024.

Youth activities

This month the Youth Advisory Committee was held at Walcha Central School. With Councillor Reilly, Karen Kermode, Cassie McKenna and Karen Barnes in attendance alongside a small group of Walcha Central School leaders, who represented their peers. St Patrick school students were unable to attend, but they were able to discuss holiday program ideas with students, and send through their contribution to the brainstorming. The committee were updated on a series of programs and where the planning of Summer break holiday program was at, since an application was due before the meeting date.

Library & Youth staff have spent a lot of time preparing the application for the NSW Governments Office of Regional Youth Holiday Break program which was due by the end of October for December, January and Autumn activities in April 2024. A considerable amount of time was needed to plan a great deal of the events, as well as activities funded under the Walcha Council youth activities budget, to supplement the program, or potentially fulfil the program if the NSW Government funding isn't granted. A response was expected by the end of November, but staff were still waiting for a response when writing this report early December.

Cassie McKenna
Library Coordinator

3. Preschool

November 2023

This month preschool were asked to participate in having a photo taken for local transport company Betts Transport, for there next fundraiser. This photo will be printed on the underside of the hat's brim and they will sell these hats to raise money for Make A Wish foundation.



This is an activity that can further support the children's sense of belonging by helping them experience connections and be engaged with our local community. While we are developing respectful and responsive



connections with our local community we are also enriching the educational program and practices for all children. This supports Element 6.2.3 in our National Quality Framework and Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities of our National Quality Standards that we base our program around.

Late November we received a visit from the Department of Education for the purpose of State-wide mongering compliance. The result of this was that there were a small number of documents that we should have had on file here at Preschool, for example new casual staff working with children checks clearances. These files are on file at the Council, so it was just a matter of supplying those documents.

There have been new regulations passed regarding sleep and rest for children and that we now require a yearly risk assessment to be completed for this regulation. This document was created and forwarded onto the department.

We were offered guidance to complete a routine excursion form for parents to sign at the beginning of the year for children to participate in regular outings for example to Riverview to visit the residents, we then only require permission once a year and to notify parents a week before the outing happens. This was also created for next year to reduce the number of documents parents are needing to sign throughout the year.

After receiving these documents the result of the Departments monitoring compliance visit was that Walcha Preschool were found to be compliant all provisions of the National Law and National regulations that were monitored during this visit. These visits are always a great way to reflect on current practices and procedures and learn from them and make any changes to our practices that will benefit the service and the children.

Melinda Bird
Preschool Nominated Supervisor



4. Tourism

November 2023

Number of visitors to Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

NOVEMBER	2023	2022	2021	2020
Walk in's	366	390	284	443 post lockdown
Phone enquiries	60	20	92	15
Email enquiries	21	2	35	0

WEBSITE STATISTICS	Nov	October	Sept	August
www.walchansw.com.au				
Total Visits	46,490	39,456	34,935	24,019
Total Pages	1,115,965	1,059,639	126,790	267,264
Total Hits	1,145,358	1,314,981	391,676	447,372

Notes: Tourism statistics and website traffic

High numbers of visitors to the Information Centre in Nov 2020 were due to Sydney lockdowns being lifted and Sydneysiders travelling regionally in droves to our Motorcycle event (one of the first to be held after lockdown).

A large number of people continue to access the Walcha tourism website via the Walcha Motorcycle Rally website (see below). The stats show a huge jump in visits to our tourism website in October and November.

Top Referrer Websites - October			
#	Hits		Referrer
1	916590	69.70%	- (Direct Request)
2	1253	0.10%	https://www.google.com/
3	1104	0.08%	https://walchamotorcyclerrally.com.au/
4	466	0.04%	https://www.google.com.au/
5	323	0.02%	https://walchamotorcyclerrally.com.au/where-to-stay-cat/

Top Referrer Websites - November			
#	Hits		Referrer
1	819457	71.55%	- (Direct Request)
2	2353	0.21%	https://walchamotorcyclerrally.com.au/
3	1536	0.13%	https://www.google.com/



Walcha Motorcycle Rally

We are currently collecting data and feedback from attendees, volunteers, businesses, sponsors and exhibitors via survey monkey and analysis of the data will be included in the full report for Council's February meeting. The social media pages for the event continue to have a great amount of positive comment and engagement. Editors from Australian Motorcyclist Magazine / Adventure Rider magazine and Australian Road Rider magazine attended the event. Their editorial features on the event and Walcha will appear in publications in coming months.

NBN news attended and the story can be viewed at

[Walcha Motorcycle Rally draws revving, record crowds – NBN News](#)

A post event wrap up article appeared in Just Bikes [WALCHA MOTORCYCLE RALLY – A RAGING SUCCESS - JUST BIKES](#)

RALLY WEBSITE STATISTICS

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Sep 2023	2,695	3,920	9,797	212,152
Oct 2023	3,326	4,357	10,040	264,581
Nov 2023	4,380	5,731	13,801	372,669

LINK Airways Inflight Travel Magazine

I have written editorial and organised an advertisement for the next edition of Inflight Magazine, which has a great distribution. With 40,000 plus passengers travelling bi-monthly and, with a totally captive audience, this is a great target market for us to promote Walcha. The digital version of the magazine is distributed to a 25K plus online readership via email and is available on the LINK Airways website, where potential travellers can also read the magazine before they travel on the LINK website. Please find the digital link to "Link Inflight" magazine for December/January with Walcha feature.

<https://www.calameo.com/read/005134755ec9ec05bc3d6>

NRMA EV Fast Charger

Two NRMA EV Fast Chargers are being installed on the road reserve adjacent to 10W Apsley Street and will be operational at end of November. This will be great for tourists who drive EVs, offering an opportunity to stop in Walcha and spend money in our local businesses.

Visitor Information Centre – Visitor book comments

Some of the comments from visitors to the Walcha Visitor Information Centre this month include:

Fantastic town, Great service, Lovely, Beautiful, Spectacular drives, Thank you for all the extensive information – keep up the great work, Lovely town, Very nice town, Wow! We'll be back, historic.



SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS – WALCHA TOURISM – OCTOBER

FACEBOOK

1. Walcha Tourism

Audience growth







Number of new fans/followers gained during the selected period.

New Organic Fans	50
New Paid Fans	0
Fans Lost (Unlikes)	6
New Fans (Net)	44

The total audience is
1,876 fans
 representing a variation of **+2.5 %**
 compared to **Sep. 1 2023 - Sep. 30 2023**

Engagement

Number of audience's interactions with your social profiles during the selected period.

Reactions	 873  98  0  12  11  0	994
Clicks	Link: 273 Photo: 2.3K Video: 0	2.5K
Comments		19
Private messages		5
Shares		82
Total Engagement		3.6K
Engagement rate per reach		21%


 The total engagement is
3,643 interactions
 representing a variation of **+56.5 %**
 compared to **Sep. 1 2023 - Sep. 30 2023**

Impressions

Number of times a content of your social profiles has been viewed during the selected period.

Paid impressions	27K
Organic impressions	25K
Viral impressions	15K
Total impressions	68K

The total impressions are
67,503
 representing a variation of **+13.7 %**
 compared to **Sep. 1 2023 - Sep. 30 2023**

Top content

Best performing content published during the selected period. Based on reach.



Oct. 1 2023

Come up and explore handmade and handcrafted in

Reach	15K
Engaged Users	2.2K
Clicks	1.7K
Other clicks	873
Engagement rate per reach	46.7%
Engagement rate per impression	10.3%



Oct. 14 2023

Walcha's Open Air Gallery - Number 1 of the 6 best...

Reach	1.8K
Engaged Users	71
Clicks	23
Other clicks	1
Engagement rate per reach	3.9%
Engagement rate per impression	3.8%



Oct. 22 2023

Come up and explore Walcha and discover our beaut...

Reach	1.5K
Engaged Users	184
Clicks	93
Other clicks	17
Engagement rate per reach	12.7%
Engagement rate per impression	11.3%



Oct. 15 2023

Come up and explore old wares, antiques, collecti...

Reach	1.3K
Engaged Users	186
Clicks	150
Other clicks	40
Engagement rate per reach	14.8%
Engagement rate per impression	12.7%



Oct. 16 2023

We enjoyed a visit from Luke @apache_1415 last wee...

Reach	1.2K
Engaged Users	151
Clicks	36
Other clicks	28
Engagement rate per reach	12.4%
Engagement rate per impression	12.1%



Oct. 29 2023

"Beautiful campsite for the night at Mummel Gulf ...

Reach	1.1K
Engaged Users	182
Clicks	136
Other clicks	27
Engagement rate per reach	16%
Engagement rate per impression	15.2%

INSTAGRAM

2. Walcha - Where Wild Rivers...

Audience growth

Number of followers gained during the selected period.

New followers	11
Total followers	966

The total audience is

966 followers

representing a variation of **+0.9 %**
 compared to Sep. 1 2023 - Sep. 30 2023

Engagement

Number of followers' interactions (likes, saved, comments and direct messages) with your profile for the selected period.



Likes	291
Saved	3
Comments	5
Direct messages	12
Total interactions	311
Engagement rate per reach	8.9%

The total engagement is
311 interactions
 representing a variation of **-12.4 %**
 compared to **Sep. 1 2023 - Sep. 30 2023**

Impressions

Number of times your profile's content has been viewed during the selected period.

The total impressions are

5,450

representing a variation of **+14.6 %**
 compared to **Sep. 1 2023 - Sep. 30 2023**

Top content

Best performing content published during the selected period. Based on reach.

Carousel

Oct. 15 2023

Come up and explore old wares, antiques, collecti...

Reach	445
Comments	1
Likes	47
Saved	0
Engagement	48
Engagement rate per reach	10.8%
Engagement rate per impression	8.3%

Carousel

Oct. 22 2023

Come up and explore Walcha and discover our beaut...

Reach	436
Comments	0
Likes	66
Saved	2
Engagement	68
Engagement rate per reach	15.6%
Engagement rate per impression	11.2%

Carousel

Oct. 1 2023

Come up and explore handmade and handcrafted in

Reach	419
Comments	0
Likes	48
Saved	1
Engagement	49
Engagement rate per reach	11.7%
Engagement rate per impression	9.4%



Image

Oct. 5 2023

We had a visit from Jeff Hall yesterday! Jeff is ...

Reach	396
Comments	2
Likes	35
Saved	0
Engagement	37
Engagement rate per reach	9.3%
Engagement rate per impression	8.6%

Carousel

Oct. 29 2023

"Beautiful campsite for the night at Mummel Gulf ...

Reach	315
Comments	2
Likes	52
Saved	0
Engagement	54
Engagement rate per reach	17.1%
Engagement rate per impression	14.9%

Image

Oct. 16 2023

We enjoyed a visit from Luke @apache_1415 last wee...

Reach	302
Comments	0
Likes	22
Saved	0
Engagement	22
Engagement rate per reach	7.3%
Engagement rate per impression	6.3%

Hashtags & interactions

Number of interactions generated by hashtags used in your posts.

- [#walcha](#)
278 interactions
- [#walchansw](#)
278 interactions
- [#newenglandhighcountry](#)
256 interactions
- [#newsouthwales](#)
219 interactions
- [#countrysw](#)
68 interactions
- [#regionalsw](#)
68 interactions
- [#campingholidays](#)
54 interactions
- [#campingaustralia](#)
54 interactions
- [#campingsw](#)
54 interactions
- [#mummelgolf](#)
54 interactions
- [#mummelgolfnationalpark](#)
54 interactions
- [#nswparks](#)
54 interactions
- [#seeaustralia](#)
54 interactions
- [#seeaustralia_nsw](#)
54 interactions
- [#adventurecycling](#)
37 interactions
- [#cycling](#)
37 interactions
- [#cyclistlife](#)
37 interactions
- [#walchacycling](#)
37 interactions
- [#cyclinglife](#)
22 interactions
- [#cyclingroutes](#)
22 interactions

Lisa Kirton
Tourism & Visitor Information Services Coordinator



Item 10:

Committee Reports

That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Committee Reports as presented.



Walcha Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Minutes

held on

Thursday 21 September 2023

at

1:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Chair.

PRESENT: Mr S Coates – Chair, Mr LJ Hullick, Dr ML Caelli and via Zoom Clr NF Hicks.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr PE Hood – Interim General Manager, Mr CC Martin – Director Corporate & Community, Mrs RA Strobel – Finance Manager and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant

Guests: Jacob Sauer – Principal at Forsyths, Damien Ison – Audit Office NSW, Michael Khazoo – Audit Office NSW and Jan-Michael Perez – Audit Office NSW.

Michael Lockie – Manager People & Performance

Committee Minutes



1. APOLOGIES:

Nil.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **MOVED** that the Walcha Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes held at Uralla Shire Council on Monday 26 June 2023, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record with the amendment to change Dr Caelli initials from WL to ML Caelli under Declarations of Interest.

CARRIED

4. OUTSTANDING ITEMS:

4.1 IT Policies incomplete

This was mentioned within the report by the Auditors under item 5.1 Financial Report.

4.2 ARIC Terms of Reference updated

Terms of Reference was tabled for signing by General Manager and Chairman Stephen Coates

4.3 Internal Audits and Draft Internal Audit Charter

Addressed within the report under item 5.1 below.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

5.1 Financial Report

Guests from Audit Office NSW and Jacob Sauer – Forysths attended Meeting via Zoom and advised the following information on both items. (10:04am)

[5.1.1 2022-2023 Financial Statements](#)

[5.1.2 2023 Audit](#)

Jacob Sauer advised the Committee:

- Onsite year end Audit is completed and they are close to issuing a final Management Letter with most issues being from prior years and a few new ones. Issues are:
 - o IT Governance – was potentially high however it has been downgraded to moderate risk. IT is resourced from Tamworth Regional Council however Walcha must control it.



- Governance – Policies and Procedures. Need to update register and mentioned the Contractor Management Policy (Item 5.4.2 in this Meeting).
- Revenue Reconciliation – needs to be completed in a more timely manner.
- Biggest issues is Master File edits – need to be able to prevent management overriding controls
- The Annual Engagement Plan will be delayed and there has been delays in Audit of the financial statements. Have been waiting on a few queries however as of this morning 99% of those have been received.
- Advised that he has no concerns in meeting the 31 October 2023 deadline.
- The Engagement Closing Report will address key issues however there are no significant material risks.

Guests regarding the Audit completed the Zoom Meeting at 10:25am.

The Chair advised:

1. Expect ARIC are sent the Draft Financial Statements before they are given to Council or sent to Audit. Flag it for next year to have a 45 minute meeting for this purpose.
2. The Engagement Closing Report (ECR) is to come to an ARIC Meeting before Council sign the Financial Statements. It would be a very quick online meeting.
3. IT Governance polices – Council should commit to employing a contractor to do them. Director Corporate & Community advised that he has started to gather quotes.
4. Asset Management Plans – need to ensure this is an Agenda item for December 2023 meeting.

Comments at the Meeting:

- Finance Manager advised of a change to the Financial Statements since going to Audit.
- Chairman's Comments:
 - NOTED the note on COVID
 - NOTED that all variances were explained
 - Water & Sewer Fund had no surplus – how are we funding replacements etc. If running in deficit it was suggested putting the prices up for these services.



It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting **NOTE** the items included in the Financial Report.

CARRIED

5.2 Risk Report

5.2.1 Draft Risk Framework

Michael Lockie, Manager People & Performance joined the meeting at 1:30pm Risk Management is one third of the ARIC guidelines. Find a framework that works for Walcha Council. Complete the Risk Framework within three months and then review in 12 months.

- Implement the framework.
- Train everyone in the processes in the quarter following the implementation. Everyone should be trained and using it by the end of this quarter.
- Third quarter – assist those that are having problems with using the framework.
- Fourth quarter – analyse the framework. See what people are using and what they are not. Update accordingly.

Comments by ARIC Members:

- Conduct a Risk Workshop with Councillors to determine the risk appetite;
- General Manager to put the risk appetite into action;
- Good start but what do you have in here about people? Culture? Strategic risks in delivering the Community Strategic Plan? Can't get employees – should be a focus.
- No Information Communication Technology risk within the document
- One register is required by legislation – have one excel with five tabs.
- The Risk Framework should have clear guidelines for the organisation to follow

5.2.2 Riverview Presbyterian Aged Care (PAC)

Comments by Committee:

- Reports on compliance – staffing, etc
- Evaluate the project through the risk lens not the break even lens.
- Vacant positions on Council – what makes you think you can fill the positions at Riverview.
- Any support by PAC needs to be in writing.



- Reputational risk for Council – another thing Council couldn't deliver if it fails.
- It is definitely worth having a public meeting on this project but ensure you have more information first.
- Be wary.
- Check for coronial enquiries.

5.2.3 Risk Report Content

Action for Manager People & Performance to ensure that everyone is compiling with the risk framework.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting **NOTE** the items included in the Risk Report **FURTHER THAT** the Committee encourages Council to establish a Risk Appetite Statement with the Elected members.

CARRIED

5.3 Work Health & Safety Report

5.3.1 Recruitment of WH&S Office

This item was discussed advising of advertising and potentially sharing the position with Uralla Shire Council.

5.3.2 State Cover – Self Audit

Question from the Committee: When are the action items from the State Cover self audit to be completed? A: Next safety meeting they will all be completed.

5.3.3 WH&S Report Content

- Any significant events
- Effects on our insurance
- Progress report on the outstanding items.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting **NOTE** the Work, Health & Safety Report.

CARRIED



5.4 Governance Report

5.4.1 ARIC Report Calendar

The ARIC report calendar was noted. The Chair suggested to scale the list down to set the goals for Council. Focus on things that are relative. Eg: compliance, risk management, etc.

5.4.2 Contract Management Policy

This Policy is in progress.

5.4.3 Fraud & Corruption Control Framework

Policy noted.

New Public Interest Disclosures (PIDs) rules in October. Need to recognise in this space.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting **NOTE** the Governance Report and that there are no legal matters for Council at this time.

CARRIED

6. NEXT MEETING:

6.1 4 December 2023

It was discussed that one of the ARIC members is unable to attend the meeting schedule for Monday 4 December 2023. Dates were affirmed that Monday 20 November 2023.

Propose 9:30 to 11:30am at Walcha Council and then 1 to 4pm at Uralla Shire Council

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2:45PM.

NOTE:

It is **NOTED** that after this Meeting it was determined that the next meeting of ARIC was moved to Monday 15 January 2024.

Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting

held on

Monday, 30 October 2023

at

4:17 pm

at

Walcha Preschool

PRESENT:

Councillor Anne-Marie Pointing, Karen Kermode (Executive Manager Community & Tourism), Melinda Bird (Nominated Supervisor) Erin Fritsch, Rebecca Partridge and Alyce Notley (parent representatives).

Item 1: Apologies

Kate King (parent representative)

Item 2: Confirmation of Meeting Minutes held on Monday 26 June 2023

The Minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Item 3: Business Arising

Building security – The quote has been accepted, but the work hasn't been completed as yet.

Playground toilets – currently working with preferred supplier to finalise design.

Item 4: Nominated Supervisor's Report – Term 4 2023

Playground

Our Yarning Circle is now complete and we are extremely happy with how it has turned out. The next project is to upgrade our sandpit and the replacement of the soft fall area. We are yet to receive quotes for either of these projects from Pavewell Constructions. The yarning circle is quite hot, so we will look at providing some type of shade structure in the new year.

Staff

Sarah Bruce has joined our team in June this year and has fitted in really well. She has now taken on the role of Room Leader in the Kangaroo Room, I am still working very closely with Sarah in the Kangaroo room, with lots of exciting things happening

each day. With Sarah stepping into the room leader position this allows me to fulfil the Educational Leader and Nominated Supervisor roles.

The role of the educational leader is primarily to:

- collaborate with educators and provide curriculum
- direction and guidance
- support educators to effectively implement the cycle of
- planning to enhance programs and practices
- lead the development and implementation of an effective
- educational program in the service
- ensure that children's learning and development are
- guided by the learning outcomes of the approved learning
- frameworks.

Bus

The bus continues to have high numbers, although with some siblings starting preschool later in the year there are now 2 days with vacant spots.

Program

We have had some more visitors to preschool, the children are always excited to have something different in their day.

In July we had a visit from Al Sloggett the travelling magician came to visit, providing a very interesting and intriguing show for the children. He included the children to assist him in his show, and performed many magic tricks that entertained the children and kept them very engaged and focused.

In August we had Book Week, with lots of dress ups and lots of reading. We also had an additional fundraiser of 'It's from Elsie' Local Parent Kimmie Cameron asked if we like to be involved in this cause, that donated books to Neonatal Intensive Care Units so parents that have had early babies or have also had a loss of a child can read to the sick babies or other siblings as they visit the babies. This was well received by our families that were very generous in donating books.

We have had Science week, where lots of science experiments were done and then this was followed up with a visit from Ann at Science on the move where she brought lots of other science experiments along, we had magnets, communication, gravity and chemical reactions.

We had the local Ambulance officers visit and the children were shown all the different equipment and medications that the Ambulance Officers use each day when they are called out to a patient. One child was lucky enough to experience having heart monitor leads put on and a record of her heart beat made and another child was able to experience being strapped into the bed and being put into the ambulance, while all children were able to experience a walk through the Ambulance and look at all the

equipment. We then got to listen to the 3 different sirens that they use and the reason for the 3 different ones. They were extremely loud.

Picture Plates

Alice was the organiser of our picture plates and again this year we have been able to have them finished and home to families well before Christmas, this is a big job to organise 84 Children to do a drawing to be turned into a plate, so I thank Alice for help with getting these all done, they turned out really great.

Preschool Photos

We have just completed our preschool photos for 2023, this nearly didn't happen as we struggled to find a photographer. Jazmine Hobbs has been taking our photos and all children that ordered photos are now done. We may have 1 or 2 refund to process as children ended up being sick if we are unable to get them through on a catch up with Jaz. Another thank you to Alice for all the help in this one we couldn't do it without her help.

Feedback from parent representatives was:

- offer a smaller pack size next year
- start the photo process earlier next year
- work with photographer to ensure access to photos is limited to family members only (website setup)

Communication and Newsletters

We have not been able to get our Newsletter out at the moment as Alice has been very busy unable to get this done for us. We are working together to organise a more efficient way that we can ensure we are getting these out to families regularly. We have tried doing some extra facebook post to let families know what is coming up.

Feedback from parent representatives was:

- Introduce new staff members on Xplor and Facebook page
- More posts on Xplor
- Car park – staff members have been parking in the parks closest to the gate, can they park on the other side?
- More information about the Preschool Advisory Committee to be put in the handbook

Enrolments for 2024

We have sent out the re-enrolment links to current families on Tuesday 17 October a week earlier than we open up new enrolments. There will be an advertisement in the Apsley Advocate Wednesday 25 October and Wednesday 2 November to advertise that enrolments are open. We have already had enquires about new enrolments for 2024.

Item 5: Executive Manager Report:

5.1 Extended Hours

Following feedback from the Advisory Committee parent representatives, further discussion around continuing this service for a further 12 months and possible fee increases to allow families to adjust will take place with Council management.

Original report

With the opening of Little Kindy, the long day care centre it has been decided to not offer extended hours any more. From Term 1 2024 our preschool hours will be 8.30am to 4.00pm. Although this will impact some families, the cost of providing this service when an alternative option now exists can no longer be justified.

In 2022/23 extend hours income totalled - \$7,850 and wages were \$14,437.

Extended hours were originally introduced to alleviate some of the pressures on working families who needed to be at work before 9.00am or after 3.00pm. The introduction of 600 hrs (15 hours per week) of free preschool then saw us extend our "normal" operating hours to 8.30am to 4.00pm in order to have children able to attend 15 hours per week in 2 days.

Our bus service will continue to be free, and operate 5 days per week if demand remains.

Item 6: General Business:

6.1 Christmas Party

Ideas for the Christmas Party included:

- Disco
- Face painting
- Santa
- Graduation ceremony
- Date – 14 December 2023, 5 to 7pm.

6.2 Policies for Review

During our last staff meeting it was decided to do an in-depth review of all policies. We have many policies and some are very similar and could be combined. This will reduce the number of policies overall. We will be putting our efforts into this work, and the updated policies will start being reviewed by staff and Advisory Committee in the new year.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.47PM.



**Walcha Council
Australia Day Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

held on

Monday, 6 November 2023

At 7:30pm at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Don Murchie – Chair; Coral Westfold, Margaret Wellings, Linda Ballard, Lloyd Levingston, Phillip Hood – General Manager and Mayor Eric Noakes.

1. APOLOGIES:

Nil

COMMITTEE MINUTES



2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Nil – First Meeting of Committee.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

Terms of Reference: Discussed and signed by all members.

Chair: Don Murchie nominated and accepted role.

Confirming roles – Council (GM and Executive Assistant) charged with advertisements, financial processing and liaison with Australia Day Ambassador.

Discussion regarding the 2024 Australia Day Event:

- Confirm intent to participate in 2024 Ambassador Program. Council to pay for one night accommodation, meal the night before, lunch the following day for two people (Ambassador and partner) only.
- Council to arrange for Ambassador transport from airport, in Council vehicle.
- Activities for Ambassador limited to Walcha area. Awards during breakfast, also visiting of the eldest resident if they are unable to attend in person – e.g. in Riverview. Dinner provided for Ambassador the night before the event with the Committee.
- Social media to be handled by Council.
- Posters to be erected around town ahead of the event.
- Bush poet to be arranged – **Action: Margaret Wellings**
- Provision of sand art (Quota) for children same as previous years – **Action: Linda Ballard**
- Music: DM wife Jan lines up singers to sing National Anthem – **Action: Don Murchie to confirm**
- Volunteers for music, Howard and Barb Dunn as first choice – **Action: Don Murchie to follow up.**
- Discussion on dancing, may not be a part of this year's event.
- Organise local minister to say a prayer, new Anglican minister Neil Hunt. Anglican Church to do lamington stall same as previous years. **Action Margaret Wellings to make contact with Church.**
- Raising of the Australian Flag, Peter Dunn. **Action: Don Murchie**



- Closing of Walsh Street for the length of the park for the event. **Action: Phil Hood**
- Sound system, Steve McCoy and stored in Rotary Shed. **Action: Don Murchie**
- Food: Cater for 250 people, and for 300 people for plates, knives, etc. Milk and juice ordered directly with account sent to Council. Damper's provided through Moon's bakery, CW typically pays and is reimbursed by Council. **Action: Coral Westfold**
- Plan is to cover costs, so need to order everything first then Committee can set the price people pay on the day. **Action: Lloyd Levingston to get prices and return to next meeting.**
- Historical society to do their display as normal – **Action: Don Murchie**
- Gift for the Ambassador – hamper would be suitable. **Action: Margaret Wellings to follow up.**

Awards:

- Council to advertise categories. Applications forms available at Council and Visitor Information Centre, but need other channels to get the message out. Previous unsuccessful nominations could indicate future winners – there will be a list of previous winners kept at Council.
- Judging panel to consist of Mayor, Presidents of Lions Club, Rotary and Quota, and Chair of Australia Day Committee.
- Oldest citizen award – **Action: Margaret Wellings to follow up.**
- Awards, should be presented in physical frames. **Action: Phil Hood to investigate.**
- MC – a few suggestions but not confirmed in meeting. **Action: Don Murchie to follow up and determine suitable MC.**
- Acknowledgement of Country to be undertaken by MC.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Nil.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 4 December at 5pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:30pm.



Walcha Council Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

held on

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

at

1.00 pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Chair welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

PRESENT: Cllr Anne-Marie Pointing, Alan Butler (Director Infrastructure & Development), Faye (Col) King, Stephen King, Peter Blomfield, Phyllis Hoy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Anna Lummis (Administration Officer), Cynthia Morris (Team Leader - Horticulture), Paul Fritsch (Project Engineer).

Committee Minutes



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING:

2.2 Darjeeling Road Proposed Tree Removal (RFT – W22/219 – Walcha Pathways Design Project)

RECOMMENDATION: That Council consider the removal of these trees and the materialised option with designated parking spaces for the area outside the Lion's Park; as part of the Walcha Pathways Design Project.

2.4 Proposed Location of Artwork at the Swimming Pool

RECOMMENDATION: That Council consider keeping the round garden bed at the pool entrance with minor tidying of the garden; and install this artwork on the grassed area outside the pool entrance; between the gym and the pool entrance.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Aurora Reilly, Robyn Vincent, Caroline Street, Gweneth Higgins, Robert Powell (Interim Executive Manager Urban and Utilities).

1. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES & ACTIONS ARISING

Previous minutes of **23 August 2023** were endorsed by members without correction.

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

Declaration of Interests: Nil

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

2.1 List of potential projects for the Beautification Committee

Members spoke through this list of projects and Director Infrastructure & Development (DID) advised that there is a need to have this list prioritised so that Council is conscious of how this Committee ranks the importance of each project and would allow for swift delegation of funding, when it becomes available.

DID advised the Committee that he had received the Masterplan for Arts Cohesion documents back from storage regarding the streetscape; and he is working through this.

Members spoke about the footpaths needing cleaning; DID advised this needs to be scoped and then programmed – once you clean it then it becomes a task that you must upkeep which is a burden to Council's budget; this needs to be programmed to a set schedule; to alleviate this burden. DID advised that the Derby Street Project may have funding available to replace the pathways that haven't been replaced yet along Derby Street; depending on the project budget once the construction component goes out to tender.

This morning, State Roads Supervisor Paul Brown, advised Secretariat; Anna Lummis, that sealing works at the Glen Gro Rest Area will be undertaken in January 2024 under a SH11 project. Preparation works will begin now. This work will include shoulder widening, stabilisation and sealing within the rest area. Widening of the road means that drains may need



to be moved and this may encroach onto the planted trees; the aim is to trim the trees but as work progresses a couple of trees may end up needing to be removed. State Roads Supervisor has sourced a contact for Glen Gro Landcare to advise them of this work.

Stephen King gave an update on the Hospital Wall Mural project, he hopes to have this mural done by mid-December. There is a sculpture proposed for the flat area in front of the surgery and the Walcha Men's Shed have donated seating for this area.

Peter Blomfield spoke of his view that the Showground front fence desperately needs replacing to beautify this entry into Walcha; he suggested the Committee could approach the Showground Trustee's to discuss this. Clr Pointing advised that this land is Crown Land and there are grants available quite regularly for Crown Land that the Trust could apply for to fund this replacement fence.

Team Leader – Horticulture asked if members knew of possible grants for the restoration for War Memorials as she believes the Walcha Road War Memorial desperately needs restoring. The Committee will liaise with the RSL Sub Branch and schedule a visit to this area in the new year.

ACTION: Stephen King, Peter Blomfield and Phyllis Hoy to look into options for the Showground fencing and liaise with the Showground Trustee's and provide information back to the Committee at the next meeting.

ACTION: Members to schedule a visit to the Walcha Road War Memorial next year; along with representatives from the RSL Sub Branch, to view this area for the purpose of drafting a plan to restore War Memorial and look into possible external funding to complete this project.

2.2 Darjeeling Road Proposed Tree Removal (RFT – W22/219 – Walcha Pathways Design Project

Project Engineer advised that eleven trees are proposed for removal between the Lion's Park and Hill Street and five trees between Hill Street and the Racecourse. All of these trees are within the road reserve and are located in the middle of the proposed path alignment.

Project Engineer is trying to include an allocation of funding for tree replacement planting in this project but this is dependent on the final project cost estimations. If this isn't possible within the project budget, this planting project could be placed on the "future project list" for budget allocation.

These proposed trees for removal will be marked to notify residents of this planned removal and will go through the Council tree removal process, where the DID will approve this removal if it is deemed necessary for this project to be occur. Committee Members were in agreeance for these trees to be removed.



Team Leader – Horticulture advised that these trees were previously recognised by her team, as needing to be removed and replaced due to them being under powerlines and getting severely cut back by the energy provider’s tree contractor’s.

Project Engineer discussed the design options for the parking area outside of the Lion’s Park; a materialised option (eight marked parking spaces; with four small garden beds between the parking area and the Lion’s Park) or dematerialised option (no marked parking spaces; the whole area will be sealed). There will be a designated disabled parking space, regardless of which of these options is chosen. The general consensus of the Committee is the materialised option with designated parking spaces and garden beds; is the preferred option.

ACTION: Secretariat to forward the slides from Project Engineer’s presentation, which show the exact trees proposed for removal and the two options for the parking at the Lion’s Park; for the Committee to review.

2.3 Middle Street Prunus Tree Removal

Team Leader – Horticulture advised the Committee that the ten old Prunus trees near the Middle Street bridge need to be removed (as previously planned), to allow the replacement trees (planted approximately 6 years ago) to survive and thrive; as they are struggling to do so now. Members acknowledged that this was the plan when the replacement trees were planted and are happy for this removal to occur.

DID spoke about the administration process that happens before tree removals occur – signs are attached to the trees planned for removal and the planned maintenance work is signed off by himself as the DID prior to the team completing the works.

2.4 Proposed Location of Artwork at the Swimming Pool

Stephen King gave an overview of the “Eyebeam” artwork. This artwork is being donated under the Cultural Gift Program; this Cultural Gift Proposal was discussed in the October 2023 Arts Advisory Committee Meeting, and it was suggested that this artwork was suitable for installation outside of the pool, where the current round garden is as part of the Pool Amenities Upgrade Project.

Team Leader – Horticulture discussed her concern on the possible removal of this garden to place the artwork; as she had planted a weeping tree in this garden around 2 years ago, and wishes for this tree to remain where it is. She also believes having this particular artwork at the entrance will encourage children to climb it, which is a safety concern.

Members agreed that the photo shown of this artwork highlights its suitability to an open grassed space rather than in the round garden; and therefore, believe it would look better on the grassed area between the pool and the gym.

Stephen King suggested that the sculpture in the main street (WOAG .45) “Bong Tree Island”, could be relocated to the front of the pool to meet the need for seating outside the pool; and



it has been mentioned that its current position down the main street isn't a suitable location as it is hidden under an awning.

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

3.1 Derby Street Upgrade Project Update – Concept Design

DID advised the Committee that the draft concept design will be on display in the next two weeks through a community consultation day at the Council Chambers. This project is currently at 50% design stage. Tender for construction will go out in 2024. Pending approved variations through the funding body, the aim is to start construction after the Golf Tournament in April and finish before the Motorcycle Rally in November. Peter Blomfield mentioned the other events that are on at different times and generate large crowds; DID advised it would be impossible to avoid all local events during construction of a project of this size and it isn't financially feasible to do the construction phase in separate parts to avoid impacting these events.

Peter Blomfield asked if there had been any further progress regarding the potential future tree species that will be planted outside the Showground, during the Derby Street Project. DID advised that the design team had received the feedback from this Committee provided in the last meeting, as well as from the Urban Works Team and that the Cyprus tree species have been removed from the design.

Clr Pointing read out Gweneth Higgins letter that she dropped off at the beginning of the meeting, which listed suggestions for plantings in this project; *"Pyrus Javelin (Ornamental Pear) – this species can grow to 10 metres tall and 2.5 metres wide; they have lovely white blossoms in spring; dark green shiny foliage and dark bark. The advanced plants I saw in pots at Cedar Nursery were elegant and a good, upright shape and they were the best of any I have seen. I think they would be a good alternative to the tall conifers for the Derby Street plantings"*.

DID spoke about the safety concerns raised regarding vehicles speeding through Derby Street and the safety control measures that are being considered to alleviate this. He highlighted the area on the corner of Jamieson Street and Derby Street, which has the potential for a future sculpture or artwork to be placed.

3.2 Tree Maintenance

Phyllis Hoy reported the following street tree maintenance is required:

1. Trees in Lagoon Street on the Southern Side need pruning;
2. Tree in the fork of the road at the Catholic Cemetery, has a branch that is dead.

Clr Pointing mentioned that the tree out the front of the Council Chambers doesn't look great and Col King confirmed it needs pruning. Team Leader – Horticulture explained that the tree maintenance is currently being done by herself only and she will add these things to her task list and will get to them when she is able to. She believes the trees outside of the Council Chambers need removing.



Next Meeting: 21 February 2024 at 1:00pm – this is if a Council meeting isn't set for this date, due to potential of 2 x meetings being held to make up for no meeting being held in January 2024.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED MEMBERS AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:00PM.



**Walcha Council
Australia Day Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

held on

Monday, 4 December 2023

At 5:06pm at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Coral Westfold, Margaret Wellings, Linda Ballard, Lloy Levingston, Phillip Hood – General Manager and Mayor Eric Noake acting Chair.

1. APOLOGIES:

Don Murchie

COMMITTEE MINUTES



2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023:

The Minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the Meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

- Bush poet – Gordan Edmunds happy to do it.
- Sand art, in hand. Quota typically covers this cost.
- Anglican Minister, Neil Hunt – lined up and happy to do a prayer. Still need to follow up on Lamington Stall.
- Food quotes – Lloyd Levingston got prices from Cross Bros Butchery and IGA. Committee supports proposal that meat is sourced by Cross and eggs by IGA. Quotes to be used to work out suitable prices on the day, noting that there will be an 'upper limit' that is reasonable to ask, at recent market in November egg and bacon rolls \$7 as a guide. Also compare with last year's prices - \$8 for breakfast, \$25 for family. Aim to get prices into Advocate first week back, check dates for whether Advocate is running, next Committee meeting back on 8 January 2024.
- Hamper – Linda Ballard still to follow up.
- MC – still unresolved. Karen Brown may be a suitable candidate – **Action: Phil Hood to make enquires.**
- NSWFR are confirmed for flag raising.
- Singers are lined up.
- Sound system lined up.
- Historical display pending confirmation.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Should look into booking the MPC in case of wet weather. **Action: Phil Hood**

Picking up Ambassador – Council confirmed will be undertaking this function.

Float for the breakfast – to come from Council **Action: Phil Hood.**

Confirm insurance for committee members driving Council vehicles, should need to take Ambassador around. **Action: Phil Hood**

Need to update the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Board and re-hang in Council Foyer. **Action: Phil Hood**



6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 8 January at 5pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:42PM.



Item 11:

Delegate Reports

That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Delegate Reports as presented.



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on

Tuesday, 15 AUGUST 2023

1:00pm

in

NEWA Meeting Room, Rusden Street

PRESENT: Councillor Scott Kermode (Chair), Councillor Tim Bower (Deputy Chair), Councillor Lara Gresham, Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Paul Packham and Councillor Dorothy Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Tim Weeks (General Manager)
Laurie Knight (Chief Financial Officer)

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD 15 AUGUST 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES

STATEMENT IN RELATION TO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cr. Kermode advised that the Meeting was not being live streamed, however, an audio recording of the meeting will be available on the County Council's website.

PRESENT: Councillor Scott Kermode (Chair), Councillor Tim Bower (Deputy Chair), Councillor Lara Gresham, Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Paul Packham and Councillor Dorothy Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager – Tim Weeks
Chief Financial Officer – Laurie Knight

APOLOGIES Nil

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - NIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor Scott Kermode (Chair), Councillor Tim Bower (Deputy Chair), Councillor Margaret O'Connor (01:15pm), Councillor Paul Packham and Councillor Dorothy Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE:

General Manager – Tim Weeks
Chief Financial Officer – Laurie Knight

APOLOGIES: Councillor Lara Gresham

Resolved:

16/23 That the apology of Cr. Lara Gresham be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Moved: Councillor Robinson **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

The **motion** put to the **Vote** was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD 15 AUGUST 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES

Resolved:

25/23 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 27 June 2023 commencing at 1:00pm, which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

Moved Councillor O'Connor

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The **motion** on being put to the **Vote** was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTE: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 27 June 2023, also contained the minutes of meeting for the following dates:

- Tuesday 7 March 2023
- Tuesday 17 April 2023, and
- Tuesday 2 May 2023

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 27 JUNE 2023**

Resolved:

26/23 That that Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on Tuesday 17 April 2023 and *deferred* by way of Resolution **18/23**, be considered at the next Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 21 November 2023.

Moved Councillor O'Connor

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The **Motion** on being put to the **Vote** was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ANNUAL DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

Resolution:

- 27/23**
1. That Council note the completion of the Draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023, and the details contained in this report;
 2. That the Chair, Deputy Chair and General Manager/Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to sign the Councillor and Management Statement, and;
 3. That the draft Financial Statements be referred for audit in accordance with Section 413 and 416 of the Local Government Act 1993.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD 15 AUGUST 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES

Resolution 27/23 Continued:

Moved Councillor Robinson

Seconded: Councillor O'Connor

The **Motion** on being put to the **Vote** was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORT ON COUNCIL INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31 JULY 2023

Resolution:

28/23 That Council receive and note the Report on Council Investments held at 31 July 2023, in accordance with Sec 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, and clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, and Council's Investment Policy.

Moved Councillor Packham

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The **Motion** on being put to the **Vote** was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS OF OFFICE AND DEPOT

Resolution:

29/23 That Members receive and note the contents of the Construction Report, the Construction program and the financial status of the office and depot construction project.

Moved Councillor Bower

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

The **Motion** on being put to the **Vote** was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTERS OF URGENCY

The General Manager tabled correspondence received from the General Manager of the Upper Hunter County Council and dated 15 August 2023, expressing concern about a yet unconfirmed proposal to reduce funding to the Department of Primary Industry (DPI), and its impact on the WAP funding.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD 15 AUGUST 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES

Resolution:

30/23 That the General Manager should write to each constituent council providing this correspondence and advising that when further information is available, suggesting that each constituent council write to the Minister expressing concern regarding any cut to WAP funding and it's adverse impact on the rural community.

Moved Councillor O'Connor

Seconded: Councillor Bower

The **Motion** on being put to the **Vote** was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 1:00PM

MEETING CLOSED - 02:36pm



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on

Tuesday, 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

1:00pm

in

NEWA Meeting Room, Rusden Street

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Bower (Deputy Chair), Councillor Lara Gresham, Councillor Scott Kermode, Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Paul Packham and Councillor Dorothy Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Tim Weeks (General Manager)
Laurie Knight (Chief Financial Officer)

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES

The meeting commenced at 1:24pm due to late close of preceding workshop.

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Bower (Deputy Chair), Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Scott Kermode, Councillor Paul Packham and Councillor Dorothy Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager – Tim Weeks
Chief Financial Officer – Laurie Knight

APOLOGIES NIL

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - NIL

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the General Manager, as Returning Officer, called for *nominations* for the election of a chairperson for the one-year term of office, from 19 September 2023 to 14 September 2024; and the method of voting was agreed to be by 'open voting' (show of hands).

Nominations were received for:

- a) Councillor Robinson [supported by Councillors Bower and Gresham]
- b) Councillor Kermode [supported by Councillor Bower]

The nominations were put to the vote by show of hands as follows:

Councillor Scott Kermode - one, self
Councillor Dorothy Robinson - five, Clr. Kermode abstained.

31/23 Resolved:

That Councillor Dorothy Robinson be appointed as the Chair of the New England Weeds Authority for the one-year term from 19 September 2023 until 14 September 2024.

The resolution being put to the VOTE was CARRIED unanimously.

Following her election, the Chair conducted the balance of the Special Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN NEWA OFFICES

MATTERS OF URGENCY

Audit Office Engagement Letter

Procedural Motion:

That council suspend standing orders and enter a Committee of the Whole to discuss the progress with the Audit Office Engagement Letter and the Financial Statements.

Moved: Clr. Dorothy Robinson

The motion put to the **Vote** was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

Council entered a Committee of the Whole at: 1:31pm

Procedural Motion:

That council reinstate standing orders.

Moved: Clr. Dorothy Robinson

The motion put to the **Vote** was passed UNANIMOUSLY.

Standing orders were reinstated at: 02:38pm

NEXT MEETING – A workshop is to be held at 12:00noon followed by an Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 1:00pm in the NEWA Offices

SUPPORTING INFORMATION / ATTACHMENTS

- [Local Government \(General\) Regulation 2005 – Schedule 7 \(Clause 394\)](#)
- [Circular 23-09 September 2023 – Mayoral Elections](#)
- [Minutes of Special Meeting held 29-03-2022 – Election of Chair and Deputy Chair](#)

MEETING CLOSED – 02:39pm



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
Gunnedah Shire Council, PO Box 63,
Gunnedah NSW 2380
Contact: (02) 6740 2100
Email: jamiechaffey@infogunnedah.com.au

AGM Minutes

FRIDAY, 24 November 2023, Theatre, Parliament House, Sydney

The meeting opened at 8.55 am

- 1. Chairman's Welcome.**
- 2. Acknowledgement to Country**

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

- 3. Attendance from Local Government**

Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Jess Jennings, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Mr David Sherley, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Mr Mark Dicker, General Manager
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor
Bourke Shire Council, Ms Leone Brown, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Mr Jay Nankivell, General Manager
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor
Byron Shire Council, Mr Mark Arnold, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Central Darling Shire Council, Mr Robert Stewart, Administrator
Central Darling Shire Council, Mr Gregory Hill, General Manager
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Tim Horan, Mayor

Coonamble Shire Council, Mr Paul Gallagher, General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor
Cowra Shire Council, Mr Paul Devery, General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Eurobodalla Shire Council, Cr Mat Hatcher, Mayor
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Forbes Shire Council, Ms Haley Gould
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Matt Hearn
Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor
Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager
Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Rob Banham, Mayor
Glen Innes Severn Council, Mr Bernard Smith, General Manager
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Peter Walker, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO
Greater Hume Council, Cr Tony Quinn, Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Ms Evelyn Arnold, General Manager
Griffith City Council, Cr John Doug Curran, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor
Hilltops Council, Mr Anthony O'Reilly, General Manager
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Mr Brett McInness, General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Leo Hauville, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, CEO
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Deputy Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Kelvin Tytherleigh, General Manager
Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Ruth McRae, Mayor
Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Darrell Tiemens, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Kschenka, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Narromine Shire Council, Ms Jane Redden, General Manager
Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
Orange City Council, Mr David Waddell, General Manager
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
Port Stephens Council, Mr Tim Crosdale, General Manager
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Mr Matthew Hyde, General Manager
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Judy Coates, Deputy Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Ms Melissa Boxall, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Ms Alex Waldron, CEO
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Toni Averay, General Manager
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Phil Hood, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Paul Best, Deputy Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council, Cr Matt Gould, Mayor
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr David Reynolds, CEO
LGNSW, Mr Damien Thomas, Director, Advocacy
LGNSW Ms Bronwen Regan, Manager Strategy

Apologies:

As submitted

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Adjourned Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

5. Chairman's Report

Chairman Cr Jamie Chaffey outlined the years highlights and thanked everybody for their support during the term.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman's report be received and noted

Moved - Gunnedah Shire Council Councillor - Jamie Chaffey

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

6. Secretaries Report – Financial Report

RESOLVED: That the financial reports for the 2022/23 year as tabled be accepted

Moved Narrandera Shire Council Councillor Neville Kschenka

Seconded Singleton Council Councillor Sue Moore

7. Endorsement of Hosting Non-Metropolitan Meetings in 2024

Mayor Phyllis Miller Forbes Shire Council and Mayor Leo Hauville Kempsey Shire Council spoke on their submissions.

RESOLVED:

That the submissions submitted by Forbes Shire Council for a non- metropolitan meeting on the 8-9 April 2024 and from Kempsey Shire Council for a non-metropolitan meeting on the 13-14 June 2024 be endorsed.

Moved - Goulburn Mulwaree Council Councillor - Peter Walker

Seconded - Glen Innes Severn Council - Councillor Ron Banham

8. Returning Officer

RESOLVED:

That the Returning Officer for the conduct of the elections be the Secretary Mr Eric Growth

Moved - Singleton Council Councillor - Sue Moore

Seconded - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

9. Election of Executive Member

Three nominations were received for the vacant Executive Committee position. Nominations were received from Cr Rod Banham, Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Federation Council and Cr Steve Reynolds, Muswellbrook Shire Council. Ballot papers were distributed and a count of the ballot papers was conducted by the Returning Officer. The meeting continued

10. Signatories to CMA Bank Accounts

RESOLVED:

That the signatories to the CMA Bank Accounts No 260210575727 and No 250210246625 be Mr Eric Growth General Manager, Mr Kalana Tennakoon Manager Finance, and Ms Kelly Stidworthy Director Corporate Services of Gunnedah Shire Council

Moved - Cowra Shire Council Councillor - Ruth Fagan

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

11. Appointment of Secretariat for 2024

RESOLVED:

That Regional Development Australia Inland Northern NSW be appointed as the Secretariat for 2024

Moved - Inverell Shire Council Councillor - Paul Harmon

Seconded - Glen Innes Severn Council Councillor - Ron Banham

12. Setting of Annual Membership Fees

RESOLVED:

That the fees for the 2023/24 year be set at \$1,500 for Councils with a population of 10,000 and over, and Councils with a population of less than 10,000 paying 75% \$1,125.

Moved - Armidale Regional Council Councillor - Sam Coupland
Seconded - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

13. Meeting Dates for 2023

RESOLVED:

That the meeting dates for 2024 be 22 March, 10 May, 9 August and 15 November

Moved - Bland Shire Council Councillor - Brian Monaghan
Seconded - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

14. Executive

Following the count of the votes Cr Patrick Bourke was declared elected to the Executive for the 2023/24 year

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 am.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW

www.nswcountrymayors.com.au



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
Gunnedah Shire Council, PO Box 63,
Gunnedah NSW 2380
Contact: (02) 6740 2100
Email: jamiechaffey@infogunnedah.com.au

Minutes

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 24 November 2023 Theatrette, Parliament House, Sydney

The meeting opened at 8.32 am

1. Chairman's Welcome

2. Acknowledgement to Country

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

3. Attendance from Local Government

Albury City Council, Cr Kylie King, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Jess Jennings, Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council, Mr David Sherley, General Manager
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Mr Mark Griffioen, General Manager
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Mr Mark Dicker, General Manager
Bourke Shire Council, Cr Barry Hollman, Mayor
Bourke Shire Council, Ms Leone Brown, General Manager
Broken Hill City Council, Cr Jim Hickey, Deputy Mayor
Broken Hill City Council, Mr Jay Nankivell, General Manager
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor
Byron Shire Council, Mr Mark Arnold, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Central Darling Shire Council, Mr Robert Stewart, Administrator
Central Darling Shire Council, Mr Gregory Hill, General Manager
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Tim Horan, Mayor
Coonamble Shire Council, Mr Paul Gallagher, General Manager

Cowra Shire Council, Cr Ruth Fagan, Mayor
Cowra Shire Council, Mr Paul Devery, General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Eurobodalla Shire Council, Cr Mat Hatcher, Mayor
Federation Council, Cr Patrick Bourke, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Forbes Shire Council, Ms Haley Gould
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Matt Hearn
Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor
Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager
Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Rob Banham, Mayor
Glen Innes Severn Council, Mr Bernard Smith General Manager
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Peter Walker, Mayor
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO
Greater Hume Council, Cr Tony Quinn, Mayor
Greater Hume Council, Ms Evelyn Arnold, General Manager
Griffith City Council, Cr John Doug Curran, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor
Hilltops Council, Mr Anthony O'Reilly, General Manager
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Mr Brett McInness, General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Leo Hauville, Mayor
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, CEO
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Deputy Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor
Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Mr Gary Murphy, General Manager
MidCoast Council, Cr Claire Pontin, Mayor
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Mr Kelvin Tytherleigh, General Manager
Murrumbidgee Council, Cr Ruth McRae, Mayor
Murrumbidgee Council, Mr John Scarce, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Darrell Tiemens, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Robert Williams, General Manager
Narrandera Shire Council, Cr Neville Kschenka, Mayor
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Narromine Shire Council, Ms Jane Redden, General Manager
Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
Oberon Council, Mr Gary Wallace, General Manager
Orange City Council, Cr Jason Hamling, Mayor
Orange City Council, Mr David Waddell, General Manager
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor
Port Stephens Council, Mr Tim Crosdale, General Manager
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Cr Kenrick Winchester, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, CEO

Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council, Mr Jason Linnane, General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor
Snowy Valleys Council, Mr Matthew Hyde, General Manager
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Judy Coates, Deputy Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Temora Shire Council, Ms Melissa Boxall, General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Ms Alex Waldron, CEO
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, Mayor
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Toni Averay, General Manager
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Walcha Council, Mr Phil Hood, General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Paul Best, Deputy Mayor
Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council, Cr Matt Gould, Mayor
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr David Reynolds, CEO
LGNSW, Mr Damien Thomas, Director, Advocacy
LGNSW Ms Bronwen Regan, Manager Strategy

Parliamentarian Attendance

Hon Jenny Aitchison MP – Member for Maitland
Hon Adam Marshall – Member for Northern Tablelands
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC,
Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC
Hon Aileen McDonald MLC
Hon Jacqui Munro MLC
Dr Amanda Cohn, MLC
Mr Dave Layzell MP, Member for Upper Hunter
Mrs Tanya Thompson MP, Member for Myall Lakes
Mr Michael Regan MP, Member for Wakehurst

Apologies:

As submitted

Special Guests Speakers:

The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, Minister for the North Coast
The Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education
The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of The Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources
The Hon Damien Tudehope MLC, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations
The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Crown Land

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the General Meeting held on 4 August 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved - Forbes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

Seconded - Singleton Council Councillor - Sue Moore

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Nil

6. LGNSW Update Report

Cr Darriea Turley, President, LGNSW, introduced the new Board Members Rural/Regional and provided advice on the work of LGNSW since the CMA August meeting including LGNSW Annual Conference 2023 held on the 12-14 November, the IPART Review of rate pegging methodology, Adam Marshalls private members bill on the red fleet, protecting local water utilities parliamentary inquiry, funding for disaster recovery in the Central West, Biodiversity Conservation Act, housing roundtable proposal , select committee to examine Remote, Rural and Regional Health and funding boost for councils for walking and cycling gaps

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Moved - LGNSW President Councillor - Darriea Turley

Seconded - Shoalhaven City Council Councillor - Amanda Findley

7. ALGA Update Report

A written report was submitted by Cr Linda Scott, President, ALGA, outlining initiatives including the Grattan Institute report on local roads funding, new national packaging reforms, Local Roads Transport and Infrastructure Congress, Minister Bowen attending local governments climate change breakfast, and the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Moved - Parkes Shire Council Councillor - Ken Keith

Seconded - Temora Shire Council Councillor - Rick Firman

8. Membership

RESOLVED:

That Central Darling Shire Council be admitted as a member of the Association.

Moved - Inverell Shire Council Councillor - Paul Harmon

Seconded - Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Councillor - Kenrick Winchester

9. Correspondence

Outward

Lord Mayor Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Newcastle City Castle	Advising that Newcastle City Council has been admitted to the Association as an Associate Member
---	--

Cr Rick Firman, Chairman, Riverina Eastern Organisation of Councils	Advising that Riverina Eastern Organisation of Councils has been admitted to the Association as an Associate Member
Cr Matt Gould, Mayor Wollondilly Shire Council,	Advising that Wollondilly Shire Council has been admitted as a member of the Association
Cr Jay Suvaal, Mayor, Cessnock City Council	Advising that Cessnock City Council has been admitted as a member of the Association
The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier	Inviting him to present at the 24 November meeting
The Hon Penny Sharp MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural resources The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Leader of the Opposition The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Small Business Mr Simon Draper, CEO, NSW Reconstruction Authority	Thanking them for their presentations to the 4 August 2023 meeting
The Hon Pru Car MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, Minister for Western Sydney The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning, Shadow Minister for Western NSW The Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Mr Justin Clancy MP, Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Professor Mary O’Kane AC, Chair, Australian Universities Accord The Hon Fiona Nash, Commonwealth Regional Education Commissioner	Inviting them to be guest presenters at the Skills Forum to be held on the 23 November 2023
The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer The Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government The Hon Mark Speakman MP, Leader of the Opposition The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources The Hon Damien Tudehope MLC,	Inviting them to be guest presenters at the General Meeting to be held on the 24 November 2023

Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations Shadow Treasurer	
Mr Michael Sharpe, Director, AUZUS Forum, Chairman, Nuclear Taskforce	Chairman accepting invitation to join the advisory board of the Nuclear Taskforce
To all NSW Parliamentarians	Inviting them to attend meetings of Country Mayors Association
Dr Joe McGirr MP, Member for Wagga Wagga, Chairman Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health Professor Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner, Australian Department of Health and Aged Care Dr Michael Holland MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Secretary for Regional Health Ms Jill Ludford, Acting Deputy Secretary, NSW Regional Health Division, Chief Executive Murrumbidgee Local Health District Mr Jeremy Mitchell, Director Engagement, Rural Doctors Network Professor Len Bruce, Executive Director of Medical Services, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, and General Manager Wagga Wagga Base Hospital Dr Adam Yoosuff, Director of Primary Healthcare, Murrumbidgee Local health District Ms Christine Stephens Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery, Murrumbidgee Local Health District Hon Michael McCormack MP, Member for Riverina Ms Tanya Thompson MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health Mr Brendon Cutmore, Director Information and Performance Support, NSW Regional Health Division Ms Michelle Maxwell, Director Strategy, Governance and Delivery, NSW Regional Health Division Mr Matthew Thompson, Staff Specialist Geriatrician, Murrumbidgee Local Health District Ms Rosemary Garthwaite, District Manager for Aged Care, Murrumbidgee Local Health District	Thanking them for their presentations at the Wagga Wagga health Forum on the 14/15 September 2023

Inward

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged care	Regarding the Distribution Priority Area (DPOA) changes
The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC Shadow Minister for Families and Communities, Shadow Minister for Disability Inclusion, Shadow Minister for	Thanking the Association for forwarding its priorities document

Homelessness, Shadow Minister for Youth	
Office of Local Government	Regarding Rural Fire Services Assets and Qualified Audit Reports for 2021/2022

Media Releases

CMA Demands Equity for the Regions in the September Budget
Overwhelming Support for Private Members Bill
And the Winner is Western Sydney
Councils Seeking Answers to Growing Health Concerns
Joint Call for Parliamentary Inquiry to Address Crime in Regional NSW
Country Women's Association Backs CMA Call for Inquiry into crime, Law and Order in Regional NSW

Submissions, Communique, Action Required

Submission Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023
Submission Inquiry into Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation
Report on Crime, Law and Order, Regional and Rural NSW
Cr Phyllis Miller and GM Steve Loane Forbes Shire, on behalf of Country Mayors, appearing before the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee 2 Inquiry into the current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land and water quality in NSW
Communique September Rural health Forum
Communique 4 August 2023 meeting
Action Required Adam Marshall Private Members Bill Red Fleet

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted

Moved - Gunnedah Shire Council Councillor - Jamie Chaffey

Seconded - Kempsey Shire Council Councillor - Leo Hauville

10. Signing of updated MOU between Country Mayors Association and LGNSW

The MOU was signed by Cr Darriea Turley, President Local Government NSW and Cr Jamie Chaffey, Chairman Country Mayors Association of NSW for a further two years.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 8.55am to hold the Annual General Meeting

The General Meeting was recommenced at 9.35am

11. Financial Report

RESOLVED:

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

Moved - Singleton Council Councillor - Sue Moore

Seconded - Parkes Shire Council Councillor - Phyllis Miller

12. The Hon Damien Tudehope MLC, Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

The Country Mayors Association is a united advocacy group and the opposition appreciates its input. As a previous Minister for small business during the drought periods in 2019-2021 he travelled extensively in regional and rural NSW and worked with the communities. Drought has a continuing affect on small communities due to lack of spending. As a government they invested heavily in regional NSW as a way of creating jobs and renewing the economy.

In the last two weeks the Federal Government has shown it has little idea on how to stimulate the economy announcing the cutting of funding drastically of projects that will affect local government. How does the State Government plan when the Commonwealth does not involve them in the discussions. This will have a continuing impact on local communities. Regional NSW will be left behind and regional communities should not have an unfair reduction because of this. A lot of work is being done with renewable energy zones but communities are not being consulted.

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

The government is working on drought preparedness and what they can do as they don't want to do things on the eleventh hour. The Minister has been touring NSW to make sure communities are aware of the possibilities of drought in 2024. Free places for water technicians have been announced and Water NSW has been working with local authorities in respect of dams. The Government wants to replenish funding for water fund projects.

Some projects approved in 2019 and subsequent years have not been started. These need to get going and if councils are having problems preventing work starting such as conditions let's talk about it and negotiate. Mental Health will be challenging and people will struggle as we move into drier conditions. Housing is a priority for the Government and we know that the regionals are important. There is a dedicated fund for regional housing and we are looking at social housing modules for short term housing solutions.

14. The Hon Chris Minns MP, Premier

The most important thing a government can do is listen. The last 12 months have been challenging with disasters and other events. The budget includes \$3.8billion for health, \$3.4billion for education, and \$8.2billion for cost of living measures and the success of NSW depends on regional NSW. Agriculture alone adds \$23billion to the economy. The Government wants to see long time success with jobs and financial sustainability of local government is important. A hightech metal strategy is being introduced and transition to a renewable energy economy is taking place. The government wants to listen to regional and rural NSW and when parliament is not sitting the Premier tries to visit country centres.

15. Presentation of Scholarship Award

The Country Mayors Scholarship Award is to be awarded to a staff member of the runner up Council of the Regional and Rural Bluett Award. The award was presented to Haley Gould, Forbes Shire Council.

16. Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

The Minister outlined the doubling of funds for Roads to Recovery from \$500million to \$1billion, the commitment to Black Spots from \$100million to \$150million and the Renewing Bridges Program and the Community Infrastructure Program being combined with a budget of \$1billion.

17. The Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education

There is a lot of work to be done in skills and a lot of opportunities in reskilling as well as training school leavers. TAFE has had a tough decade but the government is working with TAFE to be more pertinent to their communities. Australia wide 213,000 people need to gain skills over the next 7 years. The National Skills Agreement with the Commonwealth is a five year agreement which gives certainty to TAFE and a VET review is being undertaken.

Closing the Gap is a high priority. Equality and access will provide opportunities for rural NSW. There is a large backlog of maintenance works of TAFE's and additional funds are being allocated. A strategic look at what TAFE's skills are and what is to be provided to their communities is being undertaken.

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

With multiculturalism we can do better with the State and Commonwealth working together. Immigrant families could get a visa to stay with family members and there would not be any need for additional housing. It was very disappointing to see the Federal Government quitting projects of importance such as the Great Western Highway and other important projects. The State Government needs to direct more funding to regional NSW. The Resources for Regions needs to be allocated extra resources. Councils have spent large amounts of money for funding applications. The Opposition will fight for the programs introduced by the Coalition Government that have been abandoned to be reintroduced.

19. Regional Development Trust Advisory Council

RESOLVED:

That Country Mayors make representations to the NSW Government seeking advice on what representation local Government such as LGNSW and/or Country Mayors will have on the Regional Development Trust Advisory Council

Moved - Gilgandra Shire Council Councillor - Doug Batten
Seconded - Armidale Regional Council Councillor - Sam Coupland

20. Presentation To Secretariat Allan Burgess

A presentation was made to the Retiring Secretariat Allan Burgess in recognition of his service to the Association.

21. Recognition of Departing Mayor Cr John Medcalf

A presentation was made to Cr John Medcalf for his work as a delegate to the Association and his contribution to the Executive Committee

22. The Hon Steph Cooke MP, Shadow Minister for Water Shadow Minister For Crown Lands

The Shadow Ministers plan was to bring forward projects and concerns with the new Minister with the hope that the Labor Government would pick up where the coalition finished but that has not happened. The Sydney and Hunter Water Act needs amendments to it and the coalition is making representations to the Inquiry. The Coalition is also making representations to the Water Initiative. The Murray Darling Basin Plan has been rewritten to give the Commonwealth more scope to buy back water.

The Wyangala Dam wall raising has been axed that would have provided water security and flood mitigation. The Safe and Secure Water Program is a major failure for the regions. With Regional Water Strategies the robustness of the strategies are in doubt. There is a fear that the Government doesn't understand that water is important for growth and security. The Coalition would like to work with Country Mayors members to identify what are the top three water security areas of each council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.04pm.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW

For further information, contact Cr Jamie Chaffey on 0467 402 412

www.nswcountrymayors.com.au



Item 12:

Questions with Notice



There are no Questions on Notice for
December 2023



Item 13:

Referral to Closed Council Meeting



Item: 13A **Ref:** WO/2023/02110
Title: Referral to Closed Meeting – Tender Evaluation – Design & Construct Old Brookmount & Hazeldean Causeways W22/223
Author: Executive Assistant
Previous Items: Nil.
Attachment: Nil.

RECOMMENDATION: That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*,

1. The matter of Tender Evaluation W22/223 Design & Construct Old Brookmount and Hazeldean Causeways be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
2. Council RESOLVE INTO Closed Council and the press and public be excluded.

Introduction:

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

Report:

Council approval is requested to refer matters for discussion in Closed Council and close the Meeting to the public in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Approval to refer the matters to Closed Council is sought because the reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.