



**BUSINESS PAPER**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

To be held on

**Wednesday 24 April 2024**

commencing at

**3:00pm**

at

**Walcha Council Chambers**

Members:

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

Quorum – 4 Members to be Present

**AGENDA**

Submitted to Council: 24 April 2024

..... 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, 24 April 2024** commencing at **3.00pm**.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Hood  
General Manager

**STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS:**

The Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath / Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their duties in the best interests of the people of Walcha Council community and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act or any other Act, to the best of their skill and judgement.

Council Officials are also reminded of the requirement declare and appropriately manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to matters considered at this meeting in accordance with Council’s Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.

**NOTICE:**

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:**

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

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	Nil

Submitted to Council: 24 April 2024

..... General Manager ..... Mayor



6.	Senior Officers Reports	
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7. Notice of Motion

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(Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).

9.	Management Review Report	
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9.2	Infrastructure & Development	WO/2024/00677
9.3	Corporate & Community	WO/2024/00569

10. Committee Reports  
Nil

11.	Delegates Reports	
11.1	Draft Minutes of the District Liaison Committee – New England Rural Fire Service Meeting held on Thursday 29 February 2024 at the New England Fire Control Centre.	

12.	Questions on Notice	
12.1	Solid Waste – Woolbrook & Nowendoc Waste Transfer Operation Costs	WO/2024/00682

13. Closed Council  
13.1 Nil.

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

Resolution to move into Open Council.

Resolution to adopt Closed Council Report and Recommendations.

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Submitted to Council: 24 April 2024

..... General Manager ..... Mayor



# Item 2: Previous Minutes



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 27 March 2024

at

3:05pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

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

**PRESENT:** Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors MA Berry, KW Ferrier, NF Hicks (via Audio Visual Link), SJ Kermode, AC Pointing and A Reilly.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr PE Hood – General Manager, Mr AS Butler – Director Infrastructure & Development, Mr CC Martin – Director – Corporate & Community and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant and Mr JR McDonald – Manager Roads.

**1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Nil.

MINUTES



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**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024:**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024:**

159 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2024 AND the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 11 March 2024, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR AUDIO VISUAL LINK ATTENDANCE:**

**4.1 Request by Clr Hicks to Attend Meeting by Audio Visual Link**

160 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Ferrier that Council **APPROVE** the request from Clr Hicks to attend Council's Ordinary Meeting being today, Wednesday 27 March 2024, via audio visual link due to her being medically unfit to travel.

**5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

Nil.

**CHANGE OF ORDER:**

161 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Noakes and Berry that the Order of Business be altered to bring the Closed Council Items through to be discussed now.

**13. CLOSED COUNCIL**

**13.1 Referral to Closed Council – New England Weeds Authority Request for Security Guarantee WO/2024/00500**

162 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Pointing that Council:

1. in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A(2)(g) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the matter of New England Weeds Authority Request for Security Guarantee be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the report relates to



advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;

2. **RESOLVE INTO** Closed Council and the press and the public be excluded.

The Council moved into Closed Council at 3:07pm.

163 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** at 3:18pm on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Hicks.

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

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

### **3.1 New England Weeds Authority Request for Security Guarantee**

**WO/2024/00490**

CC042/20232024 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council:

1. **AUTHORISE** the provision of a guarantee as security for loan funding provided to the New England Weeds Authority;
2. That the amount of the guarantee, to be provided to the Commonwealth Bank, shall be \$119, 843 calculated in proportion to the Council's member contributions for the coming financial year, relative to the total member contributions of all four (4) constituent Councils: Glen Innes Severn, Armidale Regional, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils;
3. That the Mayor and the General Manager are authorised to execute the loan security documents provided by the Commonwealth Bank.
4. That authorisation is provisional on receipt of written notice of resignation of all current members of the New England Weeds Authority County Council.

## **6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

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





**6.1 Appoint Community Representatives to Advisory Committees**

**WO/2024/00483**

165 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Ferrier that Council **APPOINT:**

1. Fiona Barden and Glen O'Brien to the Walcha Council Motorcycle Rally Advisory Committee;
2. Shannon Green-Griffen, Garry Towney, Valma (Sue) Green and Bernadine Green to the Walcha Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee;
3. Katie Street and Melanie Oppenheimer to the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee.

**6.2 Review of Multiple Policies**

**WO/2024/00498**

166 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council **REVOKE** the following Policies:

1. Aids and Local Government Policy;
2. Award Restructuring Policy;
3. Cost Recovery – Damage to Council Property Policy;
4. Council – Senior Officers Policy;
5. Debtors – Ready Mix Concrete;
6. "D" Division of the Shires Association of NSW Policy;
7. Insurances Policy;
8. Legal Action Policy;
9. Management Audit Policy;
10. Minutes Policy;
11. Over or Under Budget Policy;
12. Plant – Private Use Policy;
13. Senior Staff Appointments – Degree of Consultation Policy;
14. Staff – Clerical, Engineering & Health Policy;
15. Staff General Policy;
16. Wet Weather Pay Policy;
17. Working Funds and Reserves Policy; and
18. Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy.

**Motion:**

It was **MOVED** Clr Kermode Seconded Clr Ferrier that Council **REVOKE** the Section 355 Committee Policy.





On putting to the **VOTE** the **Motion** was **LOST**.

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil.

**8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS**

**9.1 Office of the General Manager**

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

**9.2 Infrastructure & Development**

168 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Reilly that the items included in the Infrastructure & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

**9.3 Corporate & Community**

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

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at Council Chambers WO/2024/00243

10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Local Traffic Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 7 March 2024 at Council Chambers. WO/2024/00480

**11. DELEGATE REPORTS**

Nil.



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**12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Clr Eric Noakes – Director Infrastructure & Development – Solid Waste – Woolbrook Waste Facility**

A report on the costs of running this facility and the behaviour of people using the facility. Waste dumping, gate open, etc.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:05PM.**



# **Item 3:**

# **Business**

# **Arising from**

# **Previous**

# **Minutes**



# **Item 4: Declarations of Interest & Requests for Attendance via Audio Visual link**



# Item 5: Mayoral Minute



There was no Mayoral Minute submitted for  
April 2024 at time of print.



# Item 6:

# Senior Officers' Reports

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





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**Item:** 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2024/00678  
**Title:** DRAFT 2023-2024 Operational Plan for Public Exhibition  
**Author:** Director Corporate & Community  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** Under Separate Cover  
DRAFT 2024-2025 Operational Plan  
- Budget;  
- Fees & Charges; and  
- Revenue Policy.

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**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.*

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**RECOMMENDATION:** **That Council:**

- 1. PLACE the proposed Draft 2024-2025 Operational Plan inclusive of the budget, fees and charges and revenue policy, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with section 404 and 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993*; and**
  - 2. REQUEST a further report to be submitted at the completion of the public exhibition period detailing any submissions received during exhibition or any minor changes are proposed for Council's consideration and final adoption.**
- 

**Introduction:**

In accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines Council is required to adopt an Operational Plan on an annual basis. A draft Operational Plan, including the 2022-2025 Delivery Program, will be placed on exhibition to inform the community of the financial operations of the Council and the project works that are scheduled for the 2024-2025 financial year.

**Report:**

As per the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements, the following documents will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days commencing from Monday 29 April through to Monday 17 June 2024:

- **ATTACHMENT 1:** DRAFT 2024-2025 Operational Plan including:
  - Budget



- Fees and Charges, and
- Revenue Policy

Legal Implications:

As per the Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines this report will comply with the community consultation required to ensure that the Operational Plan delivers against the targets set out in the ten year Community Strategic Plan.

Financial Implications:

Councils draft 2024-2025 operational budget, fees and charges and revenue policy are included in this report for community consultation.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

- NSW *Local Government Act 1993* as amended;
- NSW *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*;
- NSW Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines 2013.



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**Item:** 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2024/00608  
**Title:** Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** Draft Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy – WINT/24/1626

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**Community Strategic Plan Reference:**

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

**Action 6.4.1.1:** *Review and support Council's use of renewable energy opportunities.*

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**RECOMMENDATION:** **That Council:**

- 1. ENDORSE the Draft Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy and PLACE on public exhibition for 28 days;**
  - 2. ADOPT the Draft Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy as presented subject to no submissions received during the public exhibition period;**
  - 3. DEVELOP the Terms of Reference and Constitution for the proposed Renewable Energy Community Advisory Committee.**
- 

**Introduction:**

Increasing numbers of renewable energy projects are planned with the Walcha Council LGA in various stages of the State assessment process. Planning Agreements will typically be entered into with renewable energy developers to secure community benefits. These future community benefit payments are a once in a generation opportunity to deliver long term community legacy projects.

It is important for Council to establish a strategic framework in which to effectively manage community benefit payments in the best interests of the community. It is recommended that Council implements a number of key measures including:

- Creating a Renewable Energy Community Benefit Restricted Fund;
- Establishing a Renewable Energy Community Advisory Committee to provide advice to Council on community legacy projects to be funded from future renewable energy community benefit payments; and
- Calling for public nominations for membership of the Renewable Energy Community Advisory Committee.

Council have yet to adopt a Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy and this report is to commence the process to do so.



## **Report:**

A number of renewable energy projects in the Walcha LGA are in various stages of assessment and Council is currently negotiating a planning agreement with Winterbourne Wind to formalise future community benefit from this project. Once executed, the planning agreements will provide certainty about future community benefit payments for each project. It is anticipated that our neighbouring New England Councils will also develop similar community advisory committees and there may be an opportunity to collaborate on terms of reference and committee structure as these are progressed given some of the REZ developments cross LGA boundaries.

It is important that Council establishes a strong governance framework around future renewable energy community benefit payments. Accordingly, it is recommended that Council creates a Renewable Energy Community Benefit Restricted Fund for all community benefit payments until allocated to approved legacy community benefit projects.

The NSW Government exhibited the Draft Renewable Energy Planning Policy Framework and Guidelines from 14 November 2023 to 29 January 2024. The draft documents have not yet been finalised but can be accessed via this link: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/renewable-energy/energy-policy-framework>

The draft Benefit Sharing Guideline notes that the total funding for benefit sharing should be as follows:

- \$850 per megawatt per annum for solar energy development; or
- \$1,050 per megawatt per annum for wind energy development, paid over the life of the development and indexed to CPI.

It is recommended that Council's Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy align with the State's draft Benefit Sharing Guideline and recent Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM) discussions.

### Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### Environmental Implications:



There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

The Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy provides a framework for Council to negotiate community benefit payments with renewable energy developers. The proposed Renewable Energy Community Benefit Restricted Fund will ensure appropriate governance and accounting processes are in place for the administration of future community benefit payments.



# WALCHA COUNCIL

## ADMINISTRATION POLICY

### DRAFT Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy

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#### Applicability

All Councillors and Council Staff

#### Publication Requirement

Internal and External

#### Assigned Responsible Officer

General Manager

#### Document Status

Version	Date Reviewed	Prepared by	Endorsed	Approved
1.0	10 April 2024	Executive Assistant		

#### Amendment Record

Amendment Version #	Date Reviewed	Description of Amendment



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## 1. PLANNING AGREEMENTS

Walcha Council will use the Planning Agreement provisions of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act) to deliver the objectives of the Policy.

S 7.4(1) of the EP&A Act states: A planning agreement is a voluntary agreement between Council and a developer, who has made, or proposes to make, a development application, under which the developer is required to dedicate land free of cost; pay a monetary contribution; provide any other material public benefit to be used for or applied towards a public purpose.

## 2. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Section 1.3 of the EP&A Act provides legislative basis for the Policy.

Subdivision 2 of the EP&A Act provides the legislative basis for planning agreements.

## 3. OBJECTIVE

The Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy will support the promotion of benefit sharing strategies associated with the development of State Significant and Regionally Significant renewable energy projects in the Walcha Council Local Government Area that:

- Secure off-site benefits for the community so that renewable energy development delivers a net community benefit;
- Ensure that the wider community shares in the benefits resulting from renewable energy development in the Local Government Area; and
- Ensure that the costs and benefits of renewable energy development will be equitably distributed within the community and inter-generationally.

## 4. COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Community benefit excludes that which is required to mitigate adverse impacts of development including, but not limited to, host and adjoining landowner payments required to obtain consent or prescribed by legislation, or acute impacts to Council owned transport infrastructure.

The public purpose that funds will be applied to includes works to embellish public spaces, the provision of spaces for public recreation and community facilities, initiatives to support affordable housing and/or development activity, works to rehabilitate or conserve biodiversity values, new community infrastructure, support of local volunteer or community group activities or some other public purpose if the Council reasonably considers that the public interest would be better served by applying the funds towards that purpose.



Community benefit does not include using funds as a off-set or subsidy to Council operational activities, whereby the benefit is only achieved by proxy of benefitting Council as a public entity and a direct link from the funds to the prescribed community benefit cannot be defined.

## 5. GOVERNANCE AND INTER-GENERATIONAL EQUITY

Council will ensure a governance structure that as far as possible reflects the needs and concerns of the immediate communities of impact and the broader Local Government Area to assist with determining the public purpose for funds.

A Community Benefit Advisory Committee will provide advice to Council on the projects to which community benefit funds may be allocated. While project proposals and community initiatives may come from any source, the Community Benefit Advisory Committee will have the opportunity to provide feedback and/or endorsement for any and all uses of the Community Benefit Fund.

Developer representatives from where the community benefit funds are derived will not form part of the Committee, but will have the ongoing opportunity to present to the Committee in regards to specific projects or initiatives.

Council ultimately have the final say in regards to the use of the funds. The Community Benefit Advisory Committee have no delegated authority to spend monies from the Community Benefit Fund and can only advise on its use to Council.

## 6. COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The financial value of community benefit will vary from project to project and over time, however, the minimum community threshold for Walcha Council will be based on the NSW Government's Benefit Sharing Guidelines for renewable energy.

Funds will be kept as externally restricted funds, and the use of said funds will form part of Council's Annual Report so that there is transparency regarding their use.

Council will manage funds to ensure that they benefit future generations as well as the present generation, and that ongoing depreciation and maintenance costs, or any other unforeseen impacts, are taken into account for project proposals.

The use of funds from individual developer contributions, or other sources, will be monitored and form part of the annual reporting process, such that the specific funding breakdown for each community project or initiative is clear.



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**Item:** 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2024/00604  
**Title:** Regional Meetings 2024 – Annual Meetings with Residents – Proposed Schedule  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** No

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**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.*

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council APPROVE the Regional Meetings Schedule for 2024 as follows:

**Monday 13 May 2024:**

**11:30am** Moona/Winterbourne – Europambela Shearers Quarters

**02:30pm** Ingleba Hall

**05:00pm** Woolbrook AIF Memorial Hall

**Wednesday 15 May 2024:**

**09:00am** Yarrowitch Hall

**11:30am** “Brockley Park” Shed

**02:30pm** Nowendoc Hall

**06:00pm** Walcha Bowling Club

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**Introduction:**

This report is submitted to enable Council to finalise arrangements for this year’s series of meetings with residents around the Walcha Local Government Area.

**Report:**

Following from last year Council will again hold our annual Regional Meetings in May. The timing of the meetings is intentionally designed to align with the exhibition period for the 2024-2025 Operational Plan, which include the Revenue Policy and Budget, allowing residents to provide their feedback to Councillors and Council officers directly. Council will provide further information during the regional meetings in regards to content from our related Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Plans and Workforce Management Plan, though this suite of Resource Management documents will actually be finalised and tabled at the subsequent May Council meeting.

In addition to feedback on the budget, Council will also be undertaking a Community Satisfaction Survey which is part of our end-of-term obligations under Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R).



Further, Council will be seeking feedback on our draft Renewable Energy Community Benefit Fund Policy, Local Road & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) fund Phase 4 works schedule, and potential LGA boundary adjustment in the Woolbrook area.

The Regional Meetings also provide an opportunity to provide information in regards to upcoming Council elections in September. For the election to be held on 14 September 2024, there will no longer be any wards, and Council are anticipating at least 5 of 8 Councillors to be new. This presents a great opportunity for members of the community to consider nominating for Council who may not have done so before, and an ability to discuss what it means to be a Councillor with our current serving members.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

The main aim of these meetings is to meet with the community of Walcha in their own environment. This is to touch base, update the Community on Council business, glean feedback from the Community on proposed operations and to give the Community an opportunity to talk directly to the Executive Staff and Councillors.

Policy Implications:

As per the *Local Government Act, 1993*, Council must public exhibit the Draft Budget, Fees & Charges and Revenue Policy for a minimum of 28 days. The public exhibition period will be slightly longer this year as Council endorse the Draft documents in April with the view to adopt them in June. The public exhibition period will run from Monday 29 April to Friday 14 June 2024 (46 days).



**Item:** 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2024/00681  
**Title:** Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Phase 4 Priority List (LRCI)  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** No

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**Community Strategic Plan Reference:**

**Goal 1.1** – Walcha will be serviced by an integrated and efficient transport network.

**Goal 5.3** – Walcha’s cultural identity will be enhanced.

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

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- 1) Obtain community feedback in regards to the allocation of Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding Phase 4
- 2) Consider feedback and endorse LRCI Phase 4 Works Schedule for submission to the Commonwealth Government, and;
- 3) Update the 2024-2025 Operating Plan and Budget for adoption accordingly.

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**Introduction:**

Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding Phase 4 is the final round of non-competitive grant funding that was provided to Councils from the Commonwealth Government as a means to deliver ‘priority local road and community infrastructure projects’. Phase 4 is available now and must be expended by the end of the 2024-2025 financial year. The amount allocated to Walcha Council is **\$933,157** and is comprised of two parts:

Part A - **\$591,796** for approved local road and community infrastructure projects, and;

Part B - **\$341,361** for approved road projects in regional, rural and outer-urban areas.

Previous works undertaken via previous rounds of LRCI Funding include:

■ Middle, North & Pakington Street Kerb & Gutter -	\$526,830
■ Rose Garden Stage 2 (Stonework fencing) -	\$ 45,000
■ Aberbaldie Road Heavy Patching -	\$147,600
■ Gravel Resheeting works -	\$513,877
■ Truckwash Bay (contribution) -	\$252,000
■ Walcha Gym (contribution) -	\$225,200
■ Urban Roads Resealing -	\$174,000

Due to the flexible and non-competitive nature of the LRCI funding, Council have prioritised other sources of funding for our capital works schedule in the 2024-2025 financial year. The draft budget is now completed with the *exception* of allocation of LRCI Phase 4 for 2024-2025 – giving the community an opportunity for direct input to this funding while the budget is on public exhibition during May 2024.



## Report:

Understandably, previous rounds of LRCI have prioritised road infrastructure funding. The most significant expenditure on community projects (truck wash bay, Walcha gym) was allocated during Phase 2 to fill funding gaps in committed projects already funded by other sources.

In the 2024-2025 budget Council has a large grant funding allocation to capital road infrastructure works, including:

■ Derby Street Upgrade -	\$6,000,000
■ Urban Roads Local -	\$1,000,000
■ Thunderbolts Way -	\$ 600,000
■ Sealed Local Rural Roads -	\$1,150,000
■ Unsealed Local Rural Roads -	\$ 740,000
■ LRCI (Roads – TBD) -	\$ 341,361

This is in addition to allocations for operation and maintenance expenditure (\$4,347,057), bridge replacement projects and expenditure on the Oxley Highway via Councils Roads Maintenance Contract with Transport for NSW (\$2,000,000).

## Road Infrastructure

Council's renewal forecast for road infrastructure based on our adopted 2023-2024 Asset Management Plan is approximately \$2,700,000 per year. Excluding Derby Street, Council have budgeted \$3,831,361 for 2024-2025 – i.e. exceeding our target for that year. Additional road infrastructure works will help address any 'backlog' road renewal works and improve overall network condition, however will need to be done via contracted resources only as Council is already at its limit in terms of delivering works via internal resources.

Based on the LRCI Part A and Part B requirements, at least \$341,361 needs to be spent on road infrastructure. One possible project could be Churchill Street Rehab (est. \$368,000) which would meet our requirements for Part B.

Part A could be allocated to various contracted road infrastructure activity including gravel resheeting, additional kerb and gutter, or possibly contribute to bridge replacement works where there is a Fixing Country Bridges funding gap for Winterbourne Road and Mooraback Road Bridges (discussions currently underway with the funding body).

## Community Infrastructure

There are two major Community Infrastructure projects with allocations in the 2024-2025 Budget, being the Walcha Skate Park Precinct and Walcha Swimming Pool Upgrade – both funded by the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) fund. Both projects have tendered cost estimates that exceed remaining BLER budgets. The Skate Park Precinct requiring at least \$500,000 to complete the committed scope and the Pool requiring well over \$1,000,000 to complete identified improvement works.



Both projects have pending 'Growing Regions' funding applications that would enable Council to deliver both projects with accessing LRCI. Unfortunately, Council have not received the outcome of these applications at the time of budget preparation.

Should 'Growing Regions' be unsuccessful, LRCI Phase 4 (Part A) could be used to fund delivery of the Skate Park Precinct – Council have a preferred tenderer ready to deliver works as soon as funding is available. For the Pool, the nature of the works means that Council could 'de-scope' leak reduction and concrete replacement to fit the current \$1.1M BLER funding allocation – leaving further works for the future. Though it is still an option to allocate a portion of LRCI to this purpose as well.

Via the Arts Advisory Committee, Council resolved to consider two art projects in the 2024-2025 budget using LRCI funds – being the Hospital Wall Mural (\$15,000) and the undertaking of a new sculpture adjacent to the Shirley Davison Bridge (\$50,000).

Finally, there is a funding shortfall to deliver all three pathways projects – Town, Darjeeling Road, and Summervale. Council will liaise with the funding body in the first instance to either obtain more funding or 'de-scope' the pathways works in order to fit our grant funded budget, through LRCI could also be utilised for this purpose if desired.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

Allocation of this funding will not impact Council's bottom line as the money is non-competitive and already committed to Walcha Council.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

Whether this money is allocated to road infrastructure or community projects will have implications for the community. Council is tasked with maintaining a sustainable Council and ensuring we are maintaining and renewing our assets, while also delivering on our community goals in regards to health and wellbeing, recreation and culture.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.





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**Item:** 6.5 **Ref:** WO/2024/00617  
**Title:** Follow Up – Review of Minimum Age for Community Gym Membership  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** No

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**Community Strategic Plan Reference:**  
**Action 5.6.1:** *Manage sporting facilities.*

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council **RETAIN** the minimum age for Walcha Council's Community Gym membership at 16 years old.

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**Introduction:**

Council considered a request to review the minimum age for Council's Community Gym memberships in February 2024. This request was received from a community member who requested that the minimum age be lowered to 14 or 15 years old with additional conditions.

**Report:**

Council considered all aspects of the request, including review of a previous report to the Community Gym Advisory Committee to consider the usage by persons under 16. The Committee at that time deemed that *'whilst it is important to attract young persons to the gym and to live an active lifestyle, the risk is too great to reduce the age limit to below 16'*. Setting the age limit at 16 was also undertaken in consultation with Council's insurer at the time.

In the February 2024 Council Meeting, Council resolved to refer the request to Council's Audit Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) for their input and advice, and the request to come back to Council for determination on a future date.

During the ARIC Meeting held on Monday 4 March 2024 the request was discussed. The Committee noted that while the current policy has an age limit of 16, anyone under the age of 18 is considered by law to be a minor. There are already moderate risk elements to the age limit of 16 without supervision, that would only be exacerbated by reducing this limit further. Reducing the limit would likely require further policy changes regarding supervision – currently the gym is unmanned and unsupervised.

On balance, the recommendation is to leave the current policy and age restrictions as they are.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.



Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

Although it is thought that by reducing the minimum age it allows greater access to Council's gym facilities this gym is unmanned and the minimum age is set for a reason, after consideration by both the previous Advisory Committee and the Council's ARIC the minimum age of 16 years is proposed to stay.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



# Item 7:

# Notice of Motions



# There are no Notice of Motions for April 2024



# 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



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## 9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2024/00672

**Responsible Executive:** General Manager

**Attachment:** Action List March 2024 – WO/2024/00547

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**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.*

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

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### 1. RESOLUTIONS ACTION LIST

See attached report.



# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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

60/1819	<b>6.6 On-site Sewage Management Strategy Implementation WO/2018/02306</b> that Council postpone the implementation of the On-site Sewage Management Strategy until the next financial year.	<del>DED</del> <b>DID</b>	Review <del>30062022</del> 31032023 <del>Sept-2023</del> Dec 2024	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. New Planning Manager recruited, this task will now be able to progress.
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## Extra Ordinary – 22 May 2019

167/1819	<b>2.2 Planning Proposal 2 Annual Review WO/2019/01107</b> 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.	<del>DED</del> <b>DID</b>	<del>31012023</del> June-2023 <del>Aug-2023</del> April 2024 Aug 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. New Planning Manager start date 22 April 2024.
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	<p>2. Request Delegation under section 3.36(2) of the <i>Environmental Planning &amp; Assessment Act 1979</i> to make the final instrument.</p> <p>3. Submit the drafted Planning Proposal for a Gateway Determination.</p>				
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168/1819 <b>22 May 2019</b>	<p><b>Motion:</b> It was <b>MOVED</b> Clr Heazlett <b>Seconded</b> 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 <b>FORESHADOWED</b> Motion Clr Lyon that the portion of Lot 8 currently zoned Industrial be rezoned 'public recreation'. The Original Motion was put to the <b>VOTE</b> and <b>CARRIED</b>.</p>	<b>DED</b> <b>DID</b>	<del>31012023</del> <del>June 2023</del> <del>Aug 2023</del> April 2024 Aug 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. New Planning Manager start date 22 April 2024</p>
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## Ordinary – 31 July 2019

6/20192020	<p><b>6.3 Crown Land Management Plan Preparation WO/2019/01134</b> 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>	<b>DED</b> <b>DID</b>	<del>30062023</del> <del>30062024</del> Aug 2024	As per resolution.	<p>Underway.</p> <p>Extension granted for 12 months.</p> <p>To be completed by June 2024</p>
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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2. Request ministerial consent from NSW Department of Industry—Lands & Water to manage land known as:
  - a. Woolbrook Rubbish Tip - 104 Campfire Road, Woolbrook - Lot 238 DP 753846 being Reserve 82854
  - b. Walcha General Cemetery - 169-179 Darjeeling Road, Walcha - Lot 1 DP 1088076 and Lot 7042 DP 1122396 being Reserve 1018788, Lot 7027 DP 1075451 and Lot 1 DP 117825 being Reserve 1018768
  - c. Old Rubbish Depot - Oxley Highway, Walcha Road - Lot 132 DP 753846 and Lot 7300 DP 1136219 being Reserve 89912
  - d. Waste Transfer Station - 49 Aerodrome Road, Walcha - Lot 532 DP 756502 being Reserve 51457, Lot 7007 DP 1057278 being Reserve 63519 and Lot 7017 DP 1057279 being Reserve 70192.
  - e. Woolbrook Cemetery - 119 Campfire Road, Woolbrook - Lot 7011 DP 94017 being Reserve 1018428
  - f. Walcha Catholic Cemetery - 219E Oxley Drive, Walcha - Lot 7002 DP 94214 being Reserve 43749 and Lot 7004 DP 94215 being Reserve 63559
  - g. Nowendoc Waste Transfer Station - 47 Tops Road, Nowendoc - Lot 171 DP 753691 being Reserve 83987

# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	<p>h. Yarowitch Showground - 92 Upper Yarowitch River Road, Yarowitch - Part Lot 125 DP 756475 being Reserve 94641</p> <p>i. Nowendoc Cemetery - 7817 Thunderbolts Way, Nowendoc - Lot 7301 DP 1134898 being Reserve 1016508</p> <p>j. Old Oxley RFS Shed - 6432 Brackendale Road, Nowendoc - Lot 157 DP 753691 being Reserve 95794</p> <p>land as "operational" as per Section 3.22 of the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>.</p> <p>3 Delegate the General Manager authority to:</p> <p>a) Assign the relevant categories to each parcel of Crown Land considered to have a classification of "community" land as per Section 3.23 of the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>,</p> <p>b) Obtain native title manager advice as per the provisions of Part 8 of the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>,</p> <p>c) Consult the NSW Dept of Industry Lands &amp; Water on the content of the draft Walcha Crown Land Management Plan for Council consideration prior to Public Exhibition.</p>				
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## Ordinary – 24 February 2021

194/20202021	<p><b>10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held at Council Chambers on Friday, 12 February 2021</b></p> <p><b>WO/2021/00517</b></p> <p>Item 3.8 – Caravan Access to Water</p>	<p><del>DI</del></p> <p><b>DID</b></p>	<p><del>30122022</del></p> <p><del>31032023</del></p> <p>Dec-2023</p> <p>Apr-2024</p> <p>Aug 2024</p>	<p>DI to investigate options for caravan access to water and present back to Council.</p>	<p>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</p>
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	that Council provide a dedicated drinking water refill point separate from dump point tap.				introduced by designating a fill point for specific purpose. Grant money being sought Currently no finding available under ongoing review
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## Ordinary – 29 September 2021

36/20212022	<p><b>6.3 Heritage Listing Removal from Walcha LEP Request – 2N Middle Street Walcha – Mrs L Green</b></p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove heritage listing (1017 – being Lot A DP 159627 known as 2N Middle Street Walcha) from Schedule 5 of the <i>Walcha Local Environmental Planning Plan 2012</i>, and</li> <li>2. Advise the land owner that:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>DED</b> <b>DID</b></p>	<p>31032021 <del>Aug 2023</del> Apr 2024 Aug 2024</p>	<p>Organise the removal of heritage listing of property from LEP 2012 Schedule 5. Advise owner of resolution options.</p>	<p>Owner visited Council March 2022 and advised they are happy for removal to be included in next house keeping Planning Proposal of Council.</p> <p>No date scheduled for next House Keeping Planning Proposal at this stage.</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. New Planning Manager start date 22 April 2024</p>
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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## Ordinary – 27 October 2021

<p>59/20212022 27 Oct 2021</p>	<p><b>6.2 Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan WINT/2021/08887</b></p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt the <i>Draft Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019</i> which includes the following amendments:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Minimal editing and word changes to correct grammar, identification of development controls and to ensure state agency referencing is correct</li> <li>b. Clause 14.6 – Visual Amenity Impacts– Replace the reference to the Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust’s <i>Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Stage 1 Report – Identifying Issues, March 2005, Appendix B: Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Final Issues Paper</i> has been changed to the current guideline being NSW Planning, Industry &amp; Environment <i>Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016</i>.</li> <li>c. Clause 41.6(1) - Replace the reference of axis with sector.</li> <li>d. Clause 14.4 - Inclusion of a stated position for State Significant Development in the objectives.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><del>DED</del> <del>DID</del></p>	<p><del>30062022</del> <del>Oct 2023</del> <del>Apr 2024</del> Aug 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 &amp; 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. New Planning Manager start date 22 April 2024</p>
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	<p>e. Clause 14.6(b)(iii) – Extend the wording to include damage, degradation or disruption to groundwater.</p> <p>f. Clause 14.6(u) – Extend the wording to state that Decommissioning Bonds will be considered based on the individual merits of the development.</p> <p>g. Inclusion of Clause 14.5(n) regarding cumulative impact assessment including power line construction.</p> <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> <p>4. Amend the Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 by ensuring all Land Use Tables reflect the provisions of all relevant State Environmental Planning Policies</p>				
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## Ordinary – 16 February 2022

127/20212022	<p><b>Item: 4.2.12 – Constructive Solutions Update</b> that Council maintain a Contractor Register which is to be regularly updated <b>FURTHER THAT</b> the Director of Infrastructure is to create End of Project Completion Report to include comments on contractor performance.</p>	<p><del>DI</del> <b>DID</b></p>	<p><del>30062022</del> <del>31032023</del> July-2023 <del>Dec-23</del> Feb-2024 Apr-2024 Aug 2024</p>	As per resolution	<p>Engineering team is working on improving all end-of-project functions, including contractor performance and capitalisation. Project Management Framework being developed to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inception –Initiation – Project Charter</li> <li>Project Planning – Project Plan</li> </ul>
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Implementation</li> <li>• Project Control</li> <li>• Project Close</li> </ul> <p>Project evaluation tool development underway Oct/Nov 2023. Key project management framework packages to be scoped out and delivered early 2024</p>
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## Ordinary – March 2022

156/20212022	<p><b>10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Capital Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022</b> <b>WO/2022/00501</b></p> <p><b>4.2.3 Sgt Andrew Russell Bridge Naming</b> that Council retain Sergeant Andrew Russell Bridge as the name for the new / replacement bridge and relocate the existing memorials closer to the new bridge.</p>	<b>DID</b>	TBA	As per resolution	<p>Project will require a variation approval to proceed.</p> <p>Approval for variation received and submitted to September 2023 Council Meeting</p> <p>Once construction of bridge is finished then the relocation of existing murals closer to the new bridge can be completed.</p> <p><b>COMPLETED</b> – replacement bridge is now being constructed on the same alignment, meaning no relocation of memorials is required. Name is unchanged.</p>
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## Ordinary – 30 November 2022

90/20222023	<p><b>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</b> Clr Schaefer left the Chambers and took no part in the debate at 03:50pm.</p> <p><b>7.1 Notice of Motion Number: 26: Business Plan for Proposed Developers of</b></p>	<b>DID / GM</b>	<del>DEC2023</del> DEC2024	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.
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	<p><b>Renewable Energy Projects</b> <b>WO/2022/03423</b></p> <p><b>Motion:</b> It was <b>MOVED</b> Councillor Berry <b>Seconded</b> Councillor Kermode that Council <b>ACKNOWLEDGE</b> the Survey results from Voice for Walcha and <b>DEVELOP</b> 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><b>Amendment:</b> An <b>Amendment</b> was <b>MOVED</b> Councillor Hicks <b>Seconded</b> Councillor Reilly that Council <b>DEVELOP</b> 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><b>Division of Voting:</b> For: Hicks Pointing and Reilly Against: Berry Noakes and Kermode. 90 The <b>Original Motion</b> became the <b>Substantive Motion</b> and was put to the <b>VOTE</b> and <b>CARRIED</b>.</p>				With the funding agreement with EnergyCo now signed, Council will progress the undertaking of impact analysis and further strategic planning work to guide us through the renewable energy transition. It is likely that Strategic Plan will follow completion of a cumulative impact study.
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## Ordinary – 14 December 2022

111/20222023	<b>4.2.1 South Street Pedestrian Crossing</b> that Council <b>APPROVE</b> the South Street Pedestrian Project pending availability of grant funding.	<b>DID</b>	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. Design work underway. Feb 2023
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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					Initial design options complete – review and consultation underway.
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## Ordinary – 22 February 2023

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

138/20222023	<b>6.5 Subdivision of Council Land for Housing Purposes WO/2023/00487</b> 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.	<b>DCC</b>	12042023 <del>Sep-2023</del> <del>Feb-2024</del> Dec 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. Process to be reviewed by new Planning Manager, start date 22 April 2024
	<b>4.2.3 Electrical upgrade of 6W Hamilton Street Walcha – Carlec Auto Electrician</b> That an additional quote be obtained for this work and a report be prepared for Council.	<b>DCC MCT</b> /	19042023	Prepare as per resolution – April Ordinary Meeting	Currently awaiting quotations. Likely to occur in the 2025 FY

## ExtraOrdinary – 19 April 2023

CC17/20222023	<b>3.2 Tender W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal Construction only – Update WINT/2023/01898</b> that Council:	<b>DID</b>	July-2023 Aug-23 Oct-23 Dec-2023	As per resolution	Waiting response from our additional Growing Regions Funding Application before being able to proceed.
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>SELECT</b> Convic Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer for Tender No. W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal – Construction;</li> <li>2. <b>UNDERTAKE</b> post-tender negotiations with Convic in regards to scope and schedule;</li> <li>3. <b>SUBMIT</b> variation request to funding body in regards to price and schedule;</li> <li>4. <b>CONSIDER</b> tender award at future Council meeting with additional funding sources identified and confirmed.</li> </ol>		TBD		
CC19/20222023	<p><b>3.4 Planning Agreements for Renewable Energy Developments</b> <b>WO/2023/00585</b></p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>AUTHORISE</b> the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate Planning Agreements under the provisions of Section 7.4 of the Environmental Planning &amp; Assessment Act 1979, for developer contributions for renewable energy developments affecting Walcha Council Local Government Area whereby:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The developer contribution over the estimated life of the project is circa 1.5% of the Capital Investment Value</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	GM	300823 <del>Oct 23</del> May 24	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> <p>Completion of final draft VPA is imminent, and will be available for public exhibition and comment during <del>March</del> May 2024.</p>

# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	<p>(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. <b>SEEK</b> legal review of each draft Planning Agreement before presentation to Council for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition prior to finalisation;</p> <p>3. <b>AUTHORISE</b> the Mayor and General Manager to seek a Planning Agreement with Winterbourne Wind consistent with the above to replace their current community contribution scheme.</p>				
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## Extra Ordinary – 16 August 2023

21/20232024	<p><b>4.1 Adopt Draft Waste Strategy 2023-2027 WO/2023/01537</b> that Council <b>ADOPT</b> the Waste Strategy 2023-2027 as presented.</p>	<b>DID</b>	May 24	Implement elements within the Strategy: eg: vouchers, recycling, contractors out of hours induction	<b>Update required</b> Manager Urban & Utilities is currently working towards the implementation of phase 1 deliverables, vouchers & local contractor agreements.
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## Ordinary – 27 September 2023

58/20232024	<p><b>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</b> <b>7.1 Notice of Motion Number 29: Pedestrian Crossings WO/2023/01809</b> that Council:</p>	<b>GM / DID</b>	Mar-2023 Aug 2024	As per resolution	Requests sent to TfNSW currently planning traffic committee meeting for Mar 2024.
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. approach Transport for NSW to investigate and implement a traffic calming device to slow traffic approaching the pedestrian crossing in Fitzroy Street.</li> <li>2. investigate and implement a traffic calming device to slow traffic approaching the pedestrian crossing in Derby Street.</li> </ol>				Feb 2024 - RSA complete late Dec 23, workshop to be programmed to identify control measures.
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## Ordinary – 13 December 2023

CC27/20232024	<p><b>3.2 Thunderbolts Way Segment 4670 Rehabilitation – allocate funding under Capital Works Budget</b></p> <p>That Council <b>ALLOCATE</b> \$328,195 of Roads to Recovery funding and \$162,580.86 of Regional &amp; Local Roads Repair funding to the Regional Roads Roads Capital Works budget for the construction of Thunderbolts Way Segment 4670 Rehabilitation.</p>	<b>DID</b>	26/4/2024	Ensure monies are allotted correctly	Works to commence in earnest once the Gravel Resheeting Program is complete around mid-March. Sealing and final completion is due about mid-April  <b>COMPLETED</b>
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## Ordinary – January 2024

117/20232024	<p><b>6.1 Apsley Riverview Community Consultation WO/2024/00074</b></p> <p>that Council <b>AUTHORISE</b> the General Manager to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>ENTER</b> into negotiations with Presbyterian Aged Care for Walcha Council to become the operator of Riverview Aged Care; and</li> <li>2. <b>ENGAGE</b> appropriate legal advice using existing budgeted funds.</li> </ol>	<b>DCC</b>	022022024	As per resolution	Negotiations underway with PAC, appropriate legal firms being canvased and will be engaged by end of Feb. Aged Care accreditation process should also be completed by end of Feb.
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
118/20232024	<p><b>6.2 Commonwealth Home Support Program – Presbyterian Aged Care Relinquishment of Funding</b>  <b>WO/2023/02452</b></p> <p>that Council <b>APPROVE</b> the acceptance of additional Commonwealth Home Support Program Funding if offered by Presbyterian Aged Care or the Department of Health.</p>	<b>DCC</b>	-	No specific time line however, if the funding is offered to Council then a complete report to Council with full budget.	
123/20232024	<p><b>7.1 Notice of Motion # 30 – Temporary Worker Accommodation in Walcha</b>  <b>WO/2024/00124</b></p> <p>that Council seek consultant services to develop an issues paper and response strategy in relation to Temporary Workforce Accommodation in the Walcha Local Government Area.</p>	<b>GM</b>	May 2024		Worker accommodation to be considered in Cumulative Impact Study. Council to seek consultant service quotations and engagement over coming months.
CC30/20232024	<p><b>1.2 Requests to Waive or Reimburse Waste Depot Fees WINT/2024/00274</b></p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>WAIVE</b> the Waste Disposal Fee for one trailer load of mixed waste for the Walcha &amp; District Historical Society;</li> <li><b>WAIVE</b> Green Waste Fees incurred by the Lions Club for maintenance of the Lions Park; and</li> <li><b>DO NOT</b> reimburse the resident as per the Third Request, but investigate the</li> </ol>	<b>DID</b>	08022024	<p>Advise each applicant the resolution outcome for them.</p> <p>Engineer to assess the road safety aspect of keeping the hedge plants</p>	<p>Emailed Anna &amp; Rob and advised of the resolutions. Emailed WDHS to advise of their resolution for one trailer load. – EA 0102204-</p> <p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>

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	<i>ongoing impacts that the plants are having on road safety.</i>				
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## Ordinary – February 2024

137/20232024	<p><b>5. MAYORAL MINUTE</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Dissolution of Namoi Joint Organisation</b></p> <p>that in relation to the Mayoral Minute "Dissolution of the Namoi Joint Organisation", Council support the Board in writing to the Minister for Local Government seeking to <b>DISSOLVE</b> the Namoi Joint Organisation on 30 June 2024.</p>	<b>GM / Mayor</b>	30062024	As per resolution	Action sitting with Acting CEO of the JO, function taken on by TRC.
139/20232024	<p><b>6.1 Quarterly Review of Budget as at 31 December 2023 WO/2024/00169</b></p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ADOPT</b> the December 2023 Quarterly Budget Review Statements; and</li> <li><b>APPROVE</b> the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed in the report.</li> </ol>	<b>DCC</b>	08032024	Ensure variations are completed.	<b>COMPLETED FEBRUARY 2024</b>
140/20232024	<p><b>6.2 Agreement between Walcha Council and Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) WO/2024/00288</b></p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NOTE</b> the terms of the Agreement now in place between Walcha Council and the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo); and</li> </ol>	<b>GM</b>	May 24	As per resolution	

# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	2. <b>ENDORSE</b> the immediate scoping of a Cumulative Impact Study to be delivered using funds provided by EnergyCo via this Agreement.				
144/20232024	<p><b>6.6 Request to Review Minimum Age for Community Gym Membership WO/2024/00312</b></p> <p>that the Request to review the Minimum Age for Community Gym Membership be <b>REFERRED</b> to the Walcha Council Audit Risk &amp; Improvement Committee and their recommendation to come back to Council for <b>DETERMINATION</b> on a future date.</p>	<b>DCC</b>	04 Mar 24	Added to Agenda for ARIC Meeting on 4 March 2024	<p>Added to ARIC Agenda</p> <p>Report to April 2024 Ordinary Meeting</p> <p><b>COMPLETED APRIL 2024</b></p>
150/20232024	<p><b>10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at Council Chambers, Hamilton Street Walcha. WO/2024/00277</b></p> <p>that Council consider leaving the town entry signs as they currently are <b>FURTHER THAT</b> install an appropriately sized "Dunghutti Country" sign on these existing town entry signs.</p>	<b>DID</b>	??	As per resolution	<b>NOTED – COMPLETED</b>
151/20232024	that Council allocate \$50,000 for the Shirley Davison Bridge totem pole sculpture and \$15,000 for the Hospital Wall Mural works	<b>DID / DCC</b>	Apr24	As per resolution – needs to be placed in the draft budget for review	<b>IN DRAFT CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET</b>



# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	in the Local Roads Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 4 Project list.				
CC38/ 20232024	<p><b>3.1 Award Supplier – Purchase New Excavator WINT/2024/00326</b> that Council <b>PROCURE</b> a Kobelco SK135SR-7 Fifteen Tonne Excavator provided by GATO Sales Pty Ltd at a price of \$300,000 excluding GST and including the additional tilting hitch as recommended in the report and in compliance with Section 55 of the Local Government Act, 1993.</p>				<b>COMPLETED</b>
CC39/ 20232024	<p><b>3.2 Riverview Aged Care Legal Advice Budget Allocation WINT/2024/00753</b> that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ENDORSE</b> the engagement of Maddocks to provide legal services with regard to the transfer of operations of Riverview Aged Care to Walcha Council; and</li> <li><b>ALLOCATE</b> \$60,000 from Internal Restrictions currently assigned to 'Project Development' to be available as required for this purpose.</li> </ol>				

## Ordinary – March 2024

	<b>2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024:</b>	EA	04042024	Update Resolutions Register	<b>COMPLETED 28032024</b>
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# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
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	<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024:</b></p> <p>159 <b>RESOLVED</b> on the Motion of Councillors Berry and that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2024 AND the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 11 March 2024, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a <b>TRUE</b> record.</p>			Endorse with GM & Mayor signatures and placed updated pdf on website	
	<p><b>4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST &amp; REQUESTS FOR AUDIO VISUAL LINK ATTENDANCE:</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Request by Cllr Hicks to Attend Meeting by Audio Visual Link</b></p> <p>160 <b>RESOLVED</b> on the Motion of Councillors Pointing and Ferrier that Council <b>APPROVE</b> the request from Cllr Hicks to attend Council's Ordinary Meeting being today, Wednesday 27 March 2024, via audio visual link due to her being medically unfit to travel</p>	EA	28032024	Note in Minutes	Resolution in Minutes – approved <b>COMPLETED 27032024</b>
	<p><b>CLOSED COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>3.1 New England Weeds Authority Request for Security Guarantee</b> <b>WO/2024/00490</b></p>	GM		GM to carry out the resolution directives once in receipt of item 4.	GM has advised other NEWA members of resolution.

# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<p>CC042/20232024 <b>RESOLVED</b> on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>AUTHORISE</b> the provision of a guarantee as security for loan funding provided to the New England Weeds Authority;</li> <li>That the amount of the guarantee, to be provided to the Commonwealth Bank, shall be \$119, 843 calculated in proportion to the Council's member contributions for the coming financial year, relative to the total member contributions of all four (4) constituent Councils: Glen Innes Severn, Armidale Regional, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils;</li> <li>That the Mayor and the General Manager are authorised to execute the loan security documents provided by the Commonwealth Bank.</li> <li>That authorisation is provisional on receipt of written notice of resignation of all current members of the New England Weeds Authority County Council.</li> </ol>				<p>As of 17042024 no resignations have been advised.</p>
	<p><b>6.1 Appoint Community Representatives to Advisory Committees WO/2024/00483</b></p>	<p><b>EA</b></p>	<p>05042024</p>	<p>Advise all nominees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ToR</li> <li>- Contact for Committee</li> </ul>	<p>All sent via email, except one. Copies of emails etc in CM9 under Advisory Committee folders.</p> <p><b>COMPLETED 28032024</b></p>

# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<p>165 <b>RESOLVED</b> on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Ferrier that Council <b>APPOINT</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fiona Barden and Glen O'Brien to the Walcha Council Motorcycle Rally Advisory Committee;</li> <li>2. Shannon Green-Griffen, Garry Towney, Valma (Sue) Green and Bernadine Green to the Walcha Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee;</li> <li>3. Katie Street and Melanie Oppenheimer to the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee.</li> </ol>				
	<p><b>6.2 Review of Multiple Policies</b> <b>WO/2024/00498</b></p> <p>166 <b>RESOLVED</b> on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council <b>REVOKE</b> the following Policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aids and Local Government Policy;</li> <li>2. Award Restructuring Policy;</li> <li>3. Cost Recovery – Damage to Council Property Policy;</li> <li>4. Council – Senior Officers Policy;</li> <li>5. Debtors – Ready Mix Concrete;</li> <li>6. "D" Division of the Shires Association of NSW Policy;</li> <li>7. Insurances Policy;</li> </ol>	EA	12042024	<p>Ensure all revoked policies are noted with resolution number and date.</p> <p>Update Policy Register</p>	<b>COMPLETED 17042024</b>

# Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



Minute No.:	Item:	Responsible Officer:	Due Date:	Action to be Taken:	Progress:
	<p>8. Legal Action Policy;            9. Management Audit Policy;            10. Minutes Policy;            11. Over or Under Budget Policy;            12. Plant – Private Use Policy;            13. Senior Staff Appointments – Degree of Consultation Policy;            14. Staff – Clerical, Engineering &amp; Health Policy;            15. Staff General Policy;            16. Wet Weather Pay Policy;            17. Working Funds and Reserves Policy; and            18. Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b>            It was <b>MOVED</b> Clr Kermode Seconded Clr Ferrier that Council <b>REVOKE</b> the Section 355 Committee Policy            On putting to the <b>VOTE</b> the <b>Motion</b> was <b>LOST</b>.</p>				
	<p><b>12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE</b>  <b>Clr Eric Noakes – Director Infrastructure &amp; Development – Solid Waste – Woolbrook Waste Facility</b>            A report on the costs of running this facility and the behaviour of people using the facility. Waste dumping, gate open, etc.</p>				Tabled at April 2024 Council Meeting - <b>COMPLETED</b>



## 9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2024/00677

**Responsible Executive:** Director Infrastructure & Development

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**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.

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

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### OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

#### 1. Planning & Development



## CURRENT APPLICATIONS – as at MARCH 2024

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS (DAs)		COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES (CDCs)	
<p>Under assessment, 7                      In progress, 1                      Additional information requested, 1                      Pending lodgement, 1</p> <p>Additional information requested   In progress   Under assessment   Pending lodgement</p>		<p>Submitted, 1</p> <p>Submitted</p>	
Status	No. of Applications	Status	No. of Applications
Pending Lodgement/Awaiting Fee Payment	1	Submitted/Awaiting Fee Payment	1
Under Assessment	7	Under Assessment	0
In Progress	1	On Notification	0
Additional Information Requested	1	Additional Information Requested	0
Waiting on State Agency Comment	0	Waiting on State Agency Comment	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>
CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES (CCS)		OCCUPATION CERTIFICATES (OCS)	
<p>Under assessment, 1                      Additional information requested, 2                      Submitted, 3</p> <p>Additional information requested   Under assessment   Submitted</p>		<p>Additional information requested, 2                      In progress, 2                      Submitted, 1                      Under assessment, 1</p> <p>Additional information requested   In progress   Under assessment   Submitted</p>	
Status	No. of Applications	Status	No. of Applications
Submitted/Awaiting Fee Payment	3	Submitted/Awaiting Fee Payment	1
Under Assessment	1	Under Assessment	1
Additional Information Requested	2	In Progress	2
Additional Information Requested	2	Additional Information Requested	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>



## CURRENT APPLICATIONS – as at MARCH 2024

SUBDIVISION CERTIFICATES (SUBCERTs)		ROADS ACT - WORKS AND STRUCTURES APPROVALS (S138s)	
No data to display		No data to display	
Status	No. of Applications	Status	No. of Applications
Submitted/Awaiting Fee Payment	0	Submitted/Awaiting Fee Payment	0
Under Assessment	0	Under Assessment	1
Additional Information Requested	0	Additional Information Requested	0
	<b>0</b>		<b>1</b>
PLANNING CERTIFICATES (PCS)		SECTION 68 APPROVALS (S68s)	
Status	No. of Applications	Status	No. of Applications
Submitted/Awaiting Fee Payment	40	Pending Lodgement/Awaiting Fee Payment	1
In Progress	3	Under Assessment	3
	<b>43</b>	Additional Information Requested	5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>





## 2. **Animal Control**

### 2.1 **Companion Animal Registrations 2023-2024**

<b>March 2024</b>			
<b>Number Registered</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Current Period</b>
Desexed	6	22	1
Non Desexed	2	4	0
Pensioner Desexed	4	4	0
Pound Purchased Desexed	2	1	0
Cat Desexed	2	4	0
Under 6 Months	-	-	0
Working/Recognised Breeder	21	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Value</b>	<b>\$2,395</b>	<b>\$2875</b>	<b>\$75</b>

### 2.2 **Companion Animal Seizures 2023-2024**

<b>March 2024</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Current Period</b>
Seized	53	50	4
Surrendered	24	25	0
Released	9	13	0
Rehomed	21	26	4
Euthanised	21	6	0
Stolen/Escaped	-	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>8</b>

### 2.3 **Companion Animal Ranger Services 2023-2024**

<b>March 2024</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Current Period</b>
Dog Attack Investigation	19	13	
Roaming Dogs	59	36	
Roaming Cats	32	13	
Barking Dogs	40	17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>79</b>	



## 2.4 Companion Animal Ranger Services 2023-2024

<b>March 2024</b>				
<b>Number</b>		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Current Period</b>
Cautions		63	25	2
Dangerous Dogs	Notice	1	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Nuisance Dogs	Notice	0	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Menacing Dog	Notice	0	0	0
	Order	0	0	0
Penalty Notices		6	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>

## 3. Regulatory Service

### 3.1 Regulatory Services Financial Year Comparison

<b>As at 31.03.2024</b>				
<b>Number</b>		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Current Period</b>
Overgrown Allotment		50	14	0
Accumulation of Waste		2	3	0
Keeping of Animals		146	51	8
Vehicles on Nature Strip		0	0	0
Abandoned Vehicle		11	12	0
Noise Abatement		37	24	0
Environmental Pollution		4	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>8</b>

### 3.2 Regulatory Action Financial Year Comparison

<b>As at 31.03.2024</b>				
<b>Number</b>		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>Current Period</b>
Complaint Investigated		148	98	2
Warning Issued		100	49	1
Notice of Intention Served		2	0	0
Order Served		0	0	0
Penalty Notice Issued		0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3</b>



## Monthly Breakup of Action Taken Against Relevant Service

March 2024						
Regulatory Service	Complaint Investigated	Warning Issued	Notice of Intention Served	Order Served	Penalty Notice Issued	Total
Overgrown Allotment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accumulation of Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keeping of Animals	8	0	0	0	0	8
Vehicles on Nature Strip	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abandoned Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noise Abatement	2	1	0	0	0	3
Environmental Pollution	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>

### 4. Roads

#### 4.1 Inspections & Incidents

Roads	Road inspections km	Incidents
Local & Urban Sealed Roads – 190km	2	0
Local & Urban Unsealed Roads – 617km	1	0
State & Regional Roads – 219km	4	0
Weather event inspections	0	0



## 4.2 Roads Capital Works

### 2023-2024 RMCC Heavy Patching Program – Almost Complete

Walcha Council completed the 2023-2024 heavy patching program on the Oxley Highway under the Road Management Council Contract (RMCC).

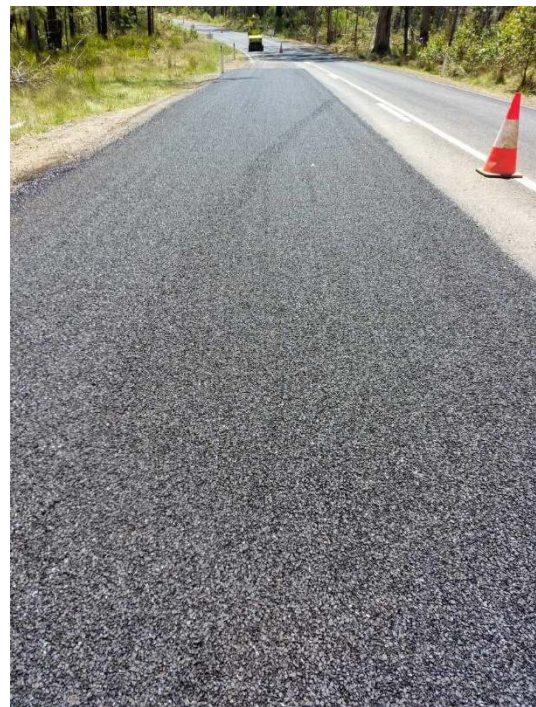
The project was completed on time and underbudget with only some minor linemarking yet to be completed by the end of April.

The project was also a successful 'proof of concept' for Council's recently purchased jet patcher, skid-steer and milling head for undertaking TfNSW standard heavy patching works.

**Progress** | 99%

**Due Completion** | 26/4/2024

**Budget** | \$480,182.91



### Thunderbolts Way Segment 4670 Rehab (5km south of Walcha) - Underway

Major roadworks are taking place on Thunderbolts Way about 5km's south of Walcha. These works will involve widening the road to allow enough room for minimum 1m sealed shoulders, correcting the shape of the existing road surface and sealing the nearby rest Glenn Gro area.

Minor preparation works took place in December 2023. Major construction commenced in March 2024 and is due to be complete in April 2024. As of Tuesday 16 April, sealing works were complete with linemarking due late April.



**Progress | 95%**

**Due Completion | 26/4/2024**

**Budget | \$490,776**







### **2023-2024 Gravel Resheeting Program – Underway**

Walcha Council will be undertaking Gravel Resheeting on our local unsealed road network.

These works will be focused on priority locations on Brackendale Rd, Englefield Rd, Flags Niangala Rd, Stock Route Rd, Geraldine Rd, Hartford Rd, Scrubby Gully Rd, Tia Diggings Rd, Kangaroo Flat Rd, St Leonards Ck Rd and Lakes Rd.

These works will commence in late December 2023 and are due to be complete by Mid-April March 2024.

(Final works completed on Hartford Rd as of Wednesday 17 April).

**Progress | 90%      Due Completion | 17/4/2024      Budget | \$1,588,301**



### **South Street Pedestrian Crossing - Design**




Walcha Council will be undertaking works to improve foot traffic safety and connectivity on South St near the Anglican Church and the Fitzroy St intersection roundabout.

Concept plans have recently been reviewed by Council and will now proceed to final draft. Once the final plans have been received a project delivery plan will be reviewed. Expected project delivery now will be June/July.

**Progress | 20%      Due Completion | 31/7/2024      Budget | TBD ~\$30,000 - \$50,000**




## 5. Water & Wastewater

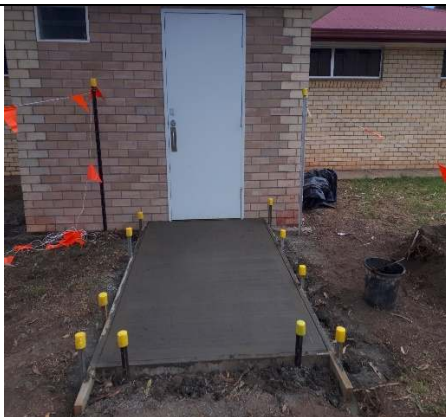
Volume of water abstracted – Manual pumping reinstated on 15-3-2024 and to continue until OCS2 full.		40.85 ML	
Off Creek Storage 1 Level		26.67 %	
Off Creek Storage 2 Level		76.52 %	
Combined Dam storage level		28.33 %	
Volume of Water Treated		13.65 ML	
Number of Water Quality Incidents – Water discolour with the drawing down of OCS2 caused from Manganese and under control with correction to draw height		0	
Number of Watermain Breaks/Leaks		2	
Volume of wastewater received/treated		19.24ML	
Number of wastewater incidents		0	



## **Swimming Pool**

Number of Patrons	1000	Max day 94 on 5th
Number of Water Quality Incidents	0	
<p>Pool wrapping up for season congratulation to the team's effort for the season, policies and procedures to start development stage for preparation for next season.</p>		

## **6. Urban**

<p><b>Parks &amp; Garden:</b>          All Parks, sporting fields, street scape gardens and cemetery gardens were maintained. Nowendoc &amp; Woolbrook Grounds maintenance carried out, winter tree program being assessed Tree manual 98% completed</p> <p><b>Construction activities:</b>          Disable ramp constructed at John Oxley          Repair to damaged kerb          Continue drainage works</p>	
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## **7. Solid Waste**

Quantity of general waste received	160t
Quantity of green waste received	125t
Quantity of waste recycled (bailed)	N/A
Number of enviro incidents	0
Landfill status – drone photo	N/A








## 8. **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.

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

**Capital Works Delivery Update**

Project	Council P/M	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Funding Completion Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
<b>LOCAL &amp; URBAN ROADS</b>												
Middle Street Rehab	PF	Fixing Local Roads R2		Nov-21	Jun-24		\$ 56,413	On Track				50% design - towards 100% Desing
Walsh Street Rehab	PF	Fixing Local Roads R2	\$ 1,111,215	Jan-22	Jun-24		\$ 22,059	On Track				Mob Est. 29/05/24 Bring the project to completion.
Gravel Resheeting Program	JM	Annual gravel resheeting of 50km of unsealed roads in various locations	\$ 1,588,301	Mar-24	Mar-24		\$ 1,594,130	On Track. Not all the gravel the project paid was used. Therefore about \$75,000 of gravel expenses will come out of the project and move into Stock ready for use next year.				Small delays due to recent wet weather forcing crews onto urgent maintenance grading. Resheeting works were complete as of Wednesday the 17th of April COMPLETE
South St Crossing	JM	Pedestrian crossing investigations on South St between Fitzroy and Churchill St	\$ 50,000	Jun-24	Jul-24		\$ 10,820	Construction costs are still yet unknown and will depend on if the project can be constructed in-house or by contractor. However there is still minimal financial risk to the project at this stage.				Due to the delay on approval for the concept plan the project is in doubt to be completed this financial year. Once IFC plans have been issued the delivery team will have a better understanding on delivery timeframes Design completion & construction.
Routine Maintenance	JM	Maintenance grading, veg management, drainage etc.	\$ 1,885,337	Jun-24	Jun-24		\$ 977,410	Underspent due to crews working on other capital projects. Excess funds may be channelled into capital works to achieve our R2R own source reference rate				Routine activities are expected to the EOFY to catch up on back log of work.
Other Capital Works	JM	Culverts, Dust Suppressions etc.	\$ 130,000	Jun-24	Jun-24		\$ -	Underspent due to crews working on other capital projects. Excess funds may be channelled into capital works to achieve our R2R own source reference rate				Minimal works planned due to catch up maintenance work required on the road network after recent rain.
Three Causeways	PF	Rehabilitation works for 2 causeways on Old Brookmount Rd, and Hazeldean Road.	\$ 427,000	Jun-23	Jun-24	Jun-24	\$ 40,000	Increase funds allocated from OLG Grant awaiting scope approval APPROVED				On Track Final design est. 13.05.24 Mobilisation from design approval +2w Design approval, construction.
Walcha Aerodrome	PF	Seal existing access, Elec supply improvements, regravell existing runway	\$ 1,610,000	Oct-22	Mar-25	Mar-25	\$ 1,161,321	Currently under budget pending				EOT request to be submitted by 31/01/2024 - confirmation that the wider fund has been extended to 2025. RWY: pavement review on-going - site visit before 15.05.24 Decision pending towards having aeroclub rep onsite at this time.
<b>BRIDGES</b>												
Army Bridge	PF		\$ 2,050,850		Aug-24	Dec-24	\$ 151,319	On Track				100% Design Mob 06.05.24 to fix Approaches Tia Diggings, Start on Army Bridge right afterwards Site establishment and works commencing
Winterbourne Bridge	PF		\$ 643,104		TBC		\$ 59,244	Funding BRP6 declined				Works cannot proceed until funding secured
Mooraback Bridge	PF		\$ 526,680		TBC		\$ 49,157	Extra FCB funding request being drafted				Winterbourne and Mooraback funding contribution applied for via Bridge Renewal Program (BRP)
<b>RMCC</b>												
Routine Maintenance	JM	Annual routine maintenance	\$ 613,596	Jun-24	Jun-24		\$ 509,567	On Track				On Track Routine road maintenance works continuing
Heavy Patching	JM	Annual heavy patching program	\$ 515,283	Mar-24	Mar-24		\$ 330,428	On track				On track COMPLETE
<b>REGIONAL ROADS</b>												
Derby Street - (Segments 4710 and 4720)	AB	Rehabilitation, drainage, service replacement, kerb and gutter, parking, sealing	\$ 6,960,000	Jun-22	Dec-24	Jan-25	\$ 417,482	On Track				Tender closes 6 May 2024 with the award to be tabled at the May Council Meeting Tender Evaluation Tender Award Project Delivery
Routine Maintenance	JM	Annual routine maintenance	\$ 508,693	Jun-24	Jun-24		\$ 352,297	On track				On track Routine works and guardrail repairs
Thunderbolts Way S4670 Rehab	JM	Rehab on segment 4670 5km south of Walcha	\$ 490,776	Apr-24	Apr-24		\$ 448,394	On track				On track Project was sealed on Tuesday the 16th of April with linemarking due at the end of the month
<b>WATER, WASTEWATER &amp; WASTE</b>												
Walcha Off Creek Storage	AB	Off Creek Storage	\$ 11,000,000	Dec-22	Sep-23		\$ 4,156,210	Final milestone can be claimed upon the award of final packages 6b & 7 PM costs increasing due to the completion dated being extended.				1. Package 1 - Complete 2. Switchboard package - Complete 3. Package 8 - Complete 4. Package 7 Electrical & Control - Awarded in delivery phase 5. Package 6b Mechanical & Civil - Awarded in delivery phase Final package commenced on site scheduled for completion in March 2024
John Oxley Sewer Extension	PF	Construction of new SPS at John Oxley Oval, and sewer connection to existing network	\$ 760,541	TBD	May-24	Jun-24	\$ 810,801	Funds to be shifted from either Sewer fund or SCCF-5 pending				On Track pending switch board construction and connection pending final sewer connection at JO Amenities On track

Capital Works Delivery Update												
Project	Council PM	Summary Scope/deliverables	Project Value	Original Target Completion Date	Estimated Completed Date	Funding Completion Date	Cost to date	Budget Status	Budget Status	Schedule Status	Schedule Status	Activities for Next Three Months
Water Meter Replacement	RP	Smart Metering	\$ 350,000	TBD	TBD		\$ -		No current Budget		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 3.No Grant available to cover budget
<b>COMMUNITY PROJECTS</b>												
Walcha Sporting Amenity Upgrades - Walcha Pool	PF	Upgrade of amenities at John Oxley Oval and Walcha Pool	\$ 566,087		Mar-24	Jun-24	\$ 550,458		On Track		Works finished	Project close out
Walcha Swimming Pool Refurbishment	PF	Further upgrade of Walcha Swimming Pool via BLER Grant	\$ 1,100,000	Oct-22	Oct-24	Jun-24	\$ 268,572		Additional funding being sought via Growing Regions Fund (\$850k) shortfall of min \$1.6M		Rescoping on going to perform as much required works within available funds. Change of scope request to be submitted to BLERF(rescope)	Rescoping, negotiations and construction
Renew Walcha Skate Park	PF	New skate park facilities, new fence for John Oxley Oval, CCTV	\$ 966,964	Jun-23	TBD	Jun-24	\$ 381,995		Tender price is above current funding and additional funding needs to be secured in order to proceed.		Revised offer submitted, confirming the current budget status	Pending additional funds to activate construction.
Pathways Project - Town	PF	Construction of various connecting pathways in Walcha	\$ 654,465	Mar-24	Mar-24	Nov-24	\$ 115,944				Construction tender closed and evaluation on-going.	Begin construction
Pathways Project - Darjeeling	PF	Construction of pathway from Lions Park to John Oxley Oval	\$ 1,324,455	Mar-24	Mar-24	Nov-24	\$ 76,334				Construction tender closed and evaluation on-going.	Revise scope or budget extension to start construction
Pathways Project - Summervale	PF	Construction of pathway from Walcha to Summervale	\$ 1,750,254	Nov-24	Nov-24	Nov-24	\$ 77,160		Overall shortfall of approx. \$1M - drafting budget variation to be submitted to ATfNSW		Construction tender closed and evaluation on-going. Stakeholder risk (Amaroo LALC re land access)	Overall commitment to construct depending on Amaroo LALC negotiations
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 37,583,601</b>				<b>\$ 12,617,515</b>					



## 9.3 CORPORATE & COMMUNITY:

Ref: WO/2024/00569

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. Financial Tracking

WALCHA COUNCIL - INCOME STATEMENT														
		2023-2024 ORIGINAL BUDGET				2023-2024 AMENDED BUDGET				YTD ACTUAL				
		Consolidated	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Consolidated	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Consolidated	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>														
	Rates & Annual Charges	B2-1	7,011,847	6,086,525	523,832	401,490	7,011,847	6,086,525	523,832	401,490	6,798,168	6,105,158	391,638	301,372
	User Charges & Fees	B2-2	5,136,677	4,375,945	587,175	173,557	5,250,055	4,489,323	587,175	173,557	2,746,754	2,034,784	551,634	160,336
	Other Revenues	B2-3	260,205	260,205	0	0	370,205	370,205	0	0	400,752	400,752	0	0
	Grants & Contributions- Operating	B2-4	5,418,998	5,418,998	0	0	9,174,149	9,174,149	0	0	3,336,895	3,336,895	0	0
	Grants & Contributions - Capital	B2-4-a	23,483,155	19,938,155	3,545,000	0	26,101,019	21,251,863	4,809,257	39,899	11,981,483	8,326,957	3,614,599	39,927
	Interest & Revenue	B2-5	359,238	353,338	4,000	1,900	434,238	353,338	79,000	1,900	393,502	286,510	94,347	12,645
	Other Income	B2-6	86,608	86,608	0	0	68,472	68,472	0	0	35,983	35,983	0	0
	Net gains from disposal of assets	B4-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>		<b>41,756,728</b>	<b>36,519,774</b>	<b>4,860,007</b>	<b>576,947</b>	<b>48,409,985</b>	<b>41,793,875</b>	<b>5,999,264</b>	<b>616,846</b>	<b>25,693,537</b>	<b>20,527,039</b>	<b>4,652,218</b>	<b>514,280</b>
<b>Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>														
	Employee Benefits & Oncosts	B3-1	6,249,911	5,916,911	204,000	129,000	6,432,528	6,099,528	204,000	129,000	4,824,046	4,536,242	187,066	100,739
	Materials & Contracts	B3-2	6,544,359	5,831,329	443,678	269,352	7,081,964	6,368,934	443,678	269,352	4,865,659	4,304,803	361,633	199,223
	Borrowing Costs	B3-3	77,000	68,000	9,000	0	77,000	68,000	9,000	0	25,578	23,942	1,636	0
	Depreciation & Impairment	B3-4	4,892,027	4,283,447	454,871	153,709	4,482,391	3,927,848	400,834	153,709	3,128,134	2,711,414	300,625	116,096
	Other Expenses	B3-5	445,069	445,069	0	0	444,456	444,456	0	0	133,465	133,465	0	0
	Net loss from disposal of assets	B4-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	563,353	563,353	0	0	
	<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>		<b>18,208,366</b>	<b>16,544,756</b>	<b>1,111,549</b>	<b>552,061</b>	<b>18,518,339</b>	<b>16,908,766</b>	<b>1,057,512</b>	<b>552,061</b>	<b>13,540,234</b>	<b>12,273,217</b>	<b>850,960</b>	<b>416,057</b>
	<b>Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations</b>		<b>23,548,362</b>	<b>19,975,018</b>	<b>3,548,458</b>	<b>24,886</b>	<b>29,891,646</b>	<b>24,885,109</b>	<b>4,941,752</b>	<b>64,785</b>	<b>12,153,303</b>	<b>8,253,822</b>	<b>3,801,258</b>	<b>98,223</b>
	<b>Net Operating Result before Grants &amp; Contributions for Capital Purposes</b>		<b>65,207</b>	<b>36,863</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>24,886</b>	<b>3,790,627</b>	<b>3,633,246</b>	<b>132,495</b>	<b>24,886</b>	<b>171,820</b>	<b>-73,136</b>	<b>186,659</b>	<b>58,296</b>

Income: Lower than budgeted user fees and charges due to less RMCC work completed.

Expenditure: On a pro rata basis and based on the original budget the employee expenses are slightly ahead. Materials and contracts are also slightly ahead however the adjustments related to funded works which, when excluded, would be tracking against the original budget.





## 2. 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 29 February 2024 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:

<b>INVESTMENTS SUMMARY - MAR 2024</b>	
Opening Balance	10,870,548
New Deposits	
Interest Reinvested	10,908
Deposits Redeemed	-
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>10,881,456</b>

*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 31 MARCH 2024**

Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Est. Interest	Est. Market Value At Maturity	YTD Interest	YTD Redemption	MV % of Portfolio	TD Account #
nab	TD	4/12/2023	120	2/04/2024	5.00%	562,023.31	9,238.75	571,262.06	13,671.25		5.18%	972272676
nab	TD	27/11/2023	151	26/04/2024	5.10%	1,022,196.17	21,566.95	1,043,763.12	22,196.17		9.39%	371151983
nab	TD	3/10/2023	210	30/04/2024	5.15%	1,042,700.57	30,895.35	1,073,595.92	22,144.67		9.58%	485796165
Commonwealth Bank	TD	4/09/2023	242	3/05/2024	5.03%	1,040,995.46	34,716.77	1,075,712.23	23,093.82		9.57%	37844807
nab	TD	28/03/2024	60	27/05/2024	4.60%	534,865.39	4,044.47	538,909.86	22,777.58		4.92%	488134669
nab	TD	1/12/2023	180	29/05/2024	5.15%	1,000,000.00	25,397.26	1,025,397.26			9.19%	DEAL 10873760
nab	TD	4/12/2023	182	3/06/2024	5.15%	1,016,712.33	26,108.62	1,042,820.94	31,112.33		9.34%	305170588
Commonwealth Bank	TD	4/09/2023	274	4/06/2024	5.05%	1,040,995.46	39,463.71	1,080,459.17	23,093.82		9.57%	37844807
Commonwealth Bank	TD	20/12/2023	210	17/07/2024	4.90%	530,054.65	14,943.18	544,997.83	15,101.53		4.87%	37844807
nab	TD	1/12/2023	241	29/07/2024	5.20%	1,000,000.00	34,334.25	1,034,334.25			9.19%	DEAL 10873761
nab	TD	4/08/2023	367	5/08/2024	5.25%	646,746.03	34,140.21	680,886.24	23,075.80		5.94%	416873585
Commonwealth Bank	TD	22/12/2023	241	19/08/2024	4.87%	640,022.24	20,580.13	660,602.38	26,403.13		5.88%	37844807
nab	TD	18/09/2023	365	17/09/2024	5.20%	266,579.60	13,862.15	280,441.75	10,801.55		2.45%	444927866
nab	TD	4/10/2023	365	3/10/2024	5.25%	286,237.89	13,977.49	280,215.38	11,220.75		2.45%	919612554
nab	TD	12/01/2024	365	11/01/2025	5.05%	271,325.36	13,701.93	285,027.29	11,808.04		2.49%	919675556
Commonwealth Bank	TD			17/07/2023					9,410.69	507,821.33	0.00%	37844807
Commonwealth Bank	TD			24/07/2023					9,456.92	510,996.19	0.00%	37844807
nab	TD			3/10/2023					21,698.84	1,000,000.00	0.00%	305170588
Commonwealth Bank	TD			20/11/2023					13,154.58	514,963.12	0.00%	37844807
nab	TD			1/01/2024					14,859.52	514,096.82	0.00%	486916667
nab	TD			24/01/2024					31,541.67	1,000,000.00	0.00%	371400628
Commonwealth Bank	TD			19/02/2024					24,290.19	522,562.90	0.00%	37844807
nab	TD			20/02/2024					23,697.52	1,000,000.00	0.00%	293712086
nab	TD			20/02/2024					10,114.05	259,243.56	0.00%	917202309
nab	TD			20/02/2024					26,208.50	583,105.16	0.00%	872609622
nab	TD			20/02/2024					23,697.52	1,000,000.00	0.00%	293808176

Average rate	5.06%	10,881,454.47	336,971.22	11,218,425.69	464,630.23	7,412,779.08	100%
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Capital Value of Portfolio	\$ 10,881,454
Redeemed Value of Portfolio	\$ 7,412,779
Market Value of Portfolio 30/06/2024	\$ 11,218,426
Estimated Profit(Loss) 30/06/2024	\$ 336,971

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 31/03/2023

Interest Earned YTD	\$ 152,219
Market Value of Portfolio	\$ 12,657,857
Average interest rate	4.27%
Interest Earned YTD 30 June 2023	\$ 276,936
Market Value of Portfolio 30 June 2023	\$ 14,021,200

MONTHLY ACTIVITY				
	Number	Amount	Interest	Avg Rate
New Deposits				
TD Redeemed				
TD Reinvested	1	534,865.39	\$ 4,044	4.60%

Institutional Exposure	Investment at Market Value	% of Portfolio
Commonwealth Bank	3,252,068	30%
nab	7,629,387	70%
	10,881,454	100%

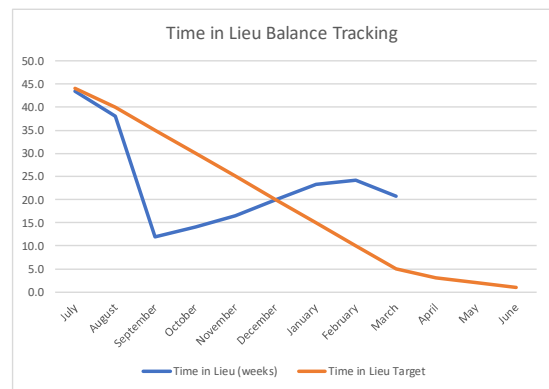
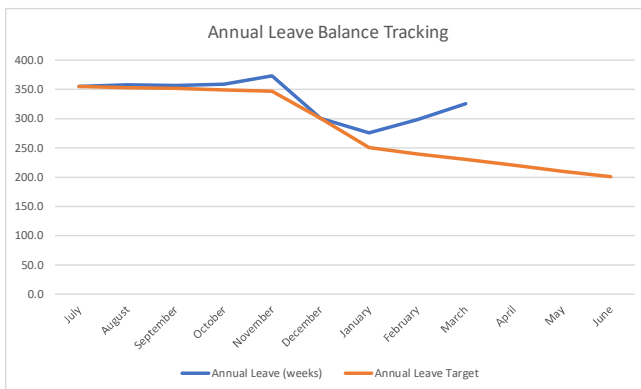
Responsible Accounting Officer's Certification Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Paragraph 212  
 The investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Walcha Councils Investment Policy.

Signed Christian Martin (Responsible Accounting Officer)



### 3. Leave Balances

Directorate	MARCH 2024			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	106	5	2	109	4	3	
Infrastructure	172	9	15	198	4	46	Community and tourism balances include some negative available balances for leave taken in the first year of employment where the system only applies available leave after 12 months
Planning & Development	0	0	0	18	2	0	
Community & Tourism	41	1	4	26	1	5	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>54</b>	



Leave balances are responding to the work with staff around leave plans for excessive leave. To provide context of the total annual leave and Time In Lieu balance below is the movement by year since 2020:

- 2020: 520 weeks
- 2021: 488 weeks
- 2022: 450 weeks
- 2023: 405 weeks
- 2024: 335 weeks at Mar 2024

This supports the effective management of leave balances.

### 4. Walcha Council Customer Request Management (CRM)

	1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-6 Months to 1 Yr	6 Months +	Total CRM's
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT	20	21	15	29	19	104
ENGINEERING	36	23	18	56	38	171
ADMINISTRATION	1	2	0	4	5	12
<b>Total OPEN CRMS</b>						<b>287</b>





March CRM = 285

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.

## Community Services and Tourism

Current Grants		
<b>Library</b>	Public Library Infrastructure Grants	This application has been submitted. We will hear in April/May 2024 if we are successful.
<b>Youth</b>	Youth Week 2024	Successful
	Winter & Spring Holiday Activities	Awaiting advice
<b>WCCC</b>	Adhoc Funding Application	Application successful
<b>WCCC</b>	Aged Care Capital Assistance Program	Investigations commenced – waiting for Round 2 to open
<b>Housing</b>	Housing Support Program (Stream 1 - Planning area)	Investigations commenced for Stream 1

Operational Overview	
<b>WCCC</b>	<p>Community Care has been very fortunate to have received two donations totalling \$35,000 from New England Sector Support group (NESST). NESST have been supporting home care organisations for over 30 years, and have recently made the decision to close the service. They have distributed excess funds to services throughout the New England area.</p> <p>We have received fantastic news that we have been successful in obtaining Adhoc Funding. This is a funding boost to cover the expenses of the services that we are already delivering. It will allow Community Care to remove our “hold” on new clients and continue to offer high quality aged care services. We will receive a “backpay” amount, and a permanent increase to our funding contract. It is very difficult to get this funding, so it is a massive vote of confidence from the funding body to our very small team.</p>
<b>Preschool</b>	<p>The Preschool was also very fortunate to receive an anonymous donation of \$40,000 to upgrade the rubber softfall in the playground. Negotiations were held with a local accountant who acted as the contact point for the group donating the money.</p>



<b>Library &amp; Youth</b>	Youth Week 2024 funding has been received. We are waiting to see if our Winter and Spring Holiday Break Funding application is successful. We are also waiting to hear if we have been successful with our application under the Public Library Infrastructure grant. An application was submitted to renovate the toilet, move the kitchenette and generally make the limited space available, more useful.
<b>Early Intervention</b>	We are currently investigating if we need to be accredited as the majority of clients are "plan managed" which means their providers do not need to be registered with NDIA. There will be changes coming through to the NDIS so we will wait and see what that entails.
<b>Tourism</b>	The Regional Event Fund has opened again, so work is commencing on submitting this application. We are eligible to apply for \$20,000 to be used towards the marketing and promotion of the Motorcycle Rally.
<b>Building Assets</b>	<p>Quotes were requested from 3 businesses for general servicing and filter cleaning for all of the air conditioning units that are in Council owned buildings. One quote has been received and accepted.</p> <p>A quote has been received to upgrade the electrical wiring in the old depot building, currently leased to Carlec.</p>

### Priorities for March/April

- Riverview Working Group
- Aged Care Infrastructure Grant investigations
- Housing Support Program investigations
- Aged Care Training
- 24/25 Fees and Charges
- Annual leave



## 1. Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC)

March 2024

### 1.1 Groups

March ended up with a great collaboration that has led to some exciting new options for Community Care. We had an invitation from the MPS crew, led by Kylie Marchant, to go to Armidale Cinemas to see a preview screening of *Just a Farmer*. It was all a bit last minute but we ended up with a huge crew of over 40 people in total. This was followed by lunch at the Servies and it was a huge success.

As I am the only one licenced to drive the hospital bus we have been given the option of borrowing it whenever we want and have extended the same invite to them with our bus. This is a huge money saver for us and allows us to do larger excursions without the additional cost of bus hire. The movie was a huge hit and everyone had a great time, with requests to do it again. This next month we will be joining the MPS crew again for a lunch trip to Nundle.

We also did just the one large excursion this month- the ever-popular lunch trip to Bendemeer Hotel. This is always a lot of fun and included a scenic trip home, with Sue's pamphlet to entertain and provide lots of information. This time it included 20 various landmarks/ items to be spotted as we went along. This caused a lot of arguments, including the dilemma of if you can count 4 windmills and only need 3 does it mean you've counted the wrong ones? Food for thought.





Men and Women’s morning teas went well, as always, and Friday takeaway continues to be well attended. Art is thriving and this month the classes revolved around learning new brush techniques and how to apply them to different styles.

We ended the month early due to Easter and have had to make the tough decision to close our books to new clients for the time being. This is something we will revisit each month.

**1.2 Transport –**

*Medical drives* – 59 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

<p><b>Bus to Armidale</b> (every Thursday)                  Week 1: 5                  Week 2: 8                  Week 3: 9                  Week 4: 5</p>	<p><b>Group Transport (excursions)</b>                   Movie in Armidale- 13                   Lunch at Bendemeer- 22</p>
<p><b>Taxi Vouchers</b> –                  31 clients used the service                  288 trips being provided.</p>	<p><b>Additional Group Transport</b></p>

**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: 439

Mains: 244  
 Frozens: 102  
 Desserts: 93

**1.5 Feedback and Complaints**

We have had a couple of people mention that they were disappointed to not get the invite to the movie. We only had around 24 hours’ notice and used the sms system to book out the seats. When we explained why it happened the way that it did they understood and we have promised to do a showing at the centre when it is released. We had a number of people contact us to thank us for the trip to both the movie and Bendemeer, stating that they had a great time.

**Jess Goodwin**  
**Community Care Coordinator**



## 2. Library and Youth

March 2024

- Loans: 462
- Returns: 446
- Reservations placed & issued: 178
- New members: 3
- Door count: 818
- Wi-fi use: 40
- Computer use: 72
- Housebound: 9

Other statistics:

- eLibrary: Borrow Box
  - n/a users
  - n/a eAudiobooks
  - n/a eBooks

The Walcha Library has continued to be a busy place again this month, despite the Easter long weekend closure. The number of loans and returns dropped below average, and reservations placed and issued have dropped slightly too. The new member registrations slipped back, as did the door count as public access to computer, internet and wifi remained high. The eLibrary stats weren't available for the month at the time of reporting.

### 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
- Visit to Walcha Preschool for a Harmony Week themed Storytime, delivered to both groups. Plans for excursion to the library for next term.

### Social Media

The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook now has 368 followers. Staff have continued to use the systematic approach to ensure the content was engaging, useful and an effective use of staff time. The library shared 4 posts on the Facebook page, reaching 630 people. With 4 Instagram posts shared throughout March, the content received 44 'likes'. Library and Youth Instagram attracted 3 new followers this month. There are now 272 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 2 engagement posts	113	5	
Easter long weekend themed collection promotion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audiobooks CD's &amp; eLibrary</li> <li>- Books</li> <li>- Jigsaw puzzles</li> <li>- Movies DVD &amp; eLibrary</li> </ul>	113	5	

Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram	
Total 6 service posts	594	39	
Storytime and Baby Booktime session dates for 2024	78	5	





<p>IndyReads 2024 Book Award winners and information about categories and accessing the eLibrary catalogue.</p>	<p>27</p>		
<p>#fridaydeliveryday reel/video promoting all 'New to Walcha' in different genres &amp; Kids corner display for Harmony Week</p>	<p>11</p>		
<p>Youth Week Working Group invitation to wider community</p>	<p>23</p>		
<p>Council youth program promotion, including library events</p>	<p>489</p>		

Programs

The puzzle library loans have continued to be popular again this month, with 27 loans issued in March. Donations were received again this month, and some puzzles with damage were weeded from the collection. The Walcha Library now holds 125 jigsaw puzzles in its collection. The main display at the library entrance again including puzzles this month, reminded members of the growing collection and encouraging enquiries about the collection.

This month the Seed Library collection continued to be accessed by the community, and tended to by our volunteers and staff. Library Volunteer, local school student Matilda has helped maintain the collection after school each Thursday of this month.

Library staff have spent some time weeding the collection again this month. This process needs to be done regularly to ensure that the shelves have the best selection of items, and recent training has helped Walcha staff to feel confident moving stock on, and navigating the catalogue to ensure the job is done efficiently.

The second session of Storytime and Baby Booktime at Walcha Library this year only attracted one family. With parent and carer feedback taken into consideration, the sessions were moved to Thursdays, still targeting all children not at school yet. Staff will continue to investigate and discuss the sessions with library parents to see if more can be done to attract participants.

In an attempt to still engage and promote the library with children under school age, librarian Cassie took a Harmony Week themed Storytime session to the Walcha Preschool this month. Stories, songs and games were all focussed on the multicultural and multilingual theme, 'Everyone Belongs' aimed at sharing the idea, "We can be the same and different". Children in both the 3 year old class and the 4 year old class responded well to the activity, and staff are keen to help families to learn about library services and programs by handing out flyers, information and organising an excursion to the library next term.



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. Staff of the Elizabeth Cross Wing are again working with their patients to source movies and television series' of interest, and library staff are using the entire CNRL collection to help keep the residents entertained.

The Walcha Library, 'Taphouse' and Penny King's Bookclubs held their March meetings this month. It was decided that one of the groups is going to purchase their bookclub book every second month, and borrow using the library kits in between. The Taphouse group met at the Apsley Arms Hotel due to a double booking, and trialed a different activity this month. Some





of the members decided to split up the book, and only read a few chapters each. This made for a very interesting meeting as the group discussed and 'put together' the story over dinner, and filled over 2 hours with interesting discussion about the book, its themes and piecing the story together. They decided not to do that activity again, but are glad they tried it out.

The number of members and visitors using the library facilities for study and work related purposes remained steady this month. The free wifi and study areas have been utilised this month by a wide range of members. There are a number of community members who regularly come in to work remotely, study with online universities and even a local writer, who lives out of town and writes while her child is in preschool. Despite the small space, library staff work hard to ensure the facility can help meet community needs.

Drop in IT support and assistance this month has continued, with regular visits from members who need 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 2 hours this month.

Staff have received Niche Academy training modules this month, which will be completed over the coming months. Library coordinator Cassie has completed SafetyHub training with Walcha Council, including Bullying in the Workplace, Cuts and Bleeding and Manual Handling. Some staff were also able to listen to a one hour webinar recording, provided by the NSW Public Libraries Reference and Information Services team called "The Competent Humility Model: Merging the Powers of Cultural Competence and Cultural Humility" with Dr Nicole Cooke.

### Youth activities

Planning was required this month for the Youth Week and Autumn Break programs, which both received funding from the NSW Government and both fall in the April school holiday period. Staff have continued to work with local young people on Thursday afternoons to plan and deliver the Youth Week event in April. A table was set up at one of the final Walcha Touch Football fixtures to gather 'song requests' from the teens in the junior and senior competition, and this also served as an opportunity to promote the event, chat about and 'save the date' with local youth.

Staff are also organising road trips to Port Macquarie Wild Nets and Zoo, and Armidale SportUNE & cinema, while working with youth on the Youth Week Festival, including circus performance workshops. Promotion kicked off earlier than usual, which should provide some great numbers in the online booking portal.

**Cassie McKenna**  
**Library Coordinator**

### 3. Preschool

March 2024

#### Walcha Show

Preschool participated in the Walcha show pavilion, with both the Kangaroo and Koala classes putting a class display, showcasing Walcha preschool, these displays are now on show in the rooms.

Koala class putting entries into the biscuit decorating competition with amazing results. The Kangaroo class entered their self portrait painting into the fine Arts section and they all looked amazing.

We also entered some of our tomatoes and cucumbers in the produce section, coming away with a second for our cherry tomatoes.



#### Harmony Week

From the 18 – 22 March we celebrated Harmony week. Harmony week is where we celebrate cultural diversity, promote inclusiveness and respect all cultures. We take this opportunity to

educate our children about different cultures within our preschool environment giving a sense of belonging for everyone.

On Wednesday Emma came in to teach the children a little bit about her family's culture from New Zealand. Emma read a story, taught the children to count up to 5 in Maori language. The children collaged kiwi's the native animal to New Zealand and helped Emma make a lolly cake, a favourite food from New Zealand. The children thoroughly enjoyed making and eating the lolly cake.

On Thursday Cassie, came in to share a part of her culture Torres Strait Islander. Cassie read a story which featured her family and sang songs and we all sang and learnt the actions for the song Tabu Naba. The children enjoyed looking at the beautiful blue ocean and all the sea animals as well as the different costumes worn by Cassie's elders.

On Friday Sakulsri shared a piece of her culture, cooking a Thai dish "Num- prick- Ong", the children enjoyed helping Sakulsri prepare and eat this dish. The children thought this tasted delicious and some went back for thirds. Sakulsri also brought in some costumes from Thai and explained to the children when and where these are worn. The children had a lot of fun dressing up in Thai costumes







**Melinda Bird**  
**Preschool Nominated Supervisor**

#### 4. Tourism

**March 2024**

##### Number of visitors to Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

MARCH	2024	2023	2022	2021
Walk in's	357	468	338	218(COVID)
	(Oxley Hwy closed)			
Phone enquiries	25	22	32	19
Email enquiries	4	2	36	2

WEBSITE STATISTICS	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
<a href="http://www.walchansw.com.au">www.walchansw.com.au</a>				
Total Visits	283,833	305,100	93,772	48,911
Total Pages	3,212,740	2,403,702	444,031	583,735
Total Hits	3,516,272	2,633,358	702,240	768,074

#### Autumn Colour Photo Competition

For the first time this year Walcha Tourism are promoting an Autumn Colours of Walcha Photography Competition. Images must be taken within the Walcha LGA. This will provide tourism with a variety of quality Autumn images of Walcha that can be utilised in future promotion. The best of the competition entries will be shared on our tourism social media pages.

#### Visitor Information Centre – Visitor book comments

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

*Great town! (Gold Coast), Great, Thanks, Brilliant town (Canberra), We love the town (Beechwood), Helped me with phone emergency number, Cute town we're staying here (Sydney), Lovely flowers in the ladies loo – so gorgeous (Sydney), Lucy was very helpful and informative (Sydney), Great*

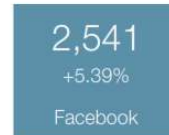
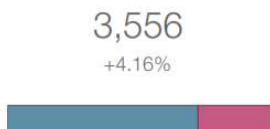


*local knowledge (Bribie Island), Great local knowledge, thank you very much (Forestville), Visited first time, A nice place to visit, Beautiful scenery & infrastructure (Gold Coast).*

## SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS – WALCHA TOURISM

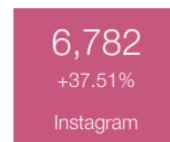
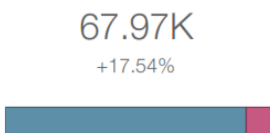
### Followers

Walcha Tourism



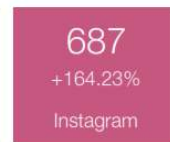
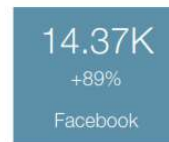
### Impressions

Walcha Tourism



### Post interactions

Walcha Tourism



### Autumn boosted post

To help promote one of our most popular times for visitation, I boosted an autumn colour post on the Walcha Tourism Facebook page to a wide geographic area which had 54.54K impressions to encourage visitation.



# Ranking of posts

## Walcha Tourism

Showing 15 posts sorted by Impressions

Date	Image	Text	Network	Impressions	Interactions
Mar 03, 2024 08:00 AM		Over the coming months, scenes like this wil...	Go	54.54K	8,786
Mar 20, 2024 12:22 AM		Great news! The temporary road closures on the ...	Go	33.7K	1,751
Mar 10, 2024 08:00 AM		Beautiful scenes from out at Mooraback Cabin...	Go	7,236	616
Mar 31, 2024 09:00 AM		WALCHA * "With access to seven different n...	Go	1,717	652
Mar 01, 2024 07:37 AM		Riverside campground and picnic area is a remot...	Go	1,687	183
Mar 17, 2024 08:00 AM		Dining Out in Walcha Whether y...	Go	1,520	448
Mar 16, 2024 07:02 AM		Third prize in the Walcha Show photography comp...	Go	1,500	178
Mar 20, 2024 07:26 AM		Riders headed off on the weekend from Walcha on...	Go	1,468	133
Mar 24, 2024 08:00 AM		"Had to stop and stretch the legs and get some ...	Go	1,455	262
Mar 21, 2024 06:03 AM		Autumn has arrived in Walcha and the leaves are...	Go	1,120	136
Mar 14, 2024 05:35 AM		The Walcha Show photography competition tourism...	Go	1,006	238
Mar 10, 2024 09:16 PM			Go	902	356
Mar 08, 2024 02:45 AM			Go	889	78
Mar 25, 2024 07:35 AM		The inaugural Women's World Sand Greens Champio...	Go	833	39

**Lisa Kirton, Tourism & Visitor Information Services Coordinator**



# Item 10:

# Committee Reports



There are no Committee Reports for  
April 2024





# Item 11:

# Delegate Reports



## Finance / Business Plan Reporting

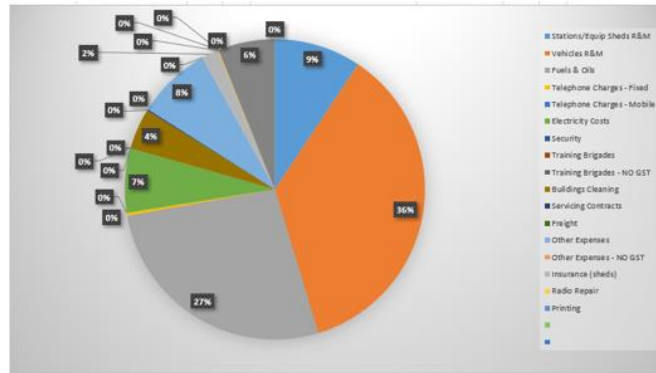
All Local Government Councils receive allocation for the maintenance and repair (M&R) of vested equipment and assets

- Funding is a grant (not necessarily a budget)
- 2023/24 M&R Allocation is \$347,801.23
- Note 2022/23 M&R Allocation was \$340,981.60
- Variation small increase= \$6,819.63

2023-2024 RFS M&R Budget							
Actuals			Actuals per T1			budget does not equal funding amount	
	ARC natural account	Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD Actuals	Budget per RFS cost tracking	Variance
Stations/Equip Sheds R&M	2452	1,646.27	6,186.73	3,165.99	10,998.99	20,285.00	9,286.01
Vehicles R&M	2452	36,562.71	10,403.03	29,066.35	76,032.09	144,714.00	68,681.91
Fuels & Oils	2480	12,118.50	37,908.02	6,091.95	56,118.47	68,512.29	12,393.82
Telephone Charges - Fixed	2432	150.94	511.92		662.86	16,032.00	15,369.14
Telephone Charges - Mobile	2432				-	1,165.00	1,165.00
Electricity Costs	2410	3,947.31	13,950.72	2,260.16	20,158.19	23,258.00	3,099.81
Security	2444				-		-
Training Brigades	2250				-		-
Training Brigades - NO GST					-		-
Buildings Cleaning	2494	2,531.62	3,187.45	1,265.81	6,984.88	9,413.00	2,428.12
Servicing Contracts - Pest & Fire	2494		1,485.26	54.86	1,540.12	39,902.00	38,361.88
Freight	2420				-		-
Other Expenses	2476	3,857.64	5,226.29	316.04	9,399.97	10,980.00	1,580.03
Other Expenses - NO GST					-		-
Insurance (sheds)	2398		3,919.10		3,919.10	12,235.00	8,315.90
Radio Repairs	2452		175.00		175.00	14,500.00	14,325.00
Printing	2422	3,206.46	1,098.39	309.40	4,614.25	9,569.00	4,954.75
Capital works?				11,150.00	11,150.00		
		64,021.45	84,051.91	53,680.56	190,603.92	370,565.29	179,961.37
M&R Grant 23-24		347,081.23					
Carry over from 22-23		23,484.06			Data as of 30/1/24		
Total budget		370,565.29					

4

New England M&R Budget 2023-2024							
Totals			Budget		Expenditure		
Total Allocation	\$ 347,801.23		Stations/Equip Sheds R&M	\$ 20,285.00	Stations/Equip Sheds R&M	\$ 20,491.05	
Total Spent	58.98%		Vehicles R&M	\$ 144,714.00	Vehicles R&M	\$ 78,540.72	
Total Spent	\$ 205,120.03		Fuels & Oils	\$ 53,928.00	Fuels & Oils	\$ 58,703.35	
Amount remaining	\$ 142,681.20		Telephone Charges - Fixed	\$ 16,032.00	Telephone Charges - Fixed	\$ 662.86	
Carry over 22/22	\$28,109		Telephone Charges - Mobile	\$ 1,165.00	Telephone Charges - Mobile	\$ -	
Carry over 22/23	\$23,484		Electricity Costs	\$ 23,258.00	Electricity Costs	\$ 15,135.32	
			Security		Security	\$ -	
			Training Brigades		Training Brigades	\$ -	
			Training Brigades - NO GST		Training Brigades - NO GST	\$ -	
			Buildings Cleaning	\$ 4,413.00	Buildings Cleaning	\$ 9,589.69	
			Servicing Contracts - Pest & Fire	\$ 39,902.00	Servicing Contracts	\$ 329.17	
			Freight		Freight	\$ -	
			Other Expenses	\$ 5,980.00	Other Expenses	\$ 17,530.02	
			Other Expenses - NO GST		Other Expenses - NO GST	\$ -	
			Insurance (sheds)	\$ 12,235.00	Insurance (sheds)	\$ 3,919.10	
			Radio Repairs	\$ 14,500.00	Radio Repair	\$ 218.75	
			Printing	\$ 4,569.00	Printing	\$ -	
						\$ -	
						\$ -	
			On-costs	\$ -	On-costs	\$ -	
			Station Builds		Station Builds	\$ 13,398.19	
			Station Builds - Claimed		Station Builds - Claimed	\$ -	



**Summary:**

- Note nil invoices or accounts for fleet repairs received from ARC for this financial year.
- Action: ARC to provide invoices and records for Fleet Repairs ASAP from 1/7/23 – 30/1/24
- Agreed carry forward from the 2022/23 M&R = \$23,484
- Agreed carry forward from the 2021/23 M&R = \$28,103

**ACTION:** Armidale Regional Council to provide invoices and records for fleet repairs ASAP from 1/7/23 to 30/1/24.

Mark will speak with relevant people at Council to expedite these invoices.

**Business Plan Report**

Key Focus Areas for 2024

- Capability
- Community Risk
- Our People and Culture

District Manager’s Intent

- 5
- DCFO directive - hazard reduction burns
  - Customer Service
  - Relationships and Communication - Member Engagement

UNE a possible source of membership.

Uralla Shire Council are happy to assist with promoting membership.

**Infrastructure – Fleet, Capital works – Assets**

Capital Works

- Bergen Station – DA status
- Other projects \$120,000+

6 Next Steps for 2024/25 Budget Bids

- Training enhancement funding
- Capital funding to commence Bergen Station
- Small shovel ready projects eg station upgrades

Grant funding from RFS to connect bore on airport grounds was costed out some time ago and didn't proceed. Costs will need to be reworked for another funding application, so the project can be shovel ready if funding becomes available. If there are any other joint projects, please pull them out to review and joint discussion, to evaluate whether they are eligible to also be classed as shovel ready.

Bilga Road Station power bill is covering the cost of the BBQ in the community park. The understanding is that when the BBQ was installed, the power was connected to Bilga Station; and Council had advised they would cover the electricity bill for Bilga Station. The electricity bill for this station is significantly more than other stations.

**ACTION:** Further discussions regarding the electricity bill for Bilga Station to be undertaken with Uralla Shire Council.

## Bushfire Season Update

### Incident Data Historical Review

- Average number of incidents based on the last 5 years
  - 230 per year (as of March 2023)
- Incidents attended during 2019/2020 period (based on records in system)
  - 503
- March 2022 – March 2023 (as below) 307 incidents attended by the New England Zone with the peak incidents being December to February

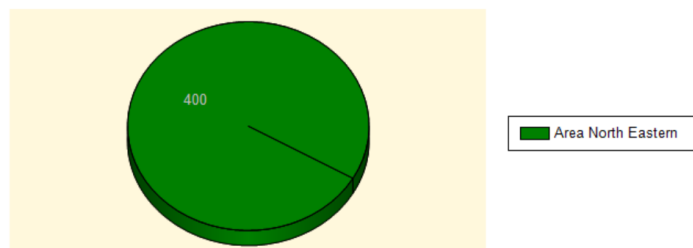
Incidents By Category Summary - 3/3/2022 to 3/3/2023												
Area	Zone	District	Total Incidents	Fire and Explosion	Pressure Rupture	MVA, EMS or Rescue	Hazard Cond'n	Service Call	Good Intent	False Alarm	Other	Not Classed
<b>State Total</b>			307	171	0	65	6	29	13	16	0	7
☐ Area North Eastern			307	171	0	65	6	29	13	16	0	7
☐ NEW ENGLAND			307	171	0	65	6	29	13	16	0	7
☐ ARMIDALE FCC			127	68	0	29	3	9	6	10	0	2
☐ URALLA FCC			139	85	0	22	3	15	6	5	0	3
☐ WALCHA FCC			41	18	0	14	0	5	1	1	0	2

Total Incidents By Area 3/3/2022 to 3/3/2023

7

Incidents By Category Summary - 3/3/2023 to 27/2/2024												
Area	Zone	District	Total Incidents	Fire and Explosion	Pressure Rupture	MVA, EMS or Rescue	Hazard Cond'n	Service Call	Good Intent	False Alarm	Other	Not Classed
<b>State Total</b>			400	281	0	47	4	17	34	10	0	7
☐ Area North Eastern			400	281	0	47	4	17	34	10	0	7
☐ NEW ENGLAND			400	281	0	47	4	17	34	10	0	7
☐ ARMIDALE FCC			226	165	0	27	4	8	14	9	0	2
☐ URALLA FCC			129	88	0	12	0	9	18	1	0	3
☐ WALCHA FCC			45	30	0	8	0	3	2	0	0	2

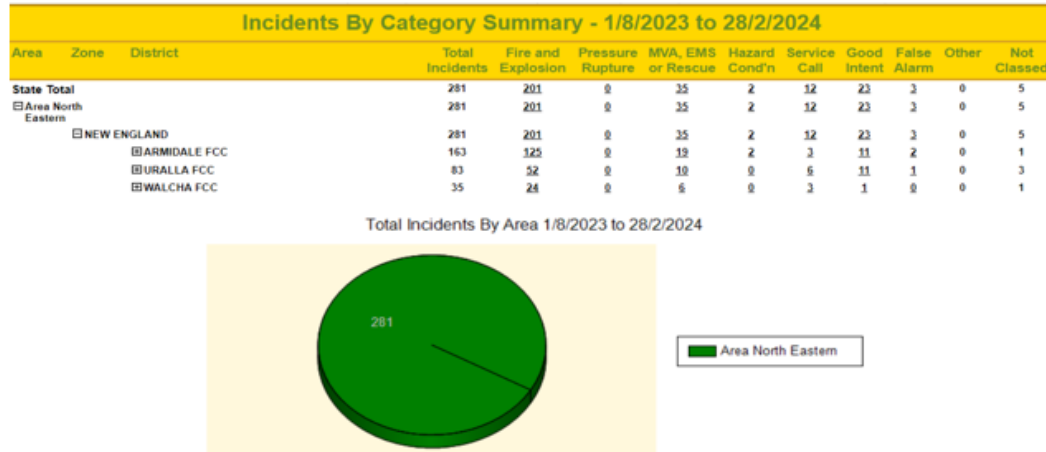
Total Incidents By Area 3/3/2023 to 27/2/2024



- › Incidents from 1/8/23 – 26/2/24
  - › 281
- › 1 S44 for Armidale LGA – from 14/12/23 – 21/12/23

**Couple of Points to Note**

- › Losses include two appliances (Cat 9 and Cat 1)
- › Availability of members continues to be a challenge
- › Burnt 8,052 hectares (from 1/8/23 – 27/2/24)
- › Permits issued 681 (from Aug 23 – 27/2/24)



**General Business**

- Legislative requirements for Councils under the Rural Fires Act 1997
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of Councils and RFS – Joint responsibilities
- RFS openness to present at a Council or Committee meeting

**Uralla Shire Council** – Raised the Parliamentary enquiry into RFS assets on Council asset register. Confirmed that are willing to support RFS but the bottom-line regarding assets on books makes it difficult for small rural councils, especially regarding depreciation.

8 Submissions on the Bill close 10 May and Uralla Shire Council encouraged other councils to make a submission.

Uralla Shire Council advised that it is the red fleet, which is the big issue, no problems with the other infrastructure.

**Response:** Adam Marshall’s Bill has had a second reading and is progressing. Understand that a letter has been sent to the Local Government Association regarding consultation. Currently, it’s BAU until such time as a final decision is made.

**Armidale Regional Council** – Question regarding information previously provided on fleet disposal – there were 5 or 6 vehicles listed that were 25-27 years old. Have these progressed and what is the average age of the trucks in the fleet.

**Response:** These trucks have been replaced on a one for one basis. The only truck disposal that is outstanding is Recon Bravo, which is 29 years old, and its replacement has been received and badged as Kentucky 9. Disposal is now in progress for Recon Bravo. The average age of the current trucks will be sent out. A positive note is that major improvements

have occurred in the Engineering Section, where they have gone from readying and releasing one truck every 4 to 6 weeks to one truck a week, so Engineering is catching up and rolling out steadily.

**Armidale Regional Council** – Are fleet assigned a plant number?

**Response:** Fleet are assigned a unique BF number which is quoted on the order provided to Council.

**RFS** – Advised that budget letters dated 12/12/23 have been sent to councils.

9	<p><b>Meeting Closed</b> 3.27pm.</p>
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**Table 1: Action items**

Ref.	Item description	Owner	Due date	Status
4-2/2024	Armidale Regional Council to provide invoices and records for fleet repairs ASAP from 1/7/23 to 30/1/24.	ARC	ASAP	NYC
	Mark will speak with relevant people at Council to expedite these invoices.	Mark Byrne	ASAP	NYC

**Table 2: Documents referred to in the meeting**

Document title	Author	Version	Date
DLC Presentation	Paul Metcalfe	1	29/2/2024

**Table 3: Next meeting**

Date	Start time	Finish time	Location
6 August 2024	2.30pm	3.30pm	FCC



# Item 12:

# Questions with Notice





**Item:** 12.1 **Ref:** WO/2024/00682  
**Title:** Solid Waste – Woolbrook & Nowendoc Waste Facility  
**Author:** Acting Director Infrastructure & Development  
**Previous Items:** Nil.  
**Attachment:** No

**Community Strategic Plan Reference:**

**Strategy 6.2.4:** *Manage solid waste in an efficient, affordable and sustainable manner*

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council NOTE the current operating performance of the Waste Transfer Facilities.

**Introduction:**

This report is in response to a Question on Notice from the March 2024 Council Meeting in regards to the running cost of Council’s waste transfer facilities and the behaviour at these facilities – for example incorrect dumping.

**Report:**

Running the waste transfer facilities is undertaken at a loss for Walcha Council – essentially a cross-subsidisation with the rest of the waste fund. However, it may be the case that the facilities are required, and required at some financial loss, in order to provide equitable levels of service to all residents, and to minimise instances of illegal dumping that could increase if adequate waste services are not provided. Ultimately though, misuse of the transfer stations costs *all* rate payers in the LGA so it is important to run the facilities as efficiently as possible.

There have been recent changes implemented by Council in line with the Walcha Council Waste Strategy to more effectively manage and operate the waste transfer facilities. This includes the introduction of smart locking system and a controlled list of users, public notification and education on correct use of these facilities. This has already resulted in measurable improvement in their use.

<b>Woolbrook Transfer Facility Operations 2023-2024</b>	
Running cost (weekly recycling run + fortnightly skip bin)	\$22,804.99
Clean-up of Facilities	\$10,167.23
Total cost	\$32,972.22
Income (57 customers @ \$284.00)	\$16,188.00
Loss	\$16,784.22



This facility currently costs Walcha Council approx. \$17,000 per year but with a reduction of incorrect dumping clean-up and improvements to operational efficiency this could be lowered to approx. \$4,000. Based on quotations currently being reviewed, a change in collection contractor could reduce the operating costs a further \$4,000 per year. Assuming the above efficiencies are realised this facility could then theoretically run cost neutral, but it would be a challenge to get there with current access fees as they are.

<b>Nowendoc Transfer Facility Operations 2023-2024</b>	
Running cost (weekly recycling run + fortnightly skip bin)	\$28,094.89
Clean-up of Facilities	\$4,560.06
Total cost	\$32,654.95
Income (60 customers @ \$284.00)	\$17,040.00
Loss	\$15,614.95

This facility costs Walcha Council approx. \$16,000 per year but as with Woolbrook a reduction of incorrect dumping clean-up and operational improvement this could be lowered to approx. \$6,000. As above, a change in collection contractor could reduce the operational loss to \$2,000 in a 'best case' scenario. Otherwise, without further increase in fees this facility will likely always require some measure of cross-subsidisation across the waste fund.

It is not recommended to close these facilities at this stage until Council is confident it has reached the maximum operating efficiency that can be achieved. Currently, there are still clear improvements to be made (\$15,000 in clean-up costs in 2023-2024). Council should continue to promote the appropriate use of these facilities with residents because if there is no further improvement, or an increase in misuse, this could result in facility closure.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

At the current level of performance and access fee amount, both facilities run at a loss and require cross-subsidisation with the waste fund.

Environmental Implications:

Maintenance of these facilities will ultimately decrease the instances of illegal dumping, so it is important that Council, and users, do what they can to keep these sustainable.

Policy Implications:

Nil



# Item 13:

# Referral to Closed Council Meeting